

## THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1885.

All the employees in this office have been vaccinated, and the paper thoroughly disinfected.

## The "Patriot's" Motive.

The editor of the *Patriot* is still wrestling with that old, old question, "What is the motive?" He seems to be in a bluish state of fog-wit.

A few days ago he estimated the true debt of the Island on 31st December, 1884, to have been \$107,153.39—nine times further down in the same article, he made another calculation and fixed it, with the most complete self-satisfaction, at \$109,000. Next day, after having said over it, he could not make more out of it than \$93,013.38! If he had only kept on, he would have known that good minister all out of time who used to travel around preaching sermons and clearing off church debts. How would this suit the elder as a field of labor?

Again, a fortnight ago he estimated the debt of the Island on 31st December, 1884, at \$109,000. He raised it to \$112,063.96, and Heaven only knows what figure he may place it at day after tomorrow.

Come to think of it, we fear the elder would be no success in the contest in the company of a debilitated missionary-like Artemus Ward's orchestra, he might strike the wrong tune.

Yet this is the man who sets himself up to instruct the people upon the financial state of the Island.

With every desire to be dishonest in his manipulation of figures, the editor of the *Patriot* has not the sense to know how. It would take too long to follow him through all the tangles he had not into—yet shall content ourselves with extricating him from the last one.

To enable him to arrive at the conclusion that our debt on 31st December last was \$112,000, he assumes the debt at the end of 1884 to have been \$93,000, whereas, in reality, it was \$40,000 less, or only \$53,000. He then places the expenditure for the current year at \$270,000, whereas the estimate was only \$252,000. He then adds to this \$18,000, which he says was no ill-feeling, he quietly exceeds \$10,000 of the estimated revenue, placing it at \$251,000. Let us take the figures which the Leader of the Government has given in his Budget Speech, which we have no reason to believe will prove much out of the way, and we shall produce largely varying results:—

Debt, Dec. 31, 1884.....\$ 53,000.00

Expenditure.....252,562.22

Revenue.....206,487.92

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