

The value of land in the centre of the City of London is \$2,000,000 per acre! One acre would content us.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.—Plenty of these exhibitions are to be witnessed in the grog shops about town. Chairs and tables move about sometimes very briskly—the other night a decanter flew at a man's head. Wonderful, ain't it?

A misister asked a negro if he could read. "Yes, massa, a little," said he.

"Do you ever use the Bible?" inquired his reverence.

"Yes, massa, I strop my razor on it sometimes," replied Coffee, with a broad grin.

PARTY ZEAL IN A SURGEON.—A curious instance of the height of party zeal in England during elections, is reported in the English papers. A zealous party man who got his head cut in a row, went to a medical man of the opposite party for assistance, who sewed up the wound. When the man departed, the physician turned round and said—"It was not necessary to sew up that wound; a bit of adhesive plaster would do as well; but we must make these fellows feel a bit."

PURGATORY VS. MATRIMONY.—By the way, the "ghost of the departed" reminds us of Joe Kelley's ghost coming to his wife.

"Molly," says he, "I'm in purgatory at this present."

"And what sort of a place is it?" says she?

"Faith! it's a sort of half-way house between you and heaven," says Joe, "but I stand it mighty asy after leaving you."

Here is a singular combination. Let the reader determine what shall be the author's punishment. We say stoned to death with pean-uts.

Of all the P's in Johnson's dictionary, Pe-tard, Pe-ruse, Pe-ruke, Pe-titionary, Pea-cock, Pe-culiar, Pe-dant, and Penal, Pe-remptory, Pe-nates, and Pe-tal; Pe-cuniary, Pe-riphery, and perish; Pe-rennial, Pe-trescent, and Pee-vish; The P I most approve of all the group, Is Pea, the son of Pod, the sire of Soup.

CONFAB.—*Dutchman*—"Coot moryer Patrick, how you tuz?"

Irishman—"Good mornin till ye Mike—think we will get any rain the day?"

Dutchman—"I guess not—ve never has much rain in a very dry dime."

Irishman—"Faith an ye're right there, Mike; and thin whenever it gets in the way o' rainin' the divil a bit o' dary wither will we git as long as the wet spell howlds."

Mrs. Jenkins was in the habit of saying "I say," to almost every sentence to which she gave utterance. On one occasion she rung the bell for her footman, and on his entering, she said:—"I say, James, I have been to Mrs. Thompson's, and heard say that you said that I am in the habit of saying 'I say' to every word I say. Now, if I do say 'I say' to every word I say, it does not become you to say that I say 'I say' to every word I say, James."

In the last number of Harper's Magazine the engraver has represented Mount Sinai, while Moses is giving the law to the Israelites, as enclosed by a post and rail fence! and in the cut of the Angels feeding Elijah, the cakes are represented as baking on a modern griddle! This is equal to the old Dutch painters representing the centurions watching the sepulchre of Christ, as armed with muskets; and their display of shaven monks praying at the foot of the cross, at the scene of the Crucifixion.

TAKING IT COOLY.—A gentleman residing in a village not many miles from Exeter, finding that the diminution of his wood-pile continued after his fires were out, lay awake one night, in order to obtain, if possible, some clue to the mystery. At an hour when "all honest folks should be in bed," hearing an operator at work in the yard, he cautiously raised his chamber window, and saw a lazy brother endeavoring to get some on his wheelbarrow.

"You're a pretty fellow," said the owner, "to come here and steal my wood while I sleep."

"Yes," replied the thief, "and I suppose you would stay up there and see me break my back with lifting, before you'd offer to come down and help me."

From the *Miramichi Gleaner*.

Our North American Fisheries.

Nearly eight years have now elapsed since Mercator, through the medium of the Colonial Magazine, endeavored to awaken his fellow-countrymen—but more especially the Colonial Officials in Downing street—to the importance of our North American Fisheries. At that period, our information was obtained in some measure from statistical data, and parties practically acquainted with and deeply interested in that important branch of British and Colonial industry. Now we can speak from personal observation, and boldly grapple the question, not as theorists or mere observers, but as practical workers and an interested party.

In 1845 we left our Fatherland to take the management of a large Fishing Establishment, and have now resided upwards of seven years in the District of Gaspe. This District includes the Counties of Bonaventure and Gaspe, presenting a sea-board of about 300 miles, that is from Restigouche at the head of the Bay Chaleurs to Cape Chat in the river St. Lawrence, with a population according to the last Census, of about 22,000 souls, two-thirds of whom, if not three-fourths, depend mainly on the Fisheries as a means of subsistence. We are therefore deeply, aye vitally interested in the Fishery question, which has roused a portion of the Press of the United States to a state of excitement bordering on frenzy.

With no small degree of interest have we perused that passage in the speech of our Most Gracious Sovereign, wherein allusion is made to the difficulties which have arisen. The conclusion is as follows:—"The friendly spirit in which the question has been treated, induces me to hope that the ultimate result may be a mutually beneficial extension and improvement of our Commercial Intercourse with that great Republic." Earl Donoughmore as the mover of the address in the House of Lords, after entering into some important details, is reported by the Times to have concluded that portion of his speech with the following remarks—"that there was reason now to hope that the Government of the United States was disposed to negotiate cordially on the point, and that great and important commercial advantages would be gained to our North American Colonies, by the settlement of the question." There is a something in both these quotations which we fear bodes no good to our Fisheries. For years past, we, the N. American Colonists, have complained that our rights were invaded, but to no purpose. Our repeated applications for protection were treated with contempt. We use the word contempt advisedly, being borne out in our assertions by the very words of her Majesty, who is made to say "that frequent and well founded complaints on the part of the North American Colonies, &c." Mark, well founded! If well founded, why were they not attended to; why were we left unprotected; why were we not maintained in our just rights? Because it has been the fashion in the Colonial Office to neglect the best interests of those whose welfare they were appointed to watch over. Whig and Tory Administrations have been alike. Did not the present Premier, when Colonial Minister in 1845, concede to the Americans the right of fishing in the Bay of Fundy, and was he not on the point of making further concessions, but for the timely remonstrance of parties at home? Our grievances are not here repeated, with the view of damaging the fair fame of the Earl of Derby, or from political feeling, but for the purpose of proving our oft repeated assertions in the Colonial Magazine, that the present constitution of the Colonial Office is prejudicial to the best interests of our vast Colonial Possessions; not only prejudicial but eminently and practically adverse to our welfare and prosperity. We then spoke as an interested party, because we were connected with the Colonial Trade—Now we speak as Colonists, having pitched our tent on the shores of British North America, as Canadians.

If, however, the Earl of Derby when entrusted with the Colonial Portfolio, committed an error in the case above alluded to; his recent conduct as regards the Fisheries entitles him to the warm and grateful thanks of all British N. America. He has done his duty nobly. All

that we now ask, is a continuation of the protection so opportunely afforded us. Let no concessions be made to Americans or others, and he will ever be looked upon as the greatest benefactor we have had among British Statesmen.

We are ignorant of the nature of the negotiations now pending between the two Governments, relative to this important question; but we trust that our Ministers will insist on a rigid adherence to the strict interpretation of the Treaty. That compact was ratified by the Mother Country, on behalf and for the benefit of her Colonial subjects. It gave us certain rights and privileges, which ought to be considered as sacred as those given to any member of Her Majesty's Government, to enjoy the paternal Estates by virtue of his Title Deeds.

Free Trade we are told by the American Journals, is the great boon to be offered for unrestricted access to our fishing grounds.—Give us Free trade in its most extended and unfettered shape, and we in return will give you the free navigation of all our inland waters, of our noble St. Lawrence, which we consider will not only be an equivalent but far more important to the commerce of the United States, than the advantages these colonies can derive from free trade. Free Trade in exchange for our Fisheries would be tantamount to selling our birth-rights for a mess of pottage.

We protest against any concessions being made as regards our fisheries, not only as Colonists but as Englishmen. Our isolation in this oasis, our absence from the land of our birth, has not weakened our affection for Old England, or made us feel less interested in the national welfare. We glory in her proud name of Ocean Queen. The hour that gave us birth saw her mistress of the sea, and we trust we shall not live to see her shorn of any of her dearly purchased laurels. But we unhesitatingly affirm that the conceding to foreigners the right to fish in our Bays, and along our Shores, would be a great national calamity, and the first step towards the ultimate loss of our Ocean supremacy. There is not a finer nursery for seamen than the fisheries, home or colonial. Any decrease in their prosecution must therefore reduce the number of British Seamen, and tend to cripple our right arm. On the other hand, any concession made to the United States will add to their Maritime resources. What but the supineness of the Home Government has caused such an increase in the American fishing fleet which prowls upon our shores each succeeding summer. Enforce the strict observance of the Treaty, and in less than three years their number will decrease one third at least. In a political point of view, England has therefore a direct interest in insisting upon and maintaining the present state of things. In a commercial one, she has much to lose, without even the shadow of an equivalent. Let the reader cast his eye on the map of British North America. You have the Colony of Newfoundland in the first place, with a population of 96,500 souls, wholly dependent on the fisheries for their support, curtail their already too scanty means of subsistence, and you spread desolation throughout the length and breadth of the Island; a few years will suffice to depopulate it more effectively than by cholera or any other pestilence. Cripple the resources of Newfoundland, and you will inflict a direct and lasting injury on all the Sister Colonies. Ask the Merchants of Halifax if they would suffer; look at the exports of flour, pork and lumber from Canada; lumber from New Brunswick, oats, peas, potatoes, &c., from all parts, and then consider how we should stand affected. Turn from Newfoundland to the Island of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy—follow the southern shores of New Brunswick—thence round Nova Scotia and Cape Breton—the eastern coast of New Brunswick, the Bay Chaleurs, Gaspe and the South-shore of the Saint Lawrence as far as Kamouraska—Prince Edward and the Magdalen Islands—the coast of Labrador—mark the numerous Bays and Inlets—consider this vast seaboard, think of a population along the entire coast, mainly depending on the ocean for its means of subsistence, and then reflect on the injury England

must inevitably sustain if we are deprived of our only resource. This is not all.—Upper Canada is as deeply interested in the prosperity of the Fisheries as ourselves. The fishermen along the entire line of Coast, described above, are her best customers; this district alone, consumes at least £25,000 to £30,000 of Upper Canadian produce yearly. Look at the vast amount of capital invested, the number of ships engaged in the import and export trade—Home, Foreign, Colonial, Coastways. The consumption of British manufactures, of West India produce. Sum all these up, and then consider what England has at stake.—This is no trifling question, either for us or the Mother Country. 'Tis one of life or death, of ruin or prosperity.

No British Colonial Minister has, or ever has had, the most distant idea of the vast importance of our Fisheries, either in a political or commercial point of view. This we admit, is a bold assertion, a sweeping and serious charge against so many talented and eminent British Statesmen. But facts are stubborn things, and we assert that of which their own acts convict them. If aware of their importance, why neglect them? If our oft reiterated complaints were well founded, why turn a deaf ear to them? Why has Foreign aggression been not only allowed, but virtually countenanced?—What right we ask, had Lord Derby, in 1845, to concede to the Americans, the right of fishing in the Bay of Fundy, and this, in direct opposition to the remonstrances of the Colonists. The wording of the Treaty is so plain, that any school boy can understand it. We think we have made good our assertions, but if any should presume to tell us that all this has not arisen from ignorance of facts, then we shall have recourse to a far more serious charge.

The Americans themselves admit, that they cannot prosecute the Mackerel Fishery to advantage, if the Treaty is rigidly enforced.—Why? Because the vast shoals of that valuable fish, which visit our shores each successive year, enter the Bays to spawn, and keep within three miles of the shore. We have heard it observed by the master of an American schooner, that the people of the Bay Chaleurs need not go to California for gold, the produce of the deep was to them an equivalent.

The small Island of Jersey has about 100 sail of Shipping engaged in the North American Fisheries. It is we believe generally considered that the two firms of Messrs. Robin & Nicollet afford daily employment to one thousand hands each, besides the immense number of planters, and others wholly dependent on them; to these add the important firms of De Quetteville, Janvrin, and Le Bontellier & Brothers. Besides some twenty other Houses, either wholly or partially engaged therein. We have no means in this retired spot, of ascertaining the real amount of capital invested, but a rough calculation convinces us, that Jersey alone has upwards of half a million, if not a million of money at stake in these fisheries.

Let Lord Derby then beware how he trifles with such a question. The Statesmen of the Empire Republic are as crafty as their Merchants, and will strive hard to outcalculate His Lordship. Let no important step be taken in this matter, no definite arrangement be concluded, until the various Colonial Legislatures have been consulted. We have an undoubted right not only to be heard, but no Colonial Minister can be justified in alienating one iota of our patrimony or our privileges without our approbation and consent. 'Tis high time that our Colonial Office should imbibe the spirit of Reform, and that something like justice and plain common sense should regulate its dictums.—It is a complete farce to suppose that any man however talented, is competent to rule our vast Colonial Empire. It would require years of close study and practical experience to enable any Minister however apt, or of superior abilities, to become conversant with the history, the wants, capabilities and resources of the mighty whole. This we believe no sensible man will attempt to gainsay. How then can it be otherwise, than that endless blunders are committed, when a Colonial minister has scarcely time to become thoroughly conversant with the routine