

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—A trifling incident which happened in the streets this moment, has reminded me that I have to reply to my friend 'Patronus,' and I therefore sit down for that purpose. And in the first place, to the incident. It was merely this, that ONE OF THE NEWCASTLE YOUNG GENTLEMEN, having arrived in town a few minutes back in company with a young lady, and having left his "hired or borrowed" establishment opposite a house somewhere near the Post Office, the horse, poor animal, instinctively knowing his duty when in Chatham, (he having been one of the goaded animals accustomed to weekly visits hither) and merely mistaking the day, for the Sabbath, thought he would have a little bit of a "shew off" upon his own private responsibility, and accordingly started, sleigh, skins, cushions, bells and all—and walked off, did I say, by the most direct route, and "decently and orderly" to the stable of "the Innkeeper," as he was wont to do? If I did so, I did not intend it. No, sir, he started full tilt down Morrow's lane, ehaving the corner of Mrs Henderson's house rather too closely, (witness the sleigh-runner) thence to the front street, thence round J. T. Williston's, running inside of some sleds in front of Noonan's, over Noonan's platform, thence round Wyse's corner, and thence to the Innkeeper's stable door, distributing, in his career, his sleigh, and loose appendages, piecemeal to the winds.

You may perhaps ask what all this has to do with sustaining my former positions with regard to the "Newcastle young Gentlemen?" It is simply this, that I would enquire of the people of Chatham whether the incident above narrated is not precisely in keeping with the manner in which the "Newcastle young Gentlemen" were constantly in the habit of driving not only thro' our streets, but all the way hither and thither, on their Sabbath visits? As to the close shaving of Mrs Henderson's corner, witness, amongst others, Mr J. Noonan's pung, he having had the misfortune to meet them on their way down towards Chatham on the ice, and did not understand the courtesies which they exacted from any person or vehicle with which they met. Mr George Letson, Jun., at H. Carman's, Esq., can state to what circumstance or management he is indebted for his safety. It is merely, that on seeing them approach him on the ice, he, knowing their mode of doing, turned completely out of the track, as had every other person and thing with which they met to do, either on the roads or streets, or take the consequences. And as to their having in general terms conducted themselves decently—and orderly—and attended places of worship—and not run races two or three abreast—and not appeared mad—or drunk—or both—witness the whole community, young, old, and middle aged. I, however, would give you a few particular references, and in doing so, would commence with yourself.* As to the "spur in the head," witness the STRANGER, who on entering the up stairs room in the "Inn," had a cigar whipped out of his hand by one of the Newcastle young Gentlemen; I mean whipped out with a Horsemanship, without any manner of ceremony, and thereby probably would have hung a tale, had it not been for the interposition of Mr S. S.— And further, witness the lewd—bawdy—songs with which the Newcastle young Gentlemen occasionally entertained the inhabitants of Douglstown on their return from Chatham, when they reined up their horses in passing thro' the settlement, to indulge the good folks of that village with a rehearsal of their *Vespers*.

As to the motives by which I have been influenced—that is a matter with the public; as to my living in a "kennel" and being "a dog," these are matters of which you yourself can judge. There may be a good reason why your correspondent "Patronus" feels very sensitive in the defence of drinkers and vendors of drink. Let him look as near home as he will! Pray how long is it since he himself became a perfectly sober man?

As to the man who was nearly killed—refer to those who saw him at the time he was flung against Thompson's store. As to their attending places of worship, will "Patronus" inform us what places are open for public worship in Chatham between two and six o'clock on Sunday afternoons, except the Roman Catholic Chapel; and did the Newcastle young Gentlemen attend that? As to my having persecuted the Tavern Keeper, as Patronus states, I deny

* Here is given a long list of names, which we decline publishing.—Ed. G.

it. As to his having known the young Gentlemen assailed for some years past, you know that cannot be true. And as to their characters or conduct being defended against the truth, by his "testimony," which he is "proud in bearing," that cannot have much weight generally until he shakes off his *cognomin*, and unmasks, and even then will go for what it is worth with such persons, and in this community, as cannot be persuaded by him in opposition to the evidences of their senses of seeing, hearing, feeling, and calculation, by all his special pleading, that two and two do not make four. Bye the bye, would it not have been better for him to have pleaded the general issue, and denied all, than to have pleaded *specially*. He perhaps, because that he (as he thought) possessed such keen discernment as to have discovered a "mare's nest," in discovered who "One of the People" was, might have succeeded in persuading the people of Chatham that there was not a word of truth in the whole matter; and that their having taken up the idea that the Newcastle young Gentlemen came to Chatham at all on Sundays, was all a delusion—that it was merely an impression of an "imaginary kind."*

A few words of advice to Patronus. When next he undertakes the defence of a case in the public prints, let him state the truth and nothing but the truth; he cannot sway the public, as he may attempt to do a packed Jury, contrary to the evidence of their senses; and if I be not deceived, he will find that out in the present case. If he have undertaken the defence of the Newcastle young Gentlemen gratuitously, and without their knowledge and consent first had and obtained, let him see and weigh how much he has benefitted their case; and upon discovering that he has placed it in a worse light than he found it, let him at once go and make the best amends he can to them; and if he should think of appearing again in public upon this subject, let him also take my advice and apologise to the community of Chatham, especially for his effrontery in daring to insult their senses with a tissue of such barefaced falsehoods.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Chatham, Monday Morning,
25rd March, 1846.

* Bye the bye, perhaps the Somerset which came off on the Ice between Cousin's Slip and Douglstown on the last Sunday the young Gentlemen were down, between two of themselves and their establishments, could be explained away in the same manner to the satisfaction of Messrs. the two young men who had the runaway mare in tow, and before whom the scene was enacted.

Mr Editor,

As the contemplated Railway thro' the British provinces has occupied the attention of the public mind for some time, allow me to make some remarks, which in the event of the said Railway being completed, will, I think, prove to all lovers of expeditions travelling, that a Branch from Miramichi to Fredericton will be wholly unnecessary, and an absolute waste of money.

Imprimis.—I would call the attention of the public to the extraordinary despatch accomplished by the Fredericton and Miramichi Courier, last week. The distance from Newcastle to Fredericton is really five or six miles over one hundred. The mail left the former place at 10 o'clock on the morning of Monday the 16th instant, and in the incredibly short space of one hundred and fifty hours, reached the latter; thus actually travelling nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile per hour. Is not this sufficient to drive the silly idea of a Railway from the land? and when it is equally true that the distance to and fro, 212 miles, has been travelled within the preceding and present week by horses changed at various stages on the route, carrying Her Majesty's Mail, driven by this same man, in two hundred and fourteen hours, will you not, dear public, say that it would be highly culpable and unjust not to eulogise to the Post Office authorities, the Courier who performs such extraordinary services? particularly when I tell, that a gentleman left Fredericton on Friday the 20th instant, with a pair of horses, (which he drove the whole distance) sleigh, two other gentlemen and their luggage, and could only succeed in reaching Newcastle at 11, A. M., on Monday, the 23rd.

Secondly, Mr Editor, I would call the attention of the Post Office authorities to these facts, through the medium of your paper, and recommend that this praiseworthy Courier receive higher wages, that all Couriers who cannot compete with him, be forthwith discharged, and the entire mail communication

be given to the charge of this highly enterprising courier, who drives *highbred, spirited steeds*.* No wonder that persons were found, who wrote, and complained of this courier's predecessor on this route, who in such travelling as we have had the last two weeks, could barely succeed in getting over the journey in 24 hours of daylight, tho' he was allowed to rest himself and horses an intervening 12 hours of darkness; while the present worthy man is obliged to drive on continually day and night. Merit, Mr Editor, must not, in this colony, go unrewarded; and I hope you will in your Editorial strengthen my feeble remarks, and endeavour to help this worthy man, for peradventure he might leave his present situation. Should such a dire event ensue, (which, oh ye all-powerless powers avert) would not our loss be irremediable? and would not the Post Office authorities be highly culpable if in his sere and yellow leaf, they do not provide him with a handsome retiring salary? I hope the Post Office authorities will take cognizance of these facts, and not prove ungrateful.

The said Courier's account stands thus:

Newcastle to Fredericton, 106 miles, performed in 150 hours;

Do. to do. and return, 212 miles, do. do. in 214 hours.

Yours, Mr Editor,

EXACTLY SO.

Miramichi, 26th March, 1846.

* A wicked wag, for the italicised, wished me to substitute "highland," and "high-boned spavined," but I told him my pen was not bad enough, and to mind his own business. E. S.

Mr Pierce,

Before your paper of the week before last came out, altho' I never wrote a line for a Newspaper, except that it might have been an advertisement, I felt strongly tempted to do so by the conduct of the Newcastle lads, when they came down here on Sabbath afternoons, through the winter. It certainly was irreverent and scandalous; and I myself, and many others with whom I am intimate, were glad that they fell into good hands at last. I think I know the person who exposed their doings in the paper, but am not on friendly terms with him, nor have I been for some time past; but at the same time I give him credit for better motives than are attributed to him by the writer in the last week's paper, and think that the people of Chatham are under obligations to him for the part he has taken in the matter. As for the reasons given by the writer in the last Gleaner for these young lads visiting Chatham, and his explanation of their conduct while in Chatham, he must be altogether mistaken. I do not think their case is bettered by him, and almost every body whom I hear speak upon the subject, thinks the same.

Yours truly,

N.

Chatham, 24th March, 1846.

European News.

Rumours have been current recently unfavorable to the health of Sir Robert Peel. It was said that he had been twice cupped in the neck to ease the pressure on the organs of the brain under which he laboured, and that his health involved a speedy relinquishment of the cares and anxieties of office. These rumours caused much uneasiness, till at length an official contradiction appeared, which declared them to be unfounded—adding, that he never was in better health.

Not so the once herculean, and still burly, Daniel O'Connell. He has attained the allotted duration of human life; but, if the accounts which appear be true, is not destined long to exceed it. Those who see him nightly in the House of Commons declare that he is sinking fast, and that the last twelve months have added thirty years' load to his existence. He enters and leaves the House on the arm of his son John; and, once or twice, when he essayed to speak, his voice was so feeble that he could scarcely be heard in the reporters' gallery. This appears to be the winding up of a career which will always stand out, despite its imperfections, as one of the most remarkable in the history of the British nation.

The affairs of Ireland are absorbed in the contemplation of the great Free-trade drama which is now being acted in England. Mr O'Connell is in London, and the management of the Repeal Association is confided to his lieutenant, Mr Smith O'Brien. A bill introduced into the House of Lords, the object of which is to render life and property more secure

in the sister country, has met with a good deal of opposition, and much angry recrimination. The bill proposes to give the Lord Lieutenant the power of declaring disturbed districts under the operation of the act; injured persons are to be compensated; the protective force to be increased; and a tax to be levied upon the district itself for the payment of expenses. The curfew of the Norman conqueror is to be revived—people in the proscribed part of the country are not to be out of their homes between sun-set and sun-rise. All this seems arbitrary, and, in the present enlightened age, barbarous; but if the brutal murders, assassinations, and illegal associations, at once the bane and the opprobrium of the land, can be arrested, it will go far to reconcile all honest and well-disposed people to the infliction. Happily this bill is to be accompanied by conciliatory measures of a political and agricultural kind. A bill for the improvement of land, by providing compensation to tenants, a bill for amending the laws relative to the registration of voters, and another for placing the municipal franchise of England and Ireland on the same footing, are amongst the promised measures of amelioration.

COMMERCIAL.

There have been several failures in London and Liverpool. In the latter place one house, Messrs. Stockdale & Sons, the most extensive soap-manufacturers, it is said, in the world, have suspended payment. Their liabilities are little short of half a million of money. The failure was owing to the tightness of the Money market, and their consequent inability to negotiate their paper. This great failure has seriously involved several firms, and has dragged down some half dozen smaller houses. The Liverpool Borough Bank suffers to the extent of £100,000, and the result has been to send the shares of that establishment almost to par.

The weather in England continues unusually mild, and the effect cannot fail to make itself felt on the growing crops. Vegetation is extremely forward; and during the months of January and February we appeared to be in the midst of May. The winter altogether has been one of the most unwinterly on record. We allude to the circumstance here for the purpose of stating that, as regards the produce of the field, the result is most discouraging, and fears for the future are already uppermost in men's minds. If the prevailing mildness is to be succeeded by frosts, the young wheat will be seriously, perhaps irretrievably, exposed; if there be no frost, the curse of vegetation—vermin, will produce even worse consequences. In either case, the future looks unpromising. Fortunately, the importation of grain and flour, under the new tariff, will be low—for the sliding scale will be so contracted in its movements that it can hardly be said to slide at all—and the transmission of 'bread stuffs' to this country cannot fail, under such circumstance, to prove a profitable investment. The seasons run in cycles, and if the indifferent grain harvest of last year is to be followed by a similar calamity during the present year, a great safety valve will be found in the almost stationary sliding scale. We are no croakers nor have we any desire to prognosticate evil; a bad harvest is the heaviest calamity which Heaven can inflict upon a country. We are merely pointing out the probable effects of an extraordinary physical fact.

The scarcity of Money has been making itself felt in the Cotton market. During the last fortnight the market has been dull, with receding prices, and matters would have remained in this lethargic state, had it not been for the arrival, on Monday, of the Patrick Henry, which sailed on the 6th, and which has brought the President's message to Congress and the correspondence between the British and American Ministers relative to the Oregon. The turn which this vexed question has taken has excited surprise; for it was hoped that the commercial measures of the present Government would have facilitated the settlement of the dispute, on terms satisfactory to both parties. The Cotton market advanced on some descriptions an eighth when the belligerent purport of the advices by the packet transpired. The peremptory refusal of the American Government to submit the question to arbitration, on the ground that it would thereby recognise the rights of the British Government to a portion of Oregon, is regarded as puerile, not to say insulting. These rights have been long acknowledged by treaty between the parties, and it is held as being too late in the day to raise a bond which preceding negotiators, on both sides of the Atlantic, have combined to respect. The friends of peace mourn that the arbitration—the