

vivid sunbeam, and now the little sail is black at night, and steals with bewitching contrast over that sparkling surface.

Communications.

Mr. Pierce,

The enclosed letters on the Constitution of the United States, were written for the information and instruction of my son; but as the public mind is at present directed towards that country, and many of your readers are unacquainted with the institution of our neighbours, if you think they will be interesting or instructive, you can publish them in your Journal.

Yours, A FATHER.

My Dear Son,

You have already learned from History, that a number of the present States of America were formerly Colonies of Great Britain; that in 1776 they threw off their allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain, and published their celebrated Declaration of Independence; the immediate causes that led to this step must be familiar to you. And although you have also learned that the Government of the United States is Republican, and that they are governed by a President and Congress, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives; I am aware that you have not learned how they are chosen, or the particular power vested in them by the Government. I shall therefore endeavor to enlighten you in this respect; and I have no doubt, that after comparing the constitution of our neighbours with that under which we so happily live, that you will give the preference to our own, not because it is our own, but from a conviction that no Government can impart greater freedom to the subject.

All Governments are instituted to protect the persons and property of individuals—Constitutions are established to ensure the good administration of the Government, by giving the people some control over their rulers, and a share in the formation of the laws. The constitution of the United States differs from the British, as the latter was formed very gradually, checks against the abuse of power were not devised until the evils were actually felt. The constitution of the United States, which has undergone but little alteration since its first formation, was framed in 1787, eleven years after their declaration of independence by a convention of delegates from the several states.

The Executive power of the United States is vested in a President. I shall therefore commence with the Executive, and endeavor to explain the mode of the appointment, the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the President.

The person nominated for President must be a natural born citizen, and have attained the age of 35 years, and have been 14 years a resident within the United States. He is chosen by a certain number of electors chosen by each state; the number of these electors are equal to the whole number of senators and representatives which the state is entitled to send to Congress. The constitution of the United States does not define any qualification for such electors, but merely prohibits any member of Congress, and any person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, from being an elector. These electors are chosen in each state in such manner as its own laws may prescribe. They are sometimes elected by the state legislature (for each state has a distinct legislature) sometimes by the people in districts, and sometimes by the people in what is called a general ticket; that is to say, every citizen votes for the whole of the electors that his state is entitled to choose; this number is determined by the population of the state. The electors when chosen meet in their respective states at a place appointed by the Legislature thereof, on the first Wednesday in December in every fourth year succeeding the last election, and vote by ballot for the President and a Vice President, who is elected in the same manner and for the same period as the President; and who in the event of the removal of the President from office, discharges the duty.

The President and Vice President are voted for in separate ballots, distinct lists of those voted for as President, and those voted for as Vice President, and the number of votes for each are then signed, certified, sealed, and transmitted to the seat of government, directed to the President of the Senate; these certificates must be delivered to that officer before the first Wednesday in January next ensuing

the election. The President of the Senate, on the second Wednesday in February following, in the presence of both houses of Congress, opens all the certificates, the votes are then counted, and the result declared. The person having the greatest number of votes of the electors for President, is President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority then from, the person having the highest number (not exceeding three) on the list voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President. This balloting is by states, each state having one vote. If the House of Representatives should not choose a President before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice President is to act as President, as in the case of his death or removal. In the event of a vacancy in the offices of President and Vice President, the President of the Senate *pro tem*, and in case there is no President of the Senate, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the time being act as President, till the vacancy is supplied. In this emergency the election for a President takes place on the first Wednesday in December then next.

The President and Vice President hold their offices for four years, but are eligible for successive terms; but following the example of the first President, Washington, all the succeeding Presidents have declined being candidates for the third election.

Before entering on the execution of his office he is required to take the following oath (or affirmation) "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States." This oath is administered by the Chief Justice of the United States in the presence of the people. Immediately on the President elect taking this oath, a change in the Executive power is effected, he is then President, and his predecessor retires to the station of a private citizen. The President then delivers what is called an "Inaugural Address," in which he recognizes the leading principles of the constitution, and makes some manifestation of the particular course of policy by which he intends to be governed.

The constitution provides that the President shall at stated times receive for his services a compensation, that shall not be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and that he shall not within that time receive any other emolument from the United States or any of them. The salary at present is fixed at \$25,000 per annum, and he is supplied with a furnished house.

As we have now got the President or Chief Magistrate of the Union elected and sworn into office, we will enquire into his power, duties, and responsibilities.

The constitutional power of the President is not trifling, although rigidly subordinate to the law. In the discharge of the duties of his office he is assisted by a cabinet, which is composed of four Secretaries—State, Treasury, War, and Navy, and of the Attorney General; the salaries of these secretaries is \$6,000 each, and that of the Attorney General \$4,500. These ministers have no further responsibility than their own individual agency is concerned. They have no seats in Congress, for the constitution forbids that any officer of the General Government should be a senator, or a member of the house of representatives.

The President is commander in chief of the Army and Navy, and of the Militia of the several states, when called into the service of the Union. He has the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment. He has also the power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the senators present concur. He is the efficient power in the appointment of the officers of the government; it is his duty to nominate, and with the advice and consent of the senate, to appoint ambassadors, or public ministers, and consuls, the Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in the constitution. He is required to convene both houses of Congress, or either of them, on extraordinary occasions, and he may adjourn them, in case of disagreement. He is to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions, which, however, expire at the end of the next session of Congress. He is to receive ambassadors

and other public ministers; to commission all the officers of the United States, and to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

His other duties consist in giving information to Congress of the state of the Union, and in recommending to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.

It is a maxim in the British Constitution that "the King can do no wrong"—his Ministers alone are responsible—not so with the Constitution of the United States, as regards the President: he is as much a citizen and subject as the lowest citizen in the Union, and is amenable to the law for mal-administration: he, as well as the other Officers of the United States, may be impeached by the House of Representatives, for treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors, and upon conviction by the Senate (who have the sole power of trying impeachments) is removed from office—no other punishment can be inflicted than removal from office, and a disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of trust honor, or profit, under the United States. But the party convicted is liable to indictment and punishment on conviction according to law.

Iago—Men should be what they seem,

Or these be not, would they might seem knaves.

Othello—Certain! men should be what they seem.

Shakspeare.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—There are few things which so strikingly characterize the days in which we live, as a prevailing sympathy towards the commission of crime! No sooner do we hear of some poor fellow moral being sent out of this world by the steel of the assassin! of some hidden cut throat having flung with deadly intent a missile at the head of his unsuspecting neighbour; or of a herd of pilferers having picked up and pocketed a few pence, by way of training for bolder enterprises, than all at once expressions of sympathy, such as the following, are heard—"ah, consider the condition of the *unlucky* murderer; think of the provocation he may have had." "Do let us hope that the evidence to be brought against the cut throat may not be clear enough to condemn him!" "Why, dear me, the crime of the youngsters is but trifling, *what a fuss about nothing*!" My desire however, sir, is to speak more particularly of another class of sympathizers, who, although less numerous among us, are nevertheless far more injurious to the peace and well-being of every community. This description of persons is not to be found in the ranks of the low and illiterate, but are met with usually amongst those who carry high heads, and talk long and loud of the excellency of the British Constitution and Laws. I mean pettifoggers, who for lack of other employment, may be bribed to sell their friends any day, and lend their aid to any side of any cause, however disreputable; among such, shines your correspondent "Hazeltwig," most conspicuously.

"Coming events," they say, "cast their shadows before," but the coming of "Hazeltwig," was not only *twigged* by its preceding shadow, but was announced, long "before," by ominous sounds, such as are sometimes heard while the Tempest is gathering! So alarming were these solemn sounds, that—seriously speaking—fears were entertained regarding the personal safety of poor Castigator! but, "lack a day," instead of the coming hurricane, the pregnant cloud gave forth nothing but a *pettifogger's puff of wind*, which among the *Hazeltwigs* and underbrush, occasioned a sort of rustling noise, but disturbed not a branch of the better grounded, and more lofty of their brethren.

But to be serious. Long previously to the date at which I wrote my former letter, it was currently reported, that exorbitant claims had been made for the use of the PALL belonging to St. Andrew's Church. By some it was reckoned, that the *extra* portion of the charge was levied by undertakers; others fancied that the report, like many such marvellous tales, was altogether unfounded; while the larger and more respectable portion of the community, took it for granted that the sum claimed was that fixed upon by the church, and therefore paid it readily. In this way the matter would no doubt have continued to rest, had not the collectors* to whom I formerly referred, with

* For the discovery that the Collectors were Ladies, the world is indebted to Hazeltwig.

praiseworthy zeal, but without the consent of their Church Wardens, devoted themselves to the unthankful task of collecting the *needful*, wherewith to purchase a "Pall" for their own Church. The cause assigned for this collection, was not merely that the church ought to be provided with such a necessary appendage; but there was another and more potent reason, very properly offered, it was this—the overcharge said to be imposed for the present one. With the view of reconciling the confictory reports and opinions to which I have referred, and in order to dispel any suspicion which might rest on an innocent party, I was prevailed upon to write my former letter. I had reason to believe that the secretary of St. Andrew's Church would avail himself of the opportunity to exculpate—if innocent—the Corporation of that Church. Upon the public then would devolve the easy task of ascertaining as to whether the undertaker, (so called) or his accusers (not the collectors, but the overcharged persons) were the offending party; and here I designed the matter to terminate. This, then, was "the head and front of my offending."

Having arrayed himself in a few picked up trappings of some "knight errant" of other days, such as his "casque," "plume," &c., this modern "Sir Rodger" steps into the list, throws down the *gauntlet*, heralds himself the "Bravo" of insulted beauty, and the champion of his church, and then commences, *sans ceremonie*, to hack at the head of an offending, *unclad* gentleman, whom he had wont to call friend. Now, sir, estimating myself to be as valuable—though perhaps not so valiant—a friend to female innocence, as your modern "Redoubtable," I venture to tell that amoroza, that for the unprovoked attack he has made on their old friend, he will neither enjoy the approbation of these ladies, nor receive their thanks. And being, perhaps, as consistent and profitable, though not quite so bigoted and exclusive a member of the Church as "Hazeltwig," I venture to tell him that he has "sown the wind, and will reap the whirlwind;" that he had no authority whatever to constitute himself the mouthpiece of Episcopalians, in order to tender a tissue of personal abuse against a person, whom I suspect that they had no desire to offend. Farther than this, I shall not condescend to notice "Hazeltwig's" heterogeneous heap of nonsense, strung together as it is, like the scrawled "pothooks" of some urchin schoolboy.

Dragged reluctantly to the duty of writing this letter, I know not who will be most wearied of the performance, the reader or the writer! I shall therefore trespass no further on the columns of your paper, than merely to tender Mr H. at parting, a friendly *benediction*.

My erring child,—Mind your own business! Be not so concerned about ladies. They, sweet creatures, like two-edged swords, are apt to recoil upon the head of him who unskilfully handles them. It is reckoned that one is a match for any man of modern times. Do not fail, my son, to read Mrs Caudle over and over again; you will find her a most surprising woman. Resume the Havana Cigar; go your accustomed rounds, and where you had wont to be equally the delight of yourself, and byword of others, who can tell but the fumes of the "Havana," and the magic of the "Twig," may render your "puffs" more palatable, and your self-conceit less detestable.

Yours, &c.,

CASTIGATOR.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY JAN. 10, 1846.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ARRIVAL AND CLOSING OF THE SEVERAL MAILS, AT THE POST OFFICE, CHATHAM.

TIME OF ARRIVAL.—Monday.—Nova Scotia, St. John, Fredericton, Dorchester, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Petticoe, Richibucto, 6, A. M.

Tuesday.—Newcastle and Douglastown, 5, A. M.

Thursday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, Petticoe, Richibucto, 6, A. M.

Friday.—St. John, Fredericton, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Newcastle, South West, 6, A. M. Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8, A. M.

Saturday.—Newcastle, Douglastown, 5, A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tassimac, 3, P. M., every fortnight.

TIME OF CLOSING.—Monday, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Fredericton,