

We need scarce inform the great body of our readers that the payment of them is an express condition inserted in every Grant—that it is a condition to which every grantee voluntarily yielded his assent—& that it must be regarded in no other light than as a clear and open contract entered into between the King and the subject; which the former is as much entitled to enforce, and the latter as clearly bound to fulfil, as if it were an agreement entered into between two private individuals. \* Besides this is not a demand which is novel or unheard of in this Province. The Quit Rents at a former period of our history were heretofore collected persons were appointed in the different Counties and districts whose duty it was to compel their payment and to give in annual returns; and all appeals which even at that time were made by proprietors against their exaction, were invariably resisted by the local Government, as may be found by referring to the Books of the Council.

An argument is urged by some, which appears to be equally untenable as it is ungracious, that because the collection has been discontinued for so long a period of years, therefore their payment should now be resisted altogether. Do not these violent Councillors know that it is a maxim of British Law, that the right of the King never can die—"nullum tempus occurrit regi"—that in this case the right is reserved in plain terms, "litteris scriptis"—conceded by the party in the acceptance of the grant—and embodied in that only legal title by which the undisturbed possession of lands is secured to their owner. This discontinuance in their collection is not a ground for cavil but for gratitude,—a cause rather of thanks than of complaint. It was a boon conferred by His Majesty. We can view it in no other light, than as the sacrifice on the part of a mortgagee of an annual interest to which he was fully entitled; and it cannot be consonant with the immutable principles of equity, that because he has made this sacrifice, the individual benefited by his past generosity should turn round, mocking his claim as illegal, and quarrelling at its resumption as unjust. This view of the question should meet additional regard when the fact is taken into consideration that the quit rents, as we are informed, have always been collected in Jamaica; and that they have been exacted in Prince Edward Island, since the era of its erection into a separate and independent Government, till within the last three years. If we are misinformed in either of these facts, we shall be happy to be corrected, for we have no wish to strengthen a cause, so good and honourable in itself, by any misrepresentation.

Let it be borne in mind too that these arrangements, as well for the sale of Lands as for the collection of Quit Rents, do not apply exclusively to Nova Scotia. They extend to New-Brunswick, to Lower Canada, to Prince Edward's Island, to New Holland and to Van Dieman's Land; and they went into operation last summer in the Province of Upper Canada. We are therefore merely called upon to submit to a general arrangement, which is to affect all the Colonies under the British Crown, placed in similar circumstances, & who have reached a progress which bears a relation to our own.

\* The quit rents seem to have been regularly and rigorously enforced, under certain reservations, from the time of the first settlement of the Colony to the year 1779. In the year 1773 & 68 (respectively) applications were made to the Governor in Council from different settlements, praying to be released in some cases, and in others asking to be released for payment—but both prayers were rejected. Whether they have been collected since we have not the means of ascertaining, but the liberal system of granting lands, which has existed here of late, seems to have been introduced on the migration of the Loyalists, at the period of the American Revolution.

These rents however are not exigible except upon lands whose titles are derived from grants—and that portion of occupied land throughout the Province, held by continuity of possession, will not be subject to them. The major part of the Town of Halifax, a portion of the peninsula, &c. still remain in this free condition.

But what, after all, is this mighty sum, about which there are a few, who seem anxious to excite discontent and to embody opposition. The whole sum demanded is Two Shillings per 100 Acres—or about one Farthing for a single one. A farmer in Horton or Cornwallis, or in Truro or Cumberland, who owns 100 acres of marsh land, and 200 of Upland, 50 of which are cleared is called upon to pay the enormous sum of SIX SHILLINGS!! per annum, or if he choose to adopt the alternative, he may expunge the claim forever by paying the sum of £6 Five Pence per acre! Take the condition of our poorest settlers—suppose he holds a grant of 200 acres (and there are few whose freehold exceeds this) the whole claim upon him will be Four shillings annually. Let its imposition keep him one afternoon from tipping at the neighbouring tavern, and he will more than save the money! The whole gross sum, which, according to an official estimate, can be exacted from the granted lands in Nova Scotia, under the name of Quit Rents, only about £2,700 stig. per annum. Admit that it is all collected, and calculate our population at 100,000 souls, which by many is accounted an estimate far below the truth, the whole burden will not exceed 6½d. to each individual.

And then how is it to be disposed of? It is not to be paid into the Exchequer to relieve the burdens of the parent state; nor to leave the Province and be lost to us forever; but, to quote the very words of Lord Bathurst "to be applied [in the Colonies] to such local changes or improvements as may receive his Majesty's Approbation." It is to be paid by the one hand, and to be received into the other.

There is one mighty advantage, however, which is promised from the operation of this new system, that must not be overlooked. It is well known, and some years ago we recollect this was a subject of serious complaint in our Legislature, that there are large tracts of fine land held by non-resident proprietors, who do not cultivate them themselves; and what is infinitely worse, prevent their settlement by others. The enforcement of the quit rents—the calling upon them for an annual tribute (small as that tribute may be) will have the effect of forcing the lands to sale or inducing the owners to abandon their possession. If this effect be produced; and the large and valuable tracts in the Counties of Halifax and Sydney alone be redeemed from their present unprofitable condition, the Province will reap a benefit fully equivalent to the whole amount demanded.

The dispassionate views, which in this article, we have presented to our readers, will, we are quite aware, be listened to by some with no favour—but while they continue to rail at the moderate exactions of a Quit Rent of one farthing per acre, let them not forget that even in America—the boasted land of freedom and equality—all forest lands are reserved for the benefit of the State—that a fixed price is set upon them—that Birbeck had to pay down a large sum for his settlement on the Wabash; and that the poor emigrant, who seeks a wood lot in the back settlement of Ohio, has to purchase it now at the exorbitant rate of from two to three dollars per acre. Let the inhabitants of this Province only go abroad and compare their situation with that of others; and in place of murmuring at the trivial burdens which

England imposes, they will thank heaven that their lot has been cast under so good and generous a government.

**CIVIL APPOINTMENT.**  
Henry G. Clopper, Esquire, to be Clerk of the Court of Governor and Council for hearing and determining Causes relating to Marriage and Divorce.

We understand that a Special Commission is about to be sent to Miramichi, for the Trial of the Prisoners confined there, on charges of murder.

St. John N. B., May 23.  
It is reported that a gentleman last night from Saint Andrews, has stated that a Vessel which arrived there in a short passage from Great Britain, brought word, that LORD LIVERPOOL was dead—that Mr. SCARLETT was appointed Lord Chancellor—and that Mr. BROUHAM was appointed to some office in the New Ministry.—City Gazette.

Small Pox.—As some alarm has been excited by the arrival of a Vessel from Ireland, on Monday last, having the Small Pox on board, for the information of the Public, we give the following particulars, being the substance of the Report of the Visiting Physicians.

Ship *Suspense*, Joseph Brochlehurst, Master, 32 days from Dublin, with 149 Passengers, besides the Crew, 12 in number, including the master—with one case Small Pox on board, having lost on the passage, two children, from that disease, and one person having recovered from it during the passage.

It has been recommended to remove the ship further down the harbour from where she first came to Anchor, and that she be placed under strict Quarantine; the sick to be sent to the Pest House, under proper restrictions, and the ship to be thoroughly purified.—The ship has been removed accordingly, and we suppose the other parts of the recommendation will also be attended to.—*Id.*

For the information of the Public, who we understand are alarmed by the report that some of the passengers have come on shore from the *Suspense*, we can state, that one of the Visiting Physicians has gone on board, to ascertain whether that be case or not. We believe the proper Authorities are on the alert, and that every practical measure will be taken to prevent the infection from spreading.—*Id.*

We have alluded to the various reports which are in circulation as to the individuals who are likely to compose the new Administration. One arrangement, and that not the least important, is completed. Sir John Copley the master of the Rolls, has accepted the Seals as Lord-Chancellor.—*London Courier.*

Miramichi, May 8.  
*The late Gale.*—When our last paper went to press, we were apprehensive of serious damage to the vessels upon our coast. Advances have since been received that the bark *Intrinsic* is on shore at Cocagne, and from the extraordinary height of the tide during the gale, there are very slender hopes of her being got off. Messrs. Ashington, Rankin & Co. have goods on board of her.

The Master of a vessel who has arrived since the gale reports a brig on the Magdalen Islands, apparently with a cargo, as several schooners were alongside. There is also a report that a bark is on shore at Fundy.

The Kingston lost all her anchors and cables off Point Escuminac, and narrowly

escaped going ashore. The *Samuel Whitebread*, beat over the Miramichi Bar during the gale, and although neither the Master nor any person on board had been here before, she reached Sheldrake Island in safety, where she came to an anchor.

The Coasting Vessels have also suffered—Mr. Murray's schooner from Bedeque, with a cargo of oats and potatoes, was totally lost close to the Pilot's houses, and two other vessels were lost near Shediac, with three of the people on board.

Several wharves in different parts of the river were swept away by the unusual height of the tide, and scarcely a boom was proof against the violence of the gale.

**Government Contract.**  
Assistant Commissary General's Office,  
St. John, N. B. May, 22, 1827.

TENDERS will be received at this Office, until Monday, at noon, the 18th June next, from Persons disposed to enter into Contracts to supply the Ordnance Department in this Province, with STRAW and BROOMS for One Year, from 1st June next, viz.

	Miramichi	St. Andrews	St. John	Fredericton	St. John
Straw, lbs.	32,000	28,000	6,000	1,500	2,000
Brooms, No.	350	500	40	20	50

The STRAW to be good, dry, and merchantable, either Oaten or Wheat, and will be paid for, by the Commissariat Quarterly, upon a Certificate of the Ordnance Officer. The BROOMS to be made of split Birch, and will be paid by the Ordnance Department.

Payment made in British Silver.  
No Tender will be noticed unless accompanied by a Letter addressed to Deputy Assistant Commissary General CLARKE, marked, Tender for Straw, &c. signed by two responsible Persons, offering to become bound with the party tendering, for the performance of such Contract as may be entered into.

BY THE LATEST ARRIVALS  
**M. NEEDHAM,**  
HAS IMPORTED  
*Best London bottled Porter.*  
*Rich Cheshire Cheeses.*  
*London Paints and Oil.*  
*Salempores, &c. &c.*  
HE HAS ALSO FOR SALE,  
*Flour, Corn, Salt, Tea, Sugar,*  
*Molasses, Rum, Indigo, &c. &c.*  
All of which will be sold on the lowest Terms for ready money.  
Fredericton, 29th May, 1827.

CHEAP FOR CASH,  
AT THE STORE OF  
**THE SUBSCRIBER,**  
Canada Prime Pork.  
Best Fall Makarel.  
Superfine and Country Flour.  
Seed, Wheat, and Oats.  
Jamaica Spirits.  
Donald M'Intosh.  
Fredericton, 29th May, 1827.

**MR. KEYSER'S** bad state of health obliges him to leave this place, as soon as he is able to collect his dues. Any demand against him, will in the course of this week be received, by calling at his room. Mr. K. begs leave to entreat his Patrons to come forward and pay their tuition money as soon as possible; to enable him to pay those to whom he is indebted. Fredericton, May 29, 1827.