

FREDERICTON, (N. B.)

TUESDAY, 2nd JAN. 1827.

Alms House and Work House.

COMMISSIONER FOR THE WEEK, GEO. F. STREET, Esq.

SAVINGS BANK.

TRUSTEES NEXT WEEK, HENRY G. CLOPPER, ESQ. JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ. MARK NEEDHAM, ESQ.

Amount deposited yesterday,.....£5 : 0 : 0

It will be observed by a Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, this day published, that the General Assembly is further prorogued from Thursday the Twenty-fifth day of this inst. January, to Thursday the Eighth day of February next, then to meet for the despatch of business.

THE EDITOR'S REMINISCENCES

OF THE YEAR 1826.

Who, that surveys this span of earth we press. This speck of life in time's great wilderness, This narrow isthmus 'twixt two boundless seas, The past, the future, two eternities! - Would sully the bright spot or leave it bare, When he might build him a proud temple there, A name, that long shall hallow all its space, And be each purer soul's high resting-place! LALLA ROOKH.

PREFACE.

We believe it is the custom with some Editors, at the commencement of a new year, to take a retrospective glance at the old; for the purpose of recapitulating the various important incidents that may have occurred during its progress, and making suitable comments and reflections thereon. Now in some countries, (where the continual shifting of the scenes furnish a succession of events which are sure to invigorate the mind with, at least, the effects of novelty, even should the main action of the drama become now and then of an uninteresting nature) a great deal can generally be accomplished in this way, and to the real edification of every person: - But here! - in the forests of New-Brunswick; a country, which, although it may not unaptly be likened unto a Lusty infant, thriving with Herculean promise! - still does not yet give birth to that variety of character, or produce such diversity of incident, as to render it of sufficient consequence in a special summary of the editor of a newspaper. But altho' we sincerely regret, (on behalf of our readers,) the deficiency in our materials; still we conceive there are, notwithstanding, enough remaining to be of most beneficial service to the chief object of our plan. 1826 has taught us many useful lessons, if we have only wisdom to profit by them: and with this view we shall make such observations on the most prominent characters of the past, as, we trust, may prove both useful and interesting to those who are indulging in the natural anticipations of the future, and contemplating the field before them as the present scene of their exertions, which, under the blessings of Providence, will, we hope, be rewarded in a more abundant manner, than our own unworthiness could at any time give us claim to.

LUMBERING.

The most eventful feature in the past year, as it regards the actual interest of this Province, might be recognized in that almost total cessation experienced in the lumbering speculations: for may they not with more propriety be called "speculations" rather than a regular, consistent embarkation in the affairs of trade? - We ask Experience to reply. And from the change which has taken place in the aspect of that employment, together with some other circumstances which are but too well known and felt to render a repetition of them necessary, we, at present, see little prospect of the speculators regaining their former comparative state of affluence and comfort, when the industrious cultivation of their farms constituted the source of all real enjoyments. and before Ambition crossed their thresholds to beguile them of their domestic happiness. Then each individual who became infatuated with the presence of this dangerous visitor, cherished no other thought but that of enriching himself; and in his unreasonable expedition to accomplish his object, wholly lost sight of the excellent maxim of the poet's, "Wisely, and slow; they stumble, that run fast" - and the consequence of this haste, has fully verified the prediction of the bard in but too many instances we fear. It is far from our remotest thought to cause the slightest pain to the mind

already depressed by calamity, whether merited or not: we have no other object in adverting to the circumstance than to alleviate, if possible, the anguish of those who have experienced disappointment, by cheering them with such hopes as are now presented for their consolation; that they may not despair of extricating themselves, by a patient perseverance, from some of those troubles consequent upon the failure of their imprudent schemes. The past year has taught them a lesson which they cannot easily forget; but after all, they may ultimately be the better for what has happened, if they can be persuaded of the imperative necessity of acting henceforward with more discretion, and keep in mind the old saying, "a bird in hand is worth two in the bush," and not relinquish a certainty for that which may have a hundred unforeseen difficulties between them and their possession of it.

From what we have been able to glean from the latest European intelligence, and other sources, it does not appear that the British Government has any thoughts of withdrawing its benevolent attention from the consideration of the nature and quality of the timber of this country; which has lately undergone a comparison with that of the Baltic; over which it has been decided to possess, in some respects, a manifest superiority: and this together with some other circumstances connected, with the increasing improvement of the British North American Colonies, and the Shipping interest, have induced an opinion which seems to justify the most confident expectations of a revival of the timber trade, in favour of New-Brunswick; tho' not we apprehend, to the same extent as formerly; and we sincerely hope, not to be pursued in the same unguarded manner! - Let not therefore those who have hitherto so unsuccessfully embarked their capital in the 'lumbering business' be utterly cast down; but let them rather indulge in the reasonable hope that as soon as trade in the mother country shall have regained its former state of prosperity - when the embarrassments by which she has lately been surrounded, and which still continue, tho' in a lesser degree, to hover about her, shall have disappeared - that the old things will become new, public confidence be restored, and Commerce flourish again with its wonted ardour; but founded on a more solid basis than ever; and divested of that bubble, rash speculation, the danger of which altho' the wise had foretold and endeavoured to expose, yet retained sufficient fascination to madden its votaries, until Misfortune convinced them of their folly, and Truth happily replenished the Lamp of Reason!

But we now pass on to some reflections of more general importance, and in which the chief welfare of the inhabitants of this country is more particularly concerned - we mean

THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST!

Yesterday was a day of "General Thanksgiving" in this Province; as well in humble remembrance of an awful event which has made a deep impression upon our minds ever to be obliterated, as for the purpose of pouring out our gratitude to heaven for our "late bountiful harvest." There is something so particularly beautiful and striking in the assembling together of God's frail creatures on such an occasion, that it cannot escape the admiration even of the most unthinking; and the circumstance fairly challenges that reasonable enquiry, which we would fain anticipate by answering.

The recent bountiful crops in this Province have not been owing to any extraordinary exertions of the farmers themselves; but to that regular advancement, under the Divine Blessing, which, with few exceptions, the Province itself has made in almost every direction where it has received the salutary benefits of common industry. But this observation is not meant to deprive the Farmers of that just and worthy praise which their increased exertions now demand - far from it - it is to them New-Brunswick must owe the rapid progress she is making towards that important era in her 'lasting condition' when she shall have all her principal resources within herself, the fruits of her own labours, and the results of the persevering industry of her indefatigable sons! That the farming interest is fast increasing in this Country, there cannot be a single doubt: - the observations which we lately made upon the last year's harvest fully substantiate the fact; and we derived our information from the most unquestionable authority. The farms in this Country invariably increase in value with the farmer's industry. Industry indeed is nearly all that is required - the rich fertility of the soil, by producing an almost instantaneous return of the expense of cutting down the forest and clearing it away, animates the farmer to fresh exertion, and stimulates him with rational and well-grounded hope. One might therefore naturally suppose that the astonishing progress which it is well known, many of the farmers in this Province have made, within a comparatively short period, in the accumulation of their personal comforts by the industrious cultivation of the soil, would of itself be a sufficient inducement to others to direct their attention to that object, which is of such vital importance to their future independence: and so it undoubtedly would have done, had it not been for the unhappy intervention of those circumstances which we have already alluded to, but which we now hope, (and indeed have the strongest assurance of) will not occur again to distract the mind of the Agriculturist, and seduce his attention from all that is really valuable and certain, to attach it to that, which has nothing but an empty sound to recommend it, fit only to reprove the

thoughtless, and excite the smile of every man of calm, deliberate reflection.

Then let not any man whose inclinations tend to this praiseworthy employment, be fearful of embracing the easy conditions upon which he may obtain the advantages described. He who is sober, honest and industrious, will be sure to prosper, if he will but put his "hand to the plough" with a religious determination never to "look back!" Let him for a moment compare his condition with that of the original settler, and weigh the advantages of both in the scale of probability; and we believe it would be scarcely requisite for us to use any other argument, to convince him of the favorable circumstances which so singularly concur to multiply the chances of success which he would possess over those men who encamped in a wilderness, and yet have long since caused the forest to give way to comfortable habitations, and extensive, thriving farms! But let him be particularly cautious of not swerving, for an instant, from the first object of his pursuit, nor give ear to the seducing promises of the visionary speculator; whose intentions, altho' they may be good and honest, are yet of too serious and doubtful a nature ever to be rashly and inconsiderately embraced: - serious, because they may involve consequences of no less magnitude than the total ruin of the industrious farmer and his family - and doubtful, as the conception of every transaction must be which is not founded upon reason and consistency, to say nothing of the importance of well considering the means by which the scheme is to be brought to maturity, and whether any kind of risk be consistent with the relinquishment of a moral certainty. And with these remarks we must for the present take our leave of this interesting subject, and proceed to the consideration of another, which, we believe has already engaged the attention of every thinking mind in the Province, and the affections of its inhabitants in general. (To be Continued.)

Yesterday, being the day appointed for a General Thanksgiving in this Province, Divine Service was performed in Christ Church in the Morning, and at Noon.

Our Venerable Archdeacon preached in the morning from Psalm 100. 3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful into him, and speak good of his name; and delivered a most appropriate and impressive address to a crowded congregation. The chief heads of the Discourse were two - 1st, the Awful event in Miramichi on the 7th of October 1825 - and 2nd, the late bountiful harvest in the Province of New-Brunswick, generally, in 1826. There was a third division which touched in the tenderest manner upon a particular subject which we ourselves have discussed in the preceding "Reminiscences" - and the whole was admirably illustrated, and emphatically enforced. In the afternoon the Rev. GEO. M'CAWLEY preached from Psalm 107th. 8. 9. O that men would praise the Lord for his Goodness, and for his wonderful works unto the Children of men; for he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness: - the discussion of which embraced an epitome of past events, which were illustrated and applied, in a very learned manner.

No Business was done throughout the day - the Stores were all closed, and the general appearance of the Town resembled the halcyon Sabbath.

The Semi-Annual Examination of the Grammar School annexed to the College, under the care of the Rev. GEO. M'CAWLEY, was held on the 22nd ult. before His Excellency the Lieut. Governor and the Trustees of the institution. The Pupils as

usual acquitted themselves much to the satisfaction of the Examiners, and of all concerned. Their translations of different passages in the Greek and Latin Classics were neat, elegant, and appropriate; and they appeared particularly well versed in the principles of Grammar, and accurate in the application of the Rules of Prosody. In Mathematics, the higher class demonstrated with great precision several of the principal Propositions in the first Book of Euclid, and solved some Problems in plain Trigonometry with exactness and promptitude. Prizes were awarded to the Pupils who respectively stood at the head of the first four Classes.

On the subsequent day the Examination of the English School, under the immediate charge of Mr. HOLBROOK took place also before the Lieut. Governor and Trustees. - The pupils in this department of the Institution, exhibited, as upon many similar occasions, evident proofs of great proficiency in Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, knowledge of History, Geography, and the use of the Globes. Prizes were also bestowed upon the four most deserving of this School.

His Excellency expressed himself highly gratified with the progress of the Pupils of both Schools: And in delivering the Prizes to those to whom they had been assigned he was pleased to address them in such a manner, as was well calculated to affect all present; and to leave an indelible impression upon their own minds, and also on those of their fellow pupils, so as to stimulate them to future exertions in the career of knowledge, which they have so honorably commenced. It would not be doing justice to close this brief account without bearing testimony to the uniformly good and moral conduct of the Pupils of both Schools, without exception: affording hereby a pleasing proof of the good principles which have been inculcated into their youthful minds by their Parents and Guardians; and of their own ingenious and tractable dispositions, and of the good discipline and exemplary deportment of their immediate instructors.

The visit of the Indians, with their Chief, to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor; and several other interesting articles, are unavoidably postponed till next week.

The Communication which we lately received from a female Servant in this Neighbourhood, is of too gross and insolent a nature to find room in our columns. The money left with it will therefore be returned on applying for.

We have to apologize to some of our Friends for the omission of their Advertisements this week - a press of necessary and important matter will, we hope, plead our excuse.

We have no room in our present number to notice any particular information by the Packet, further than the assembling of the new Parliament on the 14th November, and the re-election of Mr. Manners Sutton as Speaker of the House of Commons, by acclamation.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We shall be extremely happy to hear again from T - - - r.

B's Communication has been received; but as the subject alluded to is now at rest, and the publication of B's letter could have no good tendency, we must decline inserting it.

We wish it to be understood in future, that we cannot attend to Anonymous Correspondents, when their letters may be of a nature to provoke to controversy, or to cast improper reflections upon the character of any individual.