COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Saturday, April 11.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The House having resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to resume the consideration of the Report of the Special Committee on the Public Accounts—Mr. Muirhead in the chair,—an amendment was proposed by the Hon. the Speaker, and agreed to by the committee, with the view of exhibiting more clearly what description of articles pay the largest proportion of the duties. The Speaker remarked, that he had opposed the reduction of the duty on tea a few years ago, because he believed so trifling a reduction would confer little or no benfit upon the consumers. He regretted this reduction because, in consequence of the large expenditure under the School Act, the Government found themselves now obliged to raise the ad-valorem duty on dry goods to 6¼ per cent. It would, he thought, be interesting to the friends of temperance to learn, that the consumption of spirits was only about one gallon per head, whilst the consumption of tea amounted to 4¾lb. per head, of the entire population.

The Hon. Mr. Haviland said, that the Committee rose on Thursday last, they were discussing the accounts of the Commissioner of Public Lands. On that occassion he observed that the large sum of £10,000 was stated by the Special Committee to be due "on Deeds in the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands;" whilst in the Auditors' Account he perceived the balance was stated to be but £2189. 18s. 5½d., on Deeds in that office. No explanation had been given by the Special Committee as to how this discrepancy was to be accounted for. And as the majority of the House had decided that there should be no committee appointed to examine the Books and Accounts of the Commissioner of Public Lands, he was driven to the necessity of requesting that the necessary documents be laid before the House—the difference between the two statements being not much less than £8000. He would, therefore, move that an Address be presented to the Lieut. Governor, requesting His Excellency to cause these documents to be laid before them. . . . . Hon. Colonial Secretary expressed his astonishment at the motion of the hon. member for Princetown (Mr. Haviland). He thought that hon. member possessed a little more sagacity. What did the committee say? [Here the Chairman read something from the Report of the Committee on the Public Accounts which we could not exactly comprehend.] There was certainly an error, continued Mr. Coles, in the statement of the Committee. But the Commissioner had furnished them with a statement of the accounts of his office, under his own hand; and they could get nothing more, even if they addressed the Governor fifty times. The error in the Report of the Committee he had not himself noticed until it was pointed out by the hon. Member (Mr. Haviland). He had not been previously aware that there was such a statement in the Public Accounts. . . . . Hon. Mr. Palmer said, the Land Purchase Act states that a party is entitled to his deed as soon as the money is paid. Among the items in the Commissioner's Disbursements Account he observed money charged as having been repaid to several parties. There might be a good deal of that sort of work going on, and thus the business of the office would become interminable. He thought some explanation should be given, as to why a system had been adopted in the management of the Worrell Estate so opposed to that prescribed by the Land Purchase Act. Under the present system, any individual, after the lapse of ten or twelve months, might say, "I do not want the land," and get his money back again. But the Act was fair for both parties, and its provisions ought strictly to be adhered to. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary said that the course adopted would prevent unnecessary expense. The Commissioner was instructed to notify the people that he would be on the property on a certain day with the deeds, the Governor having previously signed them. . . . . Hon. Mr. Haviland said he would withdraw his motion, provided the Committee would allow the two different kinds of payment to be stated. Otherwise, the auditors would stultify themselves. . . . . Mr. Haviland's suggestion was agreed to, and the Report was amended at the Table accordingly. . . . . Mr. Perry said the amount due on sales was certainly very large, viz., £8000—too large an amount to remain for two years without being properly secured. . . . . Hon. Mr. Palmer said, considering that they only had about 40,000 acres of land to dispose of, and that the expenses of the Worrell Estate already amounted to about £1000 per annum, if the land now on hand were not disposed of in a few months, it would be advisable to sell it even at 1s. or 2s. an acre, and thus relieve the country of this incubus. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary said, hon. members must bear in mind, that the Worrell Estate had to be surveyed. The Registry Office had to be searched, and a great deal of time had been expended in various ways; and yet it was almost impossible to ascertain what amount of land the people were entitled to receive. The Surveyor General had prepared a plan, to enable the Government to sell the wilderness land. He agreed with the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer), that if they were only going to have 40 or 50,000 acres to dispose of—if no more land was to be bought by the Government—there would be no necessity to employ a Surveyor General by the year. But should the Selkirk Estate be purchased by the Government, the Surveyor General alone would not be able to do the work without assistance.

Hon. Mr. Palmer then made some observations upon the Accounts of the Commissioner of the Twelith Road District (Mr. John Williams), and commented upon one item as being particularly objectionable, viz: the charge of £123, for a horse and cart for 51½ days, at 10s. a-day, employed by the Commissioner on the public roads; and for this large expenditure no vouchers had been produced. This work, he said, ought to have been put up to public competition—the mode adopted by the city authorities in similar cases. Had that plan been adopted, the work, he had no doubt, would have been performed for a much smaller sum than the Commissioner had charged for his own horse and cart. It was time an end were put to this system; he would, therefore, move the following Resolution:

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee that the sum of £123, charged in his account by John Williams, Commissioner for Road District Number 12, in Queen's County, was nearly wholly for work performed by his own servant and team, and that no other vouchers have been produced for such expenditure than what have been given by his team-driver; nor does it appear that the said work, charged in the said account, has been offered at public competition; whereas, had the same been put up at public auction, the committee consider the work would have been performed equally well, and at a much less charge: The committee, therefore, recommend that the House do request His Excellency will be pleased to direct that all future sums to be expended for similar work by the said Commissioner be let at public auction, and that no sums be allowed to the credit of the said Commissioner, unless proper vouchers be produced for the same."

The Hon. Mr. Lord differed very much from the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer,) as to the Commissioner working his own team on the public roads. He could not see why that officer should not possess that privilege as well as anybody else. He did not believe the Commissioner had so little conscience as to charge for a day's work which he had not performed. If he had charged more for his horse and cart than the city corporation were in the habit of paying for similar services, the surplus ought to be refunded by the Commissioner. . . . Mr. Yeo thought that this was not the proper way to do the work. It ought to be done by contract. He had heard many complaints on the subject. . . . . Hon. Mr. Lord had no doubt the hon. Member (Mr. Yeo) had heard complaints enough. It was sufficient for that, that one of the liberal party did the work. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland said it appeared, then, that to escape from censure it was only necessary for any one to allege that he was a liberal. Censure passed upon such a one would be, to censure "our own party!" He (Mr. Haviland) thought the House had nothing to do with that matter just now; and he was of opinion, that it would be a much better office for the Commissioner himself were all the work performed by contract. Who certified that this work had been performed? The officer himself! If generally carried out, it would, he thought, be an acknowledgment of a very unfair principle in our mode of conducting such work. . . . . Hon. Col. Treasurer said it was rather a difficult matter to compel the Commissioner for Charlottetown to put up every description of work to be performed at auction. He had occasion, frequently to go a short distance out of town and saw the teams at work, and he thought no teams could have worked better. He thought, however, if practicable, it would effect a great saving to let the repairs of the roads by the mile; but until this were done they could not avoid allowing the Commissioner to employ his own horses and carts on the roads occasionally. A great deal could be said, he must allow, on both sides. . . . . Hon. Mr. Longworth said the Commissioner could advertise for tenders for persons willing to perform the work. In his opinionn no Commissioner should be allowed to send out his horses and carts whenever he pleased, and then charge the Government 10s a-day for them, amounting in the year to no less than 246 days, or £123. In this case we have a servant giving a voucher to the master! . . . . Mr. Clark said all the horses and carts employed were not Mr. Williams's. Much might be said on both sides. Everybody must admit that a very great improvement had been effected in the roads in this district; but he did not think, under our present circumstances, it would tend to still further improvement to leave the work to be performed in future entirely to contractors. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland thought the work would be contracted for by the season at a very low figure. . . . . Hon. Mr. Mooney thought Mr. Williams must have been a friend of the minority "long, long ago." But having deserted them, he thought some of the people of Charlottetown, whom he designated as being very "clannish," were determined to persecute th at individual. . . . . Mr. Perry could not approve of the Commissioner doing the work on the roads himself; but perhaps Mr. Williams could not avoid it. The rate of 10s. a-day for a horse and cart, he considered a very high charge. He could get the same in the country for 7s. a-day. The sooner the present system was changed the better, for he could not entertain the idea for a moment that the present system is a good one. At the same time, he did not wish it to be thought that he entertained the opinion that Mr. Williams had not performed the work. . . . . Mr. M'Intosh said that it had been intimated by the hon. member (Mr. Mooney) that Mr. Williams had been persecuted; but to allow a man to hire himself at the public expense was a system that he would never agree to. It was not of the man that he complained, but of the system. Unless the work were put up to competition, he did not think the public would obtain justice. . . . . Mr. Cooper concurred in the opinion, that the system was bad; but, as far as he could understand, the Commissioner had done as much good on the roads as any of his predecessors. At the same time, he thought he ought not to be allowed to take the work into his own hands. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary would oppose the motion of the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Palmer). It could not be carried out. . . . . Hon. Mr. Lord thought the charge of 10s. a-day too high; but, at the same time, he thought the roads could not be kept in a good and sufficient state of repair by contract. He thought the Resolution unnecessary at the present time. . . . . Hon. Mr. Palmer said he would not press the Resolution, deeming the present discussion sufficient to shew the necessity for a change in future, which he had no doubt would now be effected.

The House then resumed, and on the Speaker proceeding to put the question of concurrence on the report,—

The Hon. Mr. Palmer moved to amend the Report, by adding the following paragraph thereto:—

"That it is the opinion of this Committee that the Commissioner of Public Lands, in charging the sum of £267. 7s. 6½d. for disbursements, in his account submitted to the Committee, without a Warrant, under the hand and seal of the Lieut. Governor, has acted contrary to the requirements of the Colonial Statute under the authority of which he received his appointment as such Commissioner."

Hon. Mr. Haviland considered the amendment of very great importance, for should the Loan Bill go into operation, a very large amount of money must necessarily pass through the hands of the Commissioner of Public Lands. He was of opinion that that officer should pay no amounts without authority, under the hand and seal of the Lieut. Governor, for so doing. . . . . Hon. Mr. Lord thought such a course impracticable. He admitted that when money was required to defray the contingencies of his office, the Commissioner could call upon the Lieut. Governor, and procure the required amount; but he did not think it was a matter of much consequence how the money was obtained. . . . . A member: "But the Law is peremptory!" . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary said it would appear, from a cursory glance at the Commissioners' accounts, that the whole of the sums charged therein was for disbursements connected with his office—which was not the fact. A considerable amount was for money returned to the depositors. The sum total of his disbursements, he said, amounted to only £130. The proposed amendment also stated that no vouchers had been submitted by that officer; but he hoped the House of Assembly had a better opinion of the Commissioner of Public Lands than to suppose he would be guilty of any misapplication of the public money. . . . . Hon. Mr. Haviland said he had no objection to strike out the part of the Resolution just referred to by the Hon. Col. Secretary. . . . . Hon. Col. Secretary said they were cavilling about nothing. . . . . Mr. Heath Haviland did not look upon it as a "cavilling about nothing." Why, he asked, was the clause in the Act to which reference was made in the amendment, if it was not to be carried out? The hon. Col. Secretary had admitted that there were items in the disbursements' account of the Commissioner which were not properly disbursements. What, then, were they to do? Either the Commissioner was right or the Col. Secretary was wrong. In either case, he thought the Commissioner of Public Lands ought to be informed of his duty. It was a very simple infraction of the law which cost King James his head. But here, it appears, a Governor may suspend the operation of a law with perfect impunity. . . . . Hon. Col. Treasurer had been told by the Commissioner that the auditors had seen the vouchers,—every one of them. . . . . Mr. Cooper said it must be allowed that this money had been drawn contrary to law—a little at this time and a little then; but at the same time he did not think there was anything criminal in the transaction. He could not see how any hon. member could vote against the motion. . . . . Hon. Mr. Palmer said that a grave charge had been preferred against Governor Huntley for suspending the operation of an Act of the Legislature. He thought there should be no dispensing power exercised by the Lieut. Governor with reference to any Act of the Assembly, when once passed. . . . . Hon. Mr. Lord moved that the hon. member (Mr. Palmer) have leave to withdraw his motion. He was very proud to see the debate go off so comfortably.

For the withdrawal of Mr. Palmer's amendment, 13
Against it, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Longworth, Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Messrs. Douse, Yeo, M'Intosh, Heath Haviland, Laird—9. So it was carried in the affirmative.

The Report of the Committee was then agreed to by the House.

Monday, April 13.

BILLS.

The following Bills were received from the Council, and nominally read the first time, viz: the Bill relating to the office of Surrogate, and for other purposes; and the Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the people called Bible Christians.

The latter Bill was read the first and second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House, reported agreed to without amendment, read a third time, and passed.

FISHERY CONVENTION.

The Hon. Mr. Whelan presented the draft of a Joint Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of the recent Fishery Convention between Great Britain and France. He would not, he said, at that late hour, enter into any discussion of the subject-matter of the Address. Having gone through the despatches, he thought there could be but one opinion on the subject. No person could read those despatches without being convinced of the enormous injury that would be inflicted were the Convention allowed to go into operation. He moved the adoption of the Address.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary said this was rather an important question: he would, therefore, suggest the propriety of referring the report of the Special Committee to a Committee of the whole House.

The Hon. Mr. Whelan acquiesced in the propriety of the suggestion, and said he would be happy to point out to the House, when in committee, those portions of the despatches which were of the greatest importance, and also the nature and extent of the encroachments intended to be effected on the coast of Newfoundland—encroachments which would, if permitted, entirely annihilate the fisheries of that Island. Mr. Whelan then withdrew his former motion, and moved that the said Joint Address be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, to-morrow.

The time of the House was principally occupied to-day in Conferences with the Council, messages, and other routine business.

Tuesday, April 14.

LAND PURCHASE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

A Message was received from the Council with a Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act. Read the first and second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

Mr. Heath Haviland moved that the said Bill be referred back to the Committee of the whole House, for the purpose of striking out the retrospective clause.

The Hon. Mr. Lord said the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. H. Haviland) would strike out the very part that was most wanted. That hon. member knew that there was a dispute pending with reference to a certain portion of the Worrell Estate. Were this clause struck out what would be the consequence? If the sellers of that estate went into Court, the country might probably be put to considerable expense. The intention of the clause referred to was to enable the Government to make good their agreement with those parties. He was astonished that there should be any objection to the clause in question, for he thought there was not the slightest room for any, unless gentlemen of the law wished to derive some pecuniary advantage from its omission.

Mr. Heath Haviland had no selfish motives to gratify. He was not employed either by the Government or the sellers of the estate in question, and could therefore give as independent a vote on this question as the hon. member (Mr. Lord).

Hon. Mr. Montgomery said that an Act of the Legislature having reference to Mr. Cunard's property in this Island was disallowed by the Imperial Government, on precisely the same grounds, viz., its retrospective character. The Home Government had seldom, if ever, given their assent to a Bill of this nature.

Mr. McIntosh believed at the time that the objections of the Imperial Government to the bill alluded to by the hon. member (Mr. Montgomery) were not sound, and he thought so still.

Hon. Mr. Haviland had an objection to the Bill, on the ground of its being hurried through the House so precipitately. Why, he asked, could not this Bill have been brought forward six weeks ago? It was a Bill of very great importance, affecting both public and private interests.

Hon. Mr. Mooney was surprised hon. members should be so much opposed to the present Bill. As to the hon. member for Princetown (Mr. Montgomery), he had opposed the Bill throughout, and now, it appeared, he was afraid it would not receive the Royal assent. If there was a way to knock away a quibble they ought to avail themselves of it. All that was intended by the present Bill was, to make that which is doubtful under the Land Purchase Bill certain.

Hon. the Colonial Treasurer (Warburton) believed the Bill would have been brought in long ago if the parties could be brought to a proper settlement of the matter. The present Bill was a very necessary one. He also believed a bargain had now been concluded.

Hon. Col. Secretary (Coles) thought the Bill was not one of such very great importance as the hon. member for Princetown (Mr. Haviland) seemed to imagine. It was not the intention of the Government to introduce this Bill had the Loan Bill not been passed. All parties were willing that this Bill should pass, provided they were put in a better position than they now were under the Land Purchase Act. The Government had received a written communication from certain parties, requesting them to make good their title to Lot 66, by remedying what they asserted was a defect in the Land Purchase Act. But those parties not only wished to be put in the same position as they would have occupied under that Act, but wanted to be put in a better one,—to obtain advantages which that Act would not give them. This demand the Government, of course refused, to the full extent insisted upon.

Mr. Heath Haviland said there appeared to be a great discrepancy between the statement made by the hon. member for Prince County (Mr. Lord) and those of the Hon. Col. Secretary. The former said the retrospective clause was the part most wanted. If that was the pith of the Bill, he (Mr. Haviland) was opposed to it. He would prefer the bark. He was opposed to all one-sided legislation. He would like to hear both sides. The present Bill affects parties under contract, and they were not, he thought, justified in now stepping in with an additional Act in the shape of an amendment to the Land Purchase Bill. The Government, he said, reminded him of the man who blew his hands to make them warm, and went through the same operation to make them cold. Why bring in a Bill for the benefit of parties who had not asked for it?

Hon. Mr. Palmer said, so far as the Bill went to enable the Commissioner to convey any larger tract than 300 acres, he had no objection to it. The first clause was the only one he objected to; it overrode all contingencies, expressed or not expressed. If that clause were committed, the Bill would have all the effect it was necessary to have. By retaining that clause, the Bill might lead to consequences the House did not anticipate, or at present could not see. He was surprised that hon. members could vote so blindly on that section. He believed the parties with whom it is desired to carry out the intentions of the Act are willing to take back the land; but they would not be willing to do so unless the Government were invested with some legal authority to cure the time lost and to convey a larger tract than 300 acres. If the first clause was to be retained as at present worded, he must vote against the Bill.

The House divided on the motion of Mr. Heath Haviland, for the recommital of the Bill:—Yeas, Mr. Heath Haviland, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Hon. Mr. Haviland—4. Nays, 11. So it passed in the negative.

The Standing Rule having been suspended, the said Bill was then read the third time; and a motion being made, "that the Bill do now pass;"

Hon. Mr. Palmer thought hon. members did not understand the legal effect of the 1st clause of the Bill. Perhaps some of them might find themselves taken in by it by-and-by. As he did not wish to be found among the number, he moved that the following words be struck out of the Bill:—"Or in the event of the occurrence of *any other contingency*."

This motion was negatived,—the names standing as in the division above given.

The Bill was then passed.

SURROGATE BILL.

The Order of the Day, for the second reading of this Bill being read;

Mr. Heath Haviland said this was a Bill of great importance. It empowered the Surrogate or Judge of Probate to authorize the sale of the estates of parties before coming of age—a power now possessed solely by the Court of Chancery. Being of such vast importance, and at the same time the House so thinly attended, he moved that the further consideration of the Bill be deferred till next session.

Mr. Cooper said it was not possible, at this late period of the season, to obtain the information the House should be put in possession of before they consented to give such extensive powers to a Court where there was no jury to try the merits of such cases as might come before it. He would support the motion, to defer the further consideration of the Bill till next session.

The motion was then put and carried, *nem. con.*

JOINT ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

The Report of the Special Committee, appointed to join a Committee of the Legislative Council for the purpose of preparing the draft of an Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of the Fishery Convention recently entered into between Great Britain and France, having been read by the Clerk, the said Report was thereupon committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. Heath Haviland in the chair. After some time spent therein, the Address was reported to the House agreed to without any amendment.

LAND PURCHASE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

A message was received from the Council acquainting the House that their Honors had passed the Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act.

PETITION.

The Petition of James Douglas, of St. Peter's, was referred to the following Special Committee, to report next session: Hon. Mr. Whelan, Hon. Mr. Lord, Hon. Mr. Coles, Messrs. Cooper and M'Intosh.

The remainder of the time of the House was occupied receiving and transmitting Messages, holding Conferences, &c.

Wednesday, April 15.

CONTINGENCIES.

The only business transacted this forenoon was the reception and consideration, in Committee of the whole House, of the report of the Special Committee on the Contingent Accounts of the present session. As this business was, contrary to the usual practice in such cases, transacted with *closed doors*, and the reporters consequently excluded, we are precluded from giving the public any further information on this *interesting* subject at present.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

At three o'clock this day (Wednesday), His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, Knight, Lieutenant Governor, came down to the Council Chamber, and having taken his seat upon the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's command to require the attendance of the Honorable House of Assembly at the Bar of the Council Chamber, and they having attended accordingly, His Excellency was pleased, in Her Majesty's name, to give his assent to the following Bills, viz:—

1. An Act to continue and amend the Princetown Royalty Church Incorporation Act.
2. An Act to continue and amend the Act to prevent Horses Swine and Geese from going at large in Georgetown.
3. An Act to continue the Act exempting certain Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Contracts and Agreements, from the operation of the Laws relating to Usury.
4. An Act for the naturalization of Lawrence Warren.
5. An Act to incorporate the Ministers and Trustees of the Free Church Congregation in the City of Charlottetown.
6. An Act in further amendment of an Act made and passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled 'An Act to incorporate the Charlottetown Gas-Light Company.'
7. An Act for better securing the liberty of the Subject.
8. An Act to enable Henry Bessamer to obtain Letters Patent for the invention or discovery of certain improvements in the manufacture of Malleable or Bar Iron and Steel.
9. An Act for the incorporation of certain Bodies connected with the Bible Christian Church in Prince Edward Island, and to repeal a certain Act therein mentioned.
10. An Act to amend the practice of the Supreme Court, and to alter the time for the attendance of Petit Jurors in Queen's County, and for other purposes therein mentioned.
11. An Act to enable the Supreme Court to give relief against adverse claims made against Sheriffs, and other persons having no interest in the subject of such claims.

The Hon. the Speaker then, on behalf of Her Mejesty's faithful Commons of P. E. Island, presented the following Bills of aid and supply; to which His Excellency also gave his assent:—

12. An Act to explain and amend the Act authorizing the purchase of Lands by the Government, and to remove certain doubts as to the powers of the Commissioner of Public Lands thereunder.
13. An Act to continue the Act relating to Packets sailing between this Island and the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
14. An Act to continue and amend the Free Education Law.
15. An Act to provide for the appointment of an additional Assistant in the Post Office, and to increase the salary of the present Assistant.
16. An Act granting a yearly sum to the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company.
17. An Act to alter certain provisions of the Act regulating the sale by license of Spirituous Liquors.
18. An Act relating to Ferries and Minchin's Point Wharf.
19. An Act for raising moneys to be applied to the purchase of Lands under the Act sixteenth Victoria, chapter eighteen, intituled 'An Act for the purchase of Lands on behalf of the Government of Prince Edward Island, and to regulate the sale and management thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned.'
20. An Act for raising a Revenue.
21. An Act for appropriating certain moneys therein mentioned for the service of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

After which His Excellency was pleased to close the Session with a speech to both Houses, a copy of which will be found in the *Protector* of the 22d April last.

BILLS—DEFERRED.

The further consideration of the following Bills has been deferred until next Session:—

1. The Bill to provide for the better internal Government of this Island, by the establishment of Local or Municipal authorities therein.
2. The Bill to provide for the establishment of a Board of Works.
3. The Bill to define the Boundaries of the Streets and Squares of Charlottetown.
4. The Bill to extend the Elective principle to the Legislative Council.
5. The Bill (from the Council) relating to the office of Surrogate, and for other purposes.

BILLS—REJECTED.

6. The Bill to prevent the running at large of Swine at St. Eleanor's and Green's Shore.
7. The Bill (from the Council) to prevent fraud by means of secret Bills of Sale of personal Goods and Chattels.
8. The Bill to increase the power of the Corporation of Charlottetown over corporations or individuals laying down gas and water pipes, &c.
9. The Bill to extend and more particularly to define the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Charlottetown.
10. The Bill to secure the independance of the House of Assembly, by the exclusion of office holders therefrom.

J. Barrett Cooper, Reporter.

THE CHESTER LEAD WORKS;

OR, THE BIBLE IN THE MANUFACTORY. A HINT FOR WORKING MEN.

Nineteen years ago one of the clerks in the large lead works of Messrs. Walker, Parker, and Co., Chester, being a lover of the Bible, and therefore anxious to promote the work of that society whose one simple object is to give that blessed book to the world, sought to enlist in this design the workmen of the establishment. He endeavoured to induce them at the end of each week, on receiving their wages, to become contributors of a penny, hoping thus to promote the objects of the Bible Society, and also the best interests of the men themselves. The result has fully justified his expectations. The first year he began to solicit the contributions of the workmen, he obtained £7 1s. 6d. The next year the sum was increased, and it has continued to advance, till last year it rose to above £40, while the total amount contributed during the nineteen years reaches £307 17s., nearly the whole of which has been given in weekly contributions of a penny.

The writer had recently the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the Chester Lead Works Bible Association, and it was a most interesting occasion. One of the large warehouses of the manufactory was kindly granted for the purpose by the proprietors, and was tastefully decorated with flags, while numerous stars and other devices in gas shed forth a flood of cheerful light. Nearly four hundred workmen and their families assembled to hear about the progress of the Book and its Missions, and one could not help thinking that if the Count de Montalembert, who has recently been writing about the position and prospects of our country, could have been present amidst such an assemblage, he might have been able to give more satisfactory reasons than he has done why England is so great among the nations of the earth; for it is not our Magna Charta, or our Bill of Rights, or Trial by Jury, that has been the great secret of our elevation to a position never occupied by any other people; more than to any, or all of these, are we indebted to the Book which Wiclif translated at Lutterworth, which Tyndal first printed on the banks of the Rhine, and sent over as the noblest gift to his countrymen; and which, circulated from the palace of our sovereign the Queen, down to the humblest cottage and homestead of her realms, has given us a moral elevation far more important than any mere physical or material prosperity

That nearly two hundred working men should combine to promote the circulation of the pure Word of God among their oppressed and degraded fellow-creatures throughout the world, is surely a fact that might well cause true gladness to pervade the minds of all who attended the meeting at the Chester Lead Works; and who can refrain from wishing that such occurrences were multiplied in every manufactory throughout our land? How often do men combine for the worst of objects, for lack of interest in any high or noble enterprise! Were the hallowed influences of the Bible more widely felt in our workshops and hives of industry, we might then hope to see an end put to those lamentable strikes, and other hurtful combinations, that may so often be traced to ignorance or disregard of the sacred volume; for though the great and paramount object for which God has given us a Revelation from heaven is, that men may be made wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus, yet it is equally certain that most important blessings, in connection with the life that now is, scompany its circulation, both to communities and individuals.

But while it is matter for rejoicing that, through the efforts of this association of working men, such a sum as £3000 and more should have been raised to promote the diffusion of the sacred Scriptures, and that from this one manufactory such a stream of Christian benevolence should have been going forth for nearly twenty years, it is no less cheering to see that the other benefit alluded to has also followed, and that the reflex influence of the work itself on those engaged in it has already been witnessed. One of the speakers connected with the place, in the course of his address, stated that, after the previous meeting in 1855, some of the workmen had expressed a wish to have an early association for prayer before commencing their work; and, though the hour for beginning the day's toil is six o'clock, a number of them were found willing to come half an hour earlier, that from half-past five to six they might read a portion of the Word of God, unitedly offer up their supplications, at a throne of grace, for themselves, their fellow-workmen, and their employers.

For several months, and during the dark mornings of the present winter, the little band of praying men have met together uninterruptedly; and before the din and bustle of the workshop were heard. the voice of prayer and praise has arisen as sweet incense to heaven. Thus the Bible meeting has led to the prayer meeting; and they who associated at first simply to spread the Word of Life among others, are now (some of them at least) uniting to read it themselves, and seek a blessing from on high for themselves and their fellows. Pleasant and profitable have been these morning meetings, as one of the most frequent attendants assured the writer: and who shall say how much of pure, and healthful, and happy influence has been shed over the whole of that large and important establishment, as the result of the formation of a Bible association, producing in its turn this early meeting for prayer! "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

Could we gain the ear of all the working men in our country, we would say, Go and do likewise; and if any ask, What has the Bible ever done for the workman? we would reply, What has it *not* done? It has given dignity to labour, and made the toil of the hard-handed artisan an honourable vocation, since the Son of Man was a carpenter's son, and not improbably a carpenter himself, while the great apostle of the Gentiles worked at his trade as a tent-maker. It shows how a life of labour may be made a discipline, and not a drudgery, by all things being done as unto the Lord and not unto men. It exhorts the workman to be faithful and honest—no eye-servant or men-pleaser; while it forgets not the admonition to his master, to give him for his labour that which is just and equal. It makes the workman's home happy and cheerful, giving him discretion and prudence in prosperity, comfort and support in adversity. But, above all, to him who listens to wisdom's voice speaking in its heavenly pages, the Bible unfolds a glorious hope full of immortality; and to the humblest son of toil, if he be a Christian, it declares that though his lot be ever so lowly, there is One above, in whose regards he is as fully embraced as the greatest monarch on his throne; and whatever may be his struggles and trials in this life, as he goes forth to his work and to his labour until the evening, he can look to the heavens above, and feel, "I shall soon have done with this weary world, and sweet will be my rest in yon bright mansions on high." In these days, when Secularism and other specious forms of infidelity are seeking to allure our working population, well were it for every working man to be assured that all his aspirations after elevation and advancement will be but vain and visionary, unless based on the word of Him who invites the weary and heavy laden to come to Him. Let the words of a great man be adduced, one who ardently toiled in the higher departments of scientific inquiry, the renowned Sir Humphry Davy, who, having gained a European reputation, yet found there was still an aching void within, which no earthly good could ever fill. "I envy," says the great chemist, "no quality of mind or intellect in others, not genius, power, art, or fancy; but if I could choose what would be most delightful, and I believe most useful to me, *I should prefer a firm religious belief to every other blessing*; for it makes life a discipline of goodness, creates new hopes, when all earthly hopes vanish, and throws over the destruction of existence the most joyous of all lights, calling up the most delightful visions, where the sensualist and the sceptic see only gloom, decay, and annihilation.

May the success which has attended the Chester Lead Works Bible Association lead others connected with our great manufactories to promote the mission of the Book in their respective spheres; and happy would it be, both for employers and employed, if in every shrine of industry a Bible Association were established.

G. T. E.

It is stated that positive information has been received in Washington, to the effect that Brigham Young and his crew have burned the United States archives, court records, and nine hundred volumes of law books in Utah territory, and that they have demanded the appointment of one of two schedules of federal officers, both headed by Brigham Young for Governor, with the avowal of the purpose of driving any other out of the territory by force of arms. The United States officers in the territory found it impossible to enforce the laws, and even their lives are in danger. Brigham Young rules as an autocrat, and no man's life is safe who may fall under his displeasure. The non-Mormon portion of the inhabitants are not protected. "Murder," writes the Hon. W. W. Drummond, U. S. Supreme Judge in the territory, "is a common thing here, and Mormons cannot be punished with a Mormon jury, witnesses and officers, and a governor to pardon. A man not a member of the church is murdered or robbed, imprisoned and castrated, solely for questioning the authority of the church. Persons are now in the penitentiary, convicted before the Probate Judge, who are wholly innocent of any crime." And he asks, "Is there any other country where such things are, or would be endured."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*Inviolable good faith shall ever be observed with those of our Correspondents who may confide in us, but anonymous communications cannot receive any attention. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.*]

(For the Protector.)

Protestant and Roman Catholic fellow countrymen, read the following items, and calmly ponder them. You have reason, and a right from God to use; nay, you are bound by all that is dear to you, by all that is solemn, to allow your judgement, unbiassed by any attachments to earthly connections, to give its free verdict, and from duty and interest abide by its decision. The following transcribe from the "Free Church Magazine," vol. 8, p. 62, abridged from the "*Il Catalico Christiano*," a Roman Catholic journal in Malta, and purports to be from the pen of a priest "who was many years a curate in Rome."

"Finance of the Roman Church.—According to the public register, the value of the real estate in the Papal dominions is £42,000,000 sterling. The whole population 3,000,000; proportion to each, £14. The clergy—comprising priests, monks, brothers, nuns and sisters—number 60,000, or one for every fifty of population. The real estate of the clergy on the public register is £9,000,000—yielding, at 5 per cent. yearly income £487,500; cattle owned by clergy valued at £433,000, yield £22000. The clergy own state stock, on which they receive interest £5,000,000; which, at 5 per cent. would yield £250,000 from these three sources. But there are others. Every family wishing to make one of its sons a priest, must procure him a capital of £100 at least. There are in the Roman states 40,000 priests; of these 20,000 belong to the regular orders, and are not required to have a patrimony. Suppose half of the 20,000 secular priests are beneficiaries, the capital furnished by the other, who are not beneficiaries, would be £1,000,000; and this would yield a revenue of £50-000 yearly.

"Every girl who becomes a nun, on taking the veil makes over her dowry that day to the convent. This is at least £2000,000. The 40,000 priests say Mass every day, and *gratis only* on festivals. The regular price of a Mass at Rome is 20 cents; but festivals, funerals, burials, elevations and particular chapels, raise the sum to at least 50 cents. But as a Mass (or prayer) in the country costs only 15 cents, the average may be placed at 20 cents. This gives a revenue of £590,000 yearly. But, deduct £80,000 for Masses said gratis on festivals, and the yearly income will be £510,000.

"When a child is born, within 24 hours either it is brought to chapel, or the priest comes to the house to baptize it. The average value of gifts to the priest for baptism, 50 cents. About 90,000 children are born annually. This gives them £9,000. Confirmation succeeds baptism. The average value of gifts to the Bishops at confirmation, 30 cents. Suppose 30,000 of the 90,000 to die before confirmation, still 60,000 gives £3,-900. The number of marriages about 25,000 yearly, expense of acts of the Chancellor, publications of bans, dispensations from bans, permission to marry, certificates of confession, present to the curate, &c., give at least a revenue of £5400.

"In the Roman States, if a person wishes to get employment under government, to marry, to enlist, to teach, to get a passport &c., he must have his certificate of baptism put on file; he must have one for each occasion, and may be obliged thus to have fifty of them. The prices of them are 10 cents for the poor, 30 for the middling classes, 50 for the nobles, 100 for princes. This source will, at the lowest, yield an annual revenue of £2,000. Certificates of confirmation, decease, marriage, are also necessary though not so frequently as of baptism. The price is the same; this at least gives annually £2,000.