

vantage. Commerce can never be at a stop, while one man wants what another can supply; and credit will never be denied, while it is likely to be repaid with profit. He that trusts one whom he designs to sue, is criminal by the act of trust; the cessation of such insidious traffic is to be desired, and no reason can be given why a change of the law should impair any other.

We see nation trade with nation, where no payment can be compelled. Mutual convenience produces mutual confidence; and the merchants continue to satisfy the demands of each other, though they have nothing to dread but the loss of trade.

It is vain to continue an institution, which experience shows to be ineffectual. We have now imprisoned one generation of debtors after another, but we do not find that their numbers lessen. We have now learned, that rashness and imprudence will not be deterred from taking credit; let us try whether fraud and avarice may be more easily restrained from giving it.

Since the publication of the letter concerning the condition of those who are confined in goals by their creditors, an inquiry is said to have been made, by which it appears that more than twenty thousand\* are at this time prisoners for debt.

We often look with indifference on the successive parts of that, which, if the whole were seen together, would shake us with emotion. A debtor is dragged to prison, pined for a moment, and then forgotten; another follows him and his lost alike in the caverns of oblivion; but when the whole mass of calamity rises up at once, when twenty thousand reasonable beings are heard all groaning in unnecessary misery, not by the infirmity of nature, but the mistake or negligence of policy, who can forbear to pity and lament, to wonder and abhor!

There is here no need of declamatory vehemence; we live in an age of commerce and computation; let us therefore coolly inquire what is the sum of evil which the imprisonment of debtors brings upon our country.

It seems to be the opinion of the later computists, that the inhabitants of England do not exceed six millions, of which twenty thousand is the three hundredth part. What shall we say of the humanity or the wisdom of a nation, that voluntarily sacrifices one in every three hundred to lingering destruction!

The misfortunes of an individual do not extend their influence to many; yet if we consider the effects of consanguinity and friendship, and the general reciprocation of wants and benefits, which make one man dear or necessary to another, it may reasonably be supposed, that every man languishing in prison gives trouble of some kind to two others who love or need him. By this multiplication of misery we see distress extended to the hundredth part of the whole society.

If we estimate at a shilling a day what is lost by the inaction and consumed in the support of each man thus chained down, to involuntary idleness, the public loss will rise in one year to three hundred thousand pounds; in ten years to more than a sixth part of our circulating coin.

I am afraid that those who are best acquainted with the state of our prisons will confess that my conjecture is too near the truth; when I suppose that the corrosion of resentment, the heaviness of sorrow, the corruption of confined air, the want of exercise, and sometimes of food, the contagion of diseases, from which there is no retreat, and the severity of tyrants, against whom there can be no resistance, and all the complicated horrors of a prison, put an end every year to the life of one in four of those that are shut up from the common comforts of human life.

Thus perish yearly five thousand men, overborne with sorrow, consumed by famine, or purified by filth; many of them in the most vigorous and useful part of life; for the thoughtless and imprudent are commonly young, and the active and busy are seldom old.

According to the rule generally received, which supposes that one in thirty dies yearly, the race of man may be said to be renewed at the end of thirty years. Who would have believed till now, that of every English generation, an hundred and fifty

\*This number was at that time confidently published; but the author has since found reason to question the calculation.

thousand perish in our goals! that in every century, a nation eminent for science, and ditions of commerce, ambitious of empire should willingly lose, in noisome dungeons, five hundred thousand of its inhabitants; a number greater than has ever been destroyed in the same time by the pestilence and sword!

A very late occurrence may show us the value of the number which we thus condemn to be useless; in the re-establishment of the trained bands, thirty thousand are considered as a force sufficient against all exigencies. While, therefore, we detain twenty thousand in prison, we shut up in darkness and uselessness two-thirds of an army which ourselves judge equal to the defence of our country.

The monastic institutions have been often blamed, as tending to retard the increase of mankind. And perhaps retirement ought rarely to be permitted, except to those whose employment is consistent with abstraction, and who, though solitary, will not be idle: to those whom infirmity makes useless to the commonwealth, or to those who have paid their due proportion to society, and who, having lived for others, may be honourably dismissed to live for themselves. But whatever be the evil or the folly of these retreats, those have no right to censure them whose prisons contain greater numbers than the monasteries of other countries. It is surely, less foolish and less criminal to permit inaction than compel it; to comply with doubtful opinions of happiness, than condemn to certain and apparent misery; to indulge the extravagances of erroneous piety, than to multiply and enforce temptations to wickedness.

The misery of goals is not half their evil: they are filled with every corruption which poverty and wickedness can generate between them; with all the shameless and profligate enormities that can be produced by the impudence of ignominy, the rage of want, and the malignity of despair. In a prison, the awe of the public eye is lost, and the power of the law is spent; there are few fears, there are no blushes. The lewd inflame the lewd; the audacious harden the audacious. Every one fortifies himself as he can against his own sensibility, endeavours to practice on others the arts which are practised on himself; and gains the kindness of his associates by similitude of manners.

Thus some sink amidst their misery, and others survive only to propagate villainy. It may be hoped, that our lawgivers will at length take away from us this power of starving and depraving one another; but, if there be any reason why this inveterate evil should not be removed in our age, which true policy has enlightened beyond any former time, let those whose writings form the opinions and the practices of their contemporaries, endeavour to transfer the reproach of such imprisonment from the debtor to the creditor, till universal infamy shall pursue the wretch whose wantonness of power, or revenge of disappointment, condemns another to torture and to ruin; till he shall be hunted through the world as an enemy to man, and find in riches no shelter from contempt.

Surely, he whose debtor has perished in prison, although he may acquit himself of deliberate murder, must at least have his mind clouded with discontent, when he considers how much another has suffered from him; when he thinks on the wife bewailing her husband, or the children begging the bread which their father would have earned. If there are any made so obdurate by avarice or cruelty, as to revolve their consequences without dread or pity, I must leave them to be awakened by some other power, for I write only to human beings.

**T**HE Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he will furnish Stages during the season to carry Passengers to Saint John, when not less than three, for four Dollars each, and likewise to Saint Andrews, Miramichi, and on the Great Road to Canada, at reduced prices.

**EBENEZER AVERY.**  
Frederickton, 29th Jan. 1822.

**M**R. HAILES having been obliged to leave New-Brunswick for his health, has put all his unsettled business in the hands of the Subscriber.

**D. L. ROBINSON,**  
Attorney at Law.  
Frederickton, 20th Nov. 1821.

### Bread-Corn Bounties.

**A** SPECIAL Session of the Peace is hereby summoned to meet at the County Hall in Frederickton, on the second Tuesday in March next, for the purpose of receiving claims for bounties for raising Bread-Corn on new lands in York County, agreeably to a Law of this Province.

By order of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace,  
**H. G. CLOPPER,**  
Dy. Clk.

Frederickton, 29th Jan. 1822.

### Bread-Corn Bounties.

**P**ERSONS entitled to the bounty for raising Bread-Corn on new lands, in the County of York, whose claims were included in the first Schedule, are notified that their respective proportions are payable at this office.

Clerk's Office, Frederickton,  
29th Jan. 1822.  
**H. G. CLOPPER,**  
Dy. Clerk of the Peace.

**A**T a Special Session of the Peace holden at the County Hall in Frederickton, on Saturday the 3d day of November, 1821--  
**ORDERED,** that in future the ASSIZE of BREAD in the Town of Frederickton, be as follows:

**T**HE Sixpenny Wheat } lb. 07.  
Loaf to weigh, - - - } 21 0  
Ditto, Rye, do. - - - } 31 8  
And other Loaves in proportion.

**H. G. CLOPPER,**  
Dy. Clerk of the Peace.

### TO BE SOLD

By Public Auction.

On Tuesday the 18th day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at Avery's Tavern at Frederickton.

**A**LL the real Estate of the late Lieut. General ARMSTRONG, in the Parish of Queensbury, County of York, consisting of 500 acres of woodland near the River Nackawigack, 900 acres of land (about 100 of which are under cultivation) commonly called the Cook Farm, 200 acres of land in the vicinity of the above, about 20 of which are cleared, and the Cook Island, consisting of about 70 acres. The whole will be put up in lots of 100 acres or more to suit purchasers, except the Island, which may be sold in lots of 20 Acres.

Possession will be given immediately, and the terms of payment made known on the day of Sale.

**R. E. ARMSTRONG,** } Executors.  
**A. A. ARMSTRONG,** }  
West-Isles, 28th Dec. 1821.

**T**HE Subscriber requests all persons indebted to him previous to 24th June last, to make immediate payments, or their accounts will be put into the hands of an Attorney to collect.

**N.B.**—He has on hand a good assortment of Leather, Saddles, Bridles, Harness, Boots and Shoes, of all descriptions—which is offered low for Cash or short approved Credit.

**JARVIS RING.**  
Frederickton, 13th Nov. 1821.

### NOTICE.

**A**LL persons having any just demands against the estate of **JAMES SEWELL**, House Carpenter, late of this Parish, deceased, are desired to render the same duly attested, within six months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to the said estate, are desired to make immediate payment to **JOSEPH RUSSELL**, Adm'r. Miramichi, Parish of Chatham, 29th Dec. 1821.

**T**HE Subscriber has transferred all his unsettled accounts to **James Cameron** and **C. G. Brownsword**, who are legally authorised to close the same.

**STEPHEN CAMERON.**  
Frederickton, 1st Jan. 1822.

**T**HE undersigned requests that all persons who stand indebted to **Mr. S. Cameron**, either by Bond, Note, or Book Debt, to the 1st November last, will immediately make some satisfactory arrangement to liquidate their respective balances.

**JAMES CAMERON.**  
**C. G. BROWNSWORD.**  
Frederickton, 1st Jan. 1822.

### To the Electors of the County of York.

**A** VACANCY being now in the representation of the County, the undersigned begs leave to inform his friends, that he intends at the approaching Election to offer himself a Candidate to fill that important station. If he succeeds in his expectations, he will assiduously endeavour to discharge the trust reposed in him, by taking a lively interest in whatever may concern the Publick good.

**HENRY SMITH.**  
4th November, 1821.

### Gentlemen, Electors, and Freeholders of the County of York.

**I**T is my intention to offer myself a Candidate at the ensuing Election. Gentlemen, words are idle, and beware of false promises.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
With great respect,  
Your obedient humble Servant,  
**JOS. KENAH.**

Frederickton, 20th Nov. 1821.

**T**HE Subscriber intends offering as a Candidate to fill the vacancy that has lately taken place in the representation of this County in the General Assembly: He therefore solicits the support of his friends; and if successful, will to the utmost of his power, endeavour to serve the County of York in particular, and the Province at large.

**JEDEDIAH SLASON.**

Frederickton, 20th Nov. 1821.

**A**S the Subscriber finds the wishes of his friends congenial with his own, he now begs leave to take this fashionable mode of announcing to the Freeholders of the County of York, that it is his intention to come forward (among the respectable number) as a Candidate in the approaching Election; and as he is well aware that a Representative Charge is a very important and responsible one, he can but hope, that the man of your choice may discharge his public duty with much satisfaction to his friends, and credit to himself.

**W. WILMOE.**

Frederickton, 26th Nov. 1821.

### To the Electors of the County of York.

**T**HE Subscriber again offers himself a Candidate to represent this County in General Assembly.

Fully aware, as he is, of the responsibility attached to this distinguished situation, the integrity of his principles justifies him in thus soliciting the suffrages of the Freeholders; and if found worthy, he pledges himself, that the general welfare of the Province will not be overlooked, and the local interests of the County always supported.

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
**STEPHEN CAMERON.**

Frederickton, 1st Jan. 1822.

### FALL GOODS.

The SUBSCRIBER has just received, per Brig ORION, from Liverpool,

**SUPERFINE**, second, and broad cloths, Finest cloths,  
Double mill'd cassimeres,  
Ladies pelisse cloths,  
Bombazets,  
Cassimere shawls,  
Olive fearnoughts,  
Carpeting,  
8-4, 9-4, and 10-4; double rose blanket,  
4 and 5 point blankets,  
Horse rugs,  
Red and white flannels,  
Red and white twilled flannels.

Which he offers for sale, with his former stock of Merchandize, cheap for cash.

**JAMES SLOOT.**

Frederickton, 9th Sept. 1821.

**A**LL Persons having any just demands against the Estate of the late **JOHN THOMPSON**, of Miramichi, deceased, are hereby requested to render the same duly attested, within six months from the date hereof; and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

**JARED BETTS**, Adm'r.  
Miramichi, 10th January, 1822.