

curiosity of an inhabitant of the mother country; and in accordance with the tenor of this observation it will not be improper to acquaint an Englishman that our lumbermen when engaged in their arduous enterprise, have roads to cut through the forest before the timber can be drawn to the nearest river, and which is attended with one of the heaviest charges which he has to encounter. It is not however requisite to construct a turnpike highway, nor to make his road any wider than just sufficient to admit the passage of his sledge, to which the tree hewed square, is attached, and drawn by his four or six oxen, yoked in the most primitive manner abreast. These roads, which are in fact, but paths, about eight feet in width, seldom extend a greater distance than three miles, except in situations where any source of heavy expense may be avoided, and the consequent saving will admit of an increased charge in the draught teams.

The root of a tree is often so different in its texture and general qualities from the substance of its kindred stock, that it may be offered as objectionable to insist on the good quality of the timber from the superiority of the root. Accurately to determine this point, without further enquiry, I acknowledge my incompetency; but I beg leave to urge, that if the rule to which I have alluded is at all applicable, the extreme durability of the roots and stumps of the White Pine over other kinds, will be an unanswerable proof of that of the timber in moist situations; for nothing is better known to our settlers, that Pine stumps will endure an age.

It has been alleged at the bar of the House of Commons—nay, even almost proved—that this timber is peculiarly liable to the dry rot; less durable than that of the Baltic countries; deficient of strength and tenacity; and on the whole, a very inferior quality of wood. What I have stated, will probably afford a solution to some part of the difficulty with which we have to contend; for we cannot deny the fact, that the trees found in moist situations, and on rocky declivities, produce a very inferior quality of timber, and in the course of hewing which, however great the ingenuity exerted by the workmen in producing the piece entirely free from rotten or cankered portions, yet the wood, despite their skill, must contain the principles of advanced decay. These Pines, before they attain the size necessary for timber adapted to the British market, have attained their maturity, and manifest premature age; decay is visible throughout the whole outside of the tree, and no art, capable as it is of concealing defects from the most practised eyes, can restore to the wood, if in such situations it ever possessed it, the strength and soundness of early vigour. The square timber made from this growth of Pine, is generally (but not always) small and short, and the necessity of furnishing different sizes for the convenience of stowage, creates a complete mixture of good and bad qualities in each cargo. Portions of these were of course indiscriminately selected for the experiments and examinations of Sir Robert Seppings, and others, and our timber in consequence—but certainly we are unable to allege from design—has scarcely received a fair trial.

When I commenced my labours, I distinctly stated, that my time and my finances precluded all attempts at instituting a regular course of experiments on the comparative strength of our timber; but the measure is of the last importance to us in a national point of view, by means of which the real quality of the wood which has suffered so great a depreciation, and absolutely too, without our having alleged a single particular on proof, in our own behalf, should be properly investigated. We are now on the eve of a crisis in our mercantile affairs, and we must not attempt to deceive the penetrating eyes of our physician: the truth—the naked, plain, unvarnished truth, must be told. We are being weighed in a balance—and the most trifling disadvantageous particular, thrown into the opposite scale, would cause our own to kick the beam. The days of mystery and free-masonry in matters of trade and commerce; and monopolies of every description, tremble before the blast of public opinion. We have not, as has been hinted, to raise our voice in thunder, nor to utter the language of puerile complaint; the event with which we are threatened, has originated in our own weakness and neglect, and none but ourselves are obnoxious to censure. It is our interest now—even at the eleventh hour—to convince the British public—not by words or

threats—but by uncontrovertible experiments—that they are labouring under a delusion in regard to the GENERAL bad quality of our principal production—at least with respect to its strength—and one very serious obstacle will be thereby removed. We shall be compelled to resort to a better mode of assortment, more in unison with the practice of the Baltic ports, and reduce the expenses incurred in the shipment. We shall have unhesitatingly to shew that we have different qualities of timber, and to keep the good separated from the inferior. In short, the whole trade must be put upon altogether a different footing, more assimilated to that of the Baltic states. Truth and candour will also compel us unequivocally to acknowledge, that our stock of standing timber is rapidly decreasing; and this scarcity naturally brings into the market large supplies of a very inferior article, produced by the necessity for re-examining groves for trees, which former workmen refused altogether to look at. This affords a subject for alarming consideration, as it goes to prove, to mathematical demonstration, that our timber trade is in a rapidly progressive state of deterioration.

W.

Miramichi, 1st October, 1831.

I am delighted to receive the assistance of VIATOR, and I congratulate the public on the prospect of acquiring so much information. In any application which I may make to others for co-operation, I seldom heed whether the compliance be made with the manner of a fawning spaniel, or the snarl of an English mastiff.

W.

"He that steals my purse steals trash, but he that filches from me my good name, deprives me of a pearl of great price."

Free quotation.

To all whom these presents may come, health, long life and reformation—

Altho' not particularly addicted to fun and frolic, I would for a day or two have cheerfully borne the loss of my SIGN BOARD, without either complaining of the inconvenience it would occasion, or uttering one reproach against the Amateur Thieves, who have so unceremoniously helped themselves to it; but as several dark nights have elapsed without its restoration, I cannot refrain from telling those who abstracted it, whoever they may be, that in all conscience, they have carried the joke far enough. Resting on the veracity of the trite and familiar adage that there is honor among Thieves, I am induced to believe that the gilded record of my name, will one of these mornings be again the glittering object of my sight.

Should their Signships restore my Signboard, the restitution will be a sign, that in their Quixotic larceny they neither intended the plunder of my purse, or the repudiation of my name, but were merely influenced by an irresistible desire to exhibit a farce at which I would have willingly performed the part of Clown.

C * * *

Chatham, October 4.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:

TUESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 4, 1831.

To the kindness of Mr Copp, we are indebted for the London Globe and Traveller, of the evening of the 15th August, from which we have copied a variety of interesting and important matter. The Halifax papers contain London dates to two days later, received at that place via Newfoundland. The following paragraphs contain all the intelligence of moment, which we were not previously in possession of.—

Rumours of a schism in the Cabinet have been current within the last few days. The British Traveller of Wednesday says:—

"We have heard from authority upon which we can place reliance, that a very serious difference has arisen in the Cabinet respecting Ireland, which it is feared will lead to the breaking up of the present Government. We understand that Mr Stanley and Lord Melbourne were for calling out the Yeomanry, and coercive measures to tranquilize Ireland; but the noble Premier

and the Lord Chancellor opposed the proposition with considerable warmth."

The Standard of the same day describes the schism as 'very serious,' and adds that the misunderstanding is not confined to foreign, but is especially serious as to domestic policy. The Courier does not give any direct answer to these paragraphs.

At a Public meeting, convened by the High Sheriff of the County of Northumberland, at a requisition of a number of the Merchants and other Inhabitants of the said County, held at the Court House in Newcastle, on Saturday the first day of October instant.

Mr. John Harkins, Deputy Sheriff (in absence of the High Sheriff, who was prevented by indisposition from presiding) in the chair.

On motion of Alex. Rankin, Esq. seconded by William Abrams, Esq.

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting views with alarm the extensive Reserves lately made of the best Timber Country in this and the neighbouring County of Gloucester; being well convinced that such exclusive privileges will be productive of serious evils, by placing the whole Trade and Resources of this section of the Province under the controul of a few individuals, to the great injury of all not immediately connected with them, and that such Reserves must tend materially to retard the growth and settlement of this part of the Country.

On motion of James D. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Alex. Fraser, Junior.

Resolved unanimously, that a committee of Five be appointed to prepare forthwith, sign, and forward an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and His Majesty's Council, praying that this very important matter may be investigated, and that such measures may be adopted as will most speedily remove this grievance, and effectually put an end to so prencious a system. And

Resolved, that James D. Fraser, Alex. Rankin, John M. Johnson, and Henry B. Allison, Esqrs., and Mr. William Loch, be the Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. Gilbert Henderson, Jun. seconded by Henry B. Allison, Esq.

Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Miramichi Gleaner and the Royal Gazette.

JOHN HARKINS, CHAIRMAN.

The Deputy Sheriff having left the Chair,

On motion of James D. Fraser, Esq. seconded by John M. Johnson, Esq.

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Harkins for his able conduct in the chair.

WILLIAM LOCH, SECRETARY.

Miramichi, 1st October 1831.

A Coroner's Inquest was held on Sunday last, on the body of David Cassidy, a labouring man, who unfortunately fell overboard on the previous evening, in endeavouring to get into a boat from the bark Janus, lying in the stream. He has left a wife and large family, in very destitute circumstances.

A man was unfortunately drowned on Wednesday last, nearly opposite the ship yard of W. Abrams, Esq. by the upsetting of a canoe. There were three other persons in the canoe at the time, who were providentially saved.

The Supreme Court commenced its sittings on the 20th ult. and terminated its labours on Saturday last. William Augan and Richard Hians, were tried and found guilty of the assault on the seamen belonging to the bark Relief. The former was sentenced to be imprisoned for one month, and the latter for twelve months.

We have been requested by Mr John Hea, to acknowledge with gratitude, the receipt of a blank letter, which reached him yesterday morning, through the medium of the Post Office, in which was enclosed ten shillings in Provincial notes, accompanied with some remarks which we decline inserting.

The Royal William, Steamer, left here this morning for Quebec, at 8 o'clock.