

ternal grandfather, and one uncle, had the same imperfection. This uncle was in the navy, and having a blue uniform coat and waistcoat purchased a pair of red breeches to match. Dr Nichol mentions a gentleman who could not distinguish green from red. The grass in full verdure always appeared to him what others call red, and ripe fruit on trees he could not distinguish from the leaves, a cucumber and a boiled lobster were of the same colour in his sight. This person had a brother and a niece—the daughter of another brother—in a similar predicament. Indeed, the defect has frequently occurred in several members of the same family, and frequently has been hereditary, sometimes passing over a generation, like other peculiarities of structure. It is observed more frequently, perhaps, in men. In the rarest and most extreme cases no colour is distinguished, all objects appearing in this respect alike. In all the cases in which the point has been examined, the part of the cranium under which, according to Gall, the order for judging of the harmony of colour is placed, is flat or depressed. In painters remarkable for their excellence of colouring this part is full of prominent. The contrast between this part or the forehead in a person who has the defect, and in another excelling in the power of colouring, placed side by side is very striking.—*Elliotson's Human Physiology.*

Communications.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr Editor,

To a reflective mind, Mr Howe's letters would suggest the question, "Can no other path be opened to satisfy the cravings of America's public men?" At the risk, perhaps, of appearing egotistical in dissenting from the views of a superior mind, I attempted a criticism of them; it is with diffidence I now venture (even under the guise of an anonymous signature) to offer these remarks. A union of the Provinces would seem to present an extended and legitimate sphere of action for abilities the most distinguished. Cold, passion, less, and phlegmatic minds may, nay, do scorn, the idea of a British American directing his hopes of fame beyond the confines of a petty representative; but why in the midst of social, commercial, religious and moral elevation, should that of the intellect be neglected? And how can it be elevated in its more exalted character, without a corresponding opportunity for its development? Now, in the duties and responsibilities which must attach to the situation of a legislator of the United Provinces our public men would find an enlarged field, whether for speculation or for action. In regulating the trade of a population scattered from Lake Superior to Point Sable—in connecting the provinces by lines of communication, and improving their internal condition—in co-operating with the imperial government, in a system turning the tide of immigration to the shores of the colonies—in adopting and carrying out in their principle, all those British institutions which then would become the pride of legislators, and the security of colonists—in consolidating laws so as to render judicial decisions harmonious, the administration of justice equal and pure;—in short, in fulfilling all those numberless duties which their situation would involve, legislators would incur a responsibility equal to their desires, perhaps beyond their powers of endurance. If the minds of colonists could not in such a wide expanse for action, find a suitable exercise, there is reason to fear they are too stultified for the wilds of America. But if we could contemplate the two millions increased to twelve millions, with wants and liabilities in equal proportion—if we could contemplate a united people virtually independent, though fettered by the bonds of love, and enjoying a kindred commerce with other nations, then would there be little reason to dread that men would "live, and droop and die," "unknown, unhonoured and unsung." The mind that could enjoy the confidence of twelve millions of free-born colonists, and direct their energies to the attainment of the greatest good, need not cast an envious eye either on the premiership of England or the Presidency of the United States. To mould the destinies of a young empire, fraught with the elements of greatness, would challenge the most enlarged capacity. To avoid the dangers of monarchical domination on the one hand, and on the other republican licentiousness, would afford exercise for genius even of the "purest ray." The youth of British America might then cultivate those qualities which Mr Howe recommends, confident that their individual improvement would be their country's good; confident that in the arena of public favor, he only should be champion, who regarded most the public weal.

Instead of envying Englishmen "across the water" the enjoyment of their lofty and sacred trusts, they might be invited to co-operate, or dared to compete. Rivals in greatness, but cemented by friendship, still would our prospects be the more glorious. The sun which would but gild our hopes with his morning rays, has already shed his meridian beams on theirs. Their system has grown up complicated and cumbersome; ours would be light and unfettered; they are surrounded by the memories of aristocratic pride; we would guard against the evils of popular licentiousness; their rulers are obliged to expend their giant-like powers in hushing the voice of complaint, ours would exercise their abilities in maturing and executing plans for their country's benefit; there, they are required to "regenerate and disenfranchise" here, the exuberance of freedom would be curbed and controlled; their ruler's duties are palliative and remedial, ours would be creative and encouraging; their experience would be our guide, their misfortunes become our warning. What an extensive field for colonial enterprise and colonial ambition! How rich in resources, how brilliant in prospect.

But, Sir, will you pardon the trespass on your paper, while I venture to offer other reasons in favour of a Union—while I regard it as a means tending to other ends.

Five provinces populated in the same manner, their inhabitants speaking chiefly the same language, appendages of the same crown, sitting under the shadow of the same wings, and liable to be affected by the same causes, are growing up discontented, and actually at variance with each other. Different customs, different laws, different institutions, different modes of education, and different forms of government also obtain throughout all the colonies. Responsible Government is denounced in one colony as "responsible nonsense;" in another has created disunion among the people; in a third is agitated; in a fourth is recognized and carried into full operation. Calculated to carry on the same trade, equally abounding in minerals and natural resources, requiring nearly the same importation, and alike destitute of manufacturing energy. Still we find no bond of union existing—no one principle in common, save an unwavering determination to treat each other as strangers. Questions of importance, which should and might be arranged among themselves, are, for want of unanimity, settled by the imperial government, to the dissatisfaction of all. The character of each is equally dissimilar, and rapidly becoming more and more distinguishable and peculiar. There is as much distinction between a northern New Brunswicker, and a native of some counties of Nova Scotia, as there exists between the former and a New Englander; and this in every phase of character, whether social, commercial, political or religious. Now, is it not a matter of peculiar moment, that these conflicting interests should be amalgamated—that there should be a fusion of so many differences, an identification of so many characters? And does not this receive additional vigor when it is considered, that the longer it is delayed, the more diffusive and more deeply impressed become the distinguishing characteristics; that prejudices which in one generation might easily be eradicated, in a succeeding one become inveterate habits, incorporated into and commingling with every transaction of life. And if before a change take place, systems, however limited in their extension, be introduced, just in a corresponding degree to their application, will the difficulties be increased. Scotland has been one hundred and forty years united to England; but for one half of that time, it was merely by a parchment bond. A kindred spirit, a fusion of interests has since arisen; seventy years conquered national prejudices and an inveterate hatred, and they are now indissolubly incorporated. Ireland has been joined in union just one third of that period, and never since have the government have had one moment's peace; and now, instead of an embodiment of principle, feeling or interest, the union is alarmingly threatened.

Shortly before the American revolution, Franklin declared a union of the colonies impracticable, on account of rival feelings and provincial animosities. This character prevailed during the war with France, and gave her a decided advantage in the campaign on this continent. Nothing but was considered a common cause of overwhelming importance, could induce the colonies to merge their feelings and unite their strength. It was a violent remedy.

I would argue from this, not the impropriety of union in general, but the difficulty attending its introduction at an improper period. Nature seems to have resolved that these colonies should be united, for they are bound by a mutuality in want, under the same government, requiring the same fostering care and capable of being benefitted or injured by the same causes; but if art enkindle prejudices, introduce discordant feelings and make inveterate distinctions, it may also require two generations to pass away ere real union and amalgamation can take place. To carry a union into effect requires the cooperation of the people and prejudice or sectarian feeling would thwart this even to its own detriment.

ARION.

New Brunswick, February 1847.

Mr. Pierce,—Although a constant reader of your interesting paper, as you very well know, I am no writer, I am sorry to say; and have now to request a neighbour to write even these few lines for me. In yesterday's paper, I had a great deal of pleasure in reading an article over "An Observer," which we have been promised since last week; and have no doubt that such production will greatly advance the respectability of our much-esteemed Gleaner. I am sure nobody will say that the language is not very chaste, elegant, and appropriate; and the Scripture quotations perfectly applicable and correct.

My eyes fairly swam over it as I read it, and I do not remember when I felt a greater degree of satisfaction, or more delight. But what do you think, Sir? I this morning, in a company of six or eight persons who called themselves literary characters, or who at least thought themselves so, heard that article turned into ridicule! called an *incomprehensible, enthusiastic, unmeaning, rhapsody*. I was astonished and mortified beyond measure or description; but unfortunately in the company in which I was sitting did not dare to defend, at the same time that I had no doubt upon my mind that the person who had brains enough to pen that article, had also the ability to explain every thing that he said in it, even to the satisfaction of any of your readers who happen to be like myself,

A THICKHEAD.

Wednesday morning, Feb. 17, 1847.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 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 to 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.

Gleaner Office, October 23, 1846.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—A meeting was held in Halifax on Saturday week, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Magnetic Telegraph Line between Halifax and Quebec. The chair was occupied by A. M. Unacke, Esq. Several Resolutions approving of the measure was adopted,—among them was the following:—

Resolved—That a Company be formed with capital to the extent of £4000, to lay such a line to the extremity of Nova Scotia in Cumberland in connexion with the Company now existing at Quebec, and also with any Company, if hereafter formed, in the Province of New Brunswick.

A committee of thirteen gentlemen were appointed to carry out the resolutions, and to arrange the organization of said company. The whole line as far as the Province line near Amherst, it is estimated, will cost something less than £4,000, and the yearly expense about £600.

The following is a copy of the Report of the Quebec Committee, which was read at the meeting:—

The Committee appointed at a Meeting of the Board, held on the 19th ult. to consider and report upon the route most advisable to be selected for the line of Magnetic Telegraph have the honor to report.

That they consider the following to possess the strongest claims to a preference, viz:—From Metis through the Kempt road to Camp-

belltown (Bais de Chaleur) from thence to Dalhousie, Bathurst, Miramichi and the Bend of the Peticodiac, where a branch should diverge to St. John and Fredericton) and thereafter, the direct and usual road to Halifax, thereby passing all the rising commercial ports of the Gulf and river St. Lawrence.

The political and commercial advantages to accrue from the adoption of this line, over that, via Riviere du Loup and Fredericton are manifold.

In the first place, the remotest distance from the American frontier, would be followed, (a consideration of the highest importance in the event of hostilities with the U. States,) and a safe line of communication, for the interest of the Imperial and Provincial Government, and the commercial inhabitants of the Colonies afforded. By skirting the St. Lawrence, the merchants of Montreal and Quebec, as well as some of those of England, would derive incalculable benefit, in the receipt of information of the early arrival, and outward progress of vessels, to and from their respective ports, while to the consignees and owners of wrecked ships or vessels in distress, requiring assistance,—this line must be of great advantage; and Insurance (a burden now pressing so heavily on the Canada trade for the reason above stated, would no doubt,) be easily lessened.

It is also of great importance for the interest of Her Majesty's Government, that in the line of Telegraph to be established, a safe communication should be afforded, for the transmission of official instruction to the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governors of the Lower Provinces, as well as for the Military Commanders in their several districts.

At the same time it would afford facilities of communication, from the Commanders of the British Cruisers, in the Gulf, protecting our fisheries, with the Admiral at Halifax, and the authorities at Quebec, and in the event of disasters to any of Her Majesty's Ships, Transports or Emigrant Vessels, the earliest possible assistance might be obtained.

It would also open a new and flourishing Country (now all but isolated during a large portion of the year,) and give a ready means communicating with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, the fishing establishments at Gaspe, and the whole coast of the Gulf, which afford a large interchange of commerce with the above Provinces: the lumbering districts of New Brunswick would also share in this desirable line of communication.

These are but a moiety of the benefits, it is believed which will arise from the adoption of the route now advocated. The Kempt road, it is true, is but sparsely settled at present, but no apprehension is entertained of ultimately obtaining from the Provincial Government, favourable terms of settlement for persons who may be induced to repair thither: and it should be the earliest work of the Board to secure for that destination the necessary number.

The road via Riviere du Loup and Fredericton, does not present any of the advantages attaching to the route above described. For a distance of about forty miles, it runs in close contiguity to the American Line; Woodstock a settlement of considerable intercourse with the state of Maine, is within twelve miles of the frontier. No new Country has to be opened up, no political or commercial advantages to be subserved, commensurate with the adoption of the Metis route. The interests of the people of New Brunswick, it is believed will be as fully secured by the branch line from the Bend of the Peticodiac. Its proximity to the American boundary would render it unsafe for Government purposes, precarious and doubtful for the transmission of commercial intelligence; as likely to produce a remunerative return for the capital employed it must be looked upon as decidedly intelligible. The whole nevertheless submitted.

EDWARD BOXER, Chairman.

JOHN JONES.

ALEXANDER GILLESPIE.

Quebec, 3rd February, 1847.

HALIFAX.—A public meeting was held in this city on Monday week for the purpose of devising means for the relief of the destitute inhabitants of Ireland, and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Mayor of the city was called to the chair. The subscriptions amounted to £543.

NOVASCOTIA.—It appears by the report of the Committee on Public Account, that the Revenue of Novascotia the last year amounted to £100,000, being an increase over that of last year of £18,000: the sum of £30,000 has been appropriated for the service of Roads and Bridges.

TOM THUMB.—This wonderful piece of humanity, came out a passenger in the Cambria, accompanied by his parents, and Mr. Barnum, under whose charge he has been during his sojourn in Europe. The last number of Willmer and Smith's valuable journal, the European Times relates the following wonderful tale regarding the success of his 'professional tour' through Europe:—

"In taking our leave of this miniature hero, we would briefly glance at his unparalleled success since his arrival in Europe. He has appeared before more crowned heads than any person living—that is to say, any person in the