

or three separate governments, each of which had at times a different judge, and sometimes fell separately under the arm of some powerful enemy. The instances of generous patriotism, of bravery, and of devout confidence in the God of their fathers, which are shown in the acts of several of the judges, render the record of their history one of the most interesting and romantic in the earth. Yet they were often reduced to the greatest distress. 'Because of the Midianites,' it is said, 'the Children of Israel made them dens in the mountains, caves, and strongholds; and when Israel had sown, the people of the east came up against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till they left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass—for they came up as grasshoppers for multitude; and the Children of Israel cried to the Lord.' From these calamities they were at times delivered by the devotion of some pastoral soldier among their tribes. Their songs of rejoicing on such occasions still more pathetically tell the disturbed state of the country, and present the troubles of its inhabitants for three hundred years (before Christ 1427 to 112), while they formed a republic under their judges; but it is also a picture of the whole earth at that period: the Hebrews only bore a share of calamities, which fell much more severely upon others, in an age when regular government was unknown. It says much for this people, that in the midst of such a scene of unrest, they continued still to cultivate letters. The beautiful simplicity of the narratives given concerning the heroes of their country is not to be equalled in any other remains of antiquity.

The epoch of kings succeeded that of judges. The reign of Saul, their first monarch, though the people were stronger by being united, was gloomy and troubled. David, who succeeded, was a soldier and a conqueror. He rendered the Hebrews formidable to the whole of their enemies, and gave them a regular and defensive position, expelling their old antagonists from every part of the country. He left an empire peaceful, respected, and strong; and, what was of as much importance, he selected from among his sons a successor who was able to improve all these advantages, and to add to the progress which his countrymen had already made in prosperity. Under Solomon, the name of the Hebrew government being able to protect its subjects in other countries, the people and their king began to employ themselves in commerce. Their trade was at first engrafted on that of Tyre, a people speaking a similar language with themselves, and like them, too (though certainly to a smaller degree), acquainted with the art of writing. The commerce of the time of Solomon is the only portion of that part of the history of the Jews which is noticed in sacred writ, but there is no reason to suppose that after his day it was discontinued. It was, perhaps, no longer a matter of state; but the wealth of the country (which exposed it to continual pillage), and the number of prosperous Hebrews who were found in all parts of the earth (it would be idle to say that these were all brought away as captives), render it probable that, from the splendid reign of this monarch they always continued to be addicted to commerce. It is indeed likely that they had been so before his reign; and that Solomon merely took commerce under the protection of the state; for there is no instance on record of any monarch all at once, and successfully, creating a national trade. However this may be, a greater contrast cannot be imagined than between the troubles of the time of the judges (only one hundred years before), and the peace, security, and enjoyment of this reign. 'And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones; and cedars made he to be as sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance; and Judah and Israel were many; as the sand which is by the sea-shore for multitude, eating, and drinking, and making merry.' The riches lavished upon the temple, which was erected in his time, are still the wonder of the east and west; and though the building itself may now be rivalled in extent by many of our parish churches, yet the gold, ivory, and other precious materials employed in its decoration, indicate a wealth which must, at that time, have been without a parallel. Both Solomon and David, his father, were men accomplished in learning, as well as in the arts of government; and the writings which they have left, if they show their own abilities, indicate not less a great attention to the cultivation of knowledge among the rest of the Hebrews. That nation could neither have reared such men, nor treasured up their productions, had there not been many among them well qualified to relish, and even to imitate, such efforts. We do not here allude to the inspiration of these writings; it is merely to their poetical beauties, and to the profound and calm knowledge of mankind with which they abound. 'beyond all Greek, beyond all Roman fame.' It is vain to look in all the long list of the kings of other nations for two such names as David and Solomon.

After the death of Solomon, the country fell into the same divisions which had weakened it in the time of the judges. Each of the districts of North and South Israel were under a separate king, and they were exposed both to the attacks of their enemies and to quarrels with each other. Their history is a succession of agitating conflicts for independence, and of unexpected and remarkable deliverances, of a similar nature to those of the earlier period, and they continued for about the same length of time (350 years); but they are marked by fewer of those traits of heroic devotion which distinguished the epoch of the judges. The backslidings, errors, and misgovernment of their kings, is the chief and painful subject which is presented to us; and though these are relieved at times by the appearance of such monarchs as Josiah, Jehoshaphat, and Hezekiah, yet the whole history of this period is overcast with the gloominess of progressive decline. By far the most delightful parts of it are those which relate to the lives of the Prophets, who were raised up at intervals to warn the nation and its rulers of the fate which they incurred by forsaking the religion of their fathers. These inspired men sometimes sprung

up from among the humblest classes of the community: one from 'the herdsmen of Tekoa,' another from 'ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen;' several were of the priestly order, and one (Isaiah) is said to have been of royal lineage, but the works of all are marked with the same sacredness, force, and authority. They reprobate their countrymen, in the most eloquent strains, at one time for their idolatry, and at another for their hypocrisy; and their indignation is expressed with the same freedom and dignity against the vices of the highest and the lowest. It has become fashionable to trace the free spirit of our national tone of thinking to the historians and orators of Greece and Rome, which are taught in our schools; but any one who looks into the writings of the Hebrew prophets, and sees the boldness and energy with which the humblest of them threatens the nobles and princes of this country, or chastises the vices of the nation around them, will remark the paucity of seeking, in volumes known only to the learned, for an effect which may be traced to books whose strong and pathetic eloquence has long swayed the affections of every peasant of the country. There is no subtlety of reasoning, no sporting with ambiguities, in these writings; every thing is bold, decided, and powerful, appealing to great principles, and marked with high and energetic feelings. What a film of fancy-work are the metaphysical ingenuities of Plato, compared with the firm, broad, and uncompromising morality, the mild domestic charities, taught in the books of Psalms and Proverbs, or the pathetic and indignant remonstrances of the Prophets against the backslidings of the "daughters of their people!"

At the end of the epoch of the kings (about 600 years before Christ), the land of Israel was swept by several powerful invaders, who carried off many thousands of the people into captivity. Little is known of the fate of those of the northern district, who are sometimes supposed to have been carried to India, sometimes to Tartary; but there are many interesting notices of the captives of Judah. They were carried to Babylon, a flat country intersected by rivers, to the eastward of their own. Here they seem to have been treated with kindness, and many of them even arrived at wealth and distinction. Nothing, however, could overcome their regret at being torn from the country of their ancestors—a feeling which is expressed with unrivalled beauty in the 137th Psalm, where the Hebrew captive looks mournfully to the mountains and brooks of Judah, as he hangs his harp on the willows by the sluggish Euphrates, and refuses, with sorrow and scorn, to gratify his conquerors by singing the celebrated songs of his country in a strange land. It is a farther proof of what we have said of the general intelligence and education of the Jews, that all the conquerors who carried them off granted them high privileges in their new countries. Alexander, it is said, made them equal with his own Macedonians in the city which he founded; Ptolemy conferred on them similar privileges. We find one celebrated man of their nation (Daniel) chief minister of two successive monarchies. Hebrew generals more than once commanded the armies of Egypt; and the scattered notices of history present to us many of them in other public situations of importance and trust.

After 70 years (during which there is little account of the people who were left in the country), permission was given to some of the chief Hebrews of the captivity to return with their people to Judea, and to establish there a government, conducted by their own countrymen, under the protection of the Persians. They were also allowed to rebuild the temple. Many families returned accordingly; and the Hebrews from this period enjoyed, as tributaries of this powerful monarchy, a long peace of about 220 years, during which their country seems to have been quiet and prosperous. About 187 years before Christ, in consequence of their becoming involved in the quarrels of neighboring powers, they were obliged to maintain a series of struggles in behalf both of their religions and national independence, more fierce and prolonged than we read of in almost any other nation. We are accustomed to admire the gallantry and perseverance of Wallace and of William Tell in behalf of their country; but Judas Maccabeus surpassed both, and with more brilliant success. The actions of one family of Jewish priests, belonging to a town (Modin) of which the very site is unknown, must dignify the scutcheons of a whole aristocracy. Under them the Hebrews were again, for three reigns, an independent and even powerful people.

The empire of the Romans were now extending itself to the east; and that power being called in to aid the Hebrews on one occasion (about 70 years before Christ), seized the opportunity to establish its influence among them permanently. Their kings, the three Herods, and their other rulers, were now dependants of the emperor, and their country the tributary of Rome. But they were by this time a people scattered over the whole earth; their captivities and emigrations had taken them abroad; and their intelligence or knowledge had rendered them prosperous; so that, when, about 70 years after our Saviour's birth, those who remained at home engaged in a rebellion against the Romans, and were slain in tens and hundreds of thousands at the capture of Jerusalem, the misfortune had no more effect in extinguishing the Jewish name than it would have now.

As in the case of Egypt, already detailed, the country of the Jews, now known chiefly by the name of Palestine, became a conquest of the Saracens, a half-civilized Arabian people, and the professors of Mohammedanism. Since that event it has been the seat of barbaric ignorance, and been little visited. Of the Jews themselves, few are found in their ancient territory, the nation being scattered over the face of the whole earth, yet in its misfortunes maintaining an individuality so surprising as to be almost miraculous, and as if designed, according to the prophecies of the sacred writers, to be at some period restored to the beloved Zion from which it has been banished.

COLONIAL.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

FROM THE FREDERICTON GAZETTE.

At a Meeting of a number of the Merchants and other Inhabitants of Fredericton, held on the 26th December, 1833.

Resolved, That this Meeting, being deeply sensible that the example and experience, of all enlightened commercial countries, fully demonstrate the great benefits derived from the introduction and prosecution of Banking, and from the establishment of Banks, based upon liberal principles, and having heard with much pleasure, that efforts are being made in the City of St. John, for the incorporation of another Provincial Bank, is of opinion, that the establishment of a Branch of the proposed Bank in Fredericton, will tend greatly to relieve the Mercantile, Mechanical, Agricultural, and all other classes of the community, from many of the difficulties under which they now labor.

Resolved, That as the Committee appointed by a meeting, held in St. John, to adopt the necessary measures to attain the required institution, have intimated a perfect willingness, and wish, that the counties of York, Sunbury, and Carleton, with all others trading with Fredericton, should participate in the advantages to be derived from the proposed Bank; it is in the opinion of this Meeting, that measures should be immediately taken, to co-operate with the committee in St. John, for the attainment of the object they have in view.

Resolved, That a Petition be prepared for the signatures of this community, to be presented to the Legislature praying the enactment of a Law incorporating THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK, and containing a clause or clauses, rendering it obligatory on the Directors to establish a Branch in Fredericton, and to enforce the commencement of business therein, at the same time, and in all respects similar, to the operations of the principal establishment in Saint John.

Resolved, That this meeting, being fully convinced that the introduction of the Scotch system of Banking, will greatly enhance the benefits which the Province will derive from a new Bank, and be of incalculable advantage to the Agricultural Counties in particular, and noticing that the Report of the St. John Committee, avows an intention of introducing that system, is of opinion, that the Petition should pray the Legislature to insert a clause in the proposed Bank Bill, requiring the Directors to introduce it as far as practicable.

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen be a committee to adopt the necessary measures to carry into effect the objects embodied in the preceding Resolutions—viz.—

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Mark Needham, | Thomas T. Smith, |
| Joseph Gaynor, | Thomas R. Robertson, |
| Thomas Pickard, | Thomas C. Everitt, |
| F. E. Beckwith, | Robert Chesnut, |
| Asa Coy, | Oliver Smith, |
| Charles Fisher, | Ben. Wolhaupter. |

The following is a copy of the Petition prepared under the direction of the Committee, and which is now receiving the signatures of this community.

JOSEPH GAYNOR, CHAIRMAN.

CHARLES FISHER, Secretary.

To His Excellency Major General Sir ARCHIBALD Campbell, Baronet, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New-Brunswick, &c. &c. &c. The Honourable His Majesty's Council, and the Honourable the House of Assembly for the same Province, in General Assembly convened. The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Fredericton and the adjacent Country

Humbly Sheweth—

That your Petitioners view with much satisfaction the efforts making in the city of Saint John, to establish another Provincial Bank; but they are convinced the evils complained of by the Merchants of the City will continue to exist in the interior, unless measures are adopted to ensure a more general anticipation in the benefits of the contemplated establishment.

That the embarrassments complained of are common to all parts of the country, as well Agricultural as Mercantile: That the recent depreciation of every description of real estate, is mainly to be attributed to the insufficient supply of a circulating medium.

That your Petitioners are decidedly of opinion the incorporation of another Provincial Bank, upon such principles as will make the sphere of its operation equal with its name, and render its benefits general, will greatly remedy the evils which now press so heavily upon all, inasmuch as the additional capital which will thereby be put into circulation, will stimulate individual exertion, and infuse new vigor in all classes of society, and into every department of domestic enterprise.

That your Petitioners would most respectfully draw