

The next point, that of representation in the Imperial Parliament, is far the most interesting in its consequences, and the most difficult and abstruse in its nature, of any which are investigated. It is bold and ideal, and unfortunately can neither be justified nor condemned by precedent. History affords no instance of Empire and Colonies exactly analogous to that of Great Britain and her dependencies.

Now, it does not seem exactly honorable to threaten a change of government as the consequence of a want of conformity to Mr Howe's plans. It speaks but little for American loyalty; and besides, Mr Howe is certainly not yet the delegate of British America. The reference to American States as illustrative of the principle, is not very felicitous; for if each state of the Union "contribute its quota in influencing the national feelings," so does each state "contribute its quota" in forming the national revenue, and this is a consummation not desired by the writer. Whether British America, protected as she is by British arms within and without—fostered by British commerce, and encouraged by British capital—dependent on British valour for successful resistance, or chastisement in case either of insult or injury,—whether British America thus situated, and at present thus helpless, has a right to raise a voice of complaint, because the Imperial Parliament may not deem it necessary to consult her, in making wars or concluding treaties with foreign nations, is a point not to be conceded unhesitatingly and without deep reflection. Certain it is, she could demand no more, were she willing and able to share in the danger and encounter the risk. Had the Oregon question been decided at the mouth of the cannon, British money would have protected our frontiers, British ships have defended our ports; the calamities of such an event the colonies could neither have sustained nor averted.

But granting the right of the colonies to influence the national legislation, let us see how this design will operate practically in effecting its end. Ten men are chosen to represent colonial affairs, and accordingly take their seat in parliament. Now, what right have we to assume that these persons, elected by different provincial legislatures, will promulgate the same opinions? Or why will greater deference be paid to the *visu voce* expression of the few, than to the voice of their constituents, fully and fairly embodied in the representatives in General Assembly. The late case of the Corn Laws is alluded to. In all probability the voice of the representatives would not have rolled on harmonious and unbroken, in one swelling volume of conformity or disagreement to that measure. In order to influence, it is absolutely necessary that unity of mind exist; and what concordance can be expected between a Canadian Radical and New Brunswick Conservative, even in purely colonial matters? It is idle to suppose that each party would not be represented, for the leading minds of either must in their own sphere be the most popular, and possess the most confidence. If discord or difference of opinion divide those who should be united, what shall be received as the voice of public opinion in America, or would she be willing to entrust to ten ambitious men, the power of definitely arranging those important questions, which, by their situation, they will necessarily review?

But let us follow these men into the deliberative assembly, and see how will be fulfilled the duties of the colonial office. It is no assumption to suppose that men of the brightest talent would be chosen—men capable of grappling with arduous duties, and reflecting lustre on the senate. To confine them to subjects purely colonial, would be as difficult as Mr Peel deemed it in 1829, to restrain Catholic members to the discussion of certain questions. What would be purely British, and what would be purely colonial, would not be easy to ascertain. The moment the representatives enter the Colonial office, so soon do they become connected with a party. The spirit of party must invigorate their actions, and give a tone to their conduct. They must serve the ministry as well as the colonies—stand or fall by party—support the government or mingle in the opposition. In the midst of conflict and excitement, colonial affairs would receive, instead of an undivided care, but that share of attention which their importance among more embarrassing subjects, would warrant in bestowing.

To be continued.  
New Brunswick, January, 1847

## RENOUS BRIDGE.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—As most persons in this county, as well as many in other parts of the province, are interested in the Bridge across Renous River, I must beg, through the medium of your paper, to say a few words on the subject. The first bridge across that river was carried away by a freshet, for want of being properly secured. A plan for a new one was then decided on by the present Supervisor, on which it was built, but too soon found to be a plan that was not suitable for the place, or any other where the span is so great, viz: 150 feet between the abutments. This bridge kept settling in the centre for several years, and the arch sagging down stream until it got so bad this spring, that it was expected it would fall; the centre of the arch having gone down stream about 5 feet. The Supervisor then put a bent under the centre of the arch, with three posts and braces, which has secured it until the present time. There has been a talk all summer of putting an abutment under the same to secure it; but I was not a little surprised a few days since, to hear that the Supervisor had contracted for the erection of a Heater above, in place of the abutment under, at an expense of £130, exclusive of his 10 per cent commission; thereby leaving the bridge to depend on this bent, with the assistance of two more posts, for support, which any person who sees it must say there was a want of judgment in so doing. Had he put a solid abutment under the present arch of the bridge, and a Heater to extend up stream equal to the height of the abutment; and well secured, and the present arch to have a bearing on the top of the abutment of about 25 feet, by extending the upper logs over the sides of the abutment at the top. After this was completed the present arch might be hove back to its place, and secured. Then, if the Bridge should require repairs in future, it might be done at a small expense, and the bridge would likely stand a number of years; but as it is to be done, we need not expect to see it there more than a year or two, and getting more unsafe for heavy loads every day, and if anything happens to the bent, down it must come.

I do not know where the Supervisor has got his plan of making Heaters to break up the ice; but if he got it when he was sent by the Province to the United States, to make himself acquainted with bridge building, he had better have stayed at home, and save the province the expense.

The plan he has adopted to prevent this bent from going away, is to erect a Heater above the Bridge 40 feet long on the ground; 20 feet wide at the lower end, and 10 at the upper end; to be 24 feet high, 12 feet long, on the top, 12 feet wide at the lower end, and 9 feet at the upper; to have an apron 37 feet long, 10 feet broad at the bottom, and 9 at the top; this must make a place to cause a jam, then the Heater being so much wider at the lower end, causes the space to be narrower, when it comes between the abutments, and the building being allowed to have 9 inches between the logs, will cause the ice to jam in the Heater, and hold, so that in case there should be any thing of an ice freshet, the bridge will be sure to go. To make this bridge secure, something should be done to the breakwaters on the two shores.

A TRAVELLER.

South West, February 12, 1847.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 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.

Gleaner Office, October 23, 1846.

DESCRIPTION OF THE "FAR WEST."—For some years past, numbers of our Farmers, who were in comfortable circumstances, have from time to time disposed of their possessions, at great sacrifices, to seek a home in that 'El Dorado,' that 'Land flowing with milk and honey,' the 'Far West.' They have been

impelled to take this injudicious step from the advice of 'friends' in that part of the world; and as we understand that many others have almost made up their minds to go 'Far West,' next spring we would invite their attention to the following extracts from a Letter with which we have been kindly furnished. It is written by a man who has followed the advice of these false friends, and having repented of the step he has taken is desirous that a true statement of the case should be made known, to deter others from following his example.

The picture he draws of the country, represents it to be every thing but an earthly Paradise, and we would seriously advise our neighbours, who have an inkling to undertake the task, to give it a serious consideration, and to weigh well the truths as they are detailed in the extracts below. Better sleep and waste time

"Bear the ills you have  
Than fly to others that you know not of."

The letter is dated at Milwaukee, Jan., 12, 1847.

Dear P.—After a passage of four weeks, by land and water, we arrived safely at Milwaukee, also P.—R.—and family. It is a costly and weary route for a family such as ours; it cost me about £50, being so imposed upon, which is always the case with strangers, particularly those who have large families. The route I went was from St. John to Eastport, thence to Boston, thence to Albany, by rail road 200 miles; thence to Buffalo 300 miles by canal, which took us ten days; from Buffalo to Milwaukee, 987 miles by the lakes; which commonly takes from four to seven days, as they may have delays. On landing here about the 15th October, I found the place very sickly, with fever and ague, bilious and other fevers, bowel complaints, and other diseases, and still many were coming here from Illinois and other parts, seeking for health. All these Western countries have been very sickly the last summer and fall, the weather having been very dry and warm, there having been but little rain. It is the saying of every person that while in the country they have never known it so unhealthy. I have to inform you, that I have seen most part of the Miramichi people since I came here, and their situations are but very middling; not to be compared to the splendour of their writings, but dragging out an existence. Mr B. is almost 60 miles from this, and has neither house, land, or any thing else. D. B. is in Illinois, he and his wife cooking for an Englishman, and have no place of their own. I have seen R. and F. they were sick, and their situation also appeared unhealthy. I would therefore advise you, who are comfortable, as I have been, to consider well, and take care—would to God that people had been as sincere before, as I am.

It is counted good wheat to weigh over 60 lbs and they call it good produce to have from 15 to 20 bushels to the acre. The land is not equal to the description you have heard. The wood land is heavy hard wood, most part stony and dry, of rich quality. The prairie has no wood, but grown over with large weeds, and a kind of wild grass, not like that beautiful grass you heard of. The marshes spoken of are low, wet, shaking swamps, growing a coarse kind of grass, what we used to call kill cow, and they never think of cutting it for feed, still the cattle must eat it here, for the want of better. \* \* \* The people are frightened off the land; in short, the farmers produce is very low, some situated 70 or 80 miles from a market, with the worst description of roads. With the people often sick, the taxes heavy—when you compare those difficulties with the beauty of the climate, and goodness of the soil, I think the former overbalances the latter.

DESTITUTION IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.—We are indebted to the Quebec Gazette for the following Resolution, moved by the Revd. Norman McLeod, at a recent Public meeting in Edinburgh, at which the Lord Provost presided. It established the fact that the people in those parts of Scotland, are suffering the greatest privations.

It having pleased Almighty God, in the mysterious workings of His providence, to visit our land with an almost total failure of a very important article of food, which sad affliction presses in a peculiarly heavy manner upon the inhabitants of those remote localities of our country—the Highlands and Islands of Scotland—where the population have been for many years dependent upon the potato crop for their subsistence during the winter; in consequence of which the people are now in a state of deplorable destitution and want, while there is every reason to anticipate, that as the winter advances, they will be exposed to still greater distress, if not to actual famine, unless prompt and energetic measures be adopted to assist and relieve them.—This meeting expresses their opinion, that it is the Christian duty of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, and of all whom it has pleased God to surround with more fa-

vorable circumstances, to adopt such measures as may be calculated to afford immediate relief to our suffering and starving countrymen, and alleviate if not prevent, the impending calamities.

Upon the same subject the Editor makes the following remarks.

The account from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, are truly awful. The labouring population of Sutherlandshire, Ross-shire, Invernesshire, Argyleshire, and of the Hebrides and Zetland Islands, are at this moment threatened with starvation in consequence of the total failure of the potato crop. Already have many of these people perished from cold and hunger, and horrible as are the sufferings of the destitute Irish, we believe they are quite equalled by those of the poor inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; but, as there are no coroner's inquests in Scotland, and but few local newspapers, deaths from starvation take place, and the public are uninformed of the occurrence. Under these circumstances, the Edinburgh Committee for the Relief of Destitution in the Highlands have determined to appoint a deputation to proceed to London for the purpose of holding a public meeting and laying the claims of the suffering population of the Highlands before the people of England.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—We copy the following soul-harrowing details of the ravages of famine and disease in this devoted country, from a late number of the Liverpool Mail.

"It cannot longer be doubted that in this unfortunate country, millions are in a condition of the most calamitous destitution now, with no other prospect before them, humanly speaking, than deeper and still deepening distress for months to come. However the statements for some particular localities may possibly have been exaggerated, the testimonies to the heart rending fact are too numerous and too strong to be set aside. It is notorious that scores are dying through the want of food. No language can convey an adequate idea of the extent of distress; the measures of relief in the way of employment on public works and the supply of food by local committees, are totally unequal to the exigency; in fact, the peasantry in several countries are famishing, and the Provincial Journals record a number of additional deaths from starvation.

"Increased alarm pervades many wide districts in the south and west. The people see the corn stack daily diminishing in bulk, and before many weeks supplies from distant points must come, or hundreds will die of starvation. The late frost having stopped some of the mills in the county of Meath, the people of two baronies were for several days living, or rather starving, on turnips and cabbage merely boiled. Mr Cummins, a magistrate for the county of Cork, in a letter to the Duke of Wellington, says that, 'Having heard so much of the distress in the western parts of the country, I went on the 15th to Skibbereen, and to give the instance of one townland which I visited, as an example of the state of the entire coast district, I shall state simply what I there saw. It is situated on the eastern side of Castlehaven Harbour, and is named South Reen in the parish of Myros. Being aware that I should have to witness scenes of frightful hunger, I provided myself with as much bread as five men could carry, and on reaching the spot I was surprised to find the wretched hamlet apparently deserted. I entered some of the hovels to ascertain the cause, and the scenes that presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearance dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horse cloth, their wretched legs hanging about naked above their knees.—I approached in horror, and found by a low moaning they were alive—they were in fever, four children a woman, and what had been a man. It is impossible to go through the detail, suffice it is to say that in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least two hundred phantoms, such frightful objects as no words can describe.—By far the greatest number were delirious, either from famine or fever. Their demoniac yells are still lingering on my ear, and their horrible images are fixed upon my brains. My heart sickens at the recital, but I must go on. In another case decency would forbid what follows, but it must be told. My clothes were nearly torn off in my attempts to escape from the pestilence around when my neckcloth was seized from behind by a gripe which compelled me to turn.—I found myself grasped by a woman with an infant apparently just born, in her arms and the remains of a filthy sack across her loins—the sole covering of herself and babe. The same morning, the police, entered a house on the adjoining lands, which was observed shut many days, and two frozen corpses were observed lying upon the mud floor half devoured by rats. A mother he self in fever, was seen, the same day, to draw out the corpse of her child, a girl about 11 perfectly naked, and leave it half covered with stones. In another house within five hundred yards of the casualty station at Skibbereen, the dispensary doctor found seven wretches unable to move under the same roof. One had been dead many hours, but the rest were unable to move themselves or the corpse!

"These cases may be multiplied. The following is from the letter of an incumbent, a native of Wales, residing in the county of Ros-