

Punch's Almanac 1846.

MR. CAUDLES TABLE TALK.

How Mr Caudle married Miss Prettyman, and how he "nagged" her to death.

When Harry Prettyman saw the very superb funeral of Mrs. Caudle—Prettyman attended as mourner and was particularly jolly in the coach—he observed that the disconsolate widower showed that above all men he knew how to make the best of a bad bargain. The remark, as the dear deceased would have said, was unmanly, brutal; but quite like that Prettyman. The same scoffer, when Caudle declared 'he should never cease to weep,' replied 'He was very sorry to hear it; for it must raise the price of onions.' It was not enough to help to break the heart of a wife; no; the savage must joke over its precious pieces.

The funeral, we repeat, was remarkably handsome; in Prettyman's words, nothing could be more satisfactory. Caudle spoke of a monument. Whereupon, Prettyman suggested 'Death gathering a nettle.' Caudle—the act did equal honour to his brain and his bosom—rejected it.

Mr. Caudle, attended by many of his friends, returned to his widowed home in tolerable spirits. Prettyman said, jocosely poking his two fingers in Caudle's ribs, that in a week he'd look 'quite a tulip.' Caudle merely replied—he could hardly hope it.

Prettyman's mirth, however, communicated itself to the company, and in a very little time the meeting took the air of a very pleasant party. Somehow, Miss Prettyman presided at the tea-table. There was in her manner a charming mixture of grace, dignity, and confidence—a beautiful black swan. Prettyman, by the way, whispered to a friend that there was just this difference between Mrs. Caudle and his sister—'Mrs. Caudle was a great goose, whereas Sarah was a little duck.' We will not swear that Caudle did not overhear the words; for as he resignedly stirred his tea, he looked at the head of the table, smiled, and sighed.

It was odd; but women are so apt! Miss Prettyman seemed as familiar with Caudle's silver tea-pot as with her own silver tumbler. With a smile upon her face—like the butter on the muffins—she handed Caudle his tea-cup, Caudle would, now and then, abstractedly cast his eye above the mantle-piece. There was Mrs. Caudle's portrait. Whereupon, Miss Prettyman would say, 'You must take comfort, Mr. Caudle, indeed you must.' At length Mr. Caudle replied, 'I will, Miss Prettyman.'

What then passed through Caudle's brain we know not; but this we know; in a twelve-month and a week from that day, Sarah Prettyman was Caudle's second wife. Mrs. Caudle, number two. Poor thing!

Communications.

To the Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

What? you will exclaim, another Candidate for our suffrages, in addition to the many talked of? Are we, then, so soon to be embroiled in the strife attendant on another contested election? I answer, No! My purpose is to throw out a few timely hints for your guidance at the approaching Election, which, at the farthest, is not far distant, but which Rumour with her thousand tongues, says is nigh at our very doors.

My FRIENDS! The greater part of you are aware, to your sorrow, of the manner in which the business of this County is being transacted. Did I say, of this County? I should rather have said of the whole northern section of this Province. You are also aware that for some years the "big houses," as they are styled, have been quietly obtaining Grant Blocks and Mill Reserves, till now they have the whole country completely blocked up; and if any individual wishes to employ himself and his cattle for two or three months of the long winter, his only recourse is to apply to one of our Monopolists for a permit to cut a tree in the forest, which is, and ought to be, free to the public; and ere he can obtain the permit, he is bound to take his supplies from, and to give the Monopolist every tree of his timber in the spring. Formerly, if an individual wished to lumber, he applied to Government for a permit, which was valid for one year only, supplied himself, and in the spring brought his timber to market, and received the value in good hard

cash. But in our day a lumberman has to be content with one third in cash, and the remainder in "trash," as goods are familiarly called. To be plain, the whole trade of the country is held by a hateful monopoly, composed of two concerns, which profess to be at variance, but in every matter that concerns them, you will find them pull together. They use the public as they please, paying and withholding money as it suits them. If a Farmer has a hog, or any other farm produce for sale, he is obliged to apply to these merchants, as there is no money among the public. The first question he is asked is, "what proportion of goods will you take?" And if he reply, "I do not require goods;" then "we don't want to buy." The consequence is, he must either take what he can get, or go home without selling. A person unacquainted with our improved method of doing business, will naturally inquire how the people subsist if they cannot purchase provisions. They buy from those merchants, whom they pay with the sweat of their brow. They must have their profits of every commodity that is used in the country; all sorts of provisions are taxed about fifty per cent over the cash prices in the market. I am not here speaking of Lumbermen alone, but of Tradesmen, Labourers, &c. And for want of circulating money, which is withheld by these establishments, the greatest outrages are perpetrated on the public. If a tradesman has a small bill against his neighbour, and presents it for payment, he is told "I cannot give you money; I do not get money for my work, you must take an order;" and on presenting this "Order," he is frequently brought to a stand by an insulting No! The paper is flung back to him, and he has no other recourse but to retire with feelings mingled with shame or disgust. My countrymen, I cannot longer dwell on this reality; it is only a tithe of the insults to which you are every day exposed. My Friends, I have been born and brought up in your midst, and the blood has boiled in my veins whilst observing what I have described. Is it not said in Holy Writ, that the laborer is worthy of his hire; and scarcely would it be credited that one man would insult another for asking it. But so it is, my friends. The picture is not too highly colored. And now that I have attempted to describe the disease, let me humbly propose a remedy. It is hinted by the higher powers that we are to have an Election. Let me advise you to be up and doing; you have been asleep to your interests too long. Look you for an honest man, who will pledge himself to use his ability in breaking up these Grant Blocks and Mill Reserves. You must send in Petitions to the House of Assembly from every parish in this county; and in doing this you will have much to contend with from the higher powers. But you must teach them that two or three must not stand in the way of the public interest. Men of Northumberland! The time has arrived when you must and will be free! free as the noble river which laves this infant country, destined for future greatness. What country would not be celebrated with such a river. I would say to you, Agitate! Agitate! Agitate! and that in a constitutional manner. We want only the privileges which subjects of Her Majesty ought to enjoy. Would that an O'Connell or a Joe Howe would arise in your midst and lead you on to the attainment of your rights. A very short time would suffice either of them to dispel this hated compact, and make them glad to hide their heads; and that you will obtain the desired change if you make use of the means within your power, is the decided opinion and earnest wish of

Gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

J. R.

Chatham, 4th February, 1846.

Chatham, 4th February, 1846.

Mr. Pierce,

SIR,—I observe in your paper of the 31st January last, a communication signed a 'Chathamite,' calling public attention to certain proceedings instituted against certain Hogreeves for this parish, for a dereliction of duty.

In reply to your correspondent, I would state that a complaint was laid before me by Mr John Hea, that Wm. Y. Thomson, Wm. Samuel, and Henry R. Smith, had not performed their duty as Hogreeves, although requested so to do. This complaint, coming formally from a respectable inhabitant, who at the time stated to me that he was prepared to substantiate the charge, I consulted with John Porter, Esquire, deeming that it would be advisable to have a Magistrate to adjudicate with me in the matter

who was not in any way connected with, or interested in the affairs of this parish. Accordingly, the parties were summoned to appear before us, at my office, on the 12th January last, agreeably to the act of the General Assembly of the 26th of George the Third, chapter the 28th, which act regulates proceedings in such cases.

On the day on which the parties were cited to appear, we entered upon the investigation of the charge. Only Mr Thomson appeared. When Mr Hea alleged that it was not his desire to exact fines from the parties in question, but that he wished, what he conceived a public nuisance, that was to prevent hogs and cattle from going at large, and that by those who were appointed and sworn to discharge that duty. Both Mr Porter and myself expressed a wish that the parties should come to an amicable understanding, and save us the unpleasant necessity of further interference. Mr Thomson accordingly agreed, that while in office he would for the future, discharge his duty; although at the same time he complained that the Pound, or the regulations connected therewith, was anything but satisfactory. The complaint against him, at the request of Mr Hea, was discharged. Samuel and Smith did not appear, consequently we had to go on. We proceeded to hear evidence, according to which we were compelled to fine each of the parties Two Pounds without costs.

Before Mr Porter left my office, he requested me to call on the parties, and acquaint them with what had been done. I complied with the request, and from both Samuel and Smith received as the answer that they would not pay the fine, and that if the matter was further proceeded in, the Supreme Court would have to decide the matter. Threats I never cared for. In consequence of receiving this answer, I made out the Executions, and conceiving that they should be jointly signed, I called on Mr Porter, at his residence, in Douglstown, and stated to him what had transpired, at the same time presenting him with, and requesting him to sign the Executions. He refused; assigning as his reasons that the time before the meeting of the sessions was too short for preferring such a complaint; and that he had been in a certain mercantile establishment in Chatham, and threatened that if further proceedings were had, the Supreme Court would bring him up; and for those reasons, he would not sign the necessary documents to enforce the payment of fines imposed by himself. Thus the matter stands. I have done my duty; let those abide the consequences who dare not enforce their own just decisions.

Your obedient servant,

P. WILLISTON.

Mr. Pierce,

Having occasion, constantly, when the crossing is practicable, to visit Chatham, at least once a week, with my family, and often, more frequently, I have, for several weeks past, observed what we term a *cradle-hill* forming on Coulson's slip, which by this time presents so formidable an aspect, in ascending or descending the slip, to a spirited horse, as to render it "dangerous to life and limb;" and having this day observed a lady in whom you feel much interested, together with others from Chatham, in Douglstown, and having noticed the conveyance in which they came, coming by the Coulson-slip road, and returning down the Douglstown shore, it struck me, that their not having returned by the route by which they came, was in order to avoid the Coulson-slip *cradle-hill*, and for that reason, and as you will, without going far from your own fireside, be enabled to collect information upon the subject, I thought I would drop you a line, that you may bring the matter under the notice of your Commissioners of Highways, as well as the approach to your town from the Bathurst road, by your public landing at Mr Samuel's, at which place I saw two or three persons making repairs a short time back, and upon inquiry learned that they were at work at the instance of their employer, and not in payment of statute labour. And perhaps you would, at the same time, direct their attention to the approach to your town by the southern mail route, near what used to be called Morrow's Barn, which is at present in a bad state, if not dangerous, for a stranger, and especially at night. But as I am not very much interested in either but Coulson's slip, perhaps you would call me a *busy body* in calling attention to any other, and therefore you can give such hints as will produce the desired effect, as coming from yourself: either that or make any use you think

proper of this letter, which will be obliging your friend

DOUGLASTOWN.

Douglstown, Wednesday, 4th Feb.

Miramichi, February 5, 1846.

Mr. Pierce,

SIR,—From intelligence lately received from Fredericton, I understand that the Executive Council has been remodelled, and other persons than those who lately sat at the Council Board, have been called to office, and who, if reports be true, are likely to pursue a liberal policy. I do not stop to enquire how far the change, on the whole, is either judicious or likely to promote the public interest, but this I conceive is the proper time to call their attention to any grievance under which the country may be labouring, in order that the Government may have an opportunity of laying their views before the Legislature while in session, if such should be necessary.

The subject to which I would now call public attention is one of vast importance, affecting as it does the leading interest of the country—and if not speedily remedied, will paralyze its best energies.

It is a known fact, that the various districts of the County not already granted, and suitable, or at all valuable for Lumbering operations, are locked up, being in the hands of a very few individuals, and who, under the present regulations, are privileged from year to year to renew their former licences, thereby preventing any new applicants from competing for any ground that they might require.

I am not averse to persons who have Mills situate on streams above the head of the tide, being protected, to a reasonable extent, by granting them Mill Reserves; but here I would stop, and not lock up the whole country by such a monstrous monopoly, as is now apparent to every disinterested person, who reflects for one moment on the subject.

Mr. Pierce, look at the effect; supposing I were a Farmer, I will, to prosecute that branch of industry, require to keep teams; and having no employment for them in winter, and having raised sufficient supplies, over and above what I require for my house, to carry on a small Lumbering party, would wish to employ myself in this way, where am I to procure a piece of ground? I must walk with hat in hand, to Messrs. Joseph Cunard & Co. Gilmour, Rankin & Co., or some other firm, who at the present time have all the country—and what then? why if I go to the woods, I must enter into an agreement, by which I become bound to take supplies from them at EXORBITANT PRICES, give them ALL my lumber at a reduced price; and if I should, under the circumstances, be so fortunate as to clear anything, I must take it in Goods. This is the state of things at present in Northumberland. I trust I have not exaggerated. Whether it is desirable to allow them to remain so or not, is for the PUBLIC to determine.

As the Legislature is now in session, I would recommend that PUBLIC MEETINGS be held in every parish in the county, to take the matter into consideration, and if thought advisable Petition for a redress of the grievance. The voice of an united people WILL and MUST command attention.

A LUMBERMAN.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 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 Douglstown, 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, Douglstown, 5 A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabinac, 3 P. M., every fortnight.

TIME OF CLOSING.—Monday, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Fredericton, Newcastle, South West, Douglstown, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8 A. M. Shippegan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabinac, every fortnight, 8 A. M. Nova Scotia, St. John, Dorchester, Richibucto, Petticoe, 9 P. M.