(Continued from 1st Page.) able by the inhabitants of the said City, or received for and on account of the revenues of the said City, under and by virtue of this Act, or of any bye laws to be made by the City Council by the authority of the

40. The said Treasurer shall not pay out any money as such Treasurer otherwise than upon an order in writing of the Council of the said City to be signed by the Mayor, or in his absence by the Councillor presiding at any meeting of the Council when such moneys were ordered to be paid, and countersigned by the Clerk.

41. It shall be the duty of the Council to publish in one or more of the Newspapers published in the City, fifteen days before the annual election of Mayor and Councillors in each year, for the information of the citizens, a full and detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation during the past year; and in every such statement the different sources of revenue and the amount received from each, the several appropriations made by the Council, the objects for which the same were made, and the amount of money expended under each, the moneys borrowed on the credit of the Corporation, the authority under which such loan was made, and the terms on which the same was obtained, shall be clearly and particularly specified, together with the amount of assessments ordered and made, the several purposes of such assessments, the amount actually received under such assessments, and a detailed account of the application thereof; and such statements and accounts shall be made up to the thirtieth day of November preceding such publication in each year, signed by the Mayor and the Clerk of the City for the time being.

42. The Council shall, at its first meeting, appoint two of its members as representatives of the City of Chatham in the Municipal Council of the County of Northumberland, and it shall be the duty of the City Clerk, to send a written notice under the seal of the City, of the appointments thus made, to the Secretary-Treasurer of said Municipal Council not later than three days after said first annual meeting of the City Council, and the members of said City Council so appointed, shall have and exercise at all meetings of the said Municipal Council, all the rights, powers and privileges now vested by law in other members of the said Council, in the same manner as if they had been elected by the Ratepayers at the general annual meetings for the election of members of said Municipal Council.

[Section 43 provides that officers appointed to Act under the authority of the Council shall be accountable to it.1

general powers of making bye laws for the tion we have taken on the questions good government of the said City and the which have arisen and been discussed other powers incident thereto, especially in connection with the Smelt and conferred in and by the provisions of this Bass fisheries. We have had neither Act, shall, in the manner hereinafter mentioned, have the sole power and authority give in reply to the Inspector's letter from time to time to make, ordain, enact, revise, alter and amend such laws as they next issue. We thus give the Inmay deem proper for the several purposes foilowing, within the said City, that is to which places him at an advantage,

1st. To establish and manage a market or market days and fairs, and regulate weights and measures in the public market and other places in the City in conformity with the lawful Standard. 2nd. To regulate the manner of selling,

weighing and measuring butchers' meat, fish, vegetables, grain, hay, straw, and fodder, and to grant licences for the due weighing and admeasurement thereof: 3rd. To restrain and regulate the purchase country produce, poultry, and all other articles and things, or of animals openly exposed for sale or marketed :

4th. To restrain and regulate the purchase of such things by hucksters and run-ners living within the City:

5th. To regulate the measurement of coal, lime, salt, grain, boards, cordwood and other fuel, clapboards, shingles, laths and other lumber, and to impose penalties for light weight or short count or measurement on anything marketed:

6th. To regulate all vehicles, vessels and other things in which anything may be exposed for sale or marketed in any street or public place, and to seize and destroy all tainted and unwholesome meat, poultry, fish or other articles of food, and to impose and recover such reasonable penalties as may be found proper, upon the person or persons ex-posing for sale such tainted or unwholesome articles within the said City :

7th. To regulate the assize of bread, and provide for the seizure of bread baked contrary thereto, and to impose penalties upon the person so baking contrary to the provisions of any bye law to be made in that behalf.

Sth. To regulate the anchorage, lading and unlading of vessels and other craft arriving at the said City.

9th. To regulate and provide for the erection, management and rent of wharves. piers, quays, landings and docks in the said City, being the property of said Corporation, and the toll to be paid for vessels and steamboats touching thereat or using the same: 10th. To regulate carters, wagoners, and

cartmen, the price to be paid to them for hauling loads in the said City, and the quantity to comprise a load: 11th. To enforce the due observance

12th. To punish vice, immorality and inplaces within the City: 13th. To preserve peace, health and good

14th. To prevent the spreading of infec-15th. To prevent the sale of any intoxi-

cating drinks to children, apprentices lawful protectors:

other cruel and inhumane treatment to 17th. To impose penalties on the keepers

18th. To license, regulate or prevent bil liard tables, bowling alleys, or other places of amusement:

20th. To restrain and punish all vagrants, drunkards, mendicants, and street beggars: 21st. To restrain or to regulate the licensficial curiosities, and all theatres, circuses, or other shows or exhibitions for

hire or profit, and for preserving quiet and good order thereat: 22nd. To establish and regulate one or

23rd. To restrain, regulate or prevent the running at large of horses, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, dogs, geese, and poultry, and to impound the same: 24th. To impose a tax on the owners or harbourers of dogs, and to regulate and

prevent dogs running at large, and to bye law, after public notice is given: 25th. To abate and cause to be removed all public nuisances, and all filth and encumbrances in the streets:

56th. To regulate the construction of privy vaults and sinks on private pro-

27th. To cause vacant lots in central situaexpenses with costs in a summary manner:
28th. To regulate and prevent the erection or continuance of slaughter houses, if afforded the opportunity of proving distilleries, and tanneries, and manufac- it to the Department-that if its offi-

tories or trades which may be likely to cers have advised the course taken, become nuisances:

unusual noises in the streets and other public places: lth. To purchase, enclose, plant, lay out and adorn any public square, park, or make and ordain rules for the government and preservation thereof, and to impose penalties and punishments by fine or imprisonment, or both, for the violation or non-observance of such rules: st. To prevent the injuring or destroying of trees planted within any of the

streets or public grounds of the said 32nd. To prevent immoderate driving or riding within the City: 33rd. To establish bathing houses, and to

prevent or regulate bathing within or near the said City: 34th. To regulate and license owners o livery stables, or other owners of horses or carriages letting out the same for hire or profit, and also porters, butchers and

35. To appoint and regulate a Police Force for the said City and take up and arrest or order to be taken up and arrested, all (Continued on Fourth Page.)

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE' is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N B., every Thursday morn-ing in time for despatch by the earliest mails of It is sent to any address in Canada, the United States or Great Britain (Postage prepaid by the Publisher) for \$1.50 A YEAR, or 75 CTS. FOR 6 MOS. the money, in all cases, to accompany the order for

Advertising. The a vertisements in this paper are placed under

\$1 per square, or inch, for 1st insertion, LOCAL COLUMN, or reading matter advertisements

to give them the benefit of a large circulation in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Restigouche, Bonaventure and Gaspe, their advertisements will, on arrangements being made therefor, be taken at CONTRACT SCALE RATES.

circulation distributed among communities en gaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pur-suits, offers very superior inducements to adver-Editor 'Miramichi Advance," Chatham, N B.

Miramichi Advance.

The Bag-Net Business.

The long letter in this issue from the Inspector of Fisheries was placed in the hands of the editor on Monday afternoon just as he was on the point of leaving Chatham for Bathurst and we have not, therefore, had time to do more than glance at it, much less take it up and reply to it, Mr. Venning himself even reading the proofs. He has he even advised the editor, as a personal friend, that if he (Mr. V.) were in our place he would not publish it 44. The said Council, in addition to the because it is so damaging to the posithe time to write, nor the space to this week, but shall discuss it in our spector a position in our own columns but feeling that the important main issues cannot be lost sight of, were he markets, and to establish and regulate to even monopolise our space for weeks, and that the official mistakes made must, in the light of future investigation, be rectified, we can afford

to do him what he may consider personal justice. In reference to the subject of the bag nets we may say, however, that it is being strangely dealt with by the and manner of selling of vegetables, fruit, Inspector, the "Advocate" and a correspondent of the "News." The mention of the latter, in any newspaper excepting that in which his writings appear, imparts to him an undeserved dignity, but it is sometimes necessary for a journal to do things which may distasteful to those controlling it. The "Advocate," like the "News" does not seem to care very much about the character of the statements which appear in its columns, so long as they seem to make a point against the ADVANCE or its editor. The following is a sample of the intelligence with which this matter is

treated by our local cotemporary:-"THE BAG NET BUSINESS. - We received the following despatch yesterday after

BATHURST, Jan. 23 "ED. ADVOCATE. D. G. Smith's meeting of the smelt bagnetters in the "Wilbur House" last night terminated in admirable confusion. The sweet-sounding epithets of liar, fool, and idiot, drowned the arguments about the

smelt and spawn, and caused the meeting to adjourn sine die. Our cotemporory's interests in the matter are identical with ours and we claim that it should treat the editor of this journal differently and not endeavor to make the public believe that he was a party of such a meeting as that described in the above telegram. Those who met him in Bathurst know that he held no "meeting of bagnetters" there, but that his enquiries were made in the public room of Wilbur's Hotel, with the door open. decency in the streets or other public that gentlemen who were opposed to bag nets, as well as those in favor of them were present, that Kennedy F. hall of the hotel within hearing of all or servants, without the consent of their that was said and might have particilit is only the "black back" that is found pated in the conversation that was 16th. To prevent excessive beating or carried on, that Mr. Smith addressed no improper language to any person present and had no such language of low tippling houses frequented or addressed to him, and that the state-visited by dissolute and disorderly perment above is maliciously false and made by a person who, if he, in any sense, assume to be a gentleman, will be careful to hide his individual 19th. To restrain or suppress gambling identity from those interested. We heartily wish that we could give our readers the benefit of information we have gained at Bathurst and elsewhere ing of all exhibitions of natural or arti- in this article, but for reasons stated above we cannot do so. But we say this: that we are convinced—and a fair and honest investigation will prove it beyond a doubt-that the more pounds, and the fees to be taken facts connected with the smelt fishery with bag nets at Bathurst have been wickedly misrepresented against the general interests of that community, and the restriction of smelt fishery to the hook and line in Gloucester is unnecessary for the protection of that provide for killing such as are found so fish and unfair to the fishermen; that running at large contrary to any law or there is nothing in the physical conditions or circumstances of that har- fault bor that justifies the discrimination made between Gloucester and Northumberland in the mode of taking smelts, and no unbiassed mind can escape the conviction that the Departtions when they become nuisances, to ment has been, in some way, led to nclosed at the cost and ex- take a most impolitic and unnecessar pense of the owners, and to recover such course in the matter. We are justi-

parade, for the use of the City, and to to be used, places where they should be set and other necessary regulations should have been established, instead of the unnecessary restrictions which. being telegraphed to the local officer have resulted in paralyzing and discouraging an industry that was benefitting the community generally and even making a remunerative business for the Government Railway.

The East.

The Eastern Conference has failed in

its object of reconciling the differences between Turkey and her revolted provinces and Turkey has given notice to the latter that no extension of the armistice beyond 1st of March will be granted and if peace is not then concluded her army will march on Belgrade. It remains to be seen whether Russia will interfere should Turkey carry out its threat. The Turk does not seem to be so weak a patient as the national doctors appear to have thought, and it is a doubtful question whether Turkey cannot beat both her revolted provinces and Russia, should the necessity for doing so arise. Both powers are preparing for war.

Shippegan Mails.

Shippegan correspondents have com plained that the mails between Chatham and Shippegan and Bathurst and Shippegan, via Pokemouche, are unnecessarily delayed at the latter place, and that the Post Office Inspector promised to change the mode of their conveyance so that the detention and consequnt annovance to correspondents would be obviated. We are of opinion that the additional \$100 necessary to effect the change from three mails a week to daily mail between Pokemouche and Shippegan ought to be allowed, but it should be remembered that the Inspector is so tied down that he can only re-He has, we have no doubt, done what he could in the matter, but it is probable that his recommendation has shared the fate of that in reference to the restoration of the tri-weekly to do for pay. mail between Miramichi and Fredericton, which did not involve any additional charge on the revenues of the country. If we cannot have a change of policy in such matters we must wait patiently for a change in the office of informed us that it is very severe and | Postmaster General, when our reasonable postal requirements may be treated with more consideration at Ottawa.

Silver-Backed and Black-Backed Smelts.

We observe that an article which ap-

peared in the issue of the Advoca'e

following the Fishery Inspector's visit to Miramichi in the latter part of December is quoted somewhat by the News, Watchman and Freeman in support of the ultra-protection theories favored by those journals. Our local contemporary has been led into the error which has formed one of the great points in the Inspector's arguments, viz., that the 'silver back" is the variety of smelt now in our rivers, that they are depositing their spawn and will soon go away and give place to the "black back" variety, which, according to the same authority, does not spawn until the last of May and early in June. It is unfortunate for the interests of all concerned that, in the first place, the Inspector should fall into so serious an error, for it causes others who know that he is, generally, a good authority in such matters, to be misled in the same direction that he has been, and to assist in misleading the general public, who, like themselves, have not opportunity for making practical personal investigation. We assure our cotemporaries and also the Inspector that the "black back" smelt is now frequenting Napan and Black rivers and that shoals of the same variety-acres in extentare visiting the coves and shallow sheltered waters about the islands of he Miramichi river. These fish keep moving up the river and will take the streams where the fishermen operate, and as they leave the outer waters to ascend the tributary rivers their places will be taken by others, and so the process will be continued until the spawning season-which lasts from the middle of January to the middle of June-ends. The same is true of the "silver back" smelt in the rivers or parts of rivers. which it frequents. That variety does not disappear early in the season to give place to the "black backs." It remains in the larger and purer tidal rivers from September until the Spring of the year, and when the tides are very full it has been forced up even above the Napan Bridge, where the "black backs" have been caught in large quan-Burns, Esq., and Mr. John Seivewright | tities ever since ice made in that river. and other leading citizens were in the As the "silver back" does not go very far from the salt water at any time and in Napan, Black River, at and above Indiantown, etc., in the Spring, the error of the Inspector and the papers we have referred to, viz., that the "black back," is exclusively a Spring fish, is easily accounted for. We do not ask our Newcastle contemporary to take our authority on this point entirely, but to make investigations for itself where the fish are being caught and it will be s'atisfied that its enquiries of the 28th. 29th of last month were carried the wrong place and through the wrong person. In thus differing from the Inspector and those who have accepted his ruling on this point we desire to say that we thoroughly understand and appreciate how much greater is his knowledge of fish and fishery matters generally than that of almost any other man in the Maritime provinces, but like all other specialists of positive temperment. having taken a decided position on insufficient grounds, it is difficult for him to recede and confess that he was at

temporary had any desire, when it published the article referred to, to assist fishermen, but its picture of the destruction, at Napan and Black Rivers, of 39th. To prevent the ringing of bells, blowing of horns, shouting, and other blowing of horns, shouting a statement blowing of horns, shouting a statement blow in the smelts is the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst Har
| Sometiment themselves its late is the smelts in the smelts is the smelts in the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst Har
| Sometiment themselves its late is the smelts in the smelt in the smelts in the smelts

It is not at all probable that our co-

-unworthily in their official capacity. | sary protection, which is quite as care-Rules as to the number of bag nets fully to be avoided as overfishing. We do not blame the News, Watchman, and Freeman for not understanding this matter thoroughly, but the local papers should be better informed. When they adopt and reflect the utterances, as well as the errors of the distant city papers on local subjects they become useless special duty to guard.

How it is.

Those of our readers who are interested in the matter usually found or our fourth page will pardon us for disappointing them this week as we are obliged to devote that as well as the reading matter space on the first page to the publication of a portion of the proposed bill of incorporation for Chatham. We give up a good deal of our space also to a letter referred to elsewhere and the list of Parish and County officers appointed at the annual meeting of the Municipal Council which adjourned on Wednesday evening last. These local matters, which are out of the ordinary course of events, render it impossible for us to give that variety of news which it is generally our aim to furnish, and our readers will no doubt be equally glad with ourselves that they are disposed of.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE. - It is now definitely arranged that the Local Legislature shall meet on Thursday 8th February next-a fortnight from to-day.

MILITARY COLLEGE. -It takes five or six papers in St. John to inform those interested that "applications of Candi-'dates desiring to be examined on the '12th of March next, for admission as "Cadets to the Military College, King-"ston, will be received at Head Quar-'ters till 28th February next," but the Militia Department appears to assume that it is not necessary to advertise the We think differently, however, and therefore do at our own expense what the St. John papers are duly authorised

Letter from the Fishery Inspector.

Снатнам, Jan. 23, 1877. To the Editor of the Miramichi Advance. SIR .- I thank you for the correct manner in which you have printed my last letter. I see you have honored it with no less than three columns of Editorial remarks, in the course of which you indulge in more personalities than I think were at all necessary in discussing matters of fact, not of opinion. However, as I am a public servant, and therefore a good mark for the wit or abuse of editors as well as fishermen. I will try not to take offence nor to retort in kind, if you will allow me space in which to reply to your remarks. The public can take but little interest in any mere bandy ing of epithets, but it is vitally interested in the preservation of the splendid fisheries of this magnificent river, -the most prolific in fish of any river in the Dominion. With these few words of preface I will now confine myself to the matters of fact touched upon in your remarks, and will be as brief as I possibly can, with due regard to a clear statement of the case, and though I shall speak my convictions plainly, I will try to be as little personal as a fair reply to your remarks will admit.

In the very first sentence of your remarks you appear to show but little real knowledge of facts. I am not Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, nor have I been since February. 1875, when an Inspector was appointed for that Province.

You say you have been two years acquiring information on the subject of the fisheries of your river; I have been thirtyfive, and even after making allowance for your immensely superior ability, still you ought to allow me, in fairness, some slight acquaintance with them. You think I have a bad memory-th is touches a spot on which I am rather vain, for all m friends will tell you that I have, all through life, been very remarkable for a most retentive one. You quote a passage from my last letter, in which I submitted, that as my action in Bathurst was precisely similar to that in Napan. I could not see how my zeal got the better of me. You now say that I myself was your informante and that I said most distinctly that I had prohibited smelt fishing with bag-nets in Bathurst Harbor - " stopped it altogether." You must have most strangels misunderstood me, or drawn a most incorrect inference from what I did say. Mr Crocker asked me if bag-nets would be stopped in Bathurst. I replied, "whatever may be done in Napan, they must be stopped there altogether." Then Mr. Crocker tried to enlighten me on the subject, I declined to listen, for I had just the day previous returned from Bathurst, where I had very carefully investigated the matter. conferred with the loag-net fishers in company with the local officer, and discussed the question in all its bearings with the Messrs. Armstrong. Mr. Burns, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Molloy and other leading fish dealers of the place. I felt that I knew more about the mat ter than Mr Crocker possibly could from a short reconnoitering visit to the place, and I told Mr. Crocker very decidedly that I differed entirely from his opinion, and that if any influence of mine could stop them, it should Crocker and Overseer Wyse to attest the sul stantial correctne ss of this plain staterient. The attempt at what Artemus Ward called "sarcasum," based upon your own error. I pass over, as it does not at all affect the argument.

I am not aware that I said anything about the "pleasures" of fishing for smelts with hook and line; perhaps you will point out the passage, but you assume, (as indeed three columns) that I have not made out a go on to show most conclusively that you arities of Bathurst Harbor. [Hickson tells bulk of the smelt fishing in Bathurst was done in the Bas in formed by the confinence of Middle and Little Rivers above the Bridge which separates it from the In this basin, at low channels of the two rivers, which are very serpeutine, have, at that time, any water. As the tide rises, the ice floats, and with are caught along the edges of these chanas at Napan, in the middle of them, the simple bag-netters pretending to think they small smelts, frost fish, young bass, small flounders, etc., by bag-nets and the color it gives to the "representation of the channel, out of the middle of it, and leaving the two thirds, which the law says the color it gives to the "re asonable ap- | must be kept clear, one at each end of the prehensions" expressed at I 3athurst that net, until the officer enlightened their the continuance of seine fishing there ignorance. The large area "covered by

to convict you of utter want of correct knowledge on the subject. As these bag- Minister I will try as faithfully to carry nets were set all along the channels, and out your orders as I am now doing to carry the hook and lines can catch them only in the channels, perhaps you may now comprehend, how much chance they had, when the bag-nets were in use! So far from the smelt grounds in Bathurst being large or to the people whose interests it is their extended, they are, in reality, very restricted indeed, and the hook and line can take them in quantities quite as large as they should be taken. You think I have displayed a "misplaced and mistaken solicitude" for the poor people of Bathurst. I am very glad to inform you that in this mistaken solicitude I am joined by the Minister, who has very judiciously ordered the discontinuance of all bag-nets there. and he has done this after a most fair trial. and actual experience of their working. and this decision was not arrived at from my report alone, but from those of Overseers Hickson and Mowat, both experienced officers of many years standing in the service, and who were more familiar with our fisheries before you were born, than you will ever be in all your life, unless you take more pains to learn the truth than you appear to have done in this branch of them. As this is my honest belief I hope this plain expression of it will not offend your amour propre. You think I am a "positive man."

> should be totally unfit for my office, if I were not positive on some matters, especially on those in which I have spent years of hard work and much public money in acquiring the knowledge that should be positively known by a fishery officer. But your assertion that, because "I say a thing is so, it thereby becomes a matter on which there can be no manner of doubt," is not quite fairly put. Properly stated it is thus-"Because there can be no manner of doubt of certain things, therefore I assert them." With this slight correction, personal imputations with great good humor, because you have unconsciously drawn so correct a portrait of yourself, that not single one of your intimate friends will fail to recognize the likeness, and before I conclude they will find further proof of your cleverness in mental portrait painting. In reply to your charge of "stubbornadhering to prejudices which might have been removed by necessary enquiries

and less reliance on my own unaided judgment," I have merely to say that in this Smelt and Bass business, in order that my official reports might have more weight with the Department, I took the precaution to telegraph to Overseer Mowat, one of the oldest and most experienced officers in the service, to join me at Bathurst, and I associated with him Overseer Hickson, another old and very intelligent officer, who was in the fishery service long before was: that I called in the Messrs. Armstrong, who have been practical fishermen all their lives, and are the largest dealers in Gloucester: that I brought Overseer Mowat with me to Napan, and associated with him Overseers Hogan of Newcastle and Wyse of Chatham, both old officers, and familiar with the fisheries since their youth, the latter once one of the largest operators in your County in all kinds of fish, and it was on their reports much more than on my own, that the Minister's action was taken in the Smelt fishery, and will, I hope, be taken in that of the Bass fishery. And now, sir, permit me to say that so far from there being even the semblance of truth in your offensive personalities. I actually sought the advice and assistance of no fewer than five of the oldest and most experienced men in the whole North before venturing to give the Department my own views, and very fortunately for me, as an offset to your baseless charges, my Record in Ottawa will prove that I

have never yet reported on any one imporant question without adopting the same prudent course, and hence my Reports generally cover all the facts of the case. In this particular case, both Overseers Hickson and Mowat made their own independent Reports, and on these as well as on my own, has the Minister acted. Having stated these facts, which ought to make you feel ashamed, I pass to your next quotation from my letter. You object to the way in which I put your opinions on the smelt, and you at the question is too simple and too easily you need do is to get from Napan now a black-back" smelt with ripe spawn in it. or in May or June, a "silver-back" smelt at all. The question is so simple and so well understood by those who have even an ordinary knowledge of the subject, that I think it quite unnecessary to argue the point, but for the benefit of some few of

ng a knowledge of them .. The subject of the Bass Fishery is one of even greater importance than that of your readers who, not knowing you as well | the Smelt because the supply of this fine as I do, may put some faith in your pre- fish is limited, and because the main tentions to knowing what you are writing river from Douglastown and the North West Branch are the only waters in the about, I quote an extract from Overseer Dominion, so far as I know, where this fish in winter can be taken in such quantities as to make their export an object. This being the case, you will seer Hickson's, but which, unfortunately should be saved from speedy destruction. As you have attempted to dis-"the winter Smelts to be a distinct variety "of these fish, being both larger and in pooh, and cavalier manner. I think it important to take some trouble to show "better condition than the spring smelt, your readers that they are indisputably shape and color; these are known as true, and that as usual you convict your self of ignorance and error at every step you take, when endeavoring to write ex cathedra, on a subject you cannot postaken in Bathurst and Napan, both sibly, at present understand. As your readers may not so clearly remember doubt at all that they are a distinct the facts as we do. I will ask you to reprint them, just as I stated them, and I will attach to each one your reply, and "the sole purpose of propagating their then proceed to prove my assertion of * * * I find at Napan the spawn in the fish nearly, if not quite your utter ignorance of the whole sub-"ripe, although they are smaller in size | ject. "than those at Bathurst. This is owing "to the Bag-nets, which are here in full taken in Napan and Black Rivers from force, and will very soon exhaust the the opening of navigation to the 25th "fishery." As to the rest of your remarks May, are breeding fish-some of them about "practical Smelt fishermen" and what they can tell me about the upper and repeat what I said in my last letter. was brought up on these waters and caught

very point of doing so. There can be no particle of doubt of this fact—it is slaughtering them, were born, and your about it. All that is necessary to be West a few weeks earlier in the season, own remarks about the Napan smelt being done is simply to examine a bass taken than are taken in Napan. This, I believe, in the month of May, and the whole and merely changed in color by Jack Frost, question is settled. As you cannot now shows such lamentable ignorance of the get a May bass, it is only necessary for subject that I feel almost ashamed to refute it, so entirely unnecessary does it seem. But I will say this-Overseer Hickson is numbers on the North West, and judge from their present state of development Overseer Hogan, and myself will meet you what will be their condition four months and your "Experienced Smelt fishermen" at your office, any time you will name. and you yourself shall be judge of how much their "experience" has taught them or yourself either. You deny that Herring and Mackerel eat "Smelts." I said they feed upon the fry of smelts, which, how-

ever. I hazard nothing in saving you never

these f v, which singly are almost invisible to the naked eve, form the principal food of both Herring and Mackerel in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and its Bays at least this is the opinion of those who taken in that river with a seine. The and 9 lbs., very many weighed from 12 have spent their lifetime among them; but writer opened and carefully examined to 15, and quite a large number reached the point is not at all material to my argu- seven of the largest fish, which averaged 20 and 25 lbs. These larger ones are in need of a better informed teacher ment, I only mention it to show you that on not one single point are you informed or "read up" on the subject which you but it showed no sign of ripeness, being the five pounds weight each, and not one age has gone down to 4 and 5 lbs., or even less. At present there are 452 them, you have not pandered to these I am glad to learn that you are quite as anxious as I am that the Smelt fishery should be protected, and that you admit if

I am glad to learn that you are quite as anxious as I am that the Smelt fishery in Napan, together with our own only of which the bass lie. Now, Sir, I am sir, your obedient servant.

they should know-or knowing them of those who are clamoring for unneces- and I confess I am a little surprised at which protection is secured. This part of fact not to be disputed that the bass of honor, if you have any, to admit your courage in thus drawing upon it, when the matter is not mine. I have no power caught in Napan are not more than two- frankly that you knew very little of the you ought to have reflected how easy it is to adopt or to reject a mode. My duty is thirds the average size of those caught matter on which you have attempted to to report the facts-the Department dein the Northwest. To this I rejoin, that your own words

out these under which I am acting, for the

responsibility will then be yours not mine.

You say "that the desire on the part of

and guilelessness, has given you but little

real knowledge of them. Go with our

officers some dark night and try to pre-

vent nets being stretched completely across

a narrow part of the rivers; try to watch

and prevent drifting for salmon wherever

the water will allow this practice; try to

spear when on their spawning beds: try to

prevent fishing in the close seasons, and

see how you will like the abuse, the

showers of stones, and pistol shots fired at

you by cowardly skulkers in the woods

ordering the rivers; then you may talk

reasonable or firm treatment" or to give

us the benefit of your great experience, as

to the best mode of dealing with the

cowardly dastards! Twice last season

while on duty; and innumerable times has

Overseer Hogan been stoned, his harness

cut to pieces, and his life threatened with

knives and axes, and he has now in his

possession, and can show it you, a pistol

which was fired at his face, and only

failed in killing him because it missed him,

when he wrenched it from the would-be-

murderer! Don't talk to us about suavity

the class of men it now suits your purpose to

champion: but take my well-meant counsel

and try to educate the lambs up to a

more intelligent standard, and show them.

if such a thing be possible, that myself and

reality saving the fisheries from the inevi-

table consequences of their own greed and

You think I should have given you my

ideas on your propositions as to legalizing

bag nets and regulating the size of the

meshes. These ideas of yours were pub-

lished on the 4th inst.; before that date my

ideas and recommendations were in the

hands of the Minister. (to whom, and not

to you, it was my duty to give them,) sup-

ported by those of Overseers Mowat and

Hickson, and I urged upon the Minister

the very things you now take great credit

tive mind, "unaccustomed to the discipline

and light of "discussion on equal terms."

Truly, Sir, you are a " Daniel come to judg

ment!" "Discussion on equal terms!!"

Without intending to be at all offensive.

would just ask you, Sir. if you are really

serious, in the light of the above convic-

tions of error and want of knowledge on

posing that you and I can discuss this or

any other fishery question on equal terms?

If you are, permit me to say, without one

particle of wish to be unnecessarily personal,

that the thing is impossible. With every re-

spect for your talent and ability, to which

I am quite willing to bear testimony, when

you handle a subject you understand. I

feel compelled to say in all frankness and

in kindness, you do not understand this subject at all.—It is quite impossible that

you should do so in two summers' stay un

North. Your very limited acquaintance

with it enables you only to theorize, and

that very badly, as I have shown you thus

far, and will still more conclusively prove

ere I close. This may seem like arrogance

on my part, but I assure you, Sir, I

would gladly learn from you, or from the

humblest individual, but when all your

utterances are opposed not only to my

own positive knowledge, but to that of

our oldest and most experienced officers,

I have stated above, long before you drew

breath. I cannot forbear saving that-on

the subject of the fisheries of New Bruns-

wick. I can learn nothing from you, and

that I should be quite unfit for the office I

hold if such a thing were possible, with

your very limited opportunities of acquir-

-perhaps you can make the appli

and kindness until you know something o

confute you. You opened five fish and not one contained ova. The reason was as I stated, the fish had spawned, because, had they not done so, the spawn would have been in them. Well, having just spawned, they were spent fish, and very poor food as I said. Four males contained milt, a certain proof the adoption by an Inspector of harsh or you display such woeful ignorance of my duties as Inspector, that I have no words | that the Napan fish are in the very act | your own ipse dixit:to express my admiration of your audacity. of procreation, which is just what I Surely you ought to know that I have no said. To convince you, it such a thing power to "adopt means" either harsh or is possible with so "positive" a man as otherwise; these "means" are adopted by wiser heads than mine, and my duty is taken this morning from fish weighing between 4 and 5 lbs. caught last night by the Department are carried out. Your in the North West. Now just examine be in on the opening of navigation. public officers will always command the espect of the people, and that fishermen | You pretend to know so much about it. must be very extensive indeed, and no enced Bass fishermen from Napan, and doubt fully qualifies you to give advice to us hear their opinion on the a poor devil like me, that lacks this experience, but I think I see the poor, innoent, simple-minded fishermen of the Miramichi, whose only object, according to their own story and yours is to fish according to the law, chuckle and wink at each guide him, than whom there does not these two reasons:other, when they read your ingenious exist in Canada a man better informed excuses for them! I, and the officers on on this subject. this river know to our cost, that your experience of two years in talking with these men occasionally, and being completely gulled by their assumption of innocence

Second Fact .- The Bass caught in Napan in the Spring are those that have escaped the terrible overfishing pursued n the North West and main river during the previous winter These fish go there to feed on the first run of "black back" smelts that enter Napan and Black Rivers on the breaking up of the All the Napan people know this, and the fact is mentioned in all their prevent their wholesale destruction by the petitions on the subject. The fish do keep the nets up during Sunday; try to not winter there, do not spawn there, and are seldom in the river except at the time the spring smelts come. All this is so easily proved that I think it unnecessary to dwell further upon it.

Reply to "second fact."-- We admit that the bass caught in Napan in the have done this, and learned something in a practical way of your fishermen, don't | Spring have not previously been caught Northwest in the winter.

I thank you for this reply. If your readers wanted any further proof than you had already given them of your unfairness as a reasoner, the above reply furnishes it. A mere contemptible quibble in a vain attempt to argue a grave and important subject may comport with your ideas of smartness, but, sir, it is a sorry way of educating your ignorant fishermen. Look, now, what is involved in this Second Fact as I have stated it above. Beyond all possibility of cavil, the North West Bass are spawning about the 24th May, at which date you said these Napan fish were got, now, sir, I suppose you will hardly contend that there are two species of striped bass in the officers, in enforcing wise laws, are in the Miramichi: well, then, as you cannot resort to this subterfuge, and as you admit the bass do not winter in Napan, it follows that again you have convicted yourself not only of ignorance, but of a oor attempt to be "smart" at the expense of your honesty.

> Third Fact.—The taking of this fish in any way at that time and in their condition, is not only destroying a very poor food fish, but all its progeny, upon which depends the very existence of the needs no further proof

for suggesting to me! There is an old trite Reply to "third fact" :- If the fish saving-"teach your grandmother to snuff taken in Napan in May were "mature fish" as mentioned by the Inspector You think I have marred my under head of "first fact," they would former letter by highly colored pictures of be very poor food fish, and their capconsequences that are to follow the present mode of pursuing the fisheries on the ture and destruction would be as "ter-Miramichi, and you think they "partake a rible" as that which the Inspector says little too strongly of the theories of a posiis carried on in the Northwest and Main River, but from our reply to "first act" the Inspector ought to be convinced that his premises are not entire-

And this you consider argument! You presume too much upon the ignorance of your readers when you dole out every point you have ventured on, in supto them such childish stuff as this, and call it a Reply. As I have shown them that in your attempt at a Reply to my first fact you have only more clearly proved it, I think they will admit that this Reply once again convicts you, out of you own mouth, of pitiable ignorance and unbounded audacity.

Fourth Fact .- In addition to the nature parent fish and all their progeny thus destroyed while in the very act of procreation, the seines then used destroy very large quantities of young Bass, too small for market, and wholly valueess to a commercial fish. This, no Napan man can honestly deny.

Now, in view of these four most true and indisputable facts, I appeal to your common sense whether these fish ought to be taken at all during their spawning time, and whether seines should be allowed at any time in this fishery.

the power of the Department to regu- as being caught, found their market in escape through them.

to show your readers that even of so simple a practical matter as drawing a seine, you are totally ignorant, and every fisherman, who has read the above reply must be quite convinced that you never in your life saw a seine hauled for any kind of fish, or if you did, your powers of observation are very limited. If you had and your eyes were open, it is quite impossible that you could seriously have written the above. Any man on the river, any fishery officer. your near neighbor Overseer Wyse, had you taken the slight trouble to ask him. would have told you, that as a matter of absolute necessity, from the very nature of the action, the large fish get into the bunt of the seine, and pressing against the meshes in a compact mass, totally bar the escape of great numbers of smaller fish and they would tell you that a 6 inch mesh seine, when full of large Bass in the bunt, will take a half advance our fishery interests, but his pound Bass, a small trout or even a modes are faulty and his temperment an smelt, and that, in drawing the mass unfortunate one for a man in his imto shore they get tumbled about and killed, and that the only practicable way to prevent the destruction of young fish in the Napan river is to prohibit seines altogether, and to prevent the destruction of breeding fish, is to prohibit Bass fishing there in the Spring. You admit, for a wonder, that spawning Bass are taken in Napan in the month having deposited their spawn and milt of May, because you know the fact. and consequently then in very poor | Well, this admission is fatal to all the condition, and all the rest being on the rest of your argument.

I am really pleased to be able to agree with you in one thing, and that is, that easily verified - there is no mystery more breeding fish are taken in the North and I have always regretted that the close season commences so late and had I the power you think I have, it would not be so. But surely this is no reason female Bass now being taken in great why the evil should be increased, by still further extending the open season for the exclusive benefit of some score (not more) of your Napan friends. After the 1st of March not a bass should be Reply to "first fact" :- On the 24th | taken in the Miramichi, and from that May 1875, when the question of extend- date until the following October, the ing the season for bass fishing in the close time should be rigidly enforced, if lower Miramichi waters was being dis- you hope to save the fishery from ruin. cussed, the writer, accompanied by one | Already the average weight has become of the best angling sportsmen of the very small. When I was a younger man, Miramichi, proceeded to Napan and and before the "terrible over-fishing" brought to Chatham about twenty bass had grown to its present proportions, out of a hundred or more which were the average weight of bass was about 8 left to the fishermen themselves its fate is experience, therefore, lead us to the con- here are Overseers Wyse, Hogan and

enlighten me and your readers. Respecting the destruction of Bass caused by seining for Gaspereaux, you prudently refrain from saving more than the Department should make every effort to visit such offences with such punishment as would make their practice very unprofitable." Here again your wonderful ignorance of this subject shows itself. But, you at last conthat they had not yet milted, thus prov- descend for the first time to ask me a ing incontestibly, by your own showing question, instead of peremptorily giving

"Do we understand the Inspector to mean that because some rascally fishermen will not let bass go when they are yourself, here are the roes of two bass, caught in their gaspereaux seines out of season, the gaspereaux fishery with seines ought to be stopped!" and mirabile dictu, you really admit that you them, and tell me what state they will have not yet "crammed" for this part of my letter, for you say:-" We are just bring along your old and experi- just yet, and only ask for information."

What part of the subject von are "well up on," I have thus far failed to matter. I sent two similar ones and a see, but I will answer your question a whole Bass by mail last week to the very plainly. Most unequivocally then, Minister. He can judge quite as well I reply,-All gaspereaux fishing with as you or your Napan folks, and he will seines should at once be entirely prohave the assistance of Mr. Whitcher to hibited in the Miramichi rier for

First, because this species is already nearly exhausted, compared with what it was when I was a boy living on the river, and solely in consequence of excessive over fishing. Gaspereaux do not spawn in rapidly running water, but invariably make their way to still lakes for that purpose. Miramichi Lake, at the head waters of the Southwest branch about 125 miles above Chatham, was formerly the great resort of this species for that purpose. You can readily understand how few must reach this distant point, when every settler from the railroad bridge to that point, along a course of 100 miles, has his bit of net out while they are moving, and more than that, the people of East Glassville, in Carleton Co., and all the settlers on the head waters above the forks now resort to the stream that empties Miramichi Lake for Gaspereaux, and I much fear that in this sparsely settled place where the only two fishery officers reside miles distant, nets are set quite across the stream to kill the remnant that is left. Overseer Cameron and the Messrs. Fairley will tell you that when they were boys this Lake could almost literally be walked across on the backs of gaspereaux, so numerous were they then in the river and lake, but that now very few reach it, and every middle aged man on the river will bear witness to their rapidly decreasing numbers .-Thus, Sir, you will see, that if this species is thus overfished at both ends of your river, at their spawning time, they must soon cease to exist in its waters. Come, now, Mr. Editor, confess for once that you did not know all this, and that the much despised Inspector does know something of his

Second, because it is absolutely impossible to prevent the seines killing spawning bass and young bass and grilse, at that time. They get killed in the process of hauling, and not one in ten can be put back alive, and even if they could, they would be caught again and again, as long as seines were used. In no other river in this Province, or in species in the river. This, I think, Nova Scotia, so far as I am aware, are gaspereaux allowed to be fished with a seine. The common sense of the people would not allow it for an instant, but your fishermen lose all their common sense in their great greed and cupidity, and I only regret that you are sustain-

Gathering courage as you advance in

your blundering, you have the temerity

ing them in their stupid folly.

to charge me with " making a statement at variance with the facts, as they are known by hundreds of persons best acquainted with them." I now again advisedly state that over 9 tons of Bass, all of them spawning fish or those that had spawned, were taken in Napan river and Black river last spring from the opening of navigation to the 25th May. Of course I know what the returns were, because they were first sent to me, as Inspector, and by me to the Department at Ottawa; but then I know further-what you do not know or if you do you choose, for the sake of "making the worse appear the better reason" not to tell your readers-that not one man in Napan made an honest statement, but all gave short returns to evade the paltry tax of one tenth of a cent per lb. on their catch. And bring before you Overseer Wyse, who collected the tax as witness to the statement. In his official letter to me dated 12th June 1876, he says:-" I can safely say 80,000 lbs. of Bass were taken, and of that quantity 70,000 lbs were seined. And I bring Overseer John Hogan, whose name is a synonym for honesty and truthfulness wherever he is known. Reply to "fourth fact":- The size of | to testify that to the best of his knowthe mesh of seines being entirely within | ledge and belief the 6th tons you admit late, the "very large quantities of young | Chatham, Douglastown, Nelson, Newbass too small for the market "ought to castle, and Bathurst. So that, if Messrs. Loggie or Morrison really did freeze the Still again, sir, it becomes my duty most of 61 tons, it proves two things:-1st that much over 9 tons were taken as I stated. 2nd, that these gentlemen did a most dishonest thing if they put upon the markets of the U.S. spent and spawning fish, pretending that they were in good condition as food, and is the same dreadful slaughter is allowed this coming Spring, I shall consider it my duty to send circulars to all the leading fish dealers of my acquaintance. and I know most all of them personally. in Boston and New York, to be on

> After this expose of your knowledge of the whole subject, I now leave your readers to judge with what grace the following comes from your facile pen:-"We have said enough to show that the Inspector is not happy in his judgment of what he so positively puts down as facts. We believe that he desires to

their guard against any further such

dishonest dealings.

portant office." In conclusion I beg to say that I fully agree with you in only one more remark in your whole labored reply to my letter, and in that remark I cordially concur, and say with you, "I see nothing to be gained by anything short of plain statements of facts and the administration of such advice to both as we may be able to give, with a view of securing

'the greatest good to the greatest pos-But, sir, before you are in a position to make this plain statement or to give this advice, believe me when I say something more than mere "cramming" for an occasion is requisite. More mental and

physical work than you have ever yet devoted to the study of our fisheries is absolutely necessary to enable you to understand their needs, and to qualify you to counsel those who are blindly destroying them. In conclusion you must permit me to say, that as an officer who tolerably well understands his business, I shall consider it my duty to expose your

ignorance on this subject just as often as you give it form and pressure in such a shape as you have hitherto done. shall do this without aparticle of ill feeling, but I shall do it in language as vigorous as I can command within the bounds of legitimate argument, in order to counteract, as far as possible, the erroneous ideas such ignorance is calculated to diffuse among a class sadly

I am, sir, your obedient servant. W. H. VENNING.

Insp. of Fisheries, N. B.