

Communications.

A Subscriber in Kent has sent us the following Communication with a request to have it published.

Saint Nicholas River,
Weldford, December 13, 1847.

Sir,
Feeling the responsibility of duty which I owe to the well-being of my fellow-men, I beg leave to bring before the public, through the instrumentality of your valuable and popular Journal, an extraordinary Cure of that almost incurable malady, the 'King's Evil,' by David M'Lellan, M. D.

During the long period of fourteen years I experienced its shock in various parts of my body; appearing first on my neck, after on my head, left cheek, &c.; back again to my neck and left shoulder, and under my left arm. My face was dreadfully disfigured, and being attended by eight medical men, whose prescriptions proved unavailable; despair of returning health, and a premature grave seemed inevitable, until the aforesaid Medical Gentleman undertook to cure me, which he effected (through the interposition of Providence,) and having pursued my ordinary avocations during the last eighteen months, without the least interruption, there remains not the least doubt of the permanence of the cure.

With much respect, I remain,
Yours, &c.
JOHN PLUMM.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:
CHATHAM, TUESDAY, Dec. 28, 1847.

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, 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.

NOVASCOTIA.—It appears by an article in the Halifax Times, that the Mining Association purpose opening Coal Mines in the County of Cumberland next summer.

THE GREAT RAILROAD.—A Correspondent of the Montreal Herald thus writes to the Editor on the subject of the contemplated Railroad to connect Halifax with Quebec.

The Commissioners state, as I learn, that they have traced a good and practicable route for a Railway for the whole distance from Halifax to Metis (and from Metis, we know, that a dead level may be found nearly to Point Levy). There are only upon the whole line, between Halifax and the St. Lawrence, from 20 to 30 miles presenting any difficulties, and these are all of a nature to be readily overcome by an increase of expenditure, which will only slightly increase the general average cost of the road.

I understand that the general course is from Halifax to Truro—thence to the eastward of Cobiquid mountain, and by the road to Shediac—thence by the north-eastern coast of New-Brunswick to the Restigouche—thence by the Metis road to Metis. I like this route, because it very wisely gives a wide berth to the American Territorial Line, besides securing to the great fishing coast of New Brunswick, the advantage of a road to market, &c. I look upon it, that the question of practicability is thus established, and that it now only remains for the Imperial Government to say whether the thing shall be done or not, for that it must be mainly an Imperial work, if done at all, no one here can doubt.

I hear further, that the Commissioners will remain at Halifax during the winter for greater convenience of communicating to England, where they will be occupied at the office work connected with the project.

NEW MAIL CONTRACT.—We are indebted to an exchange paper for the following summary of the Contract which the British Government have entered into with the Hon. Samuel Cunard and others for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mail across the Atlantic.

By the new contract recently entered into between the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and Messrs. Cunard, Burns and McIver, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails between England and North America, the Contractors are to receive £85,000 per annum, for the services between Liverpool and Halifax and Boston, and £60,000 per annum for those between Liverpool and New York, (either direct or by way of Halifax,) making in all £145,000 per annum, to be paid quarterly. An additional allowance to be made to

the contractors in case a state of war should occasion an increase in the rate of insurance or freight for coals, but not to exceed £40,000 per annum. The contract to continue for ten years from the first Saturday in January, 1848 and until determined by either party giving twelve months' notice after that period.

In addition to the general penalty of £30,000 for the non-performance of the agreement, the contractors are liable to a penalty of £100 for any delay of deviation on the voyage, without the sanction of the Mail Officer, who is to decide all the discretionary questions as to the necessity of stopping to assist vessels in distress or to save human life. A penalty of £100 is incurred in case of a delay of twelve hours after the appointed time for leaving Liverpool, and also a further sum of £500 for every successive period of twelve hours which shall elapse until the departure of the steamer.

CAUTION.—A merchant at Newcastle informs us that on Friday last a Central Bank five shilling Note, was offered to him at the counter, which had been altered to five pounds, by pasting the word pound over shillings, in the body of the note, and the border with V. on the left hand corner, was torn off. He adds, it was clumsily altered yet in the hurry of business, or by an ignorant person, it might have been taken for a five pound note.

BRUIN AGAIN.—DESPERATE ENCOUNTER WITH THREE BEARS.—A Correspondent at Northesk has furnished us with the following account of a desperate encounter with Bears in that parish. The suggestion of a gathering to rid the settlement of these troublesome sojourners is a good one, and we trust it will be acted upon. It will afford no doubt a good day's sport, and if successful, will render an essential service to the settlers.

On Wednesday last, Mr. William Henderson, accompanied by Mr. P. Shaughnessy, in following their usual avocations of shingle-making, were searching for shingle wood a short distance in rear of the residence of the former, on the Chaplain Island Road, in Northesk, they discovered an unusually large lying Pine Tree, which appeared suitable for their purpose, one end of which was hollow. They commenced sawing the tree for shingle wood, (as is usual) into short lengths, and had proceeded thus for some time, when much to the surprise of the parties concerned, they were astonished by an angry growl proceeding apparently from the tree on which they were operating, which caused them to stop their labours, and to create in them considerable astonishment, not unmixed with alarm. They had barely time to recover from their surprise and seize their axes, and Henderson advanced a few paces to inspect the hollow end of the tree, when he rushed an immense She Bear, with bristles erect, gnashing her teeth, followed by two others rather smaller in size, in all probability her progeny of the previous spring, exhibiting every symptom of inheriting their dam's ferocity, and angrily paced along in front of the tree. The men finding themselves thus desperately situated, and seeing no prospect of quietly escaping from this unpleasant proximity to madame Bruin and her offspring, who seemed resolved not to submit to be thus summarily dispossessed of their winter residence, prepared to resist the attack, which the old one evidently contemplated. A few moments passed in this way, when the old bear rushed at Shaughnessy, who with great difficulty defended himself from her savage attack; Henderson immediately attacked one of the smaller ones, which by a fortunate stroke of his axe, he deprived of one of his fore legs, and thus disabled, he quickly despatched it, and made for the third bear, which escaped into the tree. This was but the work of a few minutes; Shaughnessy who was engaged on the opposite side of the tree with the old bear (who proved to be rather an ugly customer) had wounded her on the breast with his axe, which she, by a dexterity which those animals possess in an unusual degree, knocked out of his hand with a blow of her paw; Henderson at this moment came to the timely assistance of his friend, and diverted the attention of the bear, until Shaughnessy recovered his weapon, when Bruin finding herself over-matched, escaped to a thicket close to the scene of action, unsuccessfully pursued by both men; they returned to the tree and proceeded to ferret out No. 3, which had secreted itself there, Henderson stood beside the mouth while Shaughnessy by chopping on the tree drove Bruin from his rest, who was despatched while getting out of the mouth of the hole. Shaughnessy was slightly wounded; the old bear was seen several times since the affray. The proximity of such neighbors, and their known partiality for a mutton chop, easily accounts for the number of sheep lost in the settlement during the present summer, and from the number of sheep lost in the Copp settlement, there is every reason to fear that there are many such Family Circles in its neighbourhood.

Could not something be done to clear those settlements of such pests, such as a meeting of those who take delight in field sports, at Mr Copp's, Northesk, on New Year's day for a

general Battue.—The weather is just now favourable, and such thrilling incidents as the above, offer every prospect of a good day's sport after which the partaking of a seasonable repast at Mr Copp's hospitable board, (I can testify from experience) will not be the least pleasing event of the day.

VESLEYAN ACADEMY, SACKVILLE.—Last week we obtained by post, a printed catalogue of this deservedly popular Institute, embellished with a very neat and artistically drawn copperplate engraving of the Academy and grounds. From it we learn that during the year 1847, the total number of Students at the Academy was 144—of whom 60 were in the Classical department; 49 in the Literary and Scientific department; and 35 in the Primary department. Twenty-two of the Students belonged to St. John.—During the term which has just terminated, 75 of the Students were boarded in the Academy.—The Rev. Humphrey Rickard, A. M. is the Principal of the Institution; Mr. Joseph R. Hea, Classical and French Tutor; T. M. Wood, Esq. English Master; and Mr. Geo. Milligan, and Mr. J. T. Outhouse, Assistant Teachers.—The next term to begin on Thursday the 6th of January. The charges for tuition, board, &c., in no case exceed £10 per annum.

We have previously spoken in high terms of the manner in which this Institution is conducted, and give us pleasure to witness that it still continues to meet the patronage it so justly deserves.

THE SEASON.—The weather during the week has been seasonable. Parties are now driving on the river with horses and sleighs with perfect safety. A small quantity of snow has fallen, but there is not yet sufficient on the ground to make good sleighing.

Deaths.

On the 21st instant, ISABELLA, youngest child of Mr. Combie, aged one year.

At Boreau, Restigouche, Canada East, on the 12th ult. THOMAS BUSTEED, Esq., aged 81 years; after a protracted illness which he bore with Christian fortitude, and resigned submission.

Mr. Busteed, who was a native of Cork, Ireland, emigrated to this part of the country in the year 1786 where he since lived. His sterling integrity and moral worth well qualified him to fill many important public situations. In his judicial capacity as a Magistrate, in which he officiated for the period of 45 years, he was ever actuated by a sincere desire to rule rather by love, than fear, in suppressing vice and in promoting concord.

In his official capacity, as Colonel of the Militia, he was always ready to suppress anarchy and misrule, and to protect the status of his Sovereign inviolate. In the domestic circle, he was a most affectionate husband, and a tender and endearing parent. He died sincerely lamented by a large circle of relations and friends.

At Chatham, on the 22nd ult. of dropsy, MRS. MARY SEABROOKE, aged 29, a native of the County Carlow, Ireland, leaving a widow to mourn her loss.

[Halifax and Canada papers please copy.]

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

His mail arrived last evening about 8 o'clock.

We have at length the British Mail. It was brought to Halifax by the Hibernian which vessel arrived at that port about half past one o'clock, on the morning of Thursday last, after a tedious and very boisterous passage of 19 days. We defer the publication of our Journal for several hours beyond the usual period, to enable us to furnish our readers with a summary of the news thus obtained, which we insert below. A greater portion of the extracts are taken from Williams & Smith's most admirable news sheet the European Times, of the 4th of the month.

The royal Speech from the throne was delivered by commission on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., of the royal business of Parliament at once commenced. The debate on the address elicited as we anticipated, some information respecting the course which Ministers intend to adopt. The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice that on the 30th ult., he would move for a select committee, to inquire into the effects of the recent commercial distress, and how far it has been affected by the laws for regulating the issue of bank-notes payable on demand.

The state of Ireland naturally formed an important feature in the first debates. Sir George Grey at once gave notice of his introduction of a bill for the better repression of outrage in certain parts of Ireland. The right honorable baronet took the opportunity afterwards of stating that a large store of provisions was still in the hands of Government, and considerable funds were left in the treasury of the Relief Association, which would be applied to meet the cases of the greatest

emergency in various parts of Ireland where utterly helpless destitution reigned, but a grant of money would be used of Parliament at least that was the present intention of Government, about which he would be able to speak more confidently at a future period. It is impossible to read the debates without being struck with the entire absence of all party feeling which seems to prevail in the House in the discussion and treatment of the finances of Ireland. The Irish members, as a body, have opened the campaign vigorously; accordingly, several of them made an attempt to thwart the Government in their attempt to introduce Sir George Grey's bill. Several speeches were made, attempting to illustrate the impolicy of passing a "Coercion Bill," (although *pria facie* evidence of its imperative necessity was given,) without the least attempt to convert its expediency. It was singular to see Mr. Wakley, the member for Finsbury, holding the opposition to the Government on this occasion. It is unnecessary to say that the opposition was unsuccessful. Leave was given to bring in the measure by a majority of 23 to 20.

It will be seen in another column that the first Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have officially withdrawn the letters of the 5th October, by which the Currency act of 1844 was suspended, and, according to the restrictions put upon the Bank of England to reduce 8 per cent. interest in advances is no longer in force. The Bank of England has, however, anticipated this step by reducing their rates to 7 per cent. A few days previously. Money has accordingly become somewhat easier, but the uncertainty which prevails respecting the ultimate proceedings of Parliament upon this question, still leaves matters in an unsatisfactory state.

Since the departure of the Britannia failures of considerable amount have continued to occur.

We have still to note various private failures, amongst which it will be seen that Messrs. Lackersten & Co., East India merchants, and Messrs. Sargent, Gordon and Co., of London, colonial brokers are the principal. The house of Laffite and Co. of Havre, large engaged in the American and East India trade, has been compelled to stop payment. Other morosuspensions, in Holland, Belgium, Trieste and Hamburg, do not acquire special rank. In Manchester and Liverpool, also, several houses have called their creditors together, but the firms have not been of great magnitude. It will be observed that Mr. Andrew Rankin, West India merchant, and Robert Buchanan, broker, of Glasgow, are included in our lists. In the London Stock Exchange the failures have been more extensive than for many years past.

It is satisfactory to state that the Royal Bank of Liverpool, whose payments were suspended about 6 months ago, reopened its doors at the 11th inst., for the transaction of business.

We regret to state that crimes and outrages continue undiminished in Ireland. The state of Tipperary, Clare, Westmeath, King's County, Louth and Limerick is most deplorable. The offences perpetrated in these six counties being a sad stain upon the history of Ireland, and render it absolutely necessary for the preservation of the peace of the remaining parts of the country, that a rigorous and appropriate laws should be exercised by the Government, for the protection of life and property. The details which daily reach us from Ireland are almost all written in the same unvarying fatal characters of blood. The figure of want amongst the people, serious and undoubtedly is, appears secondary in intensity to the insane desire of destroying humanity. The lives of the best benefactors of the people seem more particularly devoted to sacrifice. A deputation of thirty-two Irish members headed by Mr. H. Grattan, waited upon by John Russell, on the 25th ult., on the subject of Irish affairs. The Deputation submitted 257 resolutions on Irish affairs to his Lordship, and lodged with satisfaction to the fact of the Government having already adopted many of the recommendations suggested viz:—an improvement of the law between landlord and tenant; the establishments of food depots; increased facilities for the transfer of landed estates; and the disposition to afford the people an opportunity of reclaiming waste lands in preference to the emigration scheme. The Deputation, however, chiefly insisted upon its being the first duty of the government to provide food for the starving people. Lord John Russell intimated that the government had already made arrangements for the establishment of food depots, and that it was hoped that in a great degree, if not entirely, the law would answer the expectations which had been formed of it, so that further aid from the people of England would be rendered unnecessary.

The arms of the federal party in Switzerland have been everywhere triumphant. The campaign was opened by General Dufour, who first invaded the city of Friburg, which speedily capitulated without striking a blow. He then crossed the country, compelled the Cantons of Zug and Schwitz to surrender, and expelled the Jesuits from these places. The Sonderbund troops gained some advantage in several skirmishes which took place in Ticino and Uri, and over Ochsenstein's division, but after some hard fighting on the 23d, the victorious army of the Federals advanced to the