The Chairman reported several resolutions agreed to, and Supply closed.

The Bill to settle doubts relative to titles of Lands sold for Assessment on this Island, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the Special Committee on Public Accounts, submitted the Report of that Committee, which was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The following Committee was then appointed to select such accounts as should be published in the Appendix to the Journals, viz: Hons. Pope, Hensley, Longworth.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on the Despatches.

A debate then ensued, and was kept up till a very late hour, on the subject of the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government; in amendment to which the Hon. Mr. Whelan submitted the following, viz:

Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that the Confederation of Her Majesty's American Colonial Possessions would be—while in conformity with Her Majesty's frequently expressed desire—conducive to their welfare, individually and generally. And this House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed, as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province; but inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is unwise to press it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension, without reasonable cause.

And further Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that there should be no vote passed by the Legislature of this country in favor of a Confederation of the Provinces, until the people shall first be afforded an opportunity of pronouncing their judgment on the question at a General Election.

Progress was reported. House adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Continued from our last.)

Hon the President: I also will give this measure my warmest support. There are two such Bills now before the House, and I consider it an indication of the prosperity of the country.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I think it is a movement in the right direction, and I hope it will prove such a profitable investment to stockholders that bills of this kind will become as numerous as bank incorporation bills. I will give the measure my hearty support.

Hon. Mr. Goff: I have always considered that the prosperity of the country depended in a great measure on the establishment of manufactories amongst us; and I am glad to see that factories of different kinds are now springing up in the Colony. We have shoe factories, tanneries, and cloth factories; and if there is one more required than another, it is just the one which is to be incorporated by this bill. There is an immense quantity of cloth used on the Island, and if we had factories, farmers could have their wool made into cloth at home, and thus the necessity for exporting it would be obviated. It would also afford employment to our surplus population, for great numbers of our young men are leaving the Island for want of such employment. I also hope to see a flax factory established ere long, which is as much required as a woollen factory, seeing that the price of cotton is so high. I think it is the duty of the Government to encourage a factory of that kind. A machine that would cost £50 or £60 for each County would not be any great expense to the Government, and I think it is more desirable than a model farm, though that may be doing good. The Government should import a machine and have its suitability for the preparation of flax tested. Many persons have told me that if there were such a machine here they would raise a much greater quantity of flax. If the Government did not like to give them out, they might put them in charge of the Agricultural Society to sell them. There has been a good deal said on this subject, and I hope it will not be lost sight of. I am glad to see that there is to be a woollen factory established in Charlottetown, the centre of the Island, and I hope there will soon be one in each County. There is already one in Prince County, Mr. Stanfield's, but though it is giving great satisfaction, it is not sufficient to supply the requirements of the community.

The Hon. Mr. Anderson and the Hon Mr McLaren also expressed their satisfaction at seeing this bill before the House, and their willingness to give it their support; after which the House was resumed, and the chairman reported the Bill agreed to.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by Mr Brecken, with a Bill to incorporate the Ministers and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Yeo, a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Cascumpec, was read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Beer, a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. John's Church, in the district of Belfast was also read the second time, and reported agreed to.

Hon. Atty. Gen., on rising to move that a Bill to amend the Act for establishing a Court of Divorce be read the second time, said,—The object of this bill is so fully explained on the face of it, that it is hardly necessary for me to give any further explanation respecting its intention. It was recently thought there was a defect in the Act, inasmuch as there was no officer in that Court who could be compelled to take charge of persons committed for contempt for not fulfilling the decrees or orders of the Court. It was considered by the judges that when persons were brought before them by a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, there was no law rendering it compulsory upon the Sheriffs of the different Counties to act as officers of the Divorce Court. The object of this Bill is to supply that deficiency, by making the Sheriffs liable to take charge of such persons, and also to make the common jail in Charlottetown the prison of the Divorce Court. Happily, there have been but few cases before that Court, and there might not be any for a long time to come, but still the Court really amounts to nothing without the power of carrying its decrees into effect.

The above named Bill was then read the second time, committed, and reported agreed to with the following amendments:

Folio 4, line 6,—strike out "have been arrested," and insert in lieu thereof, "resides." Same folio, line 7, after "Court," insert, "or the Lieutenant Governor."

Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A Bill "to amend the Acts incorporating the Minister and Elders of St. John's Church in the district of Belfast," and a Bill "to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Cascumpec," were severally read the third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Henderson, a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road, Township 33, was read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, with a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Cardigan, Lot 53.

A Bill to amend the Act to establish a Court of Divorce, and a Bill to incorporate the Charlottetown Woollen Factory Company, were severally read the third time, as amended, and passed.

Adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, April 26.

A Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road, Lot 33, was read the third time and passed.

A Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Cardigan, Lot 53, was read the second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, with a Bill "to continue certain Acts therein mentioned."

Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A Bill to incorporate "the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown," was read a second time, passed through Committee, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, with a Bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of the British Order of Good Templars of Prince Edward Island, and to provide for the County and Primary Lodges in connection therewith."

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 27.

A Bill "to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church Cardigan," and a Bill "to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown," were severally read the third time and passed.

A Bill "to continue certain Acts therein mentioned," and a Bill "to incorporate the British Order of Good Templars, were severally read the second time passed through Committee, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

Adjourned till four o'clock, p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by Mr. Brecken, with a Bill to alter and amend the Act to incorporate the town of Charlottetown, and the Acts in amendment thereof. Also, by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, with a Bill "to carry into effect certain unexecuted agreements made by the late John Hodges Wiusloe, Esquire, deceased, for the sale and leasing of certain parts of his estate in this Island."

The Charlottetown incorporation amendment Bill was, on motion, read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House—Hon. Mr. Beer in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I do not see why a property qualification of £200 should be required before a man could be elected, either as a Councillor or an Auditor. I do not know the object of making the change. There are no petitions asking for it, and I cannot see the connection between a property qualification and a man's ability to audit accounts.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Neither can I see the connection which his honor refers to, but perhaps it does not concern country members so much as those of your honors who are from the city.

Hon. Mr. Beer: I suppose it has been thought that the auditors should be men who have a stake in the country, so that the people would have more confidence in them than they would have in those who have no property.

Hon. Mr. Walker: That may have been the reason for making the change, but I do not see the necessity for a property qualification when a man is otherwise qualified to audit accounts.

The House was then resumed, and the chairman reported the Bill agreed to.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by Mr. Brecken, with a Bill to continue certain Acts therein mentioned.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

SATURDAY, April 28.

A Bill "to alter, add to, and amend the act to incorporate the town of Charlottetown, and the acts in amendment thereof," and a Bill "to incorporate the British Order of Good Templars," were severally read a third time and passed.

WINSLOE ESTATE BILL.

Hon. Atty. General, on rising to move that a bill for the settlement of the Winsloe Estate be read a second time, said—This bill is similar to one which, your honors will remember passed through the Legislature last session, and it appears that as it is an act relating to private property, and the interests of private individuals, His Excellency deemed it proper to reserve it for the assent of Her Majesty; and in doing so he adopted a mode not hitherto acted upon in this Colony, though it has been adopted in Canada; that is, not giving his assent on the day the other bills were assented to, but reserving it for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure. When home, it called forth some observations from the Colonial Minister, who conceived that as it was an act of a private or local nature, the Colonial Legislature was the best adapted to judge of the matter. This gave rise to a lengthy correspondence, which is before the House, and which I hope your honors will peruse at your leisure. It appears that, though there was no objection to the principle of the bill, yet, as it was a bill of a private nature, it was thought better to follow the old mode. And I perceive that the Colonial Minister thinks the passage in the Royal Instruction to the Governor General of Canada, on this subject, was introduced under some misconception. The correspondence has resulted in its being decided to follow the old way in passing bills of this kind. I deem it necessary to make these remarks because it may be satisfactory to those who are interested in this bill to know that it was nothing but these formalities that prevented it from becoming law. It cannot do any harm to any party, as the object of it is merely to carry out what Mr. Winsloe agreed to do in his life time. It shows too, that the laws of Great Britain are founded upon a due regard to the interests of private individuals, and whenever the Legislature attempts to alter the laws of the land, it is necessary to use proper precautions, so that nothing may be done to injure private interests. However, there have been no objections made to this bill, and I therefore feel assured that there will be no objections made by this, any more than the other branch of the Legislature, to passing it in its present shape.

The bill was then read a second time, passed through committee, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

Adjourned till Monday next at eleven o'clock.

MONDAY, April 30.

The Hon. the President informed the House that he had received a communication from the ladies of the Convent, requesting the members of the Council to favor that institution with a visit to-morrow at ten o'clock.

A bill to continue certain acts therein mentioned, and the Winsloe Estate bill were severally read the third time and passed.

On motion, a bill "to incorporate the Souris Bank," was read the second time and committed—Hon. Mr. Walker in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: We have a great many applications for bills of this kind. This will be the sixth or seventh bank on this Island, and I am getting afraid that such a great increase in these institutions, represented by small capitals, will not have the effect anticipated. I believe that if parties in Souris wished to have accomodation, they could obtain it more effectually, and at much less expense, by applying to one of the city banks to establish a branch there, and other places likewise. They are obliged to keep a certain amount of specie, to have proper safes and vaults,—it costs a good deal to get the notes printed and get the institution into operation, so that I am afraid they will be the means of getting the people into trouble and difficulty. Large numbers of persons sometimes land from the fishing vessels in summer, and some of them might be tempted to make raids upon them and deprive them of their specie, when they are unprotected, as they must necessarily be, in such out of the way places. However, I will not oppose this bill, though I regret that the people of Souris did not take the course which I have indicated.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell: I am not surprised at the remarks of his honor from Georgetown, who has just spoken; for of course the movement to establish a bank at Souris is rather taking precedence of the capital of King's County. If his honor, and the people of Georgetown, think proper to take a different course, and ask the city banks to establish a branch in that place, I will offer no objections; but I do not think he should object to the people of Souris taking a course which, in their estimation, will be the best adapted to meet their necessities. A bank in that part of the country is very much required, and though the proposed capital is not large, yet I am confident that it will be established on sound and safe principles.

Hon. Mr. Walker: There is no part of the Island where a bank is more required, particularly in the time of shipping produce, for, from the East Point all round to St. Peter's Bay, they have scarcely any opportunity for shipping in the fall of the year, and it was only a few days ago that they were shipping their produce. The names in this incorporation bill are a sufficient guarantee, to my mind, that the bank will be a safe one.

The House was then resumed, and the chairman reported the bill agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly, by Mr. Brecken, with a bill to continue the Act "To prevent the running at large of hogs within the Town, Common and Royalty of Charlottetown," in so far as it relates to the said Royalty. Also, by Mr. Duncan, with a Bill "to amend the Act to incorporate the Presbyterian Church of Valleyfield.

Hon. Mr. Beer moved for leave to present a petition of divers inhabitants of this Island, praying that an Act may be passed to authorize the appointment of a third Judge; and, on doing so, he observed that he believed, from what he had heard, that there was a good deal of dissatisfaction in the country, at present, upon this subject—that the petition was a very important one, signed by about 1000 persons, representing all shades of political opinions. It would have been much more numerously signed if it had been put in more general circulation. No petition he believed had been circulated in Charlottetown.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Walker, a bill "to incorporate the Souris Bank," was read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 1.

A bill "to amend the Act relating to the Presbyterian Church at Valleyfield," and a bill "to continue the Act to prevent the running at large of hogs within the Town, Common and Royalty of Charlottetown, in so far as it relates to the said Royalty," were severally read the second time, passed through committee, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

The two bills above named were then severally read the third time and passed.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 2nd.

Messages were brought from the House of Assembly with the following bills:

By the Hon. J. C. Pope, with a bill for "the regulation of benefit building societies."

Also a bill "in addition to, and in further amendment of 'the land purchase act.'"

By Mr. Sinclair, with a bill "to prevent the running at large of swine in the town and Royalty of Princetown."

By the Hon. Mr. Coles, with a bill "to authorize the Commissioner of Highways for the fourth district of Queen's County to place a gate at the Northern extremity of a certain Road therein mentioned."

All the above named bills were read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Beer: On rising to move that a bill to authorize the Road Commissioner for the fourth district of Queen's County to place a gate on a certain road, observed, that the object of the bill was to protect the sandhill grass at the Northern extremity of Lot 33. Cattle going upon the sandhills destroyed the grass and left the sand bare, so that it drifted about with the wind, and had already destroyed some valuable farms, while others were in imminent danger of being destroyed also. It also drifted into the rivers and channels so as to obstruct navigation. It had been suggested that if the grass were protected, and encouraged to grow upon these sandhills, it would prevent the sand from drifting. He thought that if it would have the effect anticipated, it was very desirable that such a bill should be passed.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay said it was probably interfering with public right, and he wished to know if there was any petition before the House asking for such a bill?

Hon the President replied that there was.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell said a bill of that kind should not be passed hastily; and if it interfered with public right he would be sorry to pass it against the wishes of the people; but he supposed it was not of a very serious nature, and as there was a petition for it he would not oppose it.

Hon. Mr. Anderson observed, that he had been there some years ago, and had seen some places where the sand had drifted over the tops of the trees. He had also walked on dry sand where some of the inhabitants said there had been a channel for vessels within their recollection. He believed that if it were not for a belt of woods it would drift quite over a number of valuable farms. It was not like shutting up a highway; it was merely contemplated to place a gate upon it.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said that after the statements of his honor from Bedeque, (Mr. Anderson) which he could corroborate from his own personal observation, it was very plain that there was a necessity for doing something to arrest the progress of the drifting sand, otherwise it would ultimately overwhelm some valuable farms; and it was a question for the people to consider whether they would let the cattle be deprived of the benefit of the grass, and submit to the inconvenience of opening and shutting a gate, or having their farms buried under sandbanks. He thought the inconvenience would be as the shadow to the substance, and as there was a petition for the bill, and none against it, he would support it.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay was surprised that the people had not petitioned sooner, if the sand had driven a mile inward, as they had stated. If a gate at the extremity of the road would be the means of arresting its progress, he thought the people had been very negligent of their own interests; but he doubted very much if it would have that effect. He knew that at Darnley, the sand had drifted in a considerable distance—perhaps a quarter of a mile—within his own recollection, but there was no practicable way to arrest its progress.

The House was then resumed, and the chairman reported the bill agreed to without any amendment.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Ramsay, a Bill to prevent the running at large of swine within the town and Royalty of Princetown, was read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR;—The "Summerside Journal," though neither large, influential, nor even hardly respectable, is yet determined to earn some celebrity for itself. Beginning its career as an ordinary village sheet, the editor at first directed his attention to the usual local items which such papers generally contain. Who does not know those puerilities which follow the editorial "we observed," so common to the raw editor of some meagre eight by ten village chronicle? This phrase of eight by ten is so suggestive of the "Journal's" dimensions, that we shall adopt it for conciseness, using the glazier's formula, thus—8 x 10. Well, our 8 x 10 made its debut as usual, the editor modestly assuring us that "he would support the cause of progress," "reform our abuses," "develop our resources," and give a shove-ahead to the world in general, and Summerside and the Island in particular. "With," (to alter Shakspeare slightly) "his eye observantly rolling," the editor perambulated our streets, and found inexhaustible themes for the editorial quill. Endowed with such keeness of vision, it is no wonder that subjects "many, various and amusing," started up to greet the observant optics which daily emerged from the editorial "sanctum." An old cow, meagre and famished, could not surreptiously seize on a mouthful of straw, from the cart of an unsuspecting countryman, ere she was transfixed, by the editorial eye observing the felonious attempt to stay the pangs of hunger. A shopkeeper could not dress his windows but the "eye" was on him, and the brain teemed with future paragraphs, descriptive of Mr. ———'s large and elegant assortment of "waterfalls." When such "trifles light as air" were suggestive themes, could such stupendous occurrences as "temperance lectures," "snow storms," "opening of the navigation," "launching of new vessels," and "arrival of old ones," escape at least one column of the 8 x 10? But these things are common to the embryo "Times" of every ambitious village, and though we may not be particularly interested in the fact that the photographs of some itinerant artist are peculiarly life-like, nor astounded with the novel discovery that "our fisheries are a mine of inexhaustible wealth," yet we are content to read these things, knowing them to be inseperable from the "Times" in its 8 x 10 stage of development.

So far, O eye editorial, thou wast supremely flat, nauseously common-place, and generally indifferent to us all, in thy selection of subjects for the workings of thy editorial brain. But lo! there came the great "Fenian scare," and a gleam of satisfaction, slightly tinged with malice, shone from the "eye." It beheld an oath which explained the whole aims of Fenianism, and forthwith the columns of the 8 x 10 were graced with the said oath. It was nothing to the "eye" that the oath bore the imprint of forgery on its very face. Little did it reck that the oath was too sanguinary by half—that it would be extremely bloody, were it not thoroughly ridiculous, and that it was entirely too Papistical to be taken by such stanuch Protestants as Stephens, Mitchell, Roberts and Sweeney, the guiding spirits of Fenianism. Neither cared the "eye" that it was not only highly offensive to Catholics, but considered most blasphemous by them; that it invoked things they deem most sacred, to witness to deeds that not only Christians but Pagans would abhor. The "eye" that would observe the erection of a barn, or the moving of a shanty, could not see that the alleged "Fenian oath" was a transparent forgery, and that its publication, without note or comment, was calculated to set better men than will ever sit in the editorial sanctum of the 8 x 10, at each other's throats. Or, if the "eye" did see through the forgery, it nevertheless published the oath without explanation, knowing that credulous people would swallow it, as readily as they swallow the belief that all Catholics are Fenians. There are two alternatives, by accepting either of which the owner of the "eye" can respectively prove himself a fool or a rogue. The succeeding number of the 8 x 10, instead of a word of explanation concerning the oath, contained a flippantly written editorial, as offensive to Irishmen as the publication of the oath was offensive to Catholics. Now, it is quite evident that our friend of the 8 x 10 does not want either one class or the other as subscribers to his mammoth sheet; or, if he does, he must deem them as devoid of spirit as he is of brains or judgment. Some of our Papal friends of Irish blood have taken the hint, and the homes that once knew the 8 x 10 as an amusing, though not very instructive sheet, "will know it again no more for ever." Friends of the "Journal," stick to your original puerilities; cast not your eye on themes which can set the Protestant on the Catholic, the Englishman on the Irishman, not even though it should be deemed necessary that ill-blood should be created between different sects and races that some of your friends may retain offices so paltry as that of a Tidewaiter.

Knowing that your paper circulates among various races and different sects, you should neither hurt the feelings nor pander to the prejudices of any of them. Be neither a toady nor a bigot, as unwilling to insert a slanderous advertisement for a consideration, as you would be to palm off a "rotten horse" on a friend, as a sound and unblemished animal. Let it not be said, "Othello's occupation is gone," but resuming your original observations on local items, go round once more "observing," and with your "Argus eye" make us feel that you were "born to chronicle small beer;" then you will find your 8 x 10 a veritable milch cow to "suckle fools."

Summerside, May 12th, 1866. MICKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

DEAR SIR;—

Permit me, through the columns of your widely-circulated journal, to offer a few observations respecting our Post Office at Souris.

Souris, as you are aware, Mr. Editor, is divided into two parts, viz: Souris East and Souris West. The business establishments of Souris West are comparatively insignificant, in a *numerical* point of view, when compared with those of Souris East. Its population bears no comparison whatsoever to that of Souris East; yet, strange to say, the Post Office is at Souris West, and has been, if I mistake not, for the last six years. Moreover, Mr. Editor, I do not hesitate to say there are *five* letters coming to that office addressed to Souris East, for the *one* that remains at Souris West. Papers may be put down in the same ratio. For the accommodation of the spa e population of Souris West, they have *two* mail bags coming there: one to the Post Office, another to M. McWade's—both parties not more than *two hundred yards apart*.

People on this side of Souris, wishing to see the postman, are laboring under a serious disadvantage. They know not at what time the postman may come, and very often they will have to wait there hours for the arrival of the courier; but were the Post Office removed to Souris East (where it should be), I maintain that the people on the West side would not be left in such a state of uncertainty as they are. They would see the courier coming, consequently they would know exactly when to come, and would not be under the disagreeable necessity of making several trips to the office, or waiting there for hours, as many of the inhabitants of Souris East have to do on many occasions.

Some time ago, the inhabitants of Souris East and vicinity petitioned for a removal of the Post Office from Souris West to Souris East; but the prayer of the petitioners was not granted, owing to the *influence* of Messrs. W. S. McGowan and Leslie. Since that time, one of the above-mentioned gentlemen removed to Souris East, and he now sees plainly that the grievances set forth by the petitioners were not visionary, and should have been redressed.

The inhabitants of the outlying settlements, such as Little Harbor, Chepstow, Lane Road, &c., find it very inconvenient. Many of the people of these settlements are more than six miles from the Post Office; all their shopping, &c., is transacted in Souris East, yet the office is at Souris West, and there they must go. Now, Mr. Editor, I think it is nothing but right that we should, at least, have *one* of the mail bags coming to this side. In my opinion, there are many places here (S. E.) just as suitable for a Post Office as where it is kept at present, and that the postman will find just as comfortable QUARTERS on this side as he will on the West side. Such being the case, I cannot see why the majority of the inhabitants of Souris and vicinity are thus unjustly treated with respect to the Post Office.

This is a grievance which should be remedied. It is neither just nor right to accommodate the *few* at the expense of the *many*. But, Mr. Editor, I must conclude, as this is not the time to trouble you with a long correspondence, owing to the publication of the proceedings of the House, which require all your available space. However, I will further remark that, as this is a subject of paramount importance to the people of Souris East and vicinity, I trust some person better qualified than I am, will give this subject that public consideration which its merits require.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.,

FAIR PLAY.

Souris East, May 18th, 1866.

The Herald.

Wednesday, May 23, 1866.

LEGISLATIVE.

NO. 1.

THE Right Honorable John Bright, in his speech in the House of Commons on the *Irish Question* and the suspension of *Habeas Corpus*, gave utterance to an impressive and solemn truth when he declared that it required no statesmanship to bring Ireland to the verge of rebellion and to rule her by brute force. The same truth applies with equal force to every other country as well as to Ireland. Statesmanship manifests itself in the happiness, contentment and prosperity of the people, and whenever the reverse holds good, we may rest assured that mere "botches" are at the head of affairs. Now, with reference to the debate on the Address in answer to the Governor's Speech, at the opening of the past Session, when the Government was put upon its trial for its management of public affairs during the previous year, the vulnerable point of the Government centred in the tenant disturbances which "marred the prosperity of the colony" within that time. Testing the administrative capability of our rulers by Mr. Bright's standard, which is a correct and common sense one, we must agree with the Opposition that the Administration has made a sad mess of affairs. We have said but little upon local political matters for nearly a year; we have refrained from criticising the acts of the Government; and we have been content to await the defence of the party in power before pronouncing an opinion which might, perhaps, when the whole facts of the case became known, have to be modified or retracted altogether. Well, now that we have heard the attack of the Opposition and the defence of the Government—everything, in fact, that could be said in its favor, we are more persuaded than ever of the high-handed, unconstitutional conduct of the Administration, its wanton extravagance and utter want of anything approaching to the dignity of statesmanship. It may, perhaps, have more properly belonged to the recognised Organ of the Opposition than to us to expose the sins of the Government—and why this has not been done might be lucidly explained by a reference to the Detailed Accounts of the past year—nevertheless, even as an independent journalist, we claim the privilege, once in a while, of exposing the bungling and extravagance of the "Powers that be." We always felt convinced, and we expressed ourselves strongly to this effect at the time, that the passing of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, in opposition to the prayers and wishes of the people, would be productive of discontent and trouble in the colony. This Act savored of treachery to the people, and was, in view of the coming Union of the Colonies to which Mr. Pope had then made up his mind, avowedly passed to settle finally and forever the vexed land question. Every discriminating and disinterested person knew that quite as favorable terms as those of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill could be obtained at any time from the Proprietors, and by leaving the question an open one, much better terms *might* be obtained. This view of the case is confirmed by the fact that notwithstanding that the Proprietors could, in accordance with the provisions of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, demand fifteen shillings per acre for their land, together with a certain amount of back rent, yet the force of circumstances have compelled them to put their estates in the market at a much lower rate. The opposition of the tenants, we believe, has had this effect; but in so far as the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill was concerned, the vast majority of the tenants saw at a glance that their hopes of ever becoming freeholders under its provisions were at an end. A revulsion of feeling, proportionate to the difference between the glittering hopes held out to the tenants from the labors of the Land Commission, and the cold realities of that piece of political rascality, known as the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, foisted upon the country by that wily charmer the Colonial Secretary—might reasonably have been anticipated, as they shortly afterwards occurred. The people of this colony were not, however, aware of the ulterior object of Col. Gray and W. H. Pope. These gentlemen, we feel morally certain, anticipated the trouble which has since taken place. They saw the Tenant Union arise, they knew its objects, and for eighteen months they permitted it to grow and develop into maturity. Why was Curtis permitted to be opposed on the St. Mary's Road? Why was a prisoner permitted to be rescued from the hands of the Deputy Sheriff in the streets of Charlottetown on the 17th of March, 1864? and why was the farce enacted of sending the *posse comitatus* to capture a man of straw? Simply the more easily to enable these gentlemen, after they had first betrayed this colony, then to hand it over to Canada for safe keeping. We say the Tenant Union was wicked at for eighteen months by the Executive Council,—the ruling minds at which we all know—for even after the *posse comitatus* farce had been enacted, Sheriff Morris declared that if the Government had placed a dozen paid special constables at his disposal, he could easily have enforced the decrees of the Courts. The civil power was never efficiently exercised, nor indeed exercised at all to maintain the supremacy of the law; but a drunken desperado was employed, who endeavored to goad the people into acts of violence. At length, and, as we have said, without the civil authority ever having been properly put in force,—the favorable moment having arrived, and all sails set for Confederation—the Colonial Secretary was despatched to bring soldiers here to collect rent at the bayonet's point, and to help along Confederation. This Act, in the first place, destroyed the good name of the colony in the estimation of the Imperial Government, and