

# The Gleaner

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME V.]

*Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster villior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

[No. 22.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, 1834.

At a General Sessions of the Peace of our Lord the King, held at Newcastle in and for the County of Northumberland, on Tuesday, the Twenty-Seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord 1833.

Ordered, that the following Rules be established for regulating the Bass Fishery in the several Rivers in the County of Northumberland. viz:

1. That no person or persons be allowed to spear Bass during the time or Season of spawning.
2. That no person or persons be allowed to spear, net, or take Bass between Sunset on Saturday night and Sunrise on Monday morning, at any time during the winter season, or while the rivers or streams are frozen.
3. That any person cutting a hole or holes in the ice for the purpose of fishing, shall set six evergreen bushes firmly in the ice round each hole, at equal distances, not less than ten feet high, with the branches and leaves on, so as to be plainly and readily seen, and secure the same so that they will remain standing, at all times while the said hole or holes continue open, or the ice thereon unsafe.
4. That any person or persons cutting a hole in the ice, for the purpose of fishing, shall not be interrupted by any other person cutting a hole for the like purpose within the distance of thirty fathoms of the hole first cut as aforesaid.
5. That no set nets shall be allowed, set, put down, for the purpose of taking Bass, during the winter season, or while the Rivers remain frozen.
6. That any person infringing or violating any of the foregoing rules, shall be liable to the penalty of three pounds for each and every offence, to be recovered and applied according to Law.

Extract from the Minutes.

(Signed) THOMAS H. PETERS, CLERK.

## NOTICE.

The subscribers intending to make an alteration in their Business, offer for sale all their REAL ESTATE situate in the town of Chatham, consisting of the Store and Wharf at present occupied by them; the Dwelling House in the occupation of John Joseph; the Office adjoining, in possession of William Carman, Esq.; the Dwelling House and Wharf, in the lower part of Chatham, occupied by Michael Samuel; and a Lot of Land fronting St. John's Church. Also, a Lot of Land and Store, in the town of Newcastle, and a Lot of Land, situate on the South-West branch of the Miramichi, now in the occupation of the Widow Cowden. The above properties are too well known to need any further description. The terms will be liberal, and made known on application to either of the subscribers.

They also offer for Sale, all their Stock of Merchandise, &c. at reduced prices for cash, or approved Credit.

As they are desirous of bringing their business to a close, they particularly request all persons to whom they are indebted to present their claims for adjustment, and all persons indebted to them are requested to make immediate payment, as all accounts remaining unpaid on the 1st day of July next, will be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection.

1000 bushels of OATS on Sale.

JOHN JOSEPH,  
MICHAEL SAMUEL.

Chatham, January 20, 1834.

## WHITE'S HOTEL.

JAMES WHITE returns his sincere thanks to the Inhabitants of Miramichi, and the Public generally, for the liberal support they have afforded him during fifteen years residence in Chatham.

He begs leave to intimate, that he has fitted up his house in the most convenient manner, for the accommodation of those who may favour him with their custom. Every attention paid to the TRAVELLER: Dinners and Suppers prepared at the shortest notice, with wines and other liquors of the best quality, at moderate charges. Good STABLING, a Hostler being in constant attendance.

Good Saddle Horses, Gigs and Sleighs to Let on moderate terms.

Chatham, 20th January, 1834.

## BREWERY

The Subscriber's BREWERY is now in full operation where good strong Ale, Porter, Table Beer, &c. may be had on reasonable terms, in quantities to suit purchasers.

The Subscriber intends carrying on the WHEEL WRIGHT business, in its different branches, comprising, Carts, Waggon, Gigs, Sleighs, Ploughs, and all other articles of Husbandry; which will be of the first quality, always having on hand a supply of best American White Oak, and seasoned hard wood of other denominations; he will furnish on reasonable terms. He will take Barley, and other country produce in barter.

Miramichi, February 26.

GAVIN RAINNIE.

## THE GLEANER.

Useful and Entertaining Knowledge.

### LIBRARIES FOR WORKING MEN.

It affords us great pleasure to observe, that, in several towns and villages the mechanic and labourer may now obtain useful and amusing books to read upon the payment of a very small subscription. Such institutions we have no doubt will become generally established. A "Public Library" of this open nature has been recently founded for the use of the people of Windsor and Eton; and Sir John Herschel who unites to profound scientific attainments an ardent desire for the general diffusion of knowledge, is president of the institution. In the discharge of the duties of that office, he read an address to the subscribers of the library on the 29th January last, which has just been published. This little tract is remarkable for its liberal and manly spirit, and its sound sense. In the conviction that they will be agreeable to the author that his benevolent views of the important subject of education should be widely disseminated, we should venture to quote somewhat largely from this address.

After noticing the immense national importance of endeavouring to enforce the standard of moral and intellectual culture in the mass of the people, the president of the Windsor and Eton Public Library adverts to the regulations by which the books are accessible to the humbler classes. It appears that in this establishment there are two rates of subscription,—the one admitting the subscriber to a reading room, furnished with newspapers and periodical works, and entitling him to the loan of the standard works of the library,—the other throwing open the library only to a humbler class. This is, no doubt, a judicious arrangement. Sir John Herschel regrets that the use of the library is not altogether gratuitous for certain readers. Of the prudence of such a plan we have considerable doubts. Experience has undeniably shown, that what is given away is often little prized by those who receive it; and, besides this, the payment of even a penny a week to a library makes the working man feel as independent as the wealthier subscriber. While his mind is being elevated by the process of acquiring knowledge, it must not be degraded by the feeling that others are paying for the means of improvement.

It has always appeared to us that those who have little leisure for reading, and whose hour of leisure is often an hour of weariness, must be principally attracted to a book by the desire of amusement, Sir John Herschel, has put this point so forcibly that we cannot refrain from giving his argument entire:—

"There is a want too much lost sight of in our estimate of the privations of the humbler classes, though it is one of the most incessantly craving of all our wants, and is actually the impeding power which, in the vast majority of cases, urges men into vice and crime,—it is the want of amusement. It is in vain to declaim against it. Equally with any other principle of our nature, it calls for its natural indulgence, and cannot be permanently debarred from it, without soaring the temper, and spoiling the character. Like the indulgence of all other appetites, it only requires to be kept within due bounds, and turned upon innocent or beneficial objects, to become a spring of happiness, but gratified to a certain moderate extent it must be, in the case of every man, if we desire him to be either a useful, active, or contented member of society. Now I would ask, what provision do we find for the cheap and innocent and daily amusements of the mass of the labouring population of this country? What sort of resources have they to call upon the cheerfulness of their spirits, and chase away the cloud from their brow after the fatigue of a hard day's work, or the stupefying monotony of some sedentary occupation? Why, really, very little—I hardly like to assume the appearance of a wish to rip up grievances by saying how little. The pleasant field walk and the village green are becoming rarer and rarer every year. Music and dancing (the more's the pity) have become so closely associated with ideas of riot and debauchery, among the less cultivated classes, that a taste for them for their own sakes can hardly be said to exist; and before they can be recommended as innocent or safe amusements, a very great change of ideas must take place. The beer shop and the public house, it is true, are always open, and always full, but it is not by these institutions that the cause of moral and intellectual culture is advanced. The truth is, that under the pressure of a continually condensing population, the habits of the city have crept into the village—the demands of agriculture have become sterner and more imperious; and while hardly a foot of ground is left uncultivated and unappropriated, there is positively no space left for many of the cheerful amusements of rural life. Now, since this appears to be unavoidable, and as it is physically impossible that the amusements of a condensed population should continue to be those of a scattered one, it behoves us strongly to consider of some substitutes. But perhaps it may appear to some almost preposterous to enter on the question.

Why, the very name of a labourer has something about it which amusement seems out of character. Labour is work; amusement is play; and though it has passed into a proverb that one without the other will make a dull boy, we seem to altogether have lost sight of a thing equally obvious—that a community of "dull boys," in this sense, is only another word for a society of ignorant, headlong, and ferocious men.

"I hold it therefore, to be a matter of very great consequence, independent of the kindness of the thing, that those who are at their ease in the world should look about and be at some pains to furnish available means of harmless gratification to the industrious and well-disposed classes, who are worse provided for than themselves in every respect, but who, on that very account, are prepared to prize more highly every accession of true enjoyment, and who really want it more. To do so is to hold out a bonus for the withdrawal of a man from mischief in his idle hours—it is to break that tie which binds many a one to evil associates and brutal habits—the want of something better to amuse him,—by actually making his abstinence become its own reward.

"Now, if all the amusements which possibly can be imagined for a hard-working man, after his daily toil, or in its intervals, there is nothing like reading an entertaining book, supposing him to have a taste for it, and supposing him to have the book to read. It calls for no bodily exertion, of which he has had enough or too much. It relieves his home of its dullness and sameness, which, in nine cases out of ten, is what drives him out to the ale-house, to his own ruin and his family's. It transports him into a livelier, and graver, and more diversified and interesting scene; and while he enjoys himself there, he may forget the evils of the present moment, fully as much as if he were ever so drunk, with the great advantage of finding himself the next day with his money in his pocket, or at least laid out in real necessities and comforts for himself and his family,—and without a headache. Nay, it accompanies him to his next day's work, and if the book he has been reading be anything above the very idlest and slightest, gives him something to think of besides the mere mechanical drudgery of his every day occupation,—something he can enjoy while absent, and look forward with pleasure to return to.

"But supposing him to have been fortunate in the choice of his book, and to have alighted upon one really good and of good class. What a source of domestic enjoyment is laid open? What a bond of family union! He may read it aloud, and make his wife read it, or his eldest boy or girl, or pass it round from hand to hand. All have his benefit of it—all contribute to the gratification of the rest, and a feeling of common interest and pleasure is excited. Nothing unites people like companionship in intellectual enjoyment. It does more, it gives them mutual respect, and to each among them self-respect—that corner stone of all virtue. It furnishes to each the master-key by which he may avail himself of his privilege as an intellectual being, to

"Enter the sacred temple of his breast,

And gaze and wander there a ravished guest;

Wander through all the glories of his mind,

Gaze upon all the treasures he shall find."

And while thus leading him to look within his own bosom for the ultimate sources of his happiness, warns him at the same time to be cautious how he defiles and desecrates that inward and most glorious of temples."

The best sorts of reading to be provided for the humbler classes are pointed out by Sir John Herschel with great felicity. We are well pleased to have so excellent an authority in support of the principle which we have endeavoured to bear in mind, that no distinctions ought to have been made between the reading for one class of the community, and the reading for another class. The patronizing condescending style in which the working people are to be addressed is, we trust worn out. Pernicious thoughts, expressed in the clearest language,—this is the best definition of a good style, whether for the rich or for the poor. The address before us puts the point very forcibly:—

"If then we would generate a taste for reading, we must as our only chance of success, begin by pleasing. And what is more, this must be not only the ostensible, but the real object of the works we offer. The listlessness and want of sympathy with which most of the works written expressly for circulation among the labouring classes are read by them, if read at all, arises mainly from this,—that the story told, or the lively or friendly style assumed, is manifestly and palpably only a cloak for the instruction intended to be conveyed,—a sort of gilding of what they cannot well help fancying must be a pill, when they see so much and such obvious pains taken to wrap it up.

"But try it on the other tack. Furnish them liberally with books not written expressly for them as a class—but published for their betters (as the phrase is) and those the best of their kind. You will soon find that they have the same feelings to be interested by the varieties of fortune and incident,—the same discernment to perceive the shades of character,—the same relish for striking contrasts of good and evil in moral conduct, and the same irresistible propensity to take the good side—