This I believe, or such like resolution, not any intention of favoring me, specially, was what caused the rescinding of the Order in Council. It was not my wish or request to offer the Railway Stock unencumbered, as my letter of the 12th August clearly indicates. Far from it. I meant by that letter as I had already stated verbally, that I would put up the Railway Bonds or all I could get of them, as part of the security. This I had also previously stated I could do by borrowing them, but the word *unencumbered* in the answer obligated me to buy the entire and take up the mortgages which was a more costly affair, and, as the work proved a more difficult business to perform in a "week or two."

Was the cost and difficulty an ingredient in the arrangement? I believe it was, and was regarded as insuperable! Little words convey much meaning when used by "able men." Mr. Brecken thinks proper to use the word *unexceptionable* instead of *approved* as contained in Mr. Havilands letter of August 14th. The historical letter further says:—"This you promised to do," (disencumber the railroads), and replied you "would be ready in about a week." I said I would try and make the required arrangement, and that it would take me about a week or two. If this was not so, why did Mr. Pope write the same day to name a time, &c.

The postscript runs:—"Since writing the above, we have received a telegram from H. D. McLeod & Co., &c. Mark, the letter is sent to me at 2½ p. m., consequently, as the telegram was not received until after the letter was written, it must have been received after 2. p. m.

Below is the telegram referred to from H. D. McLeod & Co., declining contract, received in the forenoon of the 4th September:

Sept. 2nd, 1871.

By telegraph from St. John to Hon. T. H. Haviland, Col. Sec'y.

Referring to telegram of yesterday, we beg leave to decline contract.

H. D. McLeod & Co.

But the text informs us it was received in the forenoon of the 4th September, and most likely it was, and *very early in the morning of* that forenoon, as it bears date Sept. 2nd. Had my letter which had been received on the 2nd been simply and fairly answered with McLeod's telegram on the table, the long history could not have been with any show of propriety written *for record*; for the purpose of sweeping away all my hard won securities; of closing up as it were all negotiations with me, as well as for demanding entirely new, and, as was supposed, impossible conditions of security.

And now, for the supposed impossibility of my obtaining the sureties named in the letter. I informed the Council at a previous interview that the first named gentleman, unasked had most kindly intimated to me that he would cheerfully become my security for the entire, but for certain private reasons to me, sufficient and satisfactory. Whilst Mr. Haviland was 12 days in Halifax, on *private business* is it unlikely that he ascertained that certain of the gentlemen named were supposed to be antagonistic to me, owing to my railway enterprise, and that the others were of that extra cautious class who would not go security for their brothers? As to the residents of Charlottetown named—the firm had no acquaintance whatsoever with me, and the other two gentlemen had known me but slightly for little over two months, and yet, of their own generosity and goodness had been willing to secure me for the personal portion of £40,000 but did not deem themselves sufficient for the £100,000. Those facts as far as Charlottetown is concerned, are known to members of the Council:—

"After receiving McLeod & Co's Telegram declining the contract on Monday forenoon, and acquainting Mr. O'Brien that they were still open to treat with him on the conditions mentioned in the Attorney General's Letter, wherein they also warned him that they would not delay their negotiations with others until furnished with the names of first-class men, such as those whose names Mr. Brecken mentioned, the Government took no further action by commencing negotiation with any party until the next morning (Tuesday.) This gave Mr. O'Brien another opportunity to look for satisfactory security, but he left Charlottetown, on Tuesday morning, the 5th September, for Halifax, without making any further communication, either verbally or in writing to the Government, or any member of the Government. They were therefore totally ignorant of Mr. O'Brien's intentions after the receipt of the Attorney General's Letter. They did not know that he was again going to Halifax, nor, on Tuesday, had they any reliable information that he had gone. They did not know whether he intended to look for other security, such as was suggested to him, but the general impression being that not being able to find satisfactory security, he had given up all idea of the contract, they concluded that such was the case.

The date of Mr. O'Brien's last communication to the Government, was Saturday, the 2nd September. The Attorney General's answer thereto was delivered to Mr. O'Brien, at 2. 30 p. m. on Monday, the 4th. Nothing further was heard from Mr. O'Brien until Thursday, the 7th, at 12.45 p. m."

The letter delivered *at my lodgings* at 2.30 p. m., (received by me at 3.30 p. m.) gave me another opportunity to look for security! £100,000 when it was well known I could not obtain it! But it did not apprise me of the unspeakable generosity of the Government not intending to treat with any other contractor before the following morning! And this despite their written assurance, to the contrary, that they will not delay negotiations with others until presented with the names and hard writing, &c.!!

Generously so great, poor O'Brien had no cause to suspect, and dazed but not daunted, amazed at the effrontery and duplicity displayed, he fears to indicate by a reply that he will undertake the heavy task, feeling it would but hurry the Government, to close with some higher and more favored bidder; he goes on board the steamer that night, travels homeward next day, Tuesday, obtains the required security on Wednesday, telegraphed the fact next morning at 11 a. m., arrives in Charlottetown on Friday with the letter of guarantee, but finds that the Contract has been given to the fourth bidder above him for £13,420 more than his bid!!!

The Government honors that during Tuesday they had no reliable information that I had gone to Halifax. They knew where my lodgings were on Monday to present their letter and could, had they chosen, have enquiry made there, and ascertained the fact. They did not know whether I intended to look for other security, such as was suggested, but the general impression being that, not being able to find satisfactory security, had given up all idea of the contract, they concluded that such was the case! Certainly a foregone conclusion, most admirably contrived to be brought about! If they wanted to know the fact why did they not telegraph to me to Halifax to ascertain it.

What difference would it have made in my favor with the Government, if I had written in reply to the voluminous letter of the 7th, saying I would go to Halifax, and look for some of the sureties named? Would they have delayed proceedings one single day? Did not the letter warn me that they would not delay negotiations with others, until furnished with the names and *with their assent in writing*.

"Messrs. McLeod and Co's. telegram declining the contract, was received on Monday forenoon, and no further action was taken by the Government on that day. On Tuesday morning, the following letter was received from Mr. James H. Fraser, of New Glasgow, the party making the tender next above Messrs. McLeod & Co.:

New Glasgow, Sept. 4, 1871.

To Hon. Colonial Secretary, P. E. I.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that I decline to enter into any contract to construct the proposed Railway in Prince Edward Island, for which I made a tender, and hereby withdraw my tender.

I have, &c.,
JAMES H. FRASER."

For the third time, we are told that Messrs. McLeod & Co's. telegram was received on Monday *forenoon*, and no further action was taken that day. Oh! yes, the historical letter was written to O'Brien.

It is a singular fact that the same night of the date of the above letter, at New Glasgow, Mr. J. H. Fraser sleeps on board the Steamer at Charlottetown, and goes by it next morning, at 5 o'clock, for Pictou, and that on that short voyage, Mr. Fraser said the Government had not communicated with him as yet. Do these facts serve to show why the Government paused in their herculean labors from 2.30, p.m., Monday, when the Pictou boat, with Mr. Fraser on board, had not yet arrived at Charlottetown until Tuesday morning, when they were in possession of his letter? Now, is it not remarkable after this long statesmanlike pause, how energetically the work goes on? On this same Tuesday—whilst O'Brien is on his way to Halifax, in search of personal security for the entire £100,000, *which the Government refused to accept from him at the first interview, on the 12th of August*—Fraser's letter is received, Mr. Rainnie is telegraphed to, his answer is received, and Mr. Schreiber is offered the Contract! "That's the way to do the business."

On receipt of the above letter, a telegram was forwarded to Messrs. Rainnie & Co, of St. John, whose tender stood next to Messrs. Fraser & Co.:

Ch'town, Sept. 5, 1871.

W. Rainnie & Co., St. John, N. B.

Your tender for construction of railroad from Alberton to Georgetown will be accepted, providing you furnish, without delay, satisfactory security and sign contract.

T. H. HAVILAND,
Colonial Secretary.

(Answer by telegraph)

Replied to on the same day, as follows:—

Sept. 5, 1871.

By telegraph from St. John to Hon. T. H. Haviland.

Season so far advanced and other engagements, beg leave to withdraw.

W. RAINNIE & Co.

The following telegram was then sent to Collingwood Schreiber, Esq., who tendered next above Rainnie & Co.:—

Ch'town, 5th Sept., 1871.

By telegraph to Collingwood Schreiber, Esq., C.E. on the Inter-colonial Railroad, at Amherst.

Contract for construction of railroad from Alberton to Georgetown is offered to you at your tender. Are you prepared to give required security and sign contract without delay?

T. H. HAVILAND,
Colonial Secretary.

(Answer by Telegraph)

The above was answered as follows, on Wednesday, the 6th:—

Sept. 6th, 1871.

By telegraph from Point DuChene to Hon. T. H. Haviland.

Your message received this morning. Shall be over to-day.

COLLINGWOOD SCHREIBER.

Mr. Schreiber arrived on Wednesday night, and on Thursday morning, wrote the following note to Hon. J. C. Pope:—

Ch'town, 7th Sept., 1871.

The Hon. J. C. Pope, Provincial Secretary.

My dear Sir,—I am here to reply to the message of the Honorable Colonial Secretary, which I received yesterday. Will you be good enough to inform me when I can have an interview with you or the Government.

I am, &c.,
COLLINGWOOD SCHREIBER.

Thursday was the regular day for the meeting of the Executive Council, Mr. Schreiber's note was at once answered by Mr. Pope, as follows:—

Ch'town, 7th Sept., 1871.

C. Schrieber, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—In reply to your note of this morning's date, asking me to inform you when you can have an interview with myself or the Government.

I have to state that the Government will have pleasure in meeting you at the Council Chamber, in the Colonial Building, at 12 o'clock to-day.

I have, &c.,
JAMES C. POPE.

Mr. Schreiber was in attendance at the hour named. The Council met, and at a quarter to one, the following thelegraph messages were received:—

By telegraph from Halifax to Hon. T. H. Haviland, Colonial Secretary.

Am going over to-morrow with Duffus & Co's. letter of guarantee.

W. D. O'BRIEN.

September 7th, 1871.

By telegraph from Halifax to Hon. T. H. Haviland.

We have given O'Brien letter of guarantee required by Government.

DUFFUS & Co.

Mr. Schreiber had an interview with the Government, and about 5 o'clock the same evening, sent a letter to Hon. J. C. Pope, submitting as securities the names of several Firms doing business in the Dominion of Canada, from which he requested the Government to select.

The Government accepted as security—

Messrs. Daniel and Boyd.
do Jardine & Co.,
do A. F. Randolph & Co., and
do T. R. Jones & Co.

and the following Letter was sent to Mr. Schreiber:—

Executive Council,
Prince Edward Island,
September 7th, 1871.

Sir,—In answer to your communication of this day's date, submitting the list of names of persons from which you authorize the Government to select such as they may deem satisfactory as securities for the performance of the contract for the construction of a Railroad through this Island, I have to inform you that the Government will accept the names of—

Daniel and Boyd,
Jardine & Co.,
A. & F. Randolph & Co., and
T. R. Jones & Co.

The necessary documents will be prepared without delay.

I have, &c.,
JAMES C. POPE,
President Executive Council.

Immediately upon the decision of the Government on the security offered by Mr. Schreiber, before 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, the following telegram was sent to Mr. O'Brien, in answer to that received from him at 1 o'clock:—

Ch'town, 7th Sept., 1871.

By telegraph to W. D. O'Brien, Esq., Halifax.

Before receiving your Telegram to-day, contract was offered to Schreiber, and he has expressed his willingness to accept, and furnished names of securities. Should contract not be completed, you will be notified.

T. H. HAVILAND,
Colonial Secretary.

Now observe the contract is offered to Mr. Schreiber on Tuesday. He telegraphs without accepting it or saying that he will comply with conditions on Wednesday. Writes to the Provincial Secretary on Thursday, without still accepting contract or saying he will comply with conditions. Meets the Government at noon, Thursday, without still accepting the contract or agreeing to comply with the conditions. At a quarter before one, my telegram announcing my going to Charlottetown next day with Duffus & Co's. letter of guarantee, also telegram from Duffus & Co., announcing their having given me the guarantee.

Still Mr. Schreiber does not agree to accept the contract, or agree to comply with the required conditions!!! But we are told that Mr. Schreiber had an interview with the Government—the hour is not mentioned; when hours are of so much importance, but it was late, of course, and *about* 5 o'clock the same evening, *sent a letter* to the Hon. J. C. Pope, submitting as securities the names of several Firms doing business in the Dominion. So that it was only at 5. p. m., that Mr. Schreiber first *submitted* the names of sureties!!!

Why has not the letter which Mr. Schreiber "*sent*" been published in the correspondence as well as the less important one asking for an interview? Whatever time is lost in waiting for Mr. Schreibers letter, submitting securities—if such letter be more than a myth—no time is lost in accepting them, for before 6 o'clock same evening, the telegram of September 7th is forwarded to me. Strange that amongst the several doing business in the Dominion, one name could not have been given before 5, p. m., on the 3d day after the announcement of the contract!—24 hours after Mr. Schreiber had arrived in Charlottetown.

On Friday, the 8th, the contract was prepared; and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, was signed by the Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Schreiber.

The same afternoon, the Colonial Secretary arrived home from Halifax, and Mr. O'Brien also came in the same steamer. The Colonial Secretary brought with him a letter of guarantee from Duffus & Co., which he had received from Mr. O'Brien, about 4 o'clock that afternoon, on board the steamer *Princess of Wales*, between Pictou and Charlottetown. The letter is as follows:

Halifax, Sept. 6th, 1871.

Hon. T. Heath Haviland,
Colonial Secretary, Ch'town, P.E.I.

Sir,—We beg to inform you that we are prepared to become security to the Government of Prince Edward Island for the sum of £100,000, (one hundred thousand pounds, Island currency) on behalf of W. D. O'Brien, Esq., on his obtaining the contract to build the P. E. I. Railroad, as per tender already submitted to your Government.

DUFFUS & Co.

The following memorandum is endorsed on the above letter by Mr. Haviland:

"Received on board Steamer *Princess of Wales*, between Pictou and Charlottetown, from Mr. O'Brien, on Friday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, 8th Sept., 1871.

"T. H. H."

On Friday evening, at 7.30, the Attorney General and Mr. Schreiber left Charlottetown for St. John, in order to have the contractor's bonds perfected by his sureties.

It is a remarkable coincidence that the memorandum of Mr. Haviland should be identical in time with the signing of the contract. I solemnly state that I delivered the letter of Duffus & Co. into the hands of Mr. Haviland, on board the boat, in Pictou harbor, not later than a quarter past two o'clock, p.m., on the 8th September. Had I deemed the hour of any consequence, I could have delivered it to him at 8, a.m., same morning, when I first observed him on board the cars.

Mr. O'Brien came to Charlottetown on Friday evening, the 8th September, and on Monday afternoon, the 11th, about 2 30, he delivered the following letter at the Colonial Secretary's Office:

Charlottetown, 11th Sept., 1871.

Sir,—My telegram of Thursday, the 7th inst., as well as Messrs. Duffus & Co's. telegram and letter of the same date, having apprized you of my compliance with the terms and conditions embraced in Mr. Attorney General Brecken's letter of the 5th inst., it only now remains for me to furnish you with the full names of my sureties, which are as follows:

James B. Duffus, Halifax, N.S., Merchant.
John Duffus, do. do.
William Duffus, do. do.

I have now to request that you will please without delay, cause to be prepared the necessary bonds, and name the time and place for their execution to enable me to procure the personal attendance of my sureties for this purpose. With regard to your telegram to me, dated at Charlottetown, the 7th inst., announcing that the Railway Contract was offered to Mr. Schreiber, I consider that no contract could be concluded with him or any other person, pending the proposal made by the Government to me.

I have, &c.,
W. D. O'BRIEN.

To Hon. T. H. Haviland,
Colonial Secretary, P. E. Island.

To the foregoing, the following answer was made and transmitted by messenger to Bovyer House, Mr. O'Brien's lodgings, about noon on Tuesday, the 12th. It was, however, returned to Mr. O'Brien and left for Halifax by evening steamer. It was then mailed at Halifax, by Mr. Hartland, on the same day, and at a quarter to two o'clock, p.m., the following the address on the envelope:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
12th September, 1871.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 11th inst., and in reply thereto, beg to refer you to the telegram sent to you on the 7th inst., as follows:

"Before receiving your telegram to-day, Contract was offered to Schreiber, and he has expressed his willingness to accept, and furnished names of securities. Should contract not be completed, you will be notified.

"T. H. HAVILAND, Col. Sec."

I may, however, inform you that the contract for the construction of the Railroad has been signed by Mr. Schreiber, and the bonds have been forwarded to New Brunswick for execution by his sureties.

I have, &c.,
T. H. HAVILAND, Col. Sec'y.

W. D. O'Brien, Esq.

Certified, WM. C. DESBRISAY,
Ass't. C. E. C.

And now, People of Prince Edward Island, I appeal to you, have I been fairly or fraudulently dealt with? And leaving my case to your judgement for the present,

I remain, with respect, &c., &c.,
WILLIAM D. O'BRIEN.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.—In all cases in which matters of fact are involved, Correspondents must furnish us with their names and addresses not for publication, but as a guarantee of authenticity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

DEAR SIR:—That the Government can no longer count you among its supporters is a matter which appears to give the highest satisfaction to every friend of freedom and constitutional government throughout the Colony. You decided in time, to preserve unsullied your political reputation. Had you remained twenty-four hours longer without intimating to the Premier your intention to withdraw your support from him, the country would have held on responsible for conniving at the jobbery that has been perpetrated in connection with the letting of the Railway Contract. Since the publication of the correspondence between O'Brien and the Government, and the letting of the contract to Schreiber, no person doubts for a moment the evidence of the Ring. Your defection from the Government and your manly outspoken denunciation of their conduct, have strengthened that opinion. You deserve the warmest congratulations of the country for the stand you have taken. It is as clear as the sun at noon day, that from the first the contract was intended for the Ring, and nothing but the Ring. An honest and impartial consideration of the manner in which all the tenders up to Schreiber's, were disposed of, and particularly their coquetting with O'Brien, were well calculated to rouse the suspicions of the country. You Sir, sincerely believed that a Railroad would be a benefit to the Colony; and from the introduction of the Bill for its construction, into the House of Assembly, both in and out of Parliament, you warmly advocated it; but the moment you became convinced of any leaning towards the Ring by the Government, that moment you severed your connection with them, and have since vigorously exposed their designs against the best interests of the country. When you saw £13,000 of the hard earned taxes of our people recklessly thrown away for the sake of a few Dominion plotters, it was surely time for you to think "there was something rotten in the state of Denmark." Mr. Laird, too, deserves well of his country. From the moment the Bill passed to the letting of the contract, he, on every occasion, with tongue and pen, loudly proclaimed the existence of a Ring; and boldly asserted that the letting of the contract would be attended with jobbery. The country now sees that the predictions have been verified. He has unveiled McKanna. Not the imaginative oKanna of Moore, but the real McKanna in the flesh, the Government of Prince Edward Island. They no longer wear the mask; the veil has been torn from their faces. How will they face the vengeance of our outraged people? They dare not face the country. Their doom is sealed. The country sees that it is betrayed, and is only awaiting a favourable opportunity to give vent to its indignation. No consul or triumvir that ever bought and sold the liberties of Rome was actuated by so rapacious a greed both in spirit and design as that to which the Railway Bill owes its existence. Had the people of the Colony at the last general election known that an undertaking of such magnitude was in contemplation, they would have paused before committing its management to an Administration of which J. C. Pope was destined to be leader. The country would like to see an undertaking involving the outlay of five or six hundred thousand pounds entrusted to men who have given some proofs of statesmanship or prudent management of the public finances. We are aware that we have not many statesmen or political philosophers amongst us; but we know of no body of men among whom we would be less likely to find an Adam Smyth or a Stuart Mill than among the members of the present Ministry. We confidently appeal to the past political career of those gentlemen to bear out our statements. There is not a single member of the Ministry whose name is identified with any of the brilliant epochs in the history of this country; not one whose name is connected with the passing of any measure that would entitle him to the character of a patriot. On the contrary, a glance at the past history of the Colony will show that with one or two exceptions, the present Ministry is composed of the very men who on every occasion offered the most obstinate and determined resistance to every measure calculated to benefit the country. Responsible Government, the Elective Franchise, Free Education, and the abolition of the Land Tenures found in them the most violent enemies. With such antecedents, how comes all their new born zeal for the welfare of the country? Will any man who has watched the course of events since the opening of the House of Assembly at the last Session, impute it to disinterested patriotism? We think not. Love of country is not a predominating feature of the Premier's character. Having just emerged from Landlord ascendancy, and still smarting from the wounds incidental to such an encounter, the people of this country are not in a mood to submit to oppressive taxation or to see their revenues squandered. In Great Britain a Government led either by a Gladstone or a Disraeli that would manifest such disregard for the people's interest in the administration of the public funds as that which our Executive has of late evinced, wouldn't be tolerated twenty-four hours. A yell of indignation would be roused that would be echoed in every town and hamlet in the British Empire. The people of Great Britain won't submit to be either oppressed or plundered. We hope the people of this colony won't be slow to manifest the same noble spirit. In the language of Curran they should rise at once and "break their chains on the heads of their oppressors."

If there was a spark of honor in the Ministry they would resign and make way for men more worthy of the trust reposed in them. But the Premier's grasping ambition and greed of office, will induce him to cling to the wreck while there remains a sound plank in the ship of state. He sacrifices not to sacrifice his honor at the shrine of his ambition. We have read history aright it was this insatiable greed of power that sapped the foundations of those institutions of freedom which in their age made Greece and Rome the marvel of the world. The people of this Colony have reason to tremble for their political independence. It is raising no false alarm to say the Constitution is in danger. "Appearances" says one of the greatest political writers of the eighteenth century, "justify suspicion; and when the safety of a nation is at stake Suspicion is a just ground of enquiry." We have grounds for our fears. The destinies of this unfortunate Colony never were in worse hands. Our rights have been invaded and our liberties trampled under foot. Greece groaning under the Dominion of the thirty tyrants never presented a more pitiable spectacle to the world than this unfortunate Colony does at present; the iron heel of despotism is on our neck. We would respectfully invite our fellow colonists to rouse to a sense of the danger with which our liberties are menaced. The Constitution is not safe in the keeping of the present Cabinet. The country has no faith in a man of them. Should an emergency arise they are not the men for it. We have lost faith in their virtue. We believe they wouldn't be proof against the tempting offers of the Dominion for Confederation. A Government that won't hesitate to squander the Revenue of a country, is not to be trusted with her liabilities. But the day of reckoning is at hand. The people have their eyes open and think and talk of the future; they have the power and mean to use it. So long as the existence of a Ministry depends on their voice, no Government can stand, that will not yield to their demands. The first murmurings of the storm are as yet only heard in the distance; the waves will yet lash the shore in the fury of the elemental strife. No Ministry in any civilized country in the world would pretend to rule in direct opposition to the will of three-fourths of its inhabitants. Unhappily for Prince Edward Island the performance of this pleasing task was reserved for the first Coalition this country was ever cursed with.

A proposal for a monster meeting to be held in Charlottetown at at an early date to denounce the action of the Government would be received with enthusiasm throughout the Colony; and would prove to Her Majesty's representative, if further proof were wanting, that his advisers don't possess the confidence of the country. Something should be done to preserve the honor and fair fame of the country. How will we appear in the eyes of our Sister Provinces if we stand by with arms folded in such a crisis? We have a higher opinion of the people of this colony than to think they will tamely submit to such indignities. Beyond all doubt, so tyrannical a Ministry nor one less actuated by a desire to promote the welfare of the country, never swayed the destinies of this unfortunate isle. The Premier thinks he can now afford to despise the voice of the people. We warn him to beware, not to lug that sweet delusion too long. The country is seething with discontent. His insolent demeanor to to his constituents at the passing of the Railway Bill has shaken the confidence of the country in him, as a popular representative. Indeed he never was the idol of the people. Circumstances to which an honest politician would scorn to resort, secured his return at the last general election. In that return we beheld the dawn of a new era of oppression under which, we fear the Island is destined to sink. May Heaven avert such calamity: Mr. Pope's statemanship never will.

I Remain, Your's, &c.,
GRACCHUS.

Bedeque, Oct. 10th, 1871.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE HERALD.

DEAR SIR.—The year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One will form a remarkable era in the history of Prince Edward Island. The future reader of its history will find that this Colony was honestly, if not economically, ruled up to this date. From this period will be dated the introduction of that corruption among the Members of the Executive, which is the certain ruin and utter destruction of any State which may be so unfortunate as to receive the least tincture of it among the members of its Government.

I have to congratulate you on the firm stand you have taken in this time so fraught with dangers to this little Island. I can plainly see how difficult it must have been for you to tear yourself away from the Government of which you were a member, from which you received some pecuniary aid, and in which were your fellow-countrymen and personal friends, without the least chance of receiving any personal favor by so doing. Such a disinterested action as this cannot fail to give you a place in the affections of those who have the interest of their country at heart. Mr. Pope may make riches by robbing his country, but I question if ever he will enjoy them, for I believe it is impossible for a man possessing human feelings to enjoy the spoils of his country, even when taken secretly, but how more troublesome to his conscience must such spoliation be when taken before the very eyes of the people, and when he is daily reminded of it by the continual scoffs and maledictions of his countrymen?

The Editor of the *Islander*, in the last issue of that paper, makes a feeble attempt to darken your character in the eyes of its readers. I have not the least doubt but that it is the opinion of that *immaculate* editor that, if he could succeed in making you as inconsistent in the eyes of the people as he would fain represent, your powerful arguments brought against him would have much less weight. By this means he endeavors to cast off the odium and disgrace from his own shoulders, which is now getting so heavy that it is becoming irksome even to himself. This dodge will not succeed.

You, Sir, in advocating the railway measure, expressed, at different times through the columns of your paper that, on the first information of jobbery being practised, you would publicly expose it. The world can see how faithfully you have kept that promise.

Mr. W. H. Pope, in the concluding sentence of last week's editorial, says: "What confidence can be placed in any public man who can act thus unblushingly inconsistent?" I answer, that every confidence should be placed in the man who advocated the railway measure, economically carried out, which he believed would be beneficial to the country; who promised the people to expose the least jobbery he should see carried on; who strictly adhered to that promise, although he personally was the loser by so doing; who is at present battling for the people's rights, and plainly showing them where they have been embezzled out of £30,000, by the action of the Government and the writings of W. H. Pope. In return, I will ask the people if they are prepared to place their confidence in Mr. W. H. Pope, who, a few weeks ago, was running down the credit of the Colony; who, a few years ago, abused and belied the Catholic Priesthood, and the wives and daughters of Catholics, on no other account than to obtain the sweets of office; who established Orange Lodges through certain districts of the Colony, and when he has finished this business, he turns around to advocate a grant to St. Dunstan's College, in order that his brother—James C. Pope—might obtain a position from which he might be able to cast down Government "pap" to his aged father, his beloved brother Bill, and friends in general; who was, by the late Edward Whelan, of the *Examiner*, dismissed from a Court of Justice, with unclean hands?

Yours, truly,
JACKSON.

The Herald.

Wednesday, October 18, 1871.

☞ *The circulation of the* HERALD *amounts, now, to a weekly average of* 1,500 *copies. We beg to call the attention of merchants and others to this fact. An excellent medium is here available for their Advertisements and Business Notices.*

THERE are some individuals, few indeed and interested, who have reputations to lose, and who seek to reconcile their support of the present "Ring" ministry by stubbornly asserting that the complicity of ministers with the Ring has never been proved. We will not, by any means, assume the herculean task of endeavoring to persuade these gentlemen that the proof brought forward against ministers is more than sufficient to convict them in any court of judicature in Christendom, for we know the result when men are "convinced against their will." It may not, however, be out of place to ask of these gentlemen, what kind of proof would satisfy them? Do they require written evidence, the document, for example, by which the members of the Ring have bound themselves together to pillage the Colony and divide the spoil among them? Would they expect to see noted down the several amounts to be pocketed by the Premier, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, Mr. Howlan and others? As well might we expect to come upon a deed of copartnery in the prosecution of a band of burglars. Such a document would, indeed, be a curiosity, but it would not be a piece of evidence necessary to insure a conviction. Are we then expected to bring forward living witnesses to swear to the existence of a Ring? Such a witness would necessarily be an accomplice, who would, for the occasion, turn Queen's evidence. It is too early to expect any proof of this nature. The Ringers are now only living in hopes of future plunder—the toils have been set, and the process of driving the game has begun, but nothing has as yet been secured to satisfy even a fractional part of the great expectations entertained by the Ring. Such witnesses may be forthcoming in the future, impelled, not by conscientious motives, for we have long ago arrived at the conclusion that the commandment which forbids stealing, fraud and imposition forms no portion of the Ring code,—but, driven by the chagrin of disappointed hopes, to lay open the whole iniquitous conspiracy. There is an old saying which tells us that "when thieves fall out, honest men get their own;" also another to the same effect, which says, that, "when rogues quarrel their secrets leak out." On such traits of perverted humanity, our hopes of future disclosures rest. The elements of discord are as likely to prove friendly to public justice, among the rapacious members of the Ring as among a gang of ordinary garrotters.

Seeing then that neither written evidence nor living witnesses can be reasonably expected at this stage of the proceedings, the question that next arises is, how is the charge against the ministry to be substantiated? First, it must be noted, that what is to be proved, is the existence of a secret combination among certain men, to the prejudice of the country. The members of this combination have worked secretly and in the dark. It was their interest to let not a tittle of evidence of their scheme come before the public, and no accomplice has as yet come forward to betray them. The same species of evidence adopted in our Law Courts to bring home to a culprit the guilt of a secretly perpetrated crime, must now confront the members of the ring. Our tribunals deem circumstantial evidence sufficient to convict a murderer and deprive him of existence; the same tribunals would, therefore, not reject like proof, when it is question of establishing the peculation of a ministry, and driving it from power.

Of the eight contractor's names that stand first on the list, five were members of the Ring. Messrs. McLeod, Rainnie, Schreiber, Carvell, and Burpee, represented one and the same concern. W. Rainnie & Co., who telegraphed on 5th September that the season was too far advanced to take the contract, came himself to the Island a few weeks later, and assumed an important office on Messrs Burpee & Schreiber's contract. Messrs. McLeod & Co. did the same. Burpee and Carvell were ready on hand. There were, however, among the first eight tenderers, two men who certainly did not belong to the New Brunswick Ring—Messrs. Fraser and O'Brien. The first was disposed of in a most suspicious style. He came to the Island without having being sent for by the Government, and with the firm determination to take our contract. He mysteriously disappeared next morning, leaving behing him a letter dated New Glasgow, in which he declines to enter into a contract which had *never been offered to him*. The Government, in the Railroad Correspondence, expressely say that on Monday, the 4th, after receiving Messrs. McLeod & Co's. telegram declining the contract, no further action was taken by them on that day. The Government further assert through their *Organ*, that they had no communication whatever with Mr. Frazer when he was here. How, now, we ask, did Mr. Frazer know that the tenders before his on the list had been disposed of? How did he know to write a letter withdrawing a tender for a contract which had never been offered to him? And with all this, the Government pretends never to have had any communication with Mr. Fraser; in fact, they profess not to have known that he was in Charlottetown. We say nothing of the very glaring circumstance of Mr. Fraser's letter bearing the address of New Glasgow, a locality from which, in the circumstances, it never could have been written. The Government, therefore, got rid of Mr. Fraser, not, however, we fancy, without compensating him for his retiring—for we find the name of J. H. Fraser as the contractor to whom a portion of the Inter-colonial Line has recently been given. Mark how Dominion influence here steals in to aid the Councils of our Ministry!

The Government seem to have entrusted the clearance of Mr. Fraser from their path to Agents. Mr. O'Brien they took on hand openly themselves. We are not going to follow the ministry through their tortuous windings, or re-expose the cajolery and sophistry resorted to, and which would bring disgrace on the proceedings of a Parochial Board. We prefer referring our readers to the correspondence published by us to-day, and annotated by Mr. O'Brien. We would merely remark, in passing, that if the correspondence, when published and commented on by the Government was deemed by every impartial mind sufficient to condemn them, much more condemnatory will it prove now, when additional light has been thrown on the transactions by the man who was the victim of their jobbery and chicanery.

If the Government have nothing at all to do with the Ring, if, as some of them pretend, they do not even know of its existence, by what means does it come, that, with one or two exceptions, the Provincial Press has condemned them? The grounds taken for this condemnation are all drawn from the Government's own account of the negotiations. The writers in these journals are all men differing among themselves in politics and religion—between whom collusion would be if not impossible, at all events, without a sufficient motive. Many of them are bitterly opposed among themselves; in this, however, they all agree that the Government of this Colony have lent themselves to a gang of plotting speculators, whose design it is to enrich themselves by the impoverishment of the Colony. We are firmly of opinion that any man who will set himself to study thoroughly all the transactions in this railway job, will rise with the clear conviction that the Government is corrupt, and that it has squandered to no purpose, save the aggrandisment of the Ring, the resources of the Colony. Any one who can do otherwise, if he be a disinterested party, should write *sceptic* for ever after his name.

MORE LIGHT.

MR O'BRIEN'S Letter, which appears in to-days paper, throws considerable more light on the railway contract swindle. It shows that if the Government would accept "unexceptional personal security" from Mr. O'Brien, he would have been prepared to offer it at his first interview with the Government. It was as easy for him to have obtained Messrs. Duffus & Co. as his security on the 12th of August as it was on the 7th of September. The delay complained of by the Government rests, therefore, altogether on themselves, and proves the correctness of our suspicions that the whole correspondence and negotiations with Mr. O'Brien, was a cleverly designed piece of shuffling to waste time until Mr. Burpee was prepared to withdaaw his skilled labor from the Western Extension Railway, which has just been concluded. The job was intended for him from the outset, and he has obtained it. Mr. Schreiber appears on the face of the contract, but he has already disappeared from the Island, and will only re-appear when Mr. Burpee requires funds. The Government take great credit to themselves for having rescinded the order in Council, which demanded cash consols or Dominion from Messrs. Walker & Co., as the security. This act of grace, we are informed was made to meet Mr. O'Brien's wishes. The fact is, the order was rescinded when it had served its purpose, which was to put Messrs. Walker & Co. out of the way. It would *appear* to be acting very considerately towards Mr. O'Brien to waive that condition in his favor; but if it was really intended to meet his wishes alone, why was not the order re-adopted after he had been disposed of? Mr. O'Brien points out the absurdity of the order in Council, but there was no necessity for him to do so. The *Master* of the Council and his wire-pullers knew well what they were about, and chuckled immensely at the success of their scheme. Neither the Legislature nor the Railway Act contemplated exacting such securities as consols and bonds, and if His Honor the Lieut. Governor's advisers were anxious to economise the public funds and protect the people's interests, Messrs. Walker & Co. would have been the contractors, and hard at work long ago. The more the facts of the case are investigated, the more thoroughly dishonest does the conduct of the Government appear. The personal security which Mr. O'Brien offered early in the negotiations for the £40,000, was "unexceptional." The Government, however, discover that they are not worth £40,000 over and above that employed in the business. This is a new condition required in accepting sureties, and never exacted but by the Government of P. E. Island in relation to Mr. O'Brien. We are quite sure that in all previous contracts for public work, no such objection was ever raised. With regard to Mr. O'Brien's leaving Charlottetown on the 5th September without acquainting the Government, and upon which they lay so much stress, the objection is quite ridiculous in the face of their letter of the 4th, informing him that negotiations with other parties would not be delayed. What object was to be gained by the Government with that information before them? They neither wanted nor desired Mr. O'Brien to inform them that he was about to start for Halifax to hunt up the sureties named by them. It would have been simply a work of supererogation on the part of Mr. O'Brien, and would not, as he well knew, "delay negotiations" for a moment. The objection is one of straw. Why is not Mr. Schreiber's *letter* published in the correspondence? It would serve to throw too much light on the job which had been determined upon with Mr. Burpee. Hence its omission. The whole history is one of the most disgraceful pieces of shuffling and jobbery ever perpetrated in any Colony, as Mr. O'Brien very clearly demonstrates in his letter, to which we direct the attention of the reading public.

OUR annual Accounts are now about to be issued, and our Subscribers and Advertising patrons will greatly oblige us by an early settlement of their Bills.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a Grand Literary and Musical Entertainment in the Athenæum, on Friday week, by "Artisan" Division, of the Sons of Temperance, of this city. Look out for a good Bill.