

throne from which both Napoleon and the Bourbons had been banished.—*Dr. Fisk's Travels.*

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Loyalist, October 30.

PUBLIC DESPATCHES.

HIGHWAYS AND BYE-ROADS.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in reference to the Roads, shows the amount appropriated by the Assembly for this service, and proposes a plan for making the necessary roads to such sections of the Crown Lands as may be set out for settlements; but if we understand him aright, he does not propose any plan by which these roads are to be kept in repair after they are once made. His words are in one Despatch.—“From the difficulty often experienced by the labouring settlers in paying for their lands, a stimulus would be given to the settlement of the Province, if certificates from the road contractors for labour duly performed in virtue of grants from the Assembly, were accepted in payment from land purchasers, a practice which also, as it is understood, obtains in the United States.” In another Despatch we find the following passage: “where roads are opened, experienced settlers accustomed to the country are found to take up lands; but to require payment for them except by returns of labour in opening the roads, can only operate as a tax on effective settlers, and retard the improvement of the country. A tax on wild lands, held unproductively, and applied to the opening of roads and the establishment of schools, would promote the settlement of the country by an improved population, who are unwilling to lose for themselves and their children the advantages of social and civilized life in settling in the wilderness.”

We most cordially agree with the views here expressed—so far as they go; they are similar to what we have from time to time contended for. If this plan were adopted, a settler would purchase a lot of land, and could immediately join with a number of others who were about to settle in the same section of the country, draw up a petition to the Executive to appoint a road Commissioner, (supposing the power vested in the Executive) which being done, he could, at public auction contract for opening a piece of the road, near his own land, and by labour performed thereon pay the first instalment. The following year more settlers would probably purchase land in the vicinity; more roads would be required, and he could in the same manner pay the second instalment; and so on till all would be paid. Paying for his land in this manner would not only leave him all his resources unimpaired, to clear and improve his farm, but being personally interested, he would perform his contract in a proper manner; and thus would new settlements procure good roads. Of course this plan could be most effectually carried out by the Executive, and the Initiation of Money Grants should first be given up by the Assembly; but even were this not done, the plan would be an improvement upon the present system. Now the settler purchases his land, and if his means are small, which is likely, he is impoverished by paying his cash into the hands of the Deputy Surveyor. He then has to go into the woods and set himself down without a road, nor does he get one until it pleases the House of Assembly to make an appropriation for the purpose, and it pleases the County member to consent that a sufficient sum shall be thus expended. If a considerable number of settlers enter one section, some of them paying the cash down for their lands, and getting their titles, so as to obtain the privilege of voting at the County Election, that settlement may be said to have obtained an influence in the Assembly, and their County Member will not be likely to overlook their claims; but when this is not the case they are likely to remain without a road for years.

Again, the Road Commissioner is a person whom the County Member claims the privilege of recommending, and as a matter of course is an active canvasser, and staunch electioneering friend. This person is held responsible to the House of Assembly for the proper performance of his duty. He is actuated, perhaps, as much by the desire to gain votes for his patron, as to see good roads for Her Majesty's subjects to travel upon, and consequently may neither be very conscientious in giving the job to a partizan at an exorbitant price, or in seeing that the work is properly executed, even if he does not go so far—as is said of some—as to participate in the profit. The House of Assembly would be apt to wink at this course of procedure—a fellow-feeling existing among them—forthough excellent task-masters in all things wherein the Executive Council is responsible to them, and excellent task-masters and auditors so far as the Government Officers are concerned, we cannot expect them to be ever strict with their electioneering friends.

But, as we have already said, had no benefit been likely to arise from placing this power in the Executive. His Excellency's plan for the opening of roads should be adopted. At present, in addition to the serious delays in obtaining roads, money is exacted from a poor class of people, for land thus embarrassing them, and paralyzing their efforts to clear and improve the wilderness territory. This money is first paid to the Deputy Surveyor, from him to the Surveyor General, thence to the Receiver General, and then to the Provincial Treasurer, while the accounts must be

audited by the Auditor General. During this round the money grows less and less, diminishing as it rolls along; for all those officers enjoy large salaries, and offices and salaries are of course regulated—or should be regulated—according to the amount of business requiring to be transacted. Well, what remains of the money having been paid to the Treasurer, it becomes under the control of the Assembly, and the members, after planning and counter-planning, and cavilling, and haranguing, and perhaps quarrelling, at the public expense, appropriate the very same money wrong from the poor settler some years before, to open a road for their convenience—at least for the convenience of the few who have not been starved out, or disheartened during the process. A very improper person (perhaps) is then appointed Commissioner, and a very bad road is at length made. Now His Excellency proposes to save all this trouble and delay. He wishes neither to embarrass the poor settler, nor trouble the Government officers, nor occupy the time of the Assembly, nor cause anxiety to the County Member, nor weary out the settlers' patience by delay; but by the simple process of allowing the settlers to pay for their lands by making their own roads, save the Province all this trouble, delay, and expense, and the Commissioner's five per cent! So much money being saved, of course the sale of a block of Crown Lands would then open more roads than at present. Besides, if Cash were no longer demanded for those lands they might bear a higher price, and thus more public works would be undertaken than at present, even if no additional stimulus were given to the settlement of the country.

The people must of necessity perceive that if the Initiation of Money Grants were given up to the Executive, this is one of the improvements which that measure would effect. Now as our representatives profess to be extremely anxious for the people's welfare, we hope they will no longer oppose the yielding up to the Executive an Initiatory power, for we flatter ourselves we have clearly shown that the people will be benefited thereby. The principal objection hitherto urged against the measure was that the Bye-Roads' Grant would be withheld. That objection having now fallen to the ground, we hope they will support the measure like men, and not tax their ingenuity to frame further excuses.

His Excellency's second plan is to tax wild lands, “held unproductively” for the purpose of opening roads and encouraging education. We agree with the principle but shall reserve our remarks upon education for a future paper. A block of wild lands, held by an individual must certainly retard the settlement of the country. Now if this block intervenes betwixt an old and new settlement, a road must be opened through it at the public expense. This road, and new settlements springing up around it, must of course enhance the value of wild lands, and common justice would suggest that it should bear its fair proportion of the cost in constructing the road.

But we would go farther than His Excellency does. We consider it high time to relieve the Legislature of a portion of their duties. The members complain of being overworked, and the Sessions are very sensibly lengthened in duration; and yet petty affairs almost exclusively occupy the time of the members, to the neglect of matters of greater consideration. We should at once and the same time relieve them of this tedious labour, and adopt the principle of allowing the people to keep their money instead of paying it to Government Officers, having it transferred from one department to another for two or three years, paying interest the whole time, and then receiving what is left of it in the shape of Road Grants. To effect this we would have new roads opened according to the plan laid down by His Excellency, viz: by allowing settlers to pay for their lands by road-work, and by taxing wilderness lands held by individuals, and we would keep all roads throughout the Province in repair (with the exception of large bridges) by a direct tax upon the lands in the vicinity, or by statute labour. The former mode we consider preferable.

But perhaps we may find an objection to our propositions urged by those who think the Crown Lands should produce a revenue. If it produces no more revenue than is required for roads, the Governor's plan had better be adopted as once, not only because it would stimulate the industry of the Province, and add to our population, but because it is more economical than the present system. But should it be contended that a still larger revenue might be drawn from the Crown Lands, we would reply that the advantages of having the country settled are so many, and so apparent, that it would be infinitely better to give the lands away to actual settlers, than to have the settlement of the country retarded.

But should the Legislature come to the decision that a revenue should be raised from Crown Lands, over and above what is required for the construction of roads, we would recommend a plan adopted some years since by the state of Maine. Let a section of the wilderness lands be surveyed, and a road opened through the centre of it; that road constructed by the settlers, who are to be located one side of it. Let the necessary branches from this road through the settled half be constructed in the same manner, the settlers thus paying for their lands. The other half of the section would be reserved by the Government. In a few years the population, and wealth of the settlement would increase, and the value of the Government reserve would be much enhanced, laying as it would contiguous to a well-settled district, and approachable by a good road. Then throw open this reserve to public competition, for cash sales, and the redundancy of the neighbouring settlers would

be in a condition to become purchasers. Thus might the Governor's plan be adopted for facilitating the settlement of the country, and constructing good roads, and a fair amount of revenue also be realized.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 1846.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, he hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for Advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

Gleaner Office, October 23, 1846.

THOUGHTS ON THE SEASON.—The following truly eloquent reflections on the Season, are taken from a late number of the Practical Christian, and deserve an attentive perusal.

“Another Summer has folded up her record of human events, and bid adieu to earth. As she passed away with her roses and sweet music we bade her a sad farewell—for her songs so cheerful and her flowers so sweet are needed to keep many a heavy heart from sinking. The summer has scattered showers and sunbeams, blossoms and fruits lavishly over a chequered and ungrateful world. She has fanned it with the perfumed zephyr, hung her bow in the sky, and wrapped her robe of rich verdure closely over the forests and the hills. She has done all that she could to breathe of love and win to virtue. But man heeds not the voices of the changing seasons. He poisons the zephyr with hate; he dims the rainbow with the smoke of desolation; he bathes her verdure in blood, and her voice of love is drowned by the mingling discord of contending passions, the din of battle and the wail of woe. Autumn has come now—a season of reflection, when the sere leaf, and the fading earth and the mournful wind bring to mind age—the tomb—another life—the bar of God. Will man heed the voice of the present? Will he lament with the low sighing of the wind over the follies and crimes that the summer has witnessed, whose varied shades are all traced on the faithful scroll, to be seen again at the final settlement of human deeds? Will he offer the fruits of repentance, grateful as the fruits of autumn? Will he hasten to spread peace over the field of desolation, to relieve the tears of sorrow, and bind up the broken heart? Autumn speaks of immortality. Will men prepare for immortality by deeds of righteousness? Will he strive that a harvest may be garnered to him of the blessings of those ready to perish? Autumn spreads a gorgeous robe over the earth—many-coloured and imposing as that given by the patriarch to his beloved son? Will man strive that the tender verdure of the first youthful feeling be succeeded by the brilliant hues of enduring virtue? O that man's heart might harmonize with the arrangements of nature. Then how much rapture would the seasons bring as they roll their onward course! Did we vie with the summer in scattering blossoms of moral beauty, the reflections that followed would bring no tinge of sadness. No shadows would fall from a troubled heart over the sunny pathway of the departed summer. We should be prepared to enjoy the calm soberness of the fall and winter in anticipation of another spring-time, that we might gather freshness and vigour to begin “anew the journey of our life.”

WEST INDIES.—The Yarmouth Courier reports, from information received by recent arrivals at that port, that the whole of the West India Islands were visited by a tremendous hurricane on the 13th October, which done considerable injury, particularly to the shipping in the different ports.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—The New York True Sun of the 23d ult., thus notices two new works just issued by the enterprising publisher, Mr Robert Sears, whose collection of highly valuable publications we noticed in the Gleaner some months since. Mr John Rue is Mr S's agent in Miramichi, whom we have no doubt, will speedily be put in possession of copies of the works noticed below.

“Sears' New and Popular Pictorial Description of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the British Islands—embellished with several hundred Engravings, illustrating the Natural Scenery, Curiosities, Antiquities, Druidical and Roman Remains, Mansions, Cathedrals, Abbeys, Churches, Colleges, Castles, and Great Works of Architecture, etc., etc.” which abound in those celebrated countries. Carefully compiled from the best and latest sources. By Robert Sears.

“This makes the thirteenth pictorial volume which Mr. Sears has prepared and published

within the last five or six years. Few publishers have been more successful. Each one of his works has had a large circulation in every section of the Union; and we have no hesitation in saying that the present publication is one of the most interesting volumes issued from the American press. It is just in time, too, for the approaching holidays; and we have no doubt many persons will be anxious to secure it as a Gift Book. The engravings alone are worth the price of the work. We believe there are about three hundred in the volume; and the most of them are page plates. We ask our readers to call at 128 Nassau street, and examine it; and if its perusal do not effectually banish from the mind all troublesome thoughts of ledger and per centage, drive from their presence everything like ennui, and fill up every leisure hour with rational and most exquisite entertainment, we will lay aside every pretension to critical discernment and confess to a peculiar and most unaccountable taste. We are pleased with the mechanical execution of the work—the binding, paper, and type, are excellent; and from the hasty perusal we have been enabled to give it, we are abundantly assured that none who can possibly do so will fail to secure it; or that when once commenced they will lay it down with regret.

“Mr. Sears has also just published his “Information for the People,” a large octavo volume of 600 page, with 130 Engravings, forming within itself a complete Treasury of Knowledge on all subjects of interest. Published and sold at 128 Nassau street.”

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—A meeting of the Clergy of various denominations, constituting the above-named body, recently held a meeting at Saint John, and published an Address, explanatory of their object in thus uniting themselves together, from which we take the following extracts. It is signed by Samuel Robinson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Saint John; Henry Daniel, Ingham Sutcliffe, F. Smallwood, Samuel D. Rice, Wesleyan Missionaries; Robert Irvine, Minister of the First Free Church, and James G. Galloway, Congregational Minister.

“We unite, in the first place, to give a stronger testimony and increased diffusion to the great cause of evangelic truth. We believe in no baptismal regeneration, and no sacramental efficacy. We deny all power in man to absolve sins. We recognize no authority in tradition. We reject the groundless pretensions of apostolic succession; and the haughty claim to retain within the channel, of any denomination, the exclusive right and fitness to minister in holy things. We have no faith in human infallibility, and cannot in our judgement, confine the Church Catholic to any one section of professing Christians, who may happen to be distinguished from others more by outward forms than by inward spiritual excellence. We denounce Puseyism as one of the most dangerous devices of modern priestcraft, and while we solemnly repudiate all attempts to interfere with the civil and religious privileges of the Roman Catholics—while we claim religious freedom for them as well as for ourselves—we deem their creed seriously at variance with the clear testimony of the Word of God.

“We believe in the sufficiency and exclusive authority of the sacred Scriptures, and the inalienable right of private judgment. We believe in the necessity of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, in justification by faith through the merits of our divine Redeemer, and in salvation by grace. We believe that without a personal faith in the Son of God there can be no eternal life, and that a holy life is a necessary evidence of a spiritual union with Christ. We adore Christ as the only head of the Church, and we recognize all that love our Lord and Saviour in sincerity, as the genuine members of the Holy Catholic and universal church. It is our persuasion that the vital elements of Christianity are contained in these and kindred truths. We bear this testimony as individuals, as separate churches, as different denominations. By our union we give a still stronger and more solemn testimony to these life giving doctrines. We thus show that the Scriptural evidence in their favour must be great indeed, as we have all been led to the same conclusion, though, as denominations we have arrived by different paths, and could not have been brought to this agreement by previous concert.

“Equally consecrated in our Union to the great and sacred interests of perfect religious freedom,—interests that are worth any sacrifice short of the abandonment of principle. Our definition of perfect religious freedom is, that condition of a people in which no man is placed, by the state, in a position of inferiority to another man, in consequence of his religious convictions.

“Such is our desire and settled purpose in relation to this province. So far as our rulers are concerned, we ask for no more; we should be content with no less. That perfect religious freedom, in the sense in which we have defined it, does not exist in this Province, is not merely sufficiently obvious to our selves, but is, at length, candidly and somewhat exultingly admitted by those who a little time ago thought it more expedient to assert the contrary. We are at length deliberately informed that a religious establishment exists in this land; that ecclesiastical ascendancy for—”