CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—Some parties regard Mr. David Laird as the politico-religious Director of our Government. I purpose asking that gentleman one question, which, I hope, he will be kind enough to answer in the *Patriot*. The Government wish us to understand that it is none of their business to meddle in religious matters, or in sectarianism of any kind. Very good. I myself believe that they have no commission from any competent authority to dictate to any body of men what they are to do or not to do in religious matters; and I believe that my opinion is shared by Mr. Laird, and by nine-tenths, at least, of the population. I also think that holding divine service in Churches and Chapels is a purely religious matter. Now, I ask on what authority does His Excellency the Lieut. Governor "by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Executive Council," assume the prerogative of issuing a Proclamation enjoining all Ministers to "hold public service in their respective Churches and Chapels," on any day or for any purpose, under the strong threat "as they value the favor of Almighty God." I write on this subject in no carping mood; it is a matter that concerns all religious denominations. I believe that it was during the Governorship of Sir Alexander Bannerman that the custom was introduced of appointing a day of "General Thanksgiving" for a "plentiful harvest;" it was continued during the time of Sir D. Daly, and Mr. Dundas is only walking in the footsteps of his immediate predecessors. Of course, every one will admit that it is right to thank God for all His favors and benefits, and to be ever grateful to Him, whether the harvest be abundant or not; but that is not the point. If I mistake not, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics, Baptists, and the other sects, have their days for special thanksgiving set apart; and if so, what business has any Governor or any Government, in this Island, to dicate to the Rev. Messrs. Fitzgerald, Duncan, Davis, Ritchie, McDonald, and even the Roman Catholic Bishop, to hold a special service in their Churches on any day or for any purpose? It looked very curious to see Sir D. Daly dictating to the Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald and other Protestant clergymen, to hold religious services on such and such a day, under the pain of losing the favor of God; and it seems equally strange to witness Mr. Dundas prescribing the same duty to the Bishop of Charlottetown. I am under the impression that directions of this kind devolve on our spiritual rulers. Perhaps we have a State Church; if so, I would wish to know what it is. I don't believe that Parliamentary or Government interference in religious affairs is calculated to advance religion, or to improve the morals of our people. Hoping that Mr. Laird, or some one else of the "fourth estate" will throw light on the subject,

I beg to subscribe myself,

INQUIRER.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Dear Sir,—In glancing over the pages of the *Patriot* for the last few weeks, I observe that the avowed editor of that paper, Mr. Laird, has allowed his subordinate scribblers, or, as he himself styles them, his "stool editors," to indulge in the most scurrilous verbiage that has for many days disgraced the columns of our Island press.

The literary taste of the community must be excessively vitiated, if the low squibs of the *Patriot* are better appreciated and preferable to able articles in defence of the *general interests* of the Colony, such especially as those, on the all-important subjects of Education and Agriculture, which have appeared in your columns during the past few weeks, and to which no doubt allusion will be made in His Excellency's speech in a few days. Perhaps the *Patriot* men think their low abuse of those whom they, in the *dignity* of their own peculiar style, term "ponderous mercenaries," will attract the attention and command the admiration of the public in preference to the discussion of subjects inseparably connected with the dearest rights of the people.

Instead of meeting the arguments of their opponents fairly, and dealing with the subject matter of the articles which appear in the columns of their contemporaries, on public grounds, they almost invariably descend to low scurrility, and impute motives to the supposed writers of such articles.

The employment of low epithets only show "the unmistakeable impress of the mental calibre" of certain scribblers, "upon whom principle sets so lightly that they are equally at home" as "stool editors" of the *Patriot* or the willing *subs* of the *Herald*.

Yours,

OBSERVER.

February 28.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM EUROPE.

London, 25th, 1868.—Mr. Speke, brother of the well known African explorer, whose mysterious disappearance caused much excitement and comment, has been found.

London, Feb. 25, (eve).—In the House of Lords this afternoon at the beginning of the session the Earl of Malmsbury announced that Lord Derby had tendered his resignation to the Queen, on account of continued ill health, and that Her Majesty had been pleased to call upon the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli to form a new Cabinet. Earl Russel and others expressed their sympathy for Lord Derby and hoped he might recover from his illness and resume his post at the head of the Ministry. In the House of Commons the announcement of the resignation of the Prime Minister was made by Lord Stanley, and was responded to by Mr. Gladstone, who with much delicacy and feeling expressed his sorrow for the cause which compelled the noble Lord to resign his high office. The transaction of all the business in the House was postponed until Friday next.... Consols 93¼. Breadstuffs and provisions unchanged. The sugar market closed firm at 26s 6d, for No. 12 Duch standard. Other articles unchanged.

London, 26th.—It is thought that Mr. Disraeli will resign his position as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that Sir Stafford Northcote will take his place.....No one is yet named as the probable successor of the latter as Secretary of State for India.....Official despatches from General Napier say the Envoy sent by him to Prince Kassai was well received at Debar and found (2,000) warriors with their chiefs assembled, by whom he was heartily received.....All the prisoners charged by the Coroner's Jury with complicity in the Clerkenwell explosion have been committed to stand trial for murder.....The House of Lords, in Committee of the whole, has agreed to the Bill renewing the suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland.....The new treaty which has been concluded between the United States and the North German Confederation provides that natives of Germany must obtain a license to emigrate, which shall be registered, and that those who have taken [illegible] naturalization papers, and have resided [illegible] of this morning, commenting on the change in the Cabinet says, Lord Derby's resignation was a foregone conclusion. So also was the accession of Mr. Disraeli, as no other man has an equal right to take the Tory lead. It thinks that Lord Chelmsford will retire, but that no other change is likely to be made. It sees no reason in present circumstances why the Ministry should not be a permanent one.... The *Morning Standard* says:—"The previous task of Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer, was one of great difficulty. He is the best fitted by courage, tact, experience and close relations with Earl Derby, to succeed in this difficult task which has now devolved upon him.....The *Morning Post* declares that Disraeli has become Prime Minister less on account of his own merit than because there is no one else fit for the place.....The *Daily News* says it is possible that Lord Cranborne may succeed Sir Stafford Northcote in the India Office; and that Lord Stanley may be made a peer and represent the Government in the House of Lords.....The *Telegraph* has reason to believe that Sir H. Cairns will replace Lord Chelmsford as Lord Chancellor; and discussing the position of new premier, intimates that Mr. Disraeli cannot expect indulgence always showed and due to his veteran and revered colleague.

London, Feb. 27.—In the High Court of Chancery, Lord Chelmsford announced his intention of resigning. It is now certain that Sir Hugh Cairns, one of the Lord Justices of Appeal, will be his successor. A great meeting of friends of the U. S. was held at St. James's Hall. John Bright, M. P., presided. A number of prominent members of the Liberal party were present on the platform. In the course of the evening Mr. Bright made a speech arousing the sympathy of the audience for the American people by eloquent allusions to their conduct in the war of the rebellion. Rev. Newman Hall followed with an address in which he presented with ability the American side of the Alabama controversy, and pressed his views with an earnestness and eloquence which carried the vast assemblage with him. The meeting was very enthusiastic, and broke up with repeated cheers for America. London papers are largely filled with comments on the change in the Premiership. The *Advertiser* says the new Premier must make up his mind to do Parliamentary battle for his place, and face the probability of defeat. He will receive no quarter from the Whigs or Tories, as both parties hate him as Head of the Cabinet. But he will enjoy fair play at the hands of the people if he stands forth boldly and draws a line of policy distinctive from the course of either. Consols 93¼. Bullion in Bank of England has decreased £157,000.

FROM THE STATES.

Washington, 25th.—The committee appointed by the House, formally notified the Senate to-day of the impeachment of President Johnson. The excitement is diminishing.

New York, Feb. 26.—Advices from Mexico state that the Mexican Government has organized the English and Spanish debts, and that a Sinking Fund has been created for the redemption of converted bonds.....Gold opened at 141¼.

New York, Feb. 26.—Political excitement in regard to Impeachment of the President has almost entirely subsided.—Gold 141¼.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, March 9, 1868.

PROBABLE RUPTURE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

Having in our last number briefly indicated our belief that a general disturbance of the peaceful relations at present subsisting between the Great Powers may shortly be expected, and having reason to think that our opinion differs from that of the majority of the public, we will now give as concisely as possible the reasons for the faith which is in us. In opposition to the opinions of a large portion of the American press, and that portion reflecting the sentiments of the most respectable members of society, of men respectable for intelligence, true patriotism, and who are relatively to their fellows free from the blinding passions generated by mere political partzanship, we believe that the year, still young, will not be added to the ages of the past without contributing to the wallet of time a record which will entitle it to be ranked with those of its predecessors remembered for the strife of nations, of which they were the witnesses.

It is said and written by the class to which we refer that there is no cause to fear a rupture between England and the United States—that the *Alabama* claims are merely a grievance, useful indeed to American politicians as a good party cry, but never intended to be made a *casus belli* between the claimant and defendant. That, we admit, was our own opinion when these claims were first preferred; and our opinion was strengthened when the British Government was officially notified that the further discussion of the subject would be deferred to a more convenient season. We believed it was intended that the matter should be kept in abeyance—be cherished as a standing grievance, with which the dominant party in the States could go to the polls, strong in the support of the anti-British element, in all its various phases. At that time Mr. Adams had not resigned his office as American Minister at the Court of Great Britain. The future candidates for the Presidency were but vague figures looming mistily in the future; the waters of strife had not yet settled down into the stagnation which the defeated and exhausted South now presents, and the attention of the administration was fully occupied with the management of the internal affairs of the country. Now the American Eagle, sitting on this addled nest egg of the *Alabama*, "caws defiance to the skies," and to hundreds of thousands the harsh discord of the notes is welcome music.

It seems, beyond question, that the coming man to fill the Presidential chair, is General Grant, a skilful general and a gallant soldier. He it was who extinguished in blood the rebellion of the South and, as might be presumed, has acquired the "sweet voices" of his former companions in arms, and is the choice of the large majority of the electors of the nation. Now, when it is borne in mind that the American constitution gives to its chief ruler the sole right to declare war—a right which, by himself individually, without even the form of consultation with the members of his Cabinet, he can exercise at any moment, and when it is remembered that General Grant has openly advocated the immediate pressing of those claims—that the States have declined all admissible reference to arbitration—that the late American Minister resigned, as is reported and believed, because he could not, with due self-respect, act up to the spirit or letter of his instructions. We think there are to be found in this state of affairs the materials of what Sir Lucius O'Trigger calls a very pretty quarrel.

But another and more dangerous element awaits but the prompter's call to appear upon the stage. The hatred of the Catholic Irish towards England is no new feeling, and although it has often been pandered to at elections in the States, until the ballot-box proved to the political wire-pullers that their manipulations had not been in vain, this deep-rooted sentiment appears under aspects very different from those which characterized its former manifestations. The next will be the first Presidential election since the termination of the struggle of the South. In that struggle none bore more of the heat and burden of the day than the Irishmen in the armies of the North—no people on earth are quicker in acquiring a knowledge of any business in which they find aught congenial to their dispositions, and we will wager a trifle that the President of the Peace Congress was nor ever will be a son of the Green Isle. The civil war taught Irishmen by thousands to be soldiers. The associations of the camp and of the battle-field intensified their strong attachment to the land of their nativity or that of their sires, and

> "When wild war's deadly blast was blown,
> And gentle peace returning,"

civil society received in exchange for the raw untrained youth it had sent forth manhood educated to arms in the hard but exciting school of actual warfare.

The lawless invasion of Canada was the first active manifestation of the influence of the war upon the minds of the Irish population, and the Government of the Union did not dare to interpose for the prevention of a most gross and wanton violation of international obligations. The Fenian element in Great Britain and Ireland has, as all men know, received powerful and most disastrous impulse from the States—an impulse which, however inadequate to the attainment of the professed object of the Fenian organization, has already been productive of consequences which, while shewing to the unprejudiced observer a mere combination of wickedness and folly, yet prove the earnestness of the misguided people in the course they have adopted.

We said some few lines above that advantage of the Irishmen *amor patriæ* had been frequently taken by political tricksters in the States. Well, after the vote had been given, the voter was considered no more than a tool which, having done its work, might be safely allowed to rust in unheeded obscurity until its employers might on some future occasion require its services.

We know from history that however successfully talent or cunning may for a time "wield the fierce democracy," there are limits to the patience of the most patient of gulls, and the fact that in years gone by the votes of the Irish citizens of the States were bid for by rival political parties, the price being a war with Britain, and that payment not having been made, we opine that some security will be taken for the payment of the obligation next time that the high contracting parties enter into negotiations. Besides, the Irish vote is now largely lodged in the hands of soldiers, and among them are clever men, fully capable of commanding battalions in face of an enemy, and burning for an opportunity of doing so. For the above, among other reasons, we think, and sorry are we at the thought, that a war may soon ensue which shall embrace in its bloody arms the European and American continents—and the end of which no man, except perhaps George Francis Train, can foresee, for that wizard has, to use poor Hood's words,

> "A whirling brain,
> And thoughts in a *train*
> That does not run upon sleepers."

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday, the 4th instant, the Lieut. Governor and Suite, escorted by a guard of honor comprising the 1st and 2nd Companies of Mounted Volunteer Riflemen, severally under command of Captains Holman and Wood, left Government House about 3 o'clock for the Legislative Council Chamber, under salute fired by the 1st Company Volunteer Artillery, in command of Captain Morris, and in position on Rochford Square. His Excellency having arrived in front of the Colonial Building, received a general salute from four Companies of Volunteer Infantry and the 2nd Company of Volunteer Artillery (acting as Infantry,) drawn up in line, together with the Mounted Rifles who had quickly wheeled from line of escort and severally took up position on the right and reverse flanks of the line *a pied*. The entire force was ably commanded by Lieut.-Col. Beer. The Band was on the ground and played the national air.

The Lieut. Governor proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, which was studded with the beauty and fashion of the City, and having caused attendance of both branches of the Legislature he opened the Legislative Session with the following well delivered Speech:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I am glad to meet you at the commencement of another Session, and to have recourse again to your assistance and advice.

During last Session you passed an Act to authorise the raising of a Loan. It was deemed advisable that, during the recess, a delegate should proceed to England to carry out your intentions in this matter; and, also, to apply to the various Proprietors of Township lands, resident in England, with the view of ascertaining from them the terms upon which they would be willing to dispose of their Estates.

I regret that the negociations with these Proprietors have not, thus far, been productive of any results: nevertheless, the efforts of the Government continue to be directed to a full and final settlement of all questions connected with the land tenures.

As one of your principal objects in passing the Loan Act was to enable the Government to make extensive purchases of land, it has not as yet been deemed advisable to proceed with that Loan.

Papers on these subjects will be laid before you.

I have recently received a petition from certain persons who have purchased their holdings on the Selkirk Estate. The petitioners allege that the amount paid by them, as instalments, has already been more than sufficient to pay for this Estate, and that it was not the intention of the Legislature, in passing the Act under which this property was purchased, that a larger sum should be exacted from the Tenants than would render the purchase self-sustaining.

I deemed it necessary to refer this petition for the consideration of the Law officers, and I have directed that their opinion should be laid before you, in full confidence that you will mature such measures as may be deemed equitable and convenient on this subject.

A Bill will be submitted to you for relaxing the provisions enacted by the Land Purchase Act for the sale of Wilderness Lands on Public Estates, with the view of encouraging their speedy settlement and disposition.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts for the past year will be laid before you.

I am glad to observe that notwithstanding the commercial depression of the past year, the Revenue was larger than could have been anticipated, and, including that derived from the sale of Public Lands, was in excess of the Expenditure.

I have directed that estimates for the current year be laid before you, and I ask with confidence such supplies as may be required for the Public Service.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

When I released you from the Legislative duties of last Session, I expressed the hope that you would, at your next meeting, take into consideration a measure calculated to impart to your system of Education a degree of efficiency and practical benefit more commensurate with your liberal provision for that service.

A measure for consolidating the present laws on this subject and for amending them in certain particulars, will be submitted for your consideration.

The Committee which you appointed last Session to report the best method of improving the highways throughout this Island, has concluded its labors and its Report will be laid before you.

I would direct your special attention to a subject of such manifest importance to the people whom you represent.

I venture to hope that the success which attended the exhibition of articles of local industry during last Autumn, will encourage you to repeat and extend the stimulus which such Exhibitions undoubtedly give.

I now leave you to the performance of the duties of the Session.

His Excellency then retired from the Chamber, and upon his debut from the building to the front, the entire line again saluted. The Governor then addressed Lieut. Colonel Beer, and expressed his high appreciation of the large parade and fine military condition of the Volunteers under his command, and requested him to convey to the officers and the entire body present the gratification their fine appearance and discipline afforded him. He then left the ground. The Mounted Rifles now re-formed the escort guard of honor — gave their steeds the rowels, and galloping forward, accompanied the Governor to Government House, and at the same moment the loud Artillery, repeating the salute, roused the slumbering welkin with its imitative thunder.

The day was uncommonly fine, the North held up his frigid breath, and a gentle air came softly from the mild South, and Sol, unclouded, gave ardent countenance to the inviting scene. The streets were redolent with life, nooks and crannies yielded their habitants to swell the human stream, and every one seemed to have discarded acidity of feeling and chased away the frowning blues by smiles and sunny faces. The scene was pleasing and afforded an agreeable respite from the usual monotony of every-day-life in Charlottetown.

Reverting for a moment to the Volunteers, we have gratification in acknowledging the fine military success they achieved that day, and of which those soldierly fellows had reason to entertain a salutary self-pride, and while properly claiming acute aptitude for, and utilization of the military art, their intelligence will own that the zeal and personal attention and instruction of the one *master* military mind (the Inspecting Field Officer) has been the major source of imparting to them the science of the soldier, and by first teaching them how to defend themselves, has given them the power of scientific skill to defend their homes and country.

THE NOVA SCOTIAN REPEAL OR SECESSION MOVEMENT.

In the *Eastern Chronicle* (New Glasgow, N. S.) of the 15th ult. we have found it stated that, on the 14th of the same month, the Hon. Joseph Howe took passage in the Inman steamer *City of Cork* for England, and that he is commissioned as a delegate to the Imperial Government to seek a Repeal of so much of the "British North America Act" as refers to Nova Scotia. As, in the same paper, it is at the same time also stated that the other delegates would take passage in the steamer which would sail on the 20th. ult., we may conclude that all the delegates are now in London, and either have already obtained, or are waiting to obtain, their first interview with the Colonial Minister, the Duke of Buckingham, on the subject of their mission.

As to the *precise* nature of the reception which the Repeal delegates may have already received from the Duke of Buckingham, or which yet awaits them, we will not venture a conjecture beyond a simple expression of our belief that, when its character shall have been made public, we shall find that, although, according to etiquette, ceremoniously polite and respectful, it was not characterized by any manifestations of genuine cordiality. To this opinion we incline because the Resolutions on which the delegation rests for its authority are a direct upbraiding of the Imperial authorities with having exceeded their constitutional powers, and with having passed a law which they had no constitutional right to pass; and the Imperial Government cannot, therefore, we think, look upon the mission in any other light than that of an impeachment of their policy with respect to British North America.

In making this observation we, however, wish it to be distinctly understood that we by no means presume to question the right of the people of Nova Scotia to agitate for a Repeal of the Union so far as it respects themselves. On the contrary, we fully admit their right to do so; and, more, we are of opinion that the Government of Nova Scotia would have acted much more wisely than they did, if, instead of submitting the question of Union to a Parliament which had not been elected to decide concerning it, they had, by calling a new election, allowed the people to decide it for themselves at the polls. This is the opinion which we more than once enunciated in the *Examiner*, in view of the contemplated Confederation as respected the several peoples of these Provinces, at the very time the Conference were discussing the question in Quebec. We, on those occasions, maintained—without however in any way calling in question the constitutional power of the Provincial Parliaments, as they at that time existed, to pronounce severally for or against it—that any attempt to carry it independently of a direct appeal to the people would be a most arbitrary act; and in doing so we had the satisfaction to know that we spoke the *sentiments of our own Island delegates to the Conference*.

The case of the Nova Scotia repealers appears to us not to be based upon legal and constitutional, but upon political and practical considerations; and when they argue for it from the wrong of carrying Nova Scotia into the Union against the wishes of Nova Scotians, they assume a strong and correct position. But, on the contrary, we think they are in error when they represent their grievance as a constitutional one, and deny the right of Parliament to speak for the people. As respects the Imperial Parliament, it has been observed "that in Great Britain there is no written constitution above the Parliament. The Parliament of the United Kingdom, consisting of Queen, Lords and Commons, is supreme authority—not merely in Great Britain and Ireland, but over all the Colonies. In that Parliament is vested the right to legislate upon all subjects affecting any part of the Empire. It may pass unwise, unjust, and wicked laws; but there is no supreme court to set its enactments aside." All this, we admit, is true; but although there is no court of appeal from Parliament, yet it would be a very great mistake to suppose that, when a wrong or an injury has been inflicted by Parliament, there is no constitutional mode of redress. Let the wrong or the injury be proved—let the Parliament be convinced that it was deceived in the premises, and acted upon a misapprehension of facts, and Parliament will not hesitate to reverse or correct its erroneous decision.

Let the people of Nova Scotia, therefore, make good their case, and seek redress of their grievance in a *constitutional* way, and it will not be withheld by the Imperial Parliament.

To the course which the Repealers are at present pursuing it is, however, objected, and we think justly by the editor of the *Unionist* and *Halifax Journal*, and others, that it is not a constitutional one. They are about to ask the *Imperial Parliament to repeal the Constitution* of the Dominion of Canada, without consulting either the Canadas or New Brunswick; and it is denied, and we think correctly, that the Imperial Parliament has the power of abridging the powers of the Dominion Constitution without the concurrence of the Parliament at Ottawa. Relieving Nova Scotia from the Union would repeal the "British America Act," and that Act cannot be altered, amended, or abridged, without Legislative action on the part of the Dominion.

Now, should Her Majesty's Ministers, unfortunately for Nova Scotia—*unfortunately* we say, believing her alleged grievances to be real—take this view of the Repeal question, their reply to the Repeal delegation will, no doubt, be to the effect that they cannon entertain *their proposition*, inasmuch as the Delegates have not approached Her Majesty's Ministers through the *constitutional* channel. In that case, they would be told that, as it was necessary for the formation of the Union, that the consent of the Confederating Provinces, through their representative body in General Parliament assembled, should be first obtained, so in like manner must the consent of the *whole compact* be obtained before the British Parliament would attempt to assume the power to destroy the basis of the Union.

That this *Unionist* view of the case will be taken by her Majesty's Ministers, we do not by any means take upon us to assert; although, we confess, we do not think it very unlikely that it will. If, however, the grievances of Nova Scotians, arising from the Union, be as *great* as they are declared to be by the Repealers, means — *constitutional* means — will, we doubt not, be found by the Imperial Government whereby to afford them redress; but, at the same time, we think that such daring and treasonable declarations as the following, and *many other utterances of a similar objectionable* nature, which during the repeal movement have, from time to time, proceeded from repealers, will be found to have operated in the minds of Her Majesty's Ministers, very much to the prejudice of the movement:—

"That Nova Scotia will withdraw from the Union we have little doubt. The Imperial Government will not be mad enough nor wicked enough to use force to prevent it. Nor can she prevent it if she tried. To strike a blow against Nova Scotia would at once rend this Confederation in twain, and bring about political combinations in which all the English people of this continent would seek to take part."

Education.—We are glad to observe that by His Excellency's Speech the Government have pledged themselves to deal with the Education question this Session; and we sincerely trust that the result of their labours in that direction will, *at least as respects the School Act*, be the evolving of something like order out of the heterogeneous mass of confusion of which it at present consists.—A further prepared article on the question, a press of matter has again obliged us to defer.

We observe by the *Progress* that an Agricultural Society has been organized at Summerside. The following gentlemen have been elected officers of the Society:—

President—James G. Wiggins, Esqr.
Vice President—Cornelius Howat, Esqr.
Committee—Hon. Alex Laird, M. P. P, (Chairman), Daniel Green, Esqr, M. P. P, Stephen McNeill, George Compton, Thos. H Schurman, Esqrs, and Messrs George M. Price, Wm. Taylor, A. Craswell, and Robert Glover.

The Committee have not yet appointed a Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided that meetings be held in Summerside on the evening of every alternate Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, until April 1st, and then once a month during the summer.

The Annual Meeting of the Bank of Prince Edward Island was held on Tuesday last, the 3rd inst. The following gentlemen were re-elected Directors for the current year:—Hons. Daniel Brenan, President; Joseph Hensley, Daniel Davies, John Longworth, Geo. R. Goodman, W. W. Lord, and Richard Heartz, Esqr.

At the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Union Bank, which took place on Wednesday last the 5th inst, the following gentlemen were re-elected Directors for the ensuing year:—

Thomas Dodd, George Davies, Charles Palmer W. E. Dawson, Owen Connolly, John Ings, and James DesBrisay, Esqrs.

In our leading article of last week two typographical errors occured. In the sixteenth line from the beginning of the second paragraph for the words "with Italy *grasping* for Rome" read "with Italy *gasping*," &c. And in the eleventh line from the end of the fifth paragraph for the words "relieved by *pitiful* gleams of success," read "relieved by *fitful* gleams of success," &c.

A despatch from Hon. Mr. Archibald, Home Secretary of the Dominion, was read in the Legislative Council of New Brunswick on Friday last, and is to the effect that as the authority to appoint members to the Local Legislative Councils appears to be *in* doubt, it is expedient that the Local Legislature should pass a law vesting the power in the Lieutenant Governor.

Before adjournment, the Legislature of Nova Scotia passed a resolution providing that, in case the Province be permitted to withdraw from the Confederacy, she would bear a just and fair proportion of the cost of the Intercolonial Railway.

A magnificent new Roman Catholic Church is projected at Windsor, to be constructed of white brick, with frontage of fifty-five and depth of one hundred and twenty-five feet, at a cost of $20,000. Mr. Turner, of Brantford, is the architect.

Prince Napoleon is going to make a long journey somewhere. Such he ever does when his advice is not taken at the Tuileries. In a recent interview with his cousin a very animated discussion took place, in which the Emperor reproached the Prince's father-in-law with ingratitude, and hinted at chastisements. The Prince is not a popular man with the Parisians, but every one admits that he is an able man. His politics are Republicanism pure and simple.

Dr. Manning in a long pastoral, calls upon Roman Catholic parents not to send their sons to the national universities, on account of the danger which their faith incurs; and after referring to the progress made by Catholicity of late years in Great Britain hints at the probability of the establishment of a great Roman Catholic university.—*English paper.*

The Land of Gold.—The trowel prepared for presentation to his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on occasion of a new Town Hall at Melbourne is made entirely of gold, both blade and handle. Where the two join, the trowel is ornamented with pearls and torquoises; at the other end, the handle has on it a duke's coronet, set off with diamonds and emeralds.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, March 4, 1868.

Hon. Members of the Assembly having returned to their seats, His Excellency's Speech was again read from the Chair, after which the House proceeded to business.

Hon. Mr. Coles, Col. Secretary, laid on the table the Writ of Election issued for the election of a Member for the Second District of King's County, in the place of Edward Rielly, Esq., who had accepted the office of Queen's Printer, and the Sheriff's Return thereon, which was read by the Clerk.

E. Reilly, Esq., Queen's Printer, re-elected a Member for the Second District of King's County, appeared at the Bar, and having been introduced, took the usual oaths and his seat.

The following Committees were then appointed, viz:

Committee to prepare and report the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Messrs. Reilly, McNeill, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. McCormack, Dr. Jenkins, Bell and Kickham.

Committee to receive Tenders for Printing the Debates of the House—Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Howlan, Haviland.

Committee to receive Tenders for Printing the Journals of the House—Hon. Mr. Hensley, Mr. McNeill, Hon. Mr. Henderson.

Committee on Public Accounts—Messrs. P. Sinclair, Bell, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. McNeill, McCormack, Owen, Yeo.

Committee to provide Stationery—Messrs. Bell, G. Sinclair and Hon. Mr. Laird.

The usual standing Committees were then appointed; and, on motion, it was ordered that Mr. John Griffith be Doorkeeper to the House, *in the place of Mr. Furlong*, who, owing to illness, was unable to attend to the duties of that office.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, Mr. Archibald McNeill was appointed Summary Reporter to the House, his duty being to furnish each Member of the House, daily, with a printed Summary of the previous day's proceedings.

House adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

Thursday, March 5.

Hon. B. Davies submitted a Resolution, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Howlan, to the effect that Robert Gordon, Benjamin Balderston and Isaac Oxenham be appointed Reporters to the House during the present Session.

To which the Hon. Mr. Haviland moved an amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McAulay, namely, that the names of Robert Gordon, Benjamin Balderston and Isaac Oxenham be struck out, and the names of David Laird and Peter Stainforth McGowan be inserted in lieu thereof.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, in submitting the said amendment, asked why were the claims of the two able Reporters of last Session ignored? The capabilities of two at least of the three named in the Resolution of the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) were unknown to the House; true, the name of Benjamin Balderston was before the House last Session, relative to his appointment as Registrar of Deeds and it was extraordinary that the Government, who thought him not fit for that office should appoint him Reporter to the House, his abilities to discharge the responsible duties of that office never haveng been tested. Messrs. Laird and McGowan's abilities, as Reporters, had not been questioned, and they had given every satisfaction last Session. It appeared to him exceedingly strange that Mr. McGowan's claims, in particular, should be overlooked; he voted at the last election for Dr. Jenkins and Mr. P. W. Hyndman. He (Hon. Mr. H.) did not wish to say one word disparagingly of Mr. Gordon, whose services were retained by the Resolution in question; he believed that gentleman to be a good member of society and was possessed of many excellent qualities; but in regard to duties of a Reporter, it was very evident that he was the most inefficient of the three Reporters of last Session, and yet his services were to be continued, and those of the better qualified dispensed with.

Hon. Attorney General replied, and said it was not to be presumed that the gift or talent of Reporting was confined to any one particular class. Change had been frequently made in that, as in other departments, and he had no desire to recognize the principle of continuing one class of officers always in office. He had reason to believe that the gentlemen named in the Resolution before the House would be found competent to discharge the duties of their office. He was satisfied with the manner in which the Reporters of last Session discharged their duties, but he had yet to learn that Mr. Laird was now an applicant for the office.

Hon. Mr. McAulay said it was unfair and unjust to discharge the Reporters of last Session. They had performed their work faithfully and well, and why discharge them?

Hon. Mr. Davies said the same line of argument as that used by the Hon. Mr. McAulay might be applied to the office of Speaker of the House, or any other office. The debates of last Session were not conducted with that impartiality which should be observed on the part of the Reporters. His opinions on the Loan Bill had not been put forward as they should be; and he was informed that Mr. Laird refused to publish his speech, as forwarded to him by the Reporter who was at the desk on the occasion. If those young men named in the Resolution had certificates of competency, which he believed they had, they, he had no doubt, would give general satisfaction to the House.

Mr. Brecken said if the charges made by the Hon. Mr. Davies were correct some grounds might exist for substituting the name of another in his place, but he was of opinion that the charge was not correct. Mr. Laird's character was too well known in this community for any one to believe that he would be guilty of what the hon. member (Mr. Davies) had charged him. There were two ways of misrepresenting a speaker, 1st, by putting down what he did not say; 2nd, by omitting what he did say. It was to be regretted that the Government could not provide some other office for Mr. Balderston; but he supposed a section of the Government wanted some public recognition of the services of at least one prominent member of the Tenant League. It was an admitted fact that the two most efficient Reporters were discharged without a fault, and the most inefficient one retained.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said it was a delicate matter to speak of the conduct of those who could not reply. He was surprised that the Hon. Mr. Davies had not publicly charged Mr. Laird with that now alleged, when writing on the subject in the public press. He would always defend those whose conduct merited defence, but to discharge the abler officers of any department was contrary to all he ever knew, civil or military.

Hon. Mr. Howlan said it was unfair to Mr. Gordon to say that he was inefficient. The Parliamentary Reporter of last Session would show that Mr. Gordon had performed his full share of the work. It was well to have a change occasionally, without which no inducement was held out to those disposed to excel in any department. He (Hon. Mr. Howlan) would ask if the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McAulay) thought it unfair or unjust on a certain occasion to accept the office of Speaker of that House, the duties of which had been efficiently discharged by his predecessor.

Hon. Mr. Haviland reiterated that Mr. Gordon was not an efficient Reporter, he might be master of the English language, and yet not be a good Reporter. He (Hon. Mr. Haviland) said that the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) should have stated, openly and fairly, when he submitted his resolution, that Mr. Laird was guilty of favoritism and not charge him with it afterwards.

Hon. Col. Secretary said that, individually, he had nothing to say against the Reporters of last Session. He had ample confidence in Mr. Laird's integrity, but it appeared that that gentleman was very indifferent about taking the office again, though he belived he would accept of it if it was the desire of the House. The Free Education Act had done much for the young men of the Colony, and those of them who directed their attention to the study of the art of Reporting should be encouraged. It was indeed important that what hon. members on both sides said should be fairly reported. A knowledge of the political views of the speaker was very necessary in order to carry out his remarks correctly. It might appear unfair in the eyes of the Opposition, and prehaps the public, that Mr. McGowan was dischargehed, but it was one of those changes which would occaisionally take place, and if those appointed should prove incapable, they, no doubt, would resign and let others take the desk.

After debate the amendment was lost on the following division, viz:

For it—Hons. Haviland, McAulay, Henderson, Messrs. Ramsay, Prowse, Yeo, Brecken—7.

Against it—Hons. B. Davies, Howlan, Callbeck, Laird, Atty. General, Col. Secretary, Kelly, Messrs. Bell, Arsneault, Reilly, McNeill, P. Sinclair, Kickham, McCormack, Dr. Jenkins—15.

Hon. Atty. General, from Committee appointed to receive tenders for printing the Debates of the House, presented their report, to the effect that they had received tenders from Messrs. F. W. Hughes and W. Malone and from Mr. David Laird, upon the consideration of which the said Committee recommended the tender of Messrs. Hughes & Malone be accepted.

Report adopted.

Hon. Atty. General also presented the report of the Committee appointed to receive tenders for printing the Journals, which was to the effect that said Committee had received tenders from Thomas Rielly, Hughes & Malone and D. Laird, and that having compard the specimens of paper submitted, the Committee recommended the acceptance of Messrs. Hughes & Malone's tender.

Report of said Committee was then also adopted.

Mr. Rielly, from the Committee appointed to prepare and report the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, presented said draft Address, which is as follows:—

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, beg to reciprocate with your Excellency the pleasure which we experience in meeting you again at the commencement of another Session, and to assure your Excellency that our assistance and advice will be cheerfully given whenever you shall have occasion to require them.

With your Excellency we regret that the negotiations entered into during the recess of the Legislature, with non-resident Proprietors of Township Lands in this Island, have not, up to the present time, proved successful.

Although your Excellency has not, as yet, deemed it advisable to proceed with the Loan, yet the provisions of the Act authorizing it still remain available in case any Proprietor shall hereafter, as we trust they will do, see the advantage and propriety of meeting the views of the Government by accepting a fair price for their property.

Any papers upon the subject which your Excellency may lay before us shall receive our due consideration.

When the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown on the subject of the *Selkirk Estate* shall be laid before us, your Excellency may rely upon our giving the several questions involved in it our serious and careful attention, and maturing such measures on the subject as may appear just and equitable upon a full consideration of the whole question.

It will afford us much satisfaction to give every encouragement to the settling of wilderness lands, by passing a bill for relaxing the provisions of the Land Purchase Act, or devising such other measures as may best promote that desirable object.

We thank your Excelleny for the assurance that the Public accounts for the past year will be laid before us.

It is gratifying to learn from your Excellency that the Revenue for the past year has been in excess of the expenditure, notwithstanding the commercial depression to which your Excellency has alluded, and also the unusual demands upon the public Treasury to repair the damages caused by the gales of last autumn.

We shall be prepared to give to any measure which may be submitted to us, having for its object the improvement of our present system of Education, and the amendment and consolidation of the laws by which the same is regulated, our careful consideration, believing as we do that the subject is one of paramount importance to the people of this Colony.

The system of Road making hitherto adopted in this Island has been almost universally condemned by its inhabitants. We hail with pleasure the prospect that some feasible scheme will be devised by which our highways will be improved without trenching too much upon the public revenue.

The Report of the Committee appointed last session to consider this important subject will receive our special attention when laid before us.

As Agriculture must ever form the principal business of a large proportion of the people of this Colony, it will be our duty to stimulate, by every means within our power, an occupation upon the successful prosecution of which depends, to a considerable extent, the material well being of the Colony.

The Local Industrial Exhibition of last autumn having proved a success, we can assure your Excellency that it will be a pleasuse for us to extend to every section of the Island the benefits which such exhibitions are calculated to confer.

On motion of Mr. Rielly, it was resolved that on Saturday next the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole to take into consideration the said draft address.

House adjourned till 10 o'clock to morrow.

A. McNeill, Reporter.

The Mortgage on Walrussia.—During the Crimean war a Massachusetts firm made rifles and bought gunpowder for the Russians, but the war being ended before the goods were supplied the Russian Government would not pay. Mr. Seward, however, seems to have undertaken besides the part of landed estate agent, that of collector of small claims, and he wrote to the Russian Government strongly supporting the claims of the purveyors of guns and gunpowder. The little bill not having been settled, the creditors are now seeking to enforce it by a kind of attachment of the moneys now in the hands of the American Government, but payable on account of Alaska, or Walrussia, as it is called by the profane. Whether the Russian Government will submit to this sort of execution before judgment remains to be seen: but it is said that the American claim troubles Mr. Seward very greatly, and considering how largely he has lately elucidated the duties of neutral governments, it may seem rather out of his assumed character to be found enforcing debts arising out of contracts made by American citizens to furnish war materials to a belligerent. Of course there is a technical distinction in international law between equipping armed ships and selling rifles or gunpowder. Legally, the first proceeding is reprobated, and the second is allowed; but where is the moral distinction?

An effort is being made in England, with the sanction of Archbishop Manning, to exclude females from choirs in Catholic Churches. In a letter to the Rev. Canon Oakley, the Archbishop says:—

"A little time and care will rear in every school a sufficient number of boys, and I trust that we shall before long be able to form a proper and efficient choir in every church. When once tried by experience, the grave, sweet, majestic, intellectul music of the Church will win all who are now in favor of a less ecclesiastical style. I hope you will continue your efforts, and render all help you can to the clergy in training men and boys with a true knowledge of church music, and that before long we shall have a collection of masses which, while they admit the full compass and perfection of modern musical science, exclude all modes which are secular or theatrical, by retaining the gravity and majesty of our ecclesiastical and sacred tradition."