

the receipt of that intelligence of a wish expressed by the houses of Congress that efforts might be made for the peaceful termination of these disputes, although the offer of arbitration had been rejected,—we did not hesitate to do that which, in the present state of the dispute, it became essential to do,—not to propose renewed and lengthened negotiations, but to specify frankly and at once what were the terms on which we could consent to a partition of the country of the Oregon. Sir, the President of the United States, I must say, whatever might have been the expressions heretofore used by him, and however strongly he might have been personally committed to the adoption of a different course, wisely and patriotically determined at once to refer our proposals to the Senate—that authority of the United States whose consent is requisite for the termination of any negotiation of this kind; and the Senate, again acting in the same spirit, has, I have the heartfelt satisfaction to state, at once advised the adoption of the terms offered them. Sir, considering the importance of the subject, and considering this is the last day I shall have to address the house as a minister of the Crown, I may be allowed to state what are the terms of the proposals we made to the United States on the Oregon question. In order to prevent the necessity for renewed diplomatic negotiations, we sent a convention, which we trusted the cabinet of the States would accept. The first article of that convention was to this effect, that—

“From the point on the 49th parallel of north latitude where the boundary laid down in existing treaties and conventions between Great Britain and the United States terminates, the line of boundary between the territories of her Britannic Majesty and those of the United States shall be continued westward along the said 49th parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel, and of Fuca's Straits, to the Pacific ocean; provided, however, that the navigation of the said channel and straits, south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, remain free and open to both parties.”

Those who remember the local conformation of that country will understand that we proposed the continuation of the 49th parallel of latitude till it strikes the Straits of Fuca; that it should not be continued across Vancouver's Island—thus depriving us of any part of Vancouver's Island—but leaving us in possession of the whole of Vancouver's Island. The second article of the convention we sent for the acceptance of the United States was to this effect—

“From the point at which the 49th parallel of north latitude shall be found to intersect the great northern branch of the Columbia river the navigation of the said branch shall be free and open to the Hudson's Bay Company, and to all British subjects trading with the same, to the point where the said branch meets the main stream of the Columbia, and thence down the said main branch to the ocean, with free access into and through the said river or rivers, it being understood that all the usual portages along the line thus described shall in like manner be free and open. In navigating the said river or rivers, British subjects, with their goods and produce, shall be treated on the same footing as citizens of the United States, it being, however, always understood that nothing in this article shall be construed as preventing, or intended to prevent the Government of the United States from making any regulations respecting the navigation of the said river or rivers, not inconsistent with the present treaty.”

Sir, I will not occupy the attention of the House with any more of the details of this convention. I would only state that, on this very day, on my return from my mission to her Majesty to offer the resignation of her Majesty's servants, I had the satisfaction of finding an official letter from Mr Pakenham, intimating in the following terms the acceptance of our proposals, and giving an assurance of the immediate termination of our differences with the United States:—

Washington, June 13, 1846.

“My Lord,—In conformity with what I had the honor to state in my despatch No 28, of the 7th instant, the President sent a message on Wednesday last to the Senate, submitting for the opinion of that body the draught of a convention for the settlement of the Oregon question, which I was instructed by your lordship's despatch, No. 19, of the 18th May, to propose for the acceptance of the United States.

“After a few hours' deliberation on each of the three days, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the Senate, by a majority of 33 votes to 12, adopted yesterday evening a resolution advising the President to accept the terms proposed by her Majesty's government. The President did not hesitate to act on this advice, and Mr Buchanan accordingly sent for me this morning, and informed me that the conditions offered by her Majesty's government were accepted by the government of the United States, without the addition or alteration of a single word.—I have the honor to be, &c.

R. PAKENHAM.

The Right Hon. Earl of Aberdeen, &c.

Thus, sir, these two great nations, impelled, I believe, by the public opinion, which ought to guide and influence statesmen, have, by moderation—by the spirit of mutual compromise, averted that dreadful calamity of a war between two nations of kindred race and common language—the breaking out of which would have involved the civilized world in calamities to an extent it is difficult to foresee (not one year—probably not one month of such war, but would have been more expensive than the whole territory that had called it forth)

but they have averted that war I believe consistently with their true interests—consistently with true honor on the part of the American government, and on the part of those who have at length closed, I trust, every cause of difference between the two countries. Sir, I may say also, to the credit of the government of this country, that, so far from being influenced in our views in regard to the termination of these disputes about the Oregon by the breaking out of the war with Mexico, we distinctly intimated to Mr Pakenham, that although unexpected events had occurred, it did not affect, in the slightest degree, our desire for peace. Mr Pakenham, knowing the spirit of his government, being aware of the occurrence of these hostilities, having a discretionary power in certain cases, if he had thought this offer would have been likely to prolong negotiations, or diminish the chance of a successful issue, yet wisely thought the occurrence of Mexican hostilities with the United States was not one of the cases to which we had averted, and therefore most wisely did he tender this offer of peace to the United States on his own discretion, and the confidence of his government. Now let me say, and I am sure this house will think it to the credit of my noble friend, that on the occurrence of these hostilities between Mexico and the United States, before we were aware of the reception which this offer on our part would meet with, the first packet that sailed tendered to the United States the offer of our good offices for the purpose of mediating between them and the Mexican government. Sir, I do rejoice, therefore, that, before surrendering power at the feet of a majority of this house, I had the opportunity of giving them the official assurance that every cause of quarrel with that great country on the other side of the Atlantic is terminated before we retire from office. Sir, I feel that I have now executed the task which my public duty imposed upon me. I trust I have said nothing which can by possibility lead to the recurrence of those controversies I have deprecated. Whatever opinions may be formed with regard to the extent of the danger with which we were then threatened, I can say with truth that her Majesty's Government, in proposing these measures of commercial policy, which have disintegrated the confidence of many of those who heretofore gave them their support, were influenced by no other desire than the desire to consult the interests of this country. Our object was to avert dangers which we thought were imminent, and to avoid a conflict we believed would soon place in hostile collision great and powerful classes in this country. The love of power was not a motive for the proposal of these measures; for, as I said before, I had not a doubt that, whether these measures were accompanied with failure or success, the almost certain issue must be the termination of the existence of this government. Sir, I am not sure that it is not advantageous for the public interests that this should be so—I admit that the withdrawal of confidence from us by many of our friends was a natural result of circumstances; and I do think that, when proposals of such a nature are made, apparently at variance with the course which ministers heretofore pursued, and subjecting them to the charge or taunt of inconsistency—upon the whole, it is advantageous for this country, and for the general character of public men, that the proposal of measures of that kind, under such circumstances, should entail that which is supposed to be a fitting punishment—namely, expulsion from office. I, therefore, do not complain of it; anything is preferable to attempting to maintain ourselves in office without a full measure of the confidence of this house. I said therefore, and I said truly, that in proposing those measures I had no wish to rob others of the credit justly due to them. Now, I must say, with reference to hon. gen lemen opposite, as I say with reference to ourselves, neither of us is the party which is justly entitled to the credit of them. There has been a combination of parties, and that combination, and the influence of government, have led to their ultimate success; but the name which ought to be associated with the success of these measures is not the name of the noble lord, who is the organ of that party, nor is it mine. The name which ought to be, and will be, associated with the success of those measures, is the name of a man who, acting, I believe, from pure and disinterested motives, has, with untiring energy, by appeals to reason, enforced their necessity with an eloquence the more to be admired because unaffected and unadorned; the name which ought to be associated with the success of those measures is the name of Richard Cobden. Sir, I now close the address which it has been my duty to make to the house, thanking them sincerely for the favor with which they have listened to me in performing this last act of my official career. Within a few hours, probably, that power which I have held for a period of five years will be surrendered into the hands of another—without repining—I may say without complaint—with a more lively recollection of the support and confidence I have received, than of the opposition which during a recent period I met with. I shall leave office, I fear, with a name severely censured by many hon. gentlemen, who, on public principles, deeply regret the severance of party ties—who deeply regret that severance, not from any interested or personal motives, but because they believe fidelity to party engagements,—the existence and maintenance of a great party,—to constitute a powerful instrument of government; I shall surrender power severely censured, I fear again, by many hon gentlemen, who, from no interested motive, have adhered to the principle of protection as important to the welfare and interests of the country; I shall leave a name execrated by every monopolist, who, from less

honorable motives, maintains protection for his own individual benefit; but it may be that I shall leave a name sometimes remembered with expressions of good-will in those places which are the abode of men whose lot it is to labour, and to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow—a name remembered with expressions of good-will, when they shall recreate their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, the sweeter because it is no longer leavened by a sense of injustice. [Loud and vociferous cheering, during which the right honorable gentleman resumed his seat.]

Communications.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—Permit me, through the columns of the Gleaner, to ask the Commissioner of Roads for the Parish of Chatham, the following questions:—Is it your duty as Commissioner to see that the Public Slips or Landings in this parish are kept in proper order? If it is your duty, how is it that you have, in violation of the trust reposed in you, allowed the Slip or Landing nearly opposite the residence of Captain Hawbolt, to be completely blockaded with timber, stones, &c., and allowed a boom for the securing of timber to be placed across the entrance of the Slip, to the great loss of the inhabitants in the vicinity of the said slip?

If the above grievances do not come within your jurisdiction, under whose jurisdiction do they come?

Chatham, July 28, 1846.

[For the Gleaner.]

STANZAS.

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” John viii, 7.

“Let him who is sinless first cast the stone;”

Such were the words of our Saviour and God; They were written for man's instruction alone, To save him from harm on his perilous road.

When swift flies the tale well black'ned with hate;

When fleet are the feet the poison to spread; When dark is the heart, and sad is the fate Of the victim, whose flow'rs have their fragrance shed;—

When th' arrow is steeped in gall's deadliest dye,

The quicker to rankle, the deeper to tear; When the flood-gates of malice full op'n lie, And dark is the stream that is rolling there;—

When the Altar is ready, the fire is prepared, And Envy's High Priest the sacrifice waits; When the sword's unsheathed, and vengeance's arm bared

To wreak the wild wrath seem'd will'd by the Fates;—

When Man sees his brother a weakness betray, Or Woman her sister, a victim to guile;

When frail nature sinks, by temptation's foul sway,

And the dim torch of love lights a funeral pile;

When th' errors of Youth—the foibles of Age Flow not from the heart—arise undesigned;

When war with the dead, bold rashness dares wage,

And the mantle is rent, which their Memories bind;—

Oh, then, 'twere well for man to think o'er,

'Ere the poison's spread, or the weary heart burst,

'Ere Calumny's shafts bathed in pure heart's gore,

'Ere by Envy's High Priest the victim's accused;—

'Ere wild wrath is wreaked, ere Vengeance cries stay,

'Ere Man smiles in scorn, ere, ah! Woman reviles;

'Ere the veil of the past's by rage torn away,

'Ere Love turns to hate, or Friendship breeds wiles;—

Oh! then 'twere well for man to think o'er

(Though black were the guilt—though dark were the crime;

Though Shame should accuse—tho' Sin should abhor,)

The doctrine then taught, and why at that time,

Him only who's guileless may first cast the stone.

They surely are meet for man to think o'er;

Addressed unto whom? the accusers alone, The victim was told, ‘go and sin no more.’

Ken, July, 1846.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1846.

WHEAT CROP.—THE WEEVIL.

“All men think all men mortal but themselves.”

We do not think we can preface our present announcement with a better adage than the above quotation furnishes, as for several years past we have only been hearing and reading of the destructive effects produced by that mischievous worm, the Weevil, upon the wheat crop; but at the same time not calculating upon the calamitous effects, so far as our wheat crop is concerned, of its immediate presence:—we now regret to state that we have no longer to remain in suspense as to what the Weevil is like, or as to the effects and consequences of its presence—nor do we know of more than one instance in which any man is any better off than his neighbour. We have heard a large field of the Hon. Joseph Cunard's mentioned as an exception, but that we give in qualified terms, not being assured of the fact—nor having heard it stated that a careful examination has been made. Some individuals are even at present trying an application of slacked lime, but of the effects likely to result from this expedient we do not feel by any means sanguine—as however the larva of the fly may, while on the surface, be affected by such application, we have our doubts as to whether the grub, when it is in active operation, ensconced within the kernel, can be reached by the lime. We are informed that several of our farmers have commenced mowing their wheat for fodder.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.—On the distribution of the prizes at the Midsummer examination of the Liverpool Collegiate Institution, the first Mathematical and Arithmetical Medal was awarded to Master ROBERT RANKIN (son of Mr James Rankin, of Northampton, in this province), for the last four months a student of the above Institution, and for the two years and a half immediately preceding, a pupil of John Sivewright, Esq., at the Newcastle Grammar School.

It speaks well for the efficiency of the Newcastle Grammar School, and the capabilities of Mr Sivewright, that in every instance where any of his pupils have competed with the pupils of other institutions, they have acquitted themselves with credit, and in most cases carried off the prize.

BONAVENTURE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We copy the following article from the British American Cultivator, and rejoice that our Agricultural neighbours across the Bay have been enabled to make such a gratifying report of the quality of their productions in grain. We would only hope that the parties testing the weights of the different descriptions of grain were correct in their weights and measures, as the weights we have rarely heard of as having been fairly attained to in this quarter of the globe. We know that some parties in preparing samples of grain for public exhibition, resort to unfair expedients, such for instance as kiln-drying, or applying heat equivalent.

We would not recognise any further artificial process as legitimate than passing the grain fairly through the fanners and being removed from the barn floor or other place of deposit to the exhibition.

“R. W. Fitton, Esq., Secretary of the County of Bonaventure Agricultural Society, district of Gaspe, has lately favoured us with a most interesting account of the condition of agriculture in that distant corner of Canada, which we would gladly have published had we been confident that the communication in question was intended for publication. The population of the county is about 9000, and the importation of bread stuffs equaled last year in value £5000. This should not be the case when farmers can exhibit at the Agricultural