

decay of the land; and not that the loss of land gradually reduced the population. Doubtless, the Mahometan decay operates in both ways through loss of soil upon the people, and through loss of people upon the soil. But originally there is no doubt that the Asiatic indolence, which is but a name of disguise for Mahometan indolence, drooping continually in the war which it is necessary to maintain in sandy regions with great natural forces of usurpation, is the original principle of movement in these awful changes. And, with some exceptions for Afghanistan proper, where more is seen of human energy indestructible by vices of religion, than in any other part of Mahometan Asia, it may be affirmed boldly that the great Mahometan states have long been travelling downwards to extinction. Unless saved by the fortunate interposition of England and Russia, they will make deserts of Southern Asia from the Mediterranean to the Indus. And this in a virtual sense, they have already accomplished.

The Afghans to speak of them in their physical character, are all of a robust make, and are generally lean, though bony and muscular. The character of their faces is thus described by Mr Elphinstone;—“They have high noses, high cheek bones, and long faces. Their hair and beards are generally black, sometimes brown, but rarely red. Their hair is always coarse and strong. The tribes near towns wear it short, but the rest have long and large and long locks hanging down at each side of the head. They wear long and thick beards. Their countenance has an expression of manliness and deliberation, united to an air of simplicity not allied to weakness. These lineaments however, and this expression, are more decided amongst the eastern Afghans. Among the western there is a much greater variety of countenance; but the high cheek bones prevail every where. ‘The western Afghans,’ says Mr Elphinstone, ‘are taller and stouter than those of the east, and some Dourraees and Ghiljies are of surprising strength and stature; but, generally speaking, the Afghans are not so tall as the English.’”

A circumstance which, at first sight, seems more remarkable, is the extraordinary variety of the complexions. The eastern Afghan has the dark Hindoo complexion, the western a clear olive. Yet amongst both these will be found many men as fair as Europeans. This we ascribe to the variable height of the inhabited land, which, according to Captain Havelock, forced the British army through all the opposite hardships of frost the most extreme—so that Sir Willoughby Cotton, by simply riding twenty eight times through a winding river on a freezing day, gathered ice about the red shalloon lining of his cloak which actually broke off three buttons; and in the other extreme, forced them through heat so intense as to drive all who happened to be inhabitants of towns into subterranean chambers. The variable levels of the land, sometimes raised six or seven thousand feet above it, have all the effect, as to climate, of passing from Spain to Lapland within perhaps one day's journey.

In general, for difference more important than complexion or bodily structure, the Afghans derive a leading impulse from the accident of east or west in their birth. Universally, the civilization of Afghanistan has been derived from India; of western from Persia. Hence also it is, that whilst Hindoos, a class of mixed people originally Hindoo and Hindoo themselves, are found chiefly in the east, and at Peshawar, which is the great western capital of Afghanistan; on the other hand Tanjiks, who are properly Persians by original descent, and perhaps also are sometimes Arabs, but born in Afghanistan of parents settled there for generations, prevail greatly in the west. Hence, also, the Persian language is spoken very extensively in the west. It is, in fact, one form of the Persian character in which the Afghans write their own language; and many of the primary words appear to be deduced from the Pehlevi or ancient Persian. But this is not as certain, as some of these words seem common to the Zend, to the Sanscrit, and to the Chaldaic—all ancient forms of eastern language; and other words are derived from some obscure root not yet indicated. But it marks the strength of the Afghan character, that they have powerfully resisted the Hindoo civilization on the east, and the Persian on the west. In each case they have been modified externally by these influences; but the native Afghan elements have still predominated in their character.

ORIGINAL.

MR. PIERCE,
Sir,—I observe in your last Gleaner, an article signed Vindex, who appears to have offered himself as the champion of the Sheriff; and the whole tenor of his communication appears to be to justify the Sheriff in the course he adopted at the Meeting, and to shew that the persons who attended the second meeting, were either not worthy of credit, or that they were actuated from disappointed motives. His first endeavour is evidently to draw away the public mind from the true facts of the case, and to shew that he had not lent himself to a party to trick the public, as were stated to him in the square at Newcastle, and as also was stated at the second meeting. I believe, on reviewing what I said at the second meeting, it will be seen that I only mentioned facts as they

occurred to me; I left the public to judge whether he had lent himself or not: Vindex himself must have been fully aware of the impression, that the business of that day would leave on the public mind, or why take such trouble to try and turn it another way. Vindex well knew that the Sheriff went round with other gentlemen to ascertain the feelings and sentiments of the most influential portion of the community, for the purpose of getting up an Address to Sir John Harvey, on his intended departure from the Province, when they were given to understand that there would be great diversity of opinion on the subject, and it was advised, that altho' one or both of the Members had recommended it by letter, still it would be better not to get a Meeting. Why such wholesome advice was not taken, I cannot say, but all this was well known to the Sheriff and Vindex, and they also knew the extent of this County, and the difficulty of getting together, and that watches differed, and that the travelling was very bad. They also knew that a number of persons intended to be at the Meeting from a distance; and that an Address was to be made to Sir John Harvey, as emanating from a County Meeting, and to appearance carrying with it the voice of the County generally; and they further knew that at all County Meetings held here, the Chair is not taken till at least half an hour after the appointed time, and more generally an hour after the time, and that on the most trivial occasions. With these known facts, I ask in sincerity and candour, whether under these circumstances, the Sheriff would not have best consulted the dignity of his office better, by declining to accept the Chair when offered to him at 7 minutes after the time appointed to meet, which is not denied by Vindex; thereby shewing the public that he was the Sheriff of the County of Northumberland, and not the willing instrument of a few. I agree with Vindex, that after he had once taken the Chair, he was under the direction of the Meeting; but what I complain of is, his taking it so soon. He may not have known, as it seems Vindex did, that nothing remained to be done but pass the Resolutions, for Vindex says—“If the business was despatched speedily, it was because there was little to do,” and farther he says, what was done, was done unadvisedly. No body doubts that, it was for this very reason that it was done in such haste, for well was it known by the few present, that three-fourths of the inhabitants were against any expression of approbation being offered; and how these few got to the Court House, is matter of wonder, as many persons were waiting in Newcastle, to go to the Meeting, little thinking that it was proceeding at that time. I do not blame any person for wishing to address the Lieut. Governor; it is the right of every one to do so if he thinks proper; and it would be the height of ingratitude if some few did not do so; for it would be strange if he has no friends, and it may be for making these very friends, that the public could not consent to an Address. The Sheriff was appointed by him, two Judges, and many Militia Officers received their appointments from him; whether these appointments had any influence with either the first or second meeting, or both, I am satisfied to leave to a discriminating public, who will exercise their judgment, despite of Vindex or his friend the Sheriff.

Now with regard to the threat of Vindex of what may take place, as subject for a further address, I can tell him if the public should be tricked again, he may depend upon it, that an address for undoing—or at the proper time for not doing, will be adopted; he may rest assured that the people of this County will not be trodden down, or deterred from expressing their opinion, by him or his friend the Sheriff, and that they had better profit by the lesson they have already got, ere it is too late. Vindex says a great deal about persons complimenting the Lieut. Governor, when here. Is that not the duty of every well disposed person. I hope this County will never be backward in honoring the Representative of our Gracious Queen, should he come here to-morrow; and after all I pity Vindex—one can easily feel for a person of Vindex's forwardness—knowing that on the occasion of the Governor's visit to this place, the grapes tasted by him were sour.

If it was not that Vindex has made some false statements, I should not have troubled you. First he says, I was appointed a Magistrate at Bay du Vin, which is not true. He insinuates that speeches were made ready for the Meeting. If he alludes to me, that is also untrue, for I had not written one word for the occasion. If he means that I attended a private meeting in Chatham, for the purpose of canvassing matters to oppose the address, that is also untrue. What am I to suppose by his saying, I had my appointment at Bay du Vin, and that I was not to act in the Town. With his profound knowledge in such matters, he should have known, that no Parish appointments of the kind are made; or does he mean to say—that a person from any other Parish than where he lives, is not worthy of any honorable employment; but poor Vindex forgets what little bodies and minds we see from London and Liverpool, had he turned his thoughts inwards, he would have found abundance of proof to convince him of the impropriety of such ill-natured remarks, which, I think, only proves the littleness of his own mind.

Vindex then endeavours to draw some comparison between the persons attending the respective meetings, and to prove that those at

the second meeting were not worthy of credit, I shall, therefore, give a statement of the claims of the respective Meetings.

First Meeting.—The Sheriff made by Sir John, three Judges of the Common Pleas, two of them made by Sir John Harvey, two Lawyers, one Minister, one Lieutenant Colonel of Militia, one Stranger, four Merchant Clerks, and one or two good Householders.

Second Meeting.—Three Magistrates, two of them made by Sir John Harvey, two Lawyers, one Major of Militia, two Doctors, two Merchants, and about thirty five good Householders, chiefly good Mechanics, besides yourself as Editor of the Gleaner.

By the above statement, it will be seen that two of the Magistrates that attended the second meeting were appointed by Sir John Harvey. How does Vindex account for these two Magistrates not joining in an address? I think the only inference to be drawn is, that they are gentlemen of independent minds, not to be intimidated or coaxed, but would exercise their independent judgments.

From what Vindex says, it would seem that a private meeting had been held at Chatham, to make arrangements for opposing an address. If so, it follows that the people on both sides of the River are of the same mind, for he does not attempt to say that there had been any arrangements with the people there; and still, strange to say, they and the Chatham people were of the same mind, for the second meeting was composed of the greatest part from the Newcastle side, and all were of one opinion.

Then, to finish his master piece, he attacks our Chairman—a cool, consistent man,—and gentleman of independence, and fancies something that might have taken place. Why such insinuations should be heaped upon him, for nothing but that he had a mind of his own, and attended a public meeting, is certainly too much; but it is like the rest of his article, replete with abuse in the absence of argument. The circumstance of his attending the second meeting is a sufficient answer to Vindex, when he says our chairman expressed himself satisfied that the first meeting was over.

Now, I can assure you, that I studiously avoided at the meeting, saying anything that could give offence to any one, and why I should be assailed in the manner Vindex has done, I cannot say, and I am at a loss for a reason. Was it because I went in pursuance of a public notice to a meeting, and there expressed my opinion; I certainly felt an honest indignation, when I found the meeting had been closed in the manner it had been, but I took no part in the discussion respecting the Sheriff, only advised the meeting to adopt the mildest of the three Resolutions that had been offered them, expressive of the indignation felt, at the way in which they had been tricked.

Vindex has, with all his information, forgot to inform us why the Sheriff did not go back from the square in Newcastle, and held the Meeting as he was asked to do by several individuals, when the persons composing both the meetings were present.

Perhaps I would have consulted my interest by remaining silent, and was it not that your paper goes beyond this county, I would have done so; being satisfied to have left the matter where it is, with the public, as it gives me pain to have to make any remark as regards the Sheriff; but I could not answer Vindex without alluding to him, and I could not suppose any person would be found, vile enough to offer himself gratuitously on behalf of the Sheriff to assail me, without his approbation, and I can assure the Sheriff that anything I have said is in self-defence.

Having said this much, I shall take my leave of Vindex, trusting that he will see the impropriety of continuing this discussion under the mask of an assumed name. If there are any matters that require investigation, let him write in his own name, and I will endeavour to answer him; and should there be anything that we cannot agree in, we will leave such matters to the public as umpire to decide, and until he takes that course, I shall not feel myself called on to trouble you again, although he may assume a different signature, unless it be his own.

I am,

Yours truly,

J. T. WILLISTON.

12th March, 1840.

MR. PIERCE,

On every side I hear myself spoken of as the author of many of your late “original communications”—some of which are so much at variance with my own views, that I am compelled, in self-defence, to request that you will permit me in this way to disown them.

I have not written a line for the Gleaner since I have been in Miramichi—and so on the one hand I have no desire to wear another's laurels, so on the other I cannot consent to be made the scape goat of those who may happen to have—Larry Wagstaff for example—more wit than discretion.

In a community like this, I cannot help thinking that anonymous writing is too much countenanced—it is but too frequently the cloak for language and opinions which under other circumstances would not be used or entertained: a calm and dispassionate discussion would in most cases be much more likely to elicit the truth.

I. PALEY.

Chatham, April 12, 1841.

MR. EDITOR,
Permit me, through the medium of your paper, to call the attention of the public, to the very dangerous state of the Bridge, over what is commonly called the *Galloway Creek*, on the road leading from the Post Road to the residence of John Jardine, Esq. The Bridge in question, which was built only five years ago, cost the public nearly three hundred and fifty pounds; and any individual who will take the trouble of passing beneath it, will feel convinced that the circumstance of its being all but impassable is owing entirely to the carelessness of the parties by whom it was erected.

I am, &c.

VIATOR.

Richibucto, April 9, 1841.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI.
TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1841.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern Mail arrived on Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Steamer Acadia, Captain Miller, arrived at Halifax, on the morning of the 5th inst. in a passage of 16 days, 12 of which was very boisterous, with continued head winds; she, however, sustained no damage, either in hull or rigging.

By this vessel we obtained regular files of London papers to the 18th, and Liverpool to the 19th of March. They do not furnish any news of importance.

The Liverpool Standard of the 19th says, that the steamer Columbia arrived in the Mersey about half past four that morning. Great anxiety was manifested to obtain the United States news by this vessel, and Agents for the Government, and the London Morning papers had been several days in Liverpool waiting her arrival. The news she brought was of a much more pacific nature than was expected, and dissipated the fears entertained of a speedy rupture between the two nations.

In the House of Commons the President of the Board of Trade, introduced a motion for the reduction of duties on foreign goods imported into the British Colonies. The following notice of Mr Labouchere's views we copy from a London paper.

“On Friday night, in the House of Commons, a motion was introduced by the President of the Board of Trade, the subject of which will, I have no doubt, excite the most anxious attention of your mercantile community, especially of those engaged in the trade with our West Indian and American colonies. It is well known—to your mercantile readers at least—that the connexion between these colonies and Great Britain, hitherto, has been maintained by the formation of a system of mutually protective duties, in favor of colonial produce and British manufactures, as compared with those levied upon the produce of the goods of other countries. The proposition of Mr Labouchere is to reduce the rate of duties imposed by our colonial tariffs upon all merchandise, not the produce of Great Britain or of any British possession, to an average rate of 10 per cent.;—in effect to throw open the markets of our colonies to foreign powers, and thus to deprive Great Britain of one of the most important benefits which she derives from her colonial possessions, in exchange for the expense by which they are supported, namely, preference in their markets for her merchandise over that which is afforded to all other nations.”

Bell's Weekly Messenger of March 15 states, that Sir Jeremiah Dickson, K. C. B. is appointed to the command of the troops in Nova Scotia.

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Annual meeting of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, held at Wetherell's Hotel, Newcastle, 31st March, 1841:

JOHN WRIGHT, Esquire, President in the chair.

Moved by William Carman, Esq. and seconded by John A. Street, Esq.

Resolved, That a sub-committee of three be appointed to audit the Treasurer's Accounts for the past year, and that William Abrams, Alexander Goodfellow, and William Carman, Esquires, be appointed such committee.

Moved by John M. Johnson, Esquire, and seconded by Henry Curnd, Esq.

Resolved, That the Treasurer's Accounts be accepted, and that the thanks of this meeting are justly due to George Kerr, Esquire, for his very valuable services as Treasurer of the society from its commencement.

On the Society's Report being read by the Rev. Mr Souter—

Moved by John A. Street, Esquire, and seconded by John T. Williston, Esq. Resolved, unanimously, that the Re-