

not sleep that night; the morning was lovely, and I walked out, but the light seemed to come through the narrow grating of a prison. I wandered along through Oxford Street, it was Easter Monday. I felt myself wholly destitute; I was like a sailor tossed about on an unknown and shoreless ocean—I could not find a spot for a hope to rest upon. I looked behind, and I saw famine and death; I looked before, and I beheld an advertisement in the Morning Herald, and—the Mendicity Society. I would have perished before I submitted to either. If I had a hundred-thousand pounds a-year, I would not subscribe a shilling to such societies:—virtuous misery will make no application to them; their benevolence is like the tender mercy of the nurses in the plague, who stilled their patients in order to put an end to their sufferings. I have heard that intense mental anguish has been known to produce sudden death; if the saying were true, I must have died. I had wandered on until I found myself in Hyde Park;—I sat down on a seat near the circle, and looked around me; it was a splendid exhibition of earth's magnificence. Merciful Heaven! I exclaimed, as the multitudes passed by, the price of one of those chairs would save me from—; I could not conclude the sentence. I was rising to depart, when I perceived at a little distance from the throng, a fellow-student of mine at the University, with whom I had been very intimate. There is no convulsion of the mind more terrible than the struggle of pride with filial affection; I could have endured any pain rather than the degradation of making a petition; but my mother and sister, pale and homeless, arose to my memory, and I accosted him: I stifled every emotion, I stooped to supplication, I asked him for money! He was rejoiced to meet me—he was sorry his account was over-drawn—he refused me. The next morning I found his name mentioned in the papers as the purchaser of a celebrated racer for three thousand guineas! The tempter was with me in that hour, it was only for a moment; and I trembled and shrunk back—my heart was looking at me. The day went by, and I could not procure the money. I will not attempt to delineate my sensations as I walked along the narrow streets to my humble dwelling, the evening was dark and foggy; the black mist and the red light in the sky, and a few dim-lamps, made an awful picture. I reached my home weary and exhausted; my sister met me on the landing-place: I knew directly from the paleness of her face that something fearful had come to pass. My first question on my return had always been respecting my mother; she had been very unwell in the morning, but the excitement produced by the events of the day had brought on paralysis, and she lay upon her death-bed. The mistress of the house had neglected to procure a surgeon, and my sister was afraid to leave the bed-side. I scarcely understood the purport of her last words—my blood stood still. O my God! I cried, as I rushed down stairs. In our days of prosperity we had been known to a physician of eminence near Saville Row, and, though I was then in my infancy, I had frequently heard my parents mention his name. I had no means of obtaining a coach, and as I ran along Oxford Street, I was obliged to press my hand firmly against my side by reason of excessive pain. When I came to that part of Regent Street fronting New Burlington Street, I was detained by a crowd of people and carriages; my blood rushed into my head, as I dashed here and there to find a crossing: I have often wondered that I did not fall in a fit of apoplexy. The faces around me were quiet and apparently happy; I heard voices behind me, and laughter and thoughts of coming delight, and at the same moment I turned round and I saw a face which bore a striking resemblance to my mother's. The thought was fire to me, and I flung myself almost beneath the wheels of a cabriolet, as I sprang across the street. Mr. Mornington was out of town. I had one resource yet remaining—a gentleman in Russell Square, who attended me during an illness—I wish I might testify his excellence more openly—he was at home, and he came with me immediately. We entered my mother's bed-room together; it was poorly furnished, and a rush-light, which my sister held in her hand, cast a sickly brightness over the soiled dimity of the curtains. My mother lay quite motionless, with one arm covering her eyes. I took her hand in mine, but it returned no pressure, it was very cold: I called upon her—she answered not—I had no mother! She appeared to have been dead more than half an hour. I did not weep a tear, but I folded my arm around my sister's neck, and we knelt down by the bed-side. O my ever-loved, my unforgotten! I have built up for myself a tomb in my memories of thee, and I sit in it as among the damp and chilly clouds of earth which rattled upon thy coffin; and sometimes in my hours of dreaminess and alienation from the world, I feel thy hand parting the hair upon my forehead, now burning and worn with a deep furrow, and thy footstep falls on my ear, and thy form passes phantom-like before me, like the moonlight creeping through the foldings of the shroud upon thy cheek, as thou didst lie upon that old and tattered bed, sleeping thy last slumber.

I had no way of raising money for my mother's funeral, save by my own labor. For a sum, small in comparison with the intensity of my efforts, I agreed to furnish a number of papers to a publisher in the city. It was the price of blood, but the proceeds enabled me to procure a respectable burial for my parent.

I have erected a small monument to her memory in the church-yard of Old St. Pancras Church, where I was christened,

## AMERICA.

### COLONIAL.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE. FOR THE YEAR, 1831.

The Committee of Trade, on resigning their charge beg to offer the following report of the proceedings that have more particularly come under their consideration, since their appointment:—

The Committee of the preceding year had various communications with his Excellency Sir James Kempt, respecting the fees and the emoluments of the Judge and other officers of the Court of Vice Admiralty, and were informed that instructions had been received to appoint Commissioners to enquire into the practice of that Court, but that in consequence of funds not having been appropriated to defray the expense of the Commission, he could not proceed therein, and as the abuses that have so long furnished such just grounds of complaint to the mercantile community, remained unchanged. The Committee presented a memorial in

March last, on the subject, to his Excellency Lord Aylmer, praying that he would be pleased to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation of money for the purpose of carrying into effect the instructions of His Majesty's Government, and received in reply a letter from the Civil Secretary, stating that no answer having been received to the last communication addressed to the Colonial Department by Sir James Kempt, his Lordship did not at that time consider it expedient to recommend the prayer set forth in the petition. The Committee therefore, recommend to their successors continued exertions to obtain the appointment of this Commission, and to consider how far the disastrous and ruinous delay and difficulties of the present system could be removed, by the introduction of an Act, similar to one now in operation in England, of 59 Geo. III. Cap. 58, entitled 'An Act for the facilitating the recovery of the wages of seamen in the Merchant service.'

The Committee are happy to state, that the order of the Lords of the Treasury requiring payment of duties to be made in British silver only, so much complained of by their predecessors has been suspended until further directions from their Lordships. And that while on this subject they consider it their duty to state the beneficial results arising from the order from His Excellency Lord Aylmer, to receive half dollars in payment for these duties.

It had for many years been the wish of the Mercantile body here, that an agent should be appointed to watch over the Commercial interests of the Province at the seat of the Imperial Government, but from want of necessary funds no such appointment took place until last December, when a measure of vital interest and paramount importance to the whole North American Colonies, was, with very little notice, brought forward in Parliament, by the present Ministry, which, had it been carried, would have entailed ruin on thousands on this side the Atlantic, and materially have affected the great shipping interest in the Mother Country. Taking this into consideration, together with the vacillating policy that has of late years been so manifest in all regulations respecting Colonial intercourse—the Committee resolved on appointing an agent, and in conjunction with the Board of Trade in Montreal, were most fortunate in the nomination of H. Bliss, Esquire, of the Inner Temple, London, with whom they have since been in active correspondence, and whose great industry, unremitting exertions, and talented writings, have called forth the highest encomiums and have been of essential service in the late arduous struggle.

To Mr. Gould and Mr. Bainbridge, much also is due, and the Committee trust that their successors will make known to these Gentlemen the value set on their exertions. The Committee notice with lively satisfaction the organization of the North American Colonial Association in London, and recommend that it be furnished with such statistical and other information as suggested in the communications from Mr. Bliss.

As the advantages derivable from having such an agent as Mr. Bliss, are so evident and as the commercial interests of the Colony are so inseparable from its general prosperity, the Committee think a successful application might be made to the Legislature, praying for an annual grant of money for the payment of his salary, which at present is defrayed by private subscription.

The Collector of his Majesty's Customs, (whose polite attention at all times, the Committee have much pleasure in noticing,) acquainted the Board in June, of the receipt of the Act. I. Will. Cap. 24, entitled 'An Act to amend an act of the 6th year of His late Majesty, and to regulate the trade of the British possessions abroad,' from which they anticipate much benefit to the Trade.

The Committee were most anxious that Messrs. Stuart and Black, should prepare such a draft of a Bankrupt Law as would be beneficially felt—but from pressure of business these gentlemen could not give it that consideration it required, and the Committee would call the attention of their successors to a measure so imperatively wanted.

The Committee have great satisfaction in noticing the improvements in the internal navigation of the Province both above and below Quebec, and it is highly gratifying for them to give their humble praises to the Provincial Parliament for their liberal grants, to render the navigation of the River more safe and easy, by the erection of numerous Light Houses.

The establishment of the steam navigation between this Port and Halifax, and the increased number of Steamboats on the St. Lawrence, are among the numerous proofs of the prosperity of these Colonies, and the Committee cannot conclude their report without noticing the progressive and striking increase of the Trade, as evinced by the following Tables, viz:—

	VESSELS.	TONNAGE	EMIGRANTS
1827	602	152,764	16,862
1828	701	183,141	12,697
1829	863	234,301	13,357
1830	857	225,138	24,391
1831	962	249,125	19,062

QUEBEC. J. LEATCRAFT, Chairman.

ST. ANDREWS.—HIGH TIDE.—On Tuesday last, the tide rose higher in Saint Andrews' Bay, than has been known for many years. Immense quantities of drift wood were deposited on the banks, far out of the reach of ordinary tides, in the rear of the Town.—The Wharves in this Harbour, were nearly all covered with water, and several of the Cellars have been inundated. We have not heard, however, of any material damage having been sustained.

FIRE!—Through the extreme carelessness of the Debtors confined in the St. Andrews' Gaol, the floor of the room in which they were, was, on Friday evening last, ignited by the heat from the Stove,—after some little difficulty the Fire was subdued.

The American Brig Nelson, from N. York, now lying at the Wharf of John Wilson, Esq. was on Saturday evening last, discovered to be on Fire, by one of H. M. Tide-Waiters of this Port, who immediately called for assistance, and the fire, after consuming the Camboose and doing some little further damage, was subdued. It originated through the carelessness of the Cook, in leaving a fire in the Stove without taking the necessary precautions to have it properly secured.

ST. JOHN.—SNOW.—On Sunday night, and yesterday morning, we had a slight fall of snow, the first for the season in this quarter. It has been again snowing all this morning, and promises to afford us our favorite amusement of sleighing for a few days. The weather, however yet continues mild, and the river free from ice.

The gale of Tuesday last extended as far south as New York, where it was very violent for some time, accompanied with thunder, hail and snow. At Boston, Salem, Portland, &c. it was also severe; the tide rising to a greater height than recollected for many years, by which bridges, wharves, stores &c. were much injured. Several buildings and a vessel or two are stated to have been struck by lightning during the day.

The high tides last week, it appears have done considerable damage in the neighbourhood of Muquash. We take the following from the Courier:—We are sorry to learn that at Muquash, about 15 miles from this city, nearly all the Dykes on the Marshes were carried away by the extraordinary rise of the water. Much loss and inconvenience will accrue to the farmers there from this circumstance, as they will have to rebuild them at a season when their labours in the field cannot well be dispensed with.—Accounts from other places on the Bay Shore, we fear will be equally disastrous.

HALIFAX.—A letter dated Bridgetown Nov. 19, informs us that two persons have been apprehended and examined, and await their trial, for wilfully setting fire to the store of the late Mr Ruggles, Granville. This incendiaryism was supposed to be connected with electioneering party spirit, the arrests, it appears, proves that there was no foundation for the suspicion.

QUEBEC.—We have been very politely favoured with a copy of the Canada Revenue Act which was sanctioned on the 22d Sept. and brought by the 1st October packet. The following is the enacting clause:—

'That it shall and may be lawful for the Legislative Councils and Assemblies of the said Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada respectively, by any Acts to be by them from Time to Time passed, and assented to by his Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, or on his or their behalf, to appropriate, in such Manner, and to such Purposes as to them respectively shall seem meet, all the Monies that shall hereafter arise by or be produced from the said Duties except so much of such Monies as shall be necessarily defrayed for the Charges of raising, collecting, levying, recovering, answering, paying and accounting for the same.'

## ORIGINAL.

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLEANER.

SIR,

My emigration from the mother country, having taken place at that early period of life, when patriotic feelings first begin to kindle in the human breast, I have long been a resident in this sylvan country—long loved its laws, and prayed for its prosperity. O! has my bosom glowed with rapture, while retracing, on 'the page of memory,' the past stages of its advancement. The narrow serpentine track, that barely marked the travellers course along the verge of the Miramichi, has been superseded by the finest highways; for the unpartitioned hut, and lowly cot, have been substituted the comfortable home and stately dwelling. Where once the untaught savage sought his accustomed game, now repair throngs of Christians to houses of prayer.

The introduction of Steam Navigation, I hailed as a most propitious era in the history of this infant section of New-Brunswick, and flattered myself that this 'modern spur' to commerce, would accelerate its progress to a state of improvement, and on this subject, Mr Editor, I solicit your indulgence, while I hastily retrace the career of the Royal William, Steam ship, in reference to this river. While 'every hope was on the wing,' and 'expectation ran high,' respecting the ultimate benefits that might happily attend a speculation, the features of whose prospectus bore every semblance of a praiseworthy adventure. It was generally reckoned that a struggle would take place between her and the small coasting vessels; little fear, however, had been entertained, but that her anticipated speed and regularity, together with the moderation of her charges, would soon triumph over her less aspiring competitors. Why then have not these anticipations been verified, either by the success or failure of such a struggle? While at this port thousands of barrels, and scores of passengers, have been landing from Quebec and Halifax, I would ask, why has the Royal William been passing our wharves in want of both; as if the splashing of her paddles, and the smoke of her furnace, she could forever bedim the vigilant eye of an interested public. In place of encouraging and fostering a spirit of mutual