HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8.
The house met at three o'clock.
The hon. RECEIVER GENERAL, by command of his Excellency the Governal, presented to the house the following documents—
Statement of assets and liabilities of the

Excellency the Governi; presented to the house mo following documents—
Statement of assets and liabilities of the colony on the 31st December, 1863.
Financial Secretary's statement of exrenditure, for each particular service, for the year 1864.
Consol dated account of goods imported for the year ending 31st December, 1864.
Receiver General's statement of accounts, Treasury Department, for the year 1864.
Statement of public debt 31st December, 1864.
Financial statement of the affairs of the colony for the year 1865.

Financial statement of the sufairs of the colory for the year 1865.

Bedinate for deriving the civil expenditure of the Charles of the Edward State of the County for the year 1864.

Charles of the annual statements of the county of the coun

should it be passed by the house. The sum of \$46,000 was st down for the permanent and casual poor.
In some districts the road grant was now being anticipated to relieve the distreas now prevailing, as it was
erident that the circumstances of the coiony would
not admit of any increase in the poor vote, without
a corresponding dimination of the road grant, which
would be obviously unjust to those districts not requiring more that a moderate amount of poor relief. As
some of the hon me abers opposite, since the opening
of the session, had recourse to the stale charge so
frequently refuted, that the government had recourse
to tone excessive issue of poor relief in certain districts
to sustain their political influence, he (hon R. Gen.)
would refer to the abstract of poor expenditure as
furnished by the Stipendiary Poor Commissioner, and
now laid on the table, which was, for the several districity, as follows:—

St. Joht.'s

Cy £4,141 16 4

Ferryland

Bay de Verds

Boavista

Cy £4,141 16 4

Ferryland

So 5 10

Brigus

So 1 10

Brigus

So 1 10

Brigus

So 1 10

Brigus

So 1 10

Twillingste and Fogo

Harbor Maine

Harbor Grace

Placentia and St. Mary's

Labrador

Fortune Bay

So 27 14 1

Cy £4.141 16 4 622 5 10 556 13 10 802 0 11 951 19 3 300 5 10 653 4 10 693 14 6 317 19 3 604 5 4 619 16 2 23 0 0 7 664 7 3 15 18 4 237 14 1 Burin Fortune Bay Burgeo and LaPoils

tice of signing blank bonds, to be afterwards filled up, did not exist when they had charge of the Customs' department?

Mr. GENT—Such a practice existed in the Custom house in his time.

Hon RECEIVER GENERAL thanked these hon gentlemen for their admissions. Both outside and inside the house parties had charged the loss to his (hon R. Gen's.) neglect. With respect to the sureties to these bonds, whatever change might have taken place in their circumstances previous to the bonds coming to maturity they were regarded at the time of signing as carrying on a safe business and perfectly solvent, importers to a considerable extent, and paying a considerable amount of duties. If (hon. R. Gen) was sensible that a large amount of responsibility rested on the Receiver General in respect to bonds. But there were times when other and equally important duties called him away from his office; and was the business of the country to s'and still, or were parties giving bonds to wait his return? In such cases all must depend upon the discretion of the Assistant Collector. Without wishing to sink responsibility, or thrusting on the shoulders of that gentleman responsibility which he (hon R. Gen) should alone bear, he would ask the hon members opporite, his predecessors in office, whether all the bonds taken in their time were submitted for their approval?

Mr. KENT and Mr. GLEN.—No.

Hon RECEIVER GENERAL thanked the hon members. But the authorities of the Custom house were

submitted for their approval?

Mr. KENT and Mr. GLEN.—No.

Hon RECEIVER GENERAL thatked the hon members. But the authorities of the Custom house were not infallable any more than the Managers and Directors of our Banks. They were hable to be mistaken as to the circumstances of parties signing bonds. When these bonds were presented with the names of parties of whose solvency there was not a whisper of suspicion, to reject the bonds was virtually to cause that su-picion, which might injure parties of whose integrity there was no question. Between the duty of protecting the revenue, and avoiding the doing of any injury to the commercial standing of business of men, the Receiver General and Assistant Collector were placed in a position of great delicacy and responsibility. But in case of the bonds in question the question was not as to the solvency of the sureties, but as to the validity of bonds signed in blank, and afterwards filled up. Several of the Sureties were men of undoubted means. That was not the place to distribute the validity of linguity of bonds signed in blank; and he (non R. Gen.) had no desire to remark on the wart of prudence or honor of the parties to these transactions, who signed blank bonds to be passed at the Custom-house for duties, and then repudiate their responsibility. He could not sufficiently express his cond-mastion of their conduct. The practice of signing blank bonds had prevailed for over

thirty years, and was the rule, not the exception with respect to the bonds given during the whole of that time. It had now, however, been put an end and all shipping the course now adopted the trade, and the state of the trade of the trad

gratulate the country, especially in view of the lamentable fact that they represented a total loss of over £00,000 to the country. He found an importation of £20,000 worth of spirits—taking them at their first cost—paying duties to the amount of £12,000, to which might be added, as a natural consequence, an expenditure of £35,000 for poor relief. Such a state of things was indeed lamentable. It represented at amount of eutravagant dissipation, and of resulting poverty, which was alarming, and which could excits none other than the most fearful apprehensions with regard to the future of the country.

Ordered the documents lie on the stable.

(To be continued.)

The Newfoundlander.

ST. JOHN'S:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1865,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S Resolution postponing THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S Resolution postponing to next session any definite action on the subject of Confederation, has been under discussion in the Ausembly since this day week, and yet remains undisposed of. There have been some admirable speeches in favour of the proposed change—particularly those of the ATTORNEY GENERAL and Mr. A. SHEA, which were most able and convincing expositions, and as far as we have heard, they yet remain wholly unanswered on the other side of the case. This protracted inquiry and examination of the whole question cannot but prove instructive to the public mind, and the sult in a short time, we have no doubt, will be a general concurrence of opinion in favour of Colonial Union.

We have no space to-day for any lengthened ob-

To The Society of St. Vincent de Paul gratefully asknowledge the receipt of Thirty Pounda Twelve Shillings and Seven Pence, the nett proceeds of the St. Bonaventure College Theatricals.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWFOUNDLANDER]

SIR,—If the demand on your space is not too pressing I shall feel obliged by your greing insertion to the following remarks, with reference to the Amateur Theatricals at the Fishermen's Hall:

To the members of the Amateur Company the public are indebted for a considerable source of amusement; and the receipts being devoted to the relief of the poor, should, irrespective even of other reasons, commend them to the kindest consideration of the com unity.

The last performance for the season came off last night; and I feel great pleasure in caping that the first and principal part of the Entertainment r detel great credit on the players. The characters were wall sustained throughout, and the a age business, which was of no usual character, very well managed.

It is much more difficult, and coubt, to pravide interludes and afterpieces wholly unobject on the, than the dramatic pieces performed first. This narrowness of selection, a desire on the part of the audience for provocatives of laughter, whether it be wit, rilicult, or burleaque, and the not uneval practice of players endeavouring to draw a good house by pandering a, little to the taste of the frivolous or ignorant, often make interludes and afterpieces more foolish than funny, more tirecome than amusing, and sometimes offensive and disgusting. So iong as the British stage found it could make capital by representations of a distorted and vilified Irish characeer, it did so, by mixing up a grain of wit with a pack of extravagance, buffouvery and ridicule. Like many other things of the past that had better be allowed to rest in oblivion, the day of such undisguised caricture has passed in Britain, and it should not be allowed to drag out a puny existence in colonial taste. When a dance or song, illustrative of national oustom or charace er is intended to brought on the stage, it should either be properly given or not at all. Truth and justice demand this. If the movements, dress, and demeanour of those coming forward to monky antice are in a none acter, do not

awdience, still it is unjust fiable to make a "Punch and Judy" of any national custom or costume, and pass such farcical unbecoming pranks off as national characteristics.

Paddy and his caubeen are old acquaintances; but certainly the daughter of Erin could not recognise a shadow of resemblance in the type exhibited on the night is question. The innate modesty and reserve, for which friend and foe give her credit, would bring the burning blush to her cheek; and well might she exclain; "If I'm to be caricatured so the age of chivalry is gone, and good taste and self-respect have expired along with it."

In performances into which the character of a clown or harlequin enters, the audience are amused by whim sicalities; and they admire as much the abilities of the comic actor, in his own way, as any other, because such is his role. But it is a great mistake to suppose that the delineation of the character of any class in any country requires only grimaces, pranks, unroar, and frolic. Why then exhibit the Irish peasant besmeared with a compound of these ingredients as a ground for a few specks of low wit and paltry ludicrousness? Why give him a monopoly if such a character is so vastly amusing?—the Yorkshire clod-hopper, Doteh boor, and Soctch gaberlungie should be all-wed to participate. Plays in general depict respectable, arciting, or decently comic, phases of lite. Why should lrish life and mancers form an exception? Anusements of any kind, to merit the approbation of those whose approbation is worth having, should be kept within legitimate bounds; and I appeal to any unbiassed mind that gives the question a moneal's consideration, if the usual style of existing the Irish peasant or Irish gentleman of the old or new school, in a coarse, roluckurg, reckless manaer, is not inconsideration, if the usual style of existing the Irish peasant or Irish gentleman of the old or new school in a coarse, roluckurg, reckless manaer, is not inconsistent, unreal and low? Now, the Highland Fing which is recognised as a nationa

g one through in a proper m costume; and whymust an i in Irish character be brought akin to the freaks of a ragicalid of Eve?

Unfortunately Bacchus has tries, though in different pabuld assume that the near stage to the brawls and restruer the character of any of the true the character of any of the public taste will be maxim as to discountenance done or unreal, be it ever ac I am aware that unfavalways gives annoyance. I am aware that if it is particular to the stage of the stage

St. John's, February, 24th

LENTEN PASTORAL OF DR. MUL

† JOHN THOM By the grace of God and fu Bishop of St John's:

To the Clergy and Laity of Benediction in the Lord DEARLY BELOVED BRETHRE

Our Holy Mother the Chus in this peculiarly acceptable Lord our God in fasting a mourning, for he is gracious and rich in mercy."—Joel 2. ance is set apart that by a true and morification, we may put a true to the contraster and turn aside the arrow of ten are baye provoked. The tast he great Indulgence of the Holy Father, and commenced 12th of February, has opened mercy to sinners. The solemers and titled by the example of otteed by the Apostles, and hat the earliest ages of the Churce for body and soul. By it we assumed indulgences, montify and rekindle in our hearts the Practice then, dearly believed ities demanded by the Church ance, prayer and fasting. Attended to the contrast the earliest ages of the Church ance, prayer and fasting. Attended to the contrast the except of the Church ance, prayer and fasting. Attended to the poor, and thus prepare to of the heavenly banquet of the Holy Communion you make will not satisfy the obligation the precept of the Church and Jubice, each requires a separal calmer and more just light, legitim te connexion there is at which they have taken unbusiness treaty which has bycars past to the mutual adverned. But should it be notice given in petulance is pealing the treaty, then he i that as far as Canada is concacordance with the approvalation would deprécate, a policy. It would be seen the were for the apprehensions nial policy would be disturing a policy. It would be seen the were for the apprehensions in the force meant of the had listened with much and ligical speech of the legitim the connection of the had listened with much and legical speech of the legitim desting the the and learned friend as to the the question they were considered and learned friend as to the the question they were considered and learned friend as to the the question they were considered and learned friend as to the the question they were considered and learned friend as to the the question they were considered and the second of the country and the second of the country and the second of the countr

or novel experiments. All the world are the result states for purposes of defer advancement. When we it time of the Hepsarchy and these fittle kingdoms under signal illustration of the elementing the power, and people. In her early dathe several little States at harrassed or overrun by semade but little progress. I urder a settled Government bined suffrages, though Engiciassitudes from which no career has been one of sunating at the present day it holds, foremost amongs the Then we have her Union to both countries have derived The Union of England and to as an example of the injutions, and efforts had been ditional prejudice which is apired, to create a hostile faure. They have read the

scarcely established between the taskmaste acquainted with the his that his agitation for grounded on the fact Union were not found it