

bon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen; and these must be supplied to them in the form of carbonic acid, water, ammonia; otherwise they will be assimilated. Besides the elements already mentioned, plants likewise require certain mineral constituents, of which the most important are, the earthy and alkaline phosphates, potash, soda and silica: these form but a small part of the whole plant, but it is perfectly established that they are yet quite indispensable; in very different relative proportions it is true, according as they occur in different plants. Now, the carbonic acid and water which vegetables require from their existence, are supplied abundantly from the air: ammonia, too, exists naturally in the air; but in such small quantity, that it is, at least, always advantageous (if not always necessary,) for the farmer to supply it to the crops artificially; and the same may be said of the mineral constituents (especially the phosphates) all of which occur in every soil, but generally not in sufficient quantity, or not in a state of which they can be made use of by plants. Even if this were not the case, the certainty of exhausting the soil by repeated cropping, without replacing anything, makes it necessary to add these mineral constituents in some form or other; into the land. Now they are supplied, as well as the ammonia, by adding common manure; but are in this mixed with a large quantity of matter that is comparatively useless (as woody fibre for instance.) The mineral constituents and the ammonia are likewise afforded in guano, as is obvious from its composition; but in it they are applied in a much purer state, and in a form much more favorable for their ready assimilation by plants. Hence a small quantity of guano goes as far as a great quantity of common manure. To illustrate how the guano acts, suppose it has been applied to wheat. The ammoniacal salts which it contains cause the rapid growth of the stem and leaves: but if these salts alone were present, the effect would end here, and little or no grain could be produced. But the earthy and alkaline phosphates present then add their effects, and carry on the plant to a maturity corresponding to its early promise.

How long the present great demand for a substance thus curious and important can be supplied, is a very interesting subject of speculation; but it seems probable that the present localities will be soon exhausted. New deposits of it are very rarely discovered; and the flocks of sea-fowl which produce it have been scared away from their old haunts by the bustle and movement occasioned in them by the guano-trade. It is, besides, impossible that the flocks of these birds, though extremely numerous, should be able to replace the enormous quantities that have been removed.

Legislative News.

New Brunswick.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, March 24.

Read a third time as engrossed, A Bill to facilitate the making of the Military Road through this Province by Her Majesty's Government. A Bill to make provision for the regulation of Seamen shipped on board of or belonging to all Ships or Vessels registered in or belonging to the Province of New Brunswick, while such Ships or Vessels shall be within the precincts thereof. A Bill imposing Duties for raising a Revenue. Resolved, that the Bills do pass.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the sum of £ — to be expended in procuring an exploration of a Road from Chapin's Island Road, in the County of Northumberland towards the Pabine Falls, in the County of Gloucester. Upon the question for sustaining this Resolution, the Committee divided—Yeas 14. Nays 11. And it was thereupon carried in the affirmative, and the blank filled up with the sum of £25.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the sum of £200 for the Road from Bathurst to Miramichi, via Pokemouche; £100 to be expended in erecting a Bridge and approaches on Pokemouche River, in the County of Gloucester; and the other £100 in the County of Northumberland.

To John Miller, Deputy Treasurer, Bathurst the sum of £15 in consequence of the great reduction in the emoluments of that office.

To the Honorable Charles Hensley, Chairman of the Prince Edward Island Steam Navigation Company, the sum of £200 in aid of the funds of that Company, for having maintained a good and sufficient semi-monthly Steam Communication between Miramichi, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Pictou, Nova Scotia, during the last season.

March 25.

To the Rev. Andrew Barron and the Managing Committee of the Roman Catholic School in Bathurst the sum of £30 to enable them to increase the efficiency of that School.

March 27.

To the Reverend G. McDonald and others the sum of £110 to aid in supporting a School in the Parish of Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester. Upon the question for sustaining this Resolution, the Committee divided, and it was decided in the negative.

March 11.

To James Seaton the sum of £10 for having taught a School in the Parishes of Addington and Dalhousie, County of Restigouche, ending first January, 1845.

To James Wands the sum of £5 for having taught a School in the Parish of Addington, County of Gloucester, for three months in the year 1838.

To His Honor the Speaker the sum of £300 towards reimbursing any expenses he may incur in vindicating the Privileges of the Assembly, under the Resolution of this House of the 12th April, 1834.

Colonial News.

Canada.

Ottawa Advocate, March 18.

The Timber Trade.—It is now beyond all doubt that very much of the Timber made during this winter, cannot find its way to Quebec in the coming season, but must remain over another year. The creeks and small streams, from the unusual mildness of the month of February, are all open, and in most sections preclude the possibility of proceeding further with Timber operations; indeed, most of the hired teams are discharged, and many gangs are broken up. No fear, now, need be entertained of a glut in the Quebec Market from over production this year. The prices must be good, and we think the master operatives should be in no hurry to sell. Every stick of merchantable timber taken to Quebec will find a ready sale at certain good remunerating prices.

The rail roads and public works in Great Britain, now in progress, create a demand for the products of our Canadian forests—our red and white pine must be had—and we are well advised that a large Spring fleet will be sent out. Perhaps, upon the whole we may congratulate the trade upon the break, for, certainly, we never knew the prospect better.

Quebec, March 28.—A private letter received in town this morning from Montreal, states that a duel had been fought by the Hon. D. Daly, Provincial Secretary, and T. C. Alwyn, Esq. M. P. P. in the vicinity of Monkland. Mr. Daly's second was Mr. Derbishire, and Dr. Tachie seconded Mr. Alwyn. The meeting took place on account of an assertion by Mr. Daly in the House that a statement made by Mr. Alwyn was false. Dr. Boutillier was on the ground in his professional capacity.

The parties exchanged shots without effect, the ball of Mr. Daly's pistol passing close to the right shoulder of Mr. Alwyn. The latter gentleman then expressed himself satisfied, and the parties left the ground. We are happy to add, that a wish expressed on the part of Mr. Alwyn that the termination of the affair should be amicable, was met by Mr. Daly.

Montreal Transcript, March 29.

Four Children Burnt to Death.—We regret to learn that on the night of the 19th or 20th instant, the house of Mr. McCarty, of Beauharnois, took fire, and before the inmates were aware of the danger which they were in, four children were burnt to death; and the father and mother, had a narrow escape from the same dreadful fate; they were however considerably injured. They lost every thing the house contained.

New Brunswick.

St. John Courier, March 5.

The College Question in Nova-Scotia.—On Monday last the Assembly granted £250 to each of the Colleges in that Province, and £150 to the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville. The Attorney General proposed £300 for Acadia College, but an amendment for £250 was carried.

Canada.—The University Bill has passed a second reading by a vote of 45 to 34—but it is understood that the measure will be laid over until next Session.—Mr. Sherwood, the Solicitor General of Canada West, and Mr. Robinson, the recently appointed Inspector General, tendered their resignations of office when they found that the bill was made a cabinet question. That of the latter is stated by the Montreal Transcript of the 26th ult. to have been accepted.

Despatches from Lord Stanley, rela-

tive to the interruption of the Post Office Packet Service between Nova-Scotia and Canada, have been laid before the Assembly, in which it is stated that arrangements have been made with the Postmaster General of the United States, for the conveyance, through that country, of the British Mails to and from Canada. The letters will be forwarded through the United States in iron boxes, and placed under the charge of an officer appointed by the Postmaster General.—The first homeward Mail by the new route, will be despatched by the steamer to leave Boston on the 1st of May. The Contractors for the North American Mail Steamers make a considerable deduction in the sum they receive from Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of the discontinuance of the Unicorn between Pictou and Quebec. Lord Stanley states that if the Legislature of Canada should be desirous of keeping up the Post communication between Pictou and Quebec, by steam, there is now no other mode for accomplishing that object except by arrangements between the Province and the owners of the Unicorn.—We presume the steamers will still continue to land the Mails for Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick at Halifax, as nothing to the contrary is stated in the despatches.

We observe by an official letter from the Post Office department at Montreal, that in future newspapers to and from England will be charged with a postage of one half-penny each, to be collected on delivery.

Nova Scotia.

Halifax Guardian, April 4.

The Cambria brought 12 Passengers for this port and 112 for Liverpool; and having received the mails and 5 additional passengers for the mother country, proceeded on her voyage after a brief stay of 3 hours.

Legislature of Prince Edward Island.—The General Assembly of this Island met on the 4th inst. when the Session was opened by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, with a Speech in which, after adverting to the addition to the Royal family by the birth of a Prince, he calls their attention to the necessity of checking the extensive system of smuggling carried on along the coast; recommends a provision for the widow of the person shot in boarding the Oyster Schooner last Fall; suggests the adoption of a better system of Road expenditure; alludes to the necessity of revising the Statutes; and, after referring to the survey of the Coast by Capt. Bayfield, congratulates them on the visible improvement in Agriculture throughout the island, on the prosperous state of Education, especially in reference to the Central Academy, and on the completion of the Lunatic Asylum; and recommends retrenchment in the public expenditure.

With the exception of the reply to the opening speech, the business transacted does not appear to be of great importance.

Communications.

Mr. Pierce,

Sir—I perceive that Mr J. A. Street continues to abuse the Magistrates of the county of Northumberland. It is with great reluctance I notice his remarks in this public way, knowing, as I do, the necessity there exists that members of the Assembly should have a reasonable latitude in debate, for the purpose of sifting subjects that may come before the House; but I can hardly suppose it necessary or right to indulge in abuse or slander of the Magistrates, when their acts are not the subject of debate. Why this determination to abuse a body of men for no reason whatever, (private ones excepted)? If Mr Street is that perfect man he would wish it believed he is, one would suppose he would try and raise the character of the Magistrates generally, and their influence in the communities where they live, that their services might be rendered more efficient in the discharge of the very hard, and often onerous duties they are called upon to perform. If Magistrates are not to be supported by the higher classes—by men of standing and property in the country, where are they to look for support and countenance; for it must be apparent that they have often to come in collision with the public, if they discharge their duty faithfully; but I fancy Mr Street is actuated by other feelings than the public good. If that was his sole aim, would he not make a suitable address to the Lieutenant Governor, and bring the delinquent Magistrates under his notice, when I am sure every attention would be given to such complaint. But, says Mr Street, I have no

confidence in the Governor, and less in his Council. And why, Mr Pierce, all this want of confidence? because the Lieutenant Governor and his advisers will not depose Magistrates either to please Mr Street and his friends, without sufficient cause; nor will they make a batch of new ones, because required to carry party purposes in this county.

Mr Street is the last person that should find fault, for I believe no Lawyer in this county has tried so often to set aside their judgments as he has, and met such signal defeat. He will pardon me for not giving particulars—I may do that hereafter, should occasion require it. In conclusion, can tell Mr Street, that there is no man living that desires that pure justice should be administered more than I do, but I think his way of trying to attain such a desirable state of things, is not the right one, for I think he will fail in doing any good, by availing himself of the privileges of the house to deal abuse against the Magistrates, for surely no one in this county can be so short-sighted as not to perceive the party motives by which he is actuated, and not with a view of causing any improvement in the commission. I can tell Mr Street, there are many subjects that could attract his active mind, and would lead to better results, than abusing the Magistrates, and certainly would comport better with the dignity of a Legislator; for depend upon it, persons placed in the high position of Representatives, should have minds above a fondness of indulgence in low abuse; but no situation, be it high or low, will prevent a man from shewing the loftiness or littleness of his mind.

Mr Street should have a friendly feeling for the Magistrates, knowing as he must, that they have no pretension to legal knowledge; therefore, if they should happen to misapply, or misunderstand the law, he should attribute it to a want of better judgment, and not to corrupt motives; more particularly, when they have to deal with laws not the most explicitly written. This remark may not apply to those framed by himself.

Now, let me advise him to turn his attention to the wants of the people—leave off abusing any one—for by this course of proceeding, he will be more likely to obtain the approbation of the community at large.

Yours, truly,  
A MAGISTRATE.

April 4, 1845.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

I little expected that a letter lately inserted in your paper signed X, would have called forth so much native genius, as is displayed in a late communication from this county, under the much abused signature of Veritas, published by you in your Journal of the 1st instant. Surely, Mr Editor, the writer could not have intended its publicity to make an April fool of you, (although such jokes are sometimes practised) because his own everyday folly is so apparent, that such a presumption cannot well be raised. His motives in troubling you with his self-styled luxuriant and elegant epistle, are, as he tells you, "to divest the readers of your papers from the prepossessions (as he terms it) they may have acquired from the bold and unwarrantable assertions of X;" and in order to do this, he denies the truth of what X states to be the general sentiments of the people in this county, relative to the appointment of Mr Reade to the Secretaryship of this Province. Now, Mr Editor, I am willing to admit that had my assertion nothing to substantiate it beyond that which supports Veritas's denial of its truth, I should hesitate to reply; but when the readers of the Gleaner are informed of what took place, to bear me out in my assumptions, I feel satisfied they will look upon Veritas's letter in the light I exhibit it below:—An Address to the Governor approving of his appointment of Mr Reade to office, was only in circulation in this thinly settled county for a few hours, and obtained the signatures of several hundred inhabitants, each having much more stake in the county than Veritas has; or ever will have; and there are hundreds more, Mr Editor, who hold the same sentiments, but who did not subscribe to the Address for a variety of reasons, which it is not important I should name. Let a contrary Address be got up here, and the signatures to it would be very much similar to what was before observed of native genius, namely, non est. It is not much to be wondered at that Veritas should have ventured to deny so absolutely the statements of X, considering that he is the mere tool of a few precious patriots, from whose well-known rendezvous his worthless production, the hotch-potch compilation of sundry native geniuses, including the suggestions of a redoubtable deca-