

ORIGINAL.

REMARKS ON COLONIAL POLICY.

Continued.

INDEPENDENTLY of the claims wherewith the principles of natural justice and affection invest these Colonies, Great Britain is bound in honour to cherish and support them. In 1807, immediately after the battle of Friedland, when Buonaparte, by the secret treaty of Tilsit, dictated peace to half of Europe, and excluded us from the Baltic, the North American Colonies became our *dernier resort*. Of little use to us then were either the firs of Riga, or the pines of Norway; not so, however, the forests of America, of which some English Journalists know so little, that when speaking of the *Boundary Question*, they appraised them below a farthing an acre.

But Government thought otherwise, when they could not elsewhere get a studding sail boom, or a spritsail yard for their navy. Then were our forests valuable because they were indispensable; then did Mr Percival who was Premier at the time, by the most flattering promises, and assurances of protection, induce a great number of persons to leave home, and embark all their capital in the manufacture and exportation of timber. In 1809, the timber trade of the Colonies was secured beyond the risk of foreign competition by Acts of Parliament;—if that protection be now withdrawn, what reliance can be placed in future, either on the faith of the minister, or the honor of the nation.

In the exigencies of the British Empire did the Colonial timber trade originate; and from the increasing necessities of that Empire, sprung its progress and extension. Shall one Ministry then, to gratify caprice, destroy what another created, to supply an emergency? Is it possible that any government would be so extravagantly foolish, to risk the happiness and integrity of their own Colonies, upon the result of an experiment, or the solution of a problem.

The Colonies may be considered the out posts of our empire, and while they are secure, the citadel is safe: or by an equally natural metaphor, they may be compared to the scions of a primitive tree, from which, if they be severed by violence, they will undoubtedly abstract a portion of its strength.

With a perseverance which obstacles only strengthened, and a gallantry, that opposition but inflamed, did England contend during the last war. For twenty years she led the van, and occupied the breach: twenty years did she grapple with a man, who strewed kingdoms at his feet; and had kings for his captives. Who can count the millions we expended, or gauge the blood we shed during this protracted war? For what did we tax our industry? depopulate our homes? and impair our resources? Was it to obtain a name? No. That we possessed before the Corsican war; and although we had not, we would hardly have been so foolish as to have paid so dearly for the equivalent. Was it to build up the thrones of the Continent; or to restore the CAPETS to an elevation they have since forfeited by their tyranny? No. We did all, and endured all, to preserve the political equilibrium of Europe, and to retain our own ascendancy, by securing our foreign possessions. Shall we now, after having cherished them from infancy into adolescence; after having lavished money to improve them, and blood to protect them, suffer them to revert into original insignificance. Are we so fond of theory as to risk our greatness on the result of a contingency? Will we sacrifice our Colonies at the threshold of expediency, or seal up their resources, to give an expansion to foreign energies.

Have we become so fond of contrast, that we would fain erect cities in Siberia, towns on the Vistula, settlements in the snows of Poland and Norway, and depopulate our own Colonies, destroy our plantations, and dismantle our ships.

In a season of such extensive agitation, we should be extremely cautious in our Colonial policy; we should scrupulously weigh the value, and measure the importance of all our dependencies; we should count the political advantages; reckon the ships, and add up the thousands the Americans have acquired by our theories. We should survey the neighbouring Republic; examine its position, investigate its principles, and recollect its views. We know that the Americans are both crafty and ambitious; that they are our natural enemies; that

they would fain rival us on our own element; and that should these Colonies fall into their possession, they would become the greatest maritime nation in the world.

This the most sceptical will hardly question, when it is considered that the St. Lawrence is one of the most magnificent rivers in the world; that the Canadas are an almost innumerable tract of rich fertile land, irrigated by mediterranean seas, intersected by numerous lakes and rivers, and bathed by splendid canals, upon which £930,000 have been already expended.

Nova Scotia comprises about 17,000 square miles; the soil is good, containing a variety of minerals, and other natural productions. Coal is very abundant, and is considered the best found in America. Iron, copper, and other ores, have also been discovered, and in some instances, worked to considerable extent. Lime stone and gypsum are very common, and in such great demand in the States, that if a direct shipment of them were allowed, a very lucrative trade might be opened.

New Brunswick embraces about 23,000 square miles the soil is good, the climate healthy, and the whole face of the country vicinally seamed with rivers, lakes, and streams. As but a small part of this extensive province, is under cultivation, the natural resources of the interior are very imperfectly known. The intrusion, however, of some of them in different parts of the country, may afford us a tolerably correct idea of their character and extent. A good description of Coal, Granite, Slate, Free stone, and Argillaceous earths are very abundant; and specimens of Lime stone, Iron, Lead, and Copper ore have obtruded upon us.

These Colonies, moreover, possess a valuable and extensive sea board, which, as well as the bays, harbours, and rivers, that indent it, contain a rich and an inexhaustible fishery. On the river *Ristigouche* alone, probably 5,000 barrels of salmon, might have been taken this year, and under favour of the same qualifying phrase, we might assert that six times that quantity of Alewives could have been taken in the *Miramichi*.

It should also be remembered, that through much expense and anxiety, have we made them what they are; that they are every day improving; that their population, which but forty years ago was only 215,000 is now above 1,500,000; and that they will continue to improve, and develop new resources, if they be not fettered by experimental policy.

Great Britain should not think meanly of her North American Colonies; they are an integral part of that vast family of which she is the parent, and should be the protectress. If they be kindly and judiciously treated, they will be of the most signal service to her. Of rich, but uncultivated lands, they contain twenty millions of acres, and these she may by a well digested plan of emigration, convert into a safety valve for the ejection of her surplus people. This measure, so much more humane and feasible, than the Malthusian phantasies, would enlarge her actual territory—extend her influence—strengthen the barrier between her and an aspiring rival—and in no small degree attenuate her dropsical pauperism.

It should be duly remembered that the above twenty millions of acres, are thickly wooded with assorted lumber; that this lumber must be cut down, and the land disencumbered of it, previously to its cultivation; that in the manufacture and sale of lumber, consists the principal trade of the country; and that both greatly facilitate the eventual settlement of it. It should also be admitted, in our estimate of the Colonies, that every inhabitant in them is a consumer of British manufactures, and a payer of British taxes.

The Fisheries of these Colonies, are the richest and most extensive in the world, and if commensurately encouraged, would extend her commerce, enable her to controul the carrying trade, conduce to her naval ascendancy, and help to man her fleet with volunteers.

In short, view them in whatever light we please, they are of the most essential importance to a maritime nation: and how our estimate of their value should be affected by the proximity of the United States, and the remarkable circumstances, that that country has comparatively neither mines, minerals, nor fisheries, and is extremely anxious to obtain them, we leave the Ministry to determine.

They are, moreover, a part and parcel of that invincible strength which resisted the power, and baffled the

intrigues of Napoleon. "You cannot contend with England," said Talleyrand, "while she retains her Colonies, but deprive her of them, and you fill up her last ditch, and pull down her last wall." In vain did the haughty Emperor contend with the Queen of an hundred kingdoms; not all his power, nor the craftiness of his minister, nor the collective force of the "Great Nation," could fill the trench our Colonies excavated, or dismantle the fortress they created.

MAY the designs of others never be achieved by ourselves; MAY no impolicy ever effect what subtlety could not devise, or force accomplish. England has adopted us, and we are proud of the affiliation; she has watched over us with solicitude, and we have sworn to uphold her maternity. MAY alien swords never reach her frontier; MAY domestic broils never reach her bosom. Immoveable be her throne; invincible her strength. In prosperity MAY she be humble; and in the day of travail MAY she have patience to endure adversity, and energy to overcome it.

MR. PIERCE,

SIR,

I was much surprised to see in your paper of date the 26th ult. mention made of my having held an Inquest on the body of a man, who had leapt into the river from the wharf of A Davidson, Esq. in Nelson. In fact I thought no Inquest had been held, until the other day happening to meet an acquaintance from Nelson, upon putting the question to him, he said that an Inquest had been held there; that a boat with two men in it had put off to go across the river for me, but that they were stopped by the JUDGE, who sent an express all the way down to Chatham, [six or seven miles further, I for the Diamond. Bad luck to him, says he, if that's all the good he can do, he'd as well taken a leap after the man; but I understand, Sir, the Diamond and he are in partnership in the concern, and share equally.—There's a wheel within a wheel.

I had no doubt that the Diamond was sharp enough to cast up his black, snaggy tusks to snatch at any garbage the other might throw at him, but I was likewise of the opinion that he had too great a regard for the stuff, to let him go snags.

Be so good as give this a place in your next Gleaner, that I may thereby be enabled to return my hearty thanks to my good friends in Nelson for their kind attention; and to exhort them when another casualty occurs in the district, to exert themselves in forwarding speedy intimation to me, so as to disappoint the SHARK of his prey;—and not to heed the blustering of Squire Bluff, who had about as much right to interfere in the matter, and the man I' the moon.

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant
JAMES WRIGHT.

Newcastle, 6th August, 1831.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:

TUESDAY MORNING AUGUST 9, 1831.

The Courier arrived with the Southern Mail on Sunday at 7 o'clock, A. M.

We are at length enabled to lay before our readers something new from Europe.

By the arrival of the Bainbridge at Halifax, the Editors at that place were put in possession of London papers to the 14th June, on which day Parliament was to have met. Immediately after the usual preliminaries of opening a new House, it was expected the Reform Bill would be introduced, with several modifications.

The intelligence from Ireland is of a truly distressing nature. Sickness and famine, were making frightful ravages in several parts of this unhappy country,—in the county of Mayo, alone, 150,000 persons were in a state of starvation.

The Poles, after a series of successful skirmishes with the Russians, had suffered a defeat in a general engagement, into which they had unavoidably been drawn on the 28th May. The battle was warmly contested by the Poles, notwithstanding the overwhelming force of their opponents, and the loss on both sides was represented as very great.

The Congress of Belgium, by a majority of 108, had elected Prince Leopold, King of that country, but as they insist upon holding Luxemburg and Limburg, in opposition to the remonstrances of the allied powers, it was feared the Prince would decline the proffered Kingship.

The Insurrection in Turkey has been suppressed by the vigorous measures of the Sultan; the rebellious Pachas had been beaten in several engagements, and were obliged to seek safety in flight.