

The Gleaner

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME V.

Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila signant, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

[No. 20.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1854.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office, Miramichi, December, 1853.

Anderson Peggy Mrs. New-castle.	Murphy Timothy
Anderson Abraham do	M'Junkin Robert
Anderson Kenry	M'Askill Joseph
Appleton John	Murry Joseph
Black Andrew Forester Hill	M'Eachron Archibald
Barry David	M'Donald James
Betts Jared Barnaby Island	M'Coig Duncan
Blant Barbara Nelson	Mahon John
Bean Hannah do.	Mulinicks James
Curry Peter Newcastle	Moverly Nathan
Caldwell Tjm South West	Mulroy Catherine
Carroll Patrick Bay du Vin	Murphy Marks
Campbell Peter	M'Intosh John & Robert
Clarke James	Mahony Daniel
Coloton Martain 3	M'Quin Fergus
Cauruthers Mathew	Mullon Terrence
Caruthers Mary	M'Call Donald
Courtes John Chatham-head.	M'Donald John
Campbell Charles	M'Connell Thoma
Carroll Michael Shoemaker.	Murphy Richard
Caruthers Sam	M'Nee Duncan
Curry John joiner	Mooney Thoma
Cane Jeremiah	Murkey Mary
Chappell Mr.	M'Evory Michael
Connell Johannah	Neil Hannah
Chambers Anthony	Nugent Catharine
Daly Hugh	Nunan Michael
Douglas William	Orr William
Dunn William	Persons Elijah
Doyle Michael	Phelan M.
Dixon James	Power John
Dunn Patrick	Power Mrs.
Danly Catherine	Parker Robert
Eandy Joseph	Quinn William
Foster George	Rainsbothom Joseph
Flanagan John D.	Roberts Abraham
Ford Samuel Nelson	Rogers Edward
Farrell Patrick	Russel Alexander
Flemming Jackson	Sullivan Mrs.
Fritch John 2	Simpson A Alexander
Flett Wm.	Stapleton William
Firth Wm.	Savage John
Gillis Murdock	Spence George
Gajene James	Smith Stephen
Graham Michael 2	Smith James
Geddes Charles	Shehan Mrs. D.
Gillis Donald	Sinciair Lochlan
Grands Edmund	Smith Francis
Gerton James	Simpson Alexander
Godfrey Elijah	Simpson John
Hickey Michael Oak-point.	Sullivan Johannah
Kitson John	Shinnick Patrick
Keary Andrew	Stephens William
Keotish Samuel	Sterence Wm
Kolly Wm. Douglastown	Smith Francis
Jerden Andrew Napan	Timmons Mr.
Innis James 3	Taylor James
Johnstone James Napau	Vanderwather Mr.
Johnston David	Walsh Jonathan
Keys John	Watson Delia Mrs.
Kuman Michael	Williams Frederick
Keer Ad.	Willis John
Kenny Isiah	Wallis Peter
King Francis	Waddleton Susannah
Feay Samuel	Wignore Mrs.
Lobin Mary Mrs.	Walter James
Lee Catherine	Wishart Mr.
Leary Patrick	Wallis James
Lauder Henry	Whitmore Thomas
	Walsh Peter

ALL LETTERS not called for within Three Months from this date, will be sent to the General Post Office, as Dead Letters.

JAMES CAIE, POSTMASTER.

Miramichi, December 5, 1853.

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.

THE MODERN JEWS.

THE Jewish nation, as well as the Jewish books, may be considered, both in their nature and in their history, as perfectly unique, presenting a wonderful phenomenon in the annals of the human race. Their origin in a single family—their residence in Egypt, and going forth from thence—their wandering forty years in the wilderness—their wars in Canaan, and settlement there—as well as their miseries at different times—are all circumstances worthy of admiration, and such as are recorded of no other nation under heaven. Nor is the history of the modern Jews much less surprising than that of their ancestors. Their rejection of the Messiah—the destruction of their chief city and temple by the Romans—and their subsequent dispersion among different nations—together with the dreadful persecutions and calamities which have there befallen them at different times—from a very important and interesting chapter. This branch of history we do not mean to enter fully upon at present, but shall merely bring forward a few observations regarding the customs, opinions, and religious observances of the Jews in their present state.

"The famous Benjamin of Tudel," says the author of the Philosophy of History, "a very learned Rabbini, who travelled in Europe and Asia in the twelfth century, computed that there were 350,000 Jews of the ancient tribes assembled under one sovereign. The Jews never had any country to themselves since the time of Vespasian, except some hamlets of Arabia Felix towards the Red Sea. Mahomet was at first obliged to keep terms with them; but he at length destroyed the little dominion which they had established in the north of Mecca. It is from the time of Mahomet that they have ceased to compose a body of people."

The fertility of Palestine in ancient times, as well as the crowded population which it is said to have supported when possessed by the Jewish people, are circumstances which have caused a good deal of wonder to travellers who have visited those regions in modern times. The country was called Palestine, from the Philistines, who inhabited a great part of it. It got also the name of the Land of Promise, from its having been long promised to the children of Abraham before they obtained actual possession of it. The name of Judea is derived from the tribe of Judah, who inhabited the most pleasant and fertile portion, and because the royal authority was placed in that tribe. It was also denominated the Holy Land, because it was selected by Jehovah for a habitation to his favoured people—for a place where to record his name, and establish his church.

The veneration of the Jews for this celebrated region led them to consider it as the centre of the globe, and situated in the heart of all nations. They call it, in Hebrew, the centre of the world, and the beauty of all lands. A ridge of high hills separated it from Edom, or Idumea, upon the south. The river Jordan, the lake Asphaltites, or sea of Sodom, and the sea of Tiberias, formed the eastern boundary. Upon the north, it was separated from Phoenicia by the mountain Anti-Libanus; and the western coast was washed by the gentle waves of the Mediterranean. It extended about two hundred miles in length, and eighty in breadth.

Moses describes this inheritance of Abraham's sons as "a land that flowed with milk and honey; as a country of brooks of water, of fountains, and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig-trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil-olive and honey; a land where there is no lack of any thing; whose rocks are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." The modern traveller, who has formed his conceptions of the Holy Land from such a description, is quite disappointed on entering this celebrated country. He beholds the general surface irregular and rugged, presenting to his view, in some places, naked rocks and steep precipices, intersected every where by ridges of mountains, abounding in woods and marked with deserts. From its general appearance and contracted limits, he is apt to question the accuracy of the account of its ancient fertility and population. It will readily be granted that the appearance of this country since the destruction of Jerusalem—the extirpation of the Jews—the devastations of the Turks—and the continual depredations of the Arabs—bears no resemblance to its ancient splendour. But, on the same principles, we would reject the accounts of ancient history concerning the prosperity and splendour of Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Tyre, Greece, Carthage, Syracuse, and the islands of Asia Minor, all of which are situated in the same part of the world, and have experienced a similar declension.

The celebrated traveller Maundrell, speaking on this subject, remarks as follows:—"It is obvious for any one to observe that these rocks and hills (of Palestine) must have been anciently covered with earth, and cultivated, and made to contribute to the maintenance of the inhabitants no less than if the country had been all plain. Nay, perhaps much more; forasmuch as a mountainous and uneven surface affords a larger space of ground for cultivation than this country would amount to if it were all reduced to a perfect level. For the husbanding of these mountains, their manner was to gather up the stones, and place them in several lines along the sides of the hills, in form of a wall. By such borders they supported the mould from tumbling or being washed down, and formed many beds of excellent soil, rising gradually one above another, from the bottom to the top of the mountains. Of this form of culture you see evident vestiges wherever you go in all the mountains of Palestine. Thus the very rocks were made fruitful. And, perhaps, there is no spot of ground in this whole land that was not formerly improved, to the production of something or other ministering to the sustenance of human life."

In different parts of the mountains of Palestine, a very different temperature prevails. Hence the expression of the Arabian poets, that "the mountain Sennir bears winter on his head, spring upon his shoulders, and autumn in his bosom, while summer lies sleeping at his feet."

In addition to what has been remarked by Maundrell, and other modern travellers, it ought to be remembered that the history of mankind affords numerous instances in which natural obstacles have been removed, and an enlightened and vigorous policy, seconded by fortunate circumstances and national industry, have diffused fertility among barren wilds, and crowded the desert with population. Besides, the soil of Palestine was naturally fertile, required little or no manure, and could be cultivated by means of a small plough and a single yoke of oxen; each inhabitant was lord of his own little possession, endeared to him as the family inheritance—which circumstances all united to stimulate his industry, and contributed to augment the riches of nature, as well as to multiply the enjoyments of man.

The want of good government, and the consequent depression of industry, must, therefore, be looked upon as the chief, if not the only causes of the deplorable state of Palestine in modern times. "A very affecting idea of the state of society in this country," says Mr. Cook, who travelled there in 1824, "may be formed from the fact, that the husbandmen and others carry fire-arms with them wherever they go. Our muleteer had a musket, and the Greek pedlar a cutlass and pistols. Every man you meet would serve a painter as the model of an assassin."—"The town of Acre," says the same traveller, "has a beautiful appearance when seen from a short distance. The palm-trees, which are more numerous here than in either of the towns I had hitherto seen, give it quite an oriental appearance. One of the mosques has a lofty minaret. There is a Turkish burial-ground on the side of the road, near the town. Flowers were planted in most of the graves. I was detained at Acre, waiting for my letter of protection, till eight o'clock. We continued our road over the sands about three hours, when we crossed some hills, which may be considered as a part of Mount Carmel, and entered upon a country which, though wild and uncultivated, is possessed of great richness and beauty. We passed a considerable encampment of herdsmen, with very large flocks of sheep and herds of kine."

"In the impression produced on me by the great beauty of the country through which we were travelling, I could not help saying to the Jew, 'What a beautiful country God has reserved for your nation.' 'Yes,' said he, 'when we shall become good enough to inherit it.'"

The population of Palestine in ancient times corresponded to its fertility. In the days of David, when he commanded Joab to number the people, there were of the Israelites 800,000 fighting men, and of the single tribe Judah 500,000; and, upon the supposition that this was a third part of the inhabitants, their number would amount to nearly four millions, or 550 inhabitants to a square mile, as Major Rennel has computed the extent of Palestine to be 7250 square miles. The population seems to have reached its maximum during the peaceful and prosperous days of Solomon, when it is said, "Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea, in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon." Now, if they amounted to four millions in the time of David, as is calculated, we shall certainly be justified in estimating them at five millions during their maximum, in the days of Solomon; and this is nearly the number of the Jews in the world at present, according to the most accurate estimate that can be made. This circumstance wonderfully illustrates what is said by the Prophet Amos, in regard to the dispersion of this people over the world—"Behold, the eyes of the Lord Jehovah are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the land; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, said Jehovah. For lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth."

There is a particular circumstance in the history of the Jews,