

this bill of Exchange, to meet the obligations of the Committee. There will still remain a debt of £12 2 to be discharged. In addition to this, the Committee are pledged to contribute at least, five pounds towards Mr Bertram's salary. These facts, it is sincerely hoped, will, together with other considerations of the paramount importance of the grand aim of the Bible Society, induce the friends and members of this auxiliary, to contribute with a degree of liberality proportionate to that prosperity with which God hath entrusted them, and not to withhold, but to aid with their fervent supplications also, without which none have any right to expect real success, that the spirit of the Lord who inspired the sacred scriptures, may accompany their truth, with saving power.

We live in days of portentous occurrence. The mind is awed and astonished in reflecting upon the changes which have been effected since our last annual meeting was held. Ancient thrones are endangered, modern dynasties are being subverted, political confederacies are disorganized—they seem as if they had become familiar, and every-day incidents. Wide spread anarchy and social disorder, threaten to upheave institutions that have stood for ages. But it is sad to observe, that amidst the unquenchable thirst for civil freedom and liberty which characterizes the times, there is little desire manifested either on the part of rulers or people, to turn from their sins and seek the guidance and light of the God of all goodness, who, whilst He is full of loving-kindness to the children of men, is also a righteous God and a God of Judgment. It is, however, animating and refreshing, to learn that whatever may be thought of the revolutions and changes that have been of late enacted, He who is the Governor of the nations, who rules in Providence, and who has the hearts of all the children of men in His power, so that He turneth them as the rivers of water whithersoever He pleaseth—has rendered the disposition and circumstances of countries and communities where many obstacles stood in the way of the circulation of His book, much more favourable to the reception of the scriptures of truth, than before the foundations of society were disturbed. For instance, Professor La Harpe, of Geneva, says in his speech at the last anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society—'France is now entering upon a new field of life and action. The new political situation that has been introduced into that country makes it quite another field, because Christian exertion will find there new space, and also new facilities: therefore it seems to me to be quite a proper time for this society to strengthen its hands, and for its friends and patrons to close their ranks, and to march, as one man, to the conquest of this country.' The Rev. W. Arthur, upon the same occasion, states his conviction that 'there is no difference of opinion among Christian men, who have been among the Parisian population during these changes, as to the fact, that a very considerable opening has been made on every side, for the progress of the word of God in that country, and that by a state of public mind not easily accounted for, certainly anomalous in itself, and, as far as I can judge, exceedingly unlike anything we have hitherto discovered as generally pervading the French mind—by a definite impression on the minds of the people generally, that, in the present course of political events, that there is a power at work that politicians do not control, that politicians have not originated, which even men, who previous to those changes, never seemed to think of a Providence, now without hesitation acknowledge to be the hand of God, working changes that no man could have foreseen!'

Such being the state of a very influential portion of the world as respects the word that makes wise unto salvation, there is evidently a powerful call to the friends of the Bible, and the friends of mankind, to increasingly serious, strenuous, sustained exertions, in order 'that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.' And in our little sphere, as a small auxiliary to that noble institution whose influence originated and sustains us, we surely ought to feel that we too should not only persevere in the good work of striving together for the diffusion of the whole counsel of God in His holy revelation, but also, with increased prayerfulness and diligence; take advantage of every door of usefulness which, in Providence, has been opened to us, or is waiting to be opened. Let us seek the advancement of that blissful period in the future history of the world, when 'they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they all shall know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.'

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1848.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and in 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.

MARK OF RESPECT TO JOHN WRIGHT, ESQ. LATE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.

On Wednesday last, the 23rd instant, a deputation consisting of the following Gentlemen—Hon. T. H. Peters, Hon. Joseph Cunard, and John Nesmith, William Loch, Richard Hutchison, George Kerr, and James Johnson, Esquires, waited upon Mr Wright, and presented him with the following Address, which bore the signatures of every mercantile firm on the river, as well as of that of almost every individual of any standing in the community.

To John Wright, Esq., late Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, Miramichi, New-Brunswick.

SIR, The undersigned Magistrates, Merchants and other inhabitants of Miramichi, New Brunswick, have heard with deep regret, that after a service of thirty one years as Collector of this port, it has been deemed advisable in carrying out the present views of Government, regarding trade and navigation, to abolish the important office you have so long held.

The manner in which the duties of the office were discharged during the long period of your incumbency, gained for you the unbounded confidence of the mercantile community. With scrupulous regard for the interests of the crown, you were at all times found extending to those engaged in trade, the utmost courtesy, and every accommodation calculated to lessen the inconveniences of a scattered community.

The deep interest you have at all times taken in promoting every measure, likely to advance the permanent interest of the Country—more especially its Agriculture—has long been felt and acknowledged.

It would have afforded us great pleasure to have congratulated you on being promoted to a higher sphere of usefulness, when your services were no longer required amongst us. We trust however, that although you have been obliged for the present, to retire into private life, that you will not long be suffered to remain inactive: that your long experience and high character as a public servant, will ensure for you a situation equal to our desires and your merits.

We shall rejoice if it should be consistent with the interest of yourself and family to continue your permanent residence amongst us. We would deeply regret your removal, but whether you remain, or from being again called into the service of the crown, or from the interest of your family, be obliged to remove from our community, our best wishes for the health and prosperity of yourself, Mrs Wright and family, will accompany you.

Mr Wright made the following reply: Miramichi, N. B. 31st August, 1848.

Gentlemen,

It is the cause of much gratification to me, to receive through you so kind and flattering an Address, on the occasion of my severance from the Customs Department of this extensive port, over which as collector of Her Majesty's Customs, I have had the honor to preside for upwards of thirty years during which period I have endeavoured, and it has always been my most anxious wish (as far as was consistent with the faithful discharge of my official duties) to extend every accommodation with a view of lessening the inconveniences attendant upon so scattered a mercantile community.

I have ever felt a deep interest in the welfare of this Country, and if I have in the least contributed to its prosperity, by my very humble endeavours to promote its Agriculture, I shall feel great satisfaction.

Almost to the last I entertained a hope, that I might have been permitted to retain my situation, and continue among you for the remainder of my days; but Her Majesty's Government having been pleased to dispense with my services for the present, I cannot refrain from here expressing a hope that they will again require them; although a separation from old and tried friends, with whom I have passed so many happy days, would be truly painful to me, still justice to my family would demand the sacrifice.

Should not, however, Her Majesty's Government again require my services, I humbly trust that they will be pleased to grant me such retired allowance as will enable me to maintain my family in my declining years—should this be the case, nothing would afford me greater pleasure than uniting with you, in promoting the prosperity of Miramichi.

Allow me Gentlemen, on the behalf of Mrs Wright and myself, to tender you our sincere thanks for your kind wishes for the health and prosperity of ourselves and family.

With sentiments of sincere regard, I remain Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

JOHN WRIGHT.

To Hon. T. H. Peters, and others.

WRECK OF THE ASTORIA.—A meeting of the Assignees of the cargo on board his vessel, was held at the office of Mr Campbell, notary, in Quebec, on the 14th inst., at which the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

That the consignees of goods shipped in the bark Astoria, wrecked at Fox River, district of Gaspe, cannot but express their approbation of the great personal exertions and decision of captain John Richards, in saving so

large a portion of the cargo from the wreck, in the very exposed situation where she lay, and also of his promptness in sending on articles saved to Quebec, their port of destination in lieu of permitting them to be sacrificed at Gaspe, as has too frequently been done with goods saved from other vessels, under more favourable circumstances than those from the Astoria.

MEETING OF CATHOLICS IN ST. JOHN.

—A large meeting of the Roman Catholic population of the city and County St. John, was held at the Temperance Hall in that city, on Tuesday last, the object of which was to express an opinion respecting the composition of the Jury empannelled to try the rioters at Woodstock. The very Rev. James Dumphy, V. G., occupied the chair. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted on the occasion.

Resolved, that this meeting is fully impressed with the conviction that the happiness and prosperity of society are inseparable from public order, which can be best secured by the firm and impartial administration of the laws of the land, and that any undue interference with the course of Public Justice should be reprobated as an encouragement to disorder. Nevertheless, this meeting of opinion that the formation of Juries for the trial of offenders, being a duty of the most grave importance, and to be discharged with the utmost integrity and impartiality, should be watched by the public with the most active vigilance.

Whereas the population of this province is composed of various bodies of Christians, all intitled to equal rights and privileges under the protection of the British Constitution and the laws of the country, and as the lives, liberties and properties of persons of all denomination mainly depend on the system of Trial by Jury.

Therefore Resolved. That the exclusion of any body of Christians, from the Jury Panel, merely on account of their religious belief, is a gross insult to the feelings of such religious, a positive violation of the constitutional privileges of the subject, and undue tampering and interference with the purity and sacred character of the Jury Box.

Whereas, at the late special Court of Oyer and Terminer at Woodstock, in the county of Carleton, held for the trial of certain Catholics for a Riot, growing out of a collision between them and certain party-men professing the Protestant religion, the high Sheriff of the County in empannelling the Jury purposely excluded all duly qualified Catholic Jurors of the County, solely by reason of their being members of the Catholic Church, which exclusion was attempted to be justified by the Sheriff having also rejected from the Panel all Protestant Party-men, thereby including all persons professing the Catholic religion in the degrading ranks of partyism; and whereas all religious or secret party Societies are strictly disapproved and condemned by the spirit and practice of the Catholic Church:

Therefore Resolved, We view such exclusions as practiced by the Sheriff of Carleton and the pretext assigned therefore as a wanton insult to the feelings of Catholics generally, and an unconstitutional precedent, which if acted upon, must prove utterly destructive of their dearest rights and interests.

Whereas, the conduct of the present advisers of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with reference to the late Prospective course of the Sheriff of Carleton, and touching the holding of the late Woodstock Court, has been characterised by a disingenuous and contemptuous indifference towards the Catholic petitioners, derogatory to the high and dignified position they hold as Executive Councillors, and unmerited by any portion of Her Majesty's subjects:

Therefore Resolved, That while we entertain feelings of the most dutiful attachment towards the representative of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, yet we do not shrink from fearlessly declaring, that the present advisers of His Excellency have lost all claim to the confidence and support of the Catholic inhabitants of the province.

Resolved, That a humble petition, embracing the substance of the foregoing Resolutions, be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor praying that His Excellency may be pleased to cause enquiries to be forthwith made into the course pursued by the High Sheriff of the county of Carleton in empannelling the Jury at the late special Court of Oyer and Terminer at Woodstock; and upon finding that duly qualified Catholic Jurors of the said County have been excluded from the Panel on account of their religion, then that His Excellency may be pleased to extend the Royal Prerogative to any Catholics who may have been convicted at the said Court by discharging them from custody.

Resolved, that we recommend to our Catholic fellow subjects through every county in the province, immediately to assemble and adopt effective measures for the redress of grievance complained by this meeting.

A Petition to the Lieutenant Governor predicated on the above resolutions, was read, and agreed to by the meeting.

CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Editor of the Toronto Examiner, gives the following gratifying news respecting the Crops in the United States, obtained from a gentleman who had travelled

through the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana. The Editor says:

He informs us that the Crops in these States the whole of which he has visited within the last four weeks, are universally good. The corn crop is the largest ever known; its average height is from ten to twelve feet high, and in some instances stalks are to be seen of sixteen feet in height. In the corn growing states parties will contract to raise corn at 6 cents a bushel. This is for the labour. The corn is nearly all converted into pork and beef, or used for distillation in the states where it is grown. The wheat crop in central Illinois, has partially suffered from rust, but in the other states it is generally remarkably free from rust, and of excellent quality. New wheat was selling at Mount Carroll mills Illinois, at 45 cents a bushel. This season there will be a larger surplus of cereal grains in the United States than in any previous year. The prospect of the pork trade is that prices will be exceedingly low. Farmers are now offering in Illinois to furnish pork to the packers at \$2 per 100 lbs. It is believed they will have to accept \$1 75 cts. Beef promises to be proportionably low. The crops throughout Ohio are unprecedented. It is estimated that this state will yield this year 25,000,000 bushels wheat over one third more than ever before in one year.

SETTLEMENT OF FRENCH DEMOCRATS IN AMERICA.—The Editor of the New York Sun says—that two agents of the French Government have arrived in the United States, with a view of buying a tract of land for the purpose of sending thither a part of the insurgents of June. The Philadelphia Democrat has been assured that these agents are now in treaty for a tract in Virginia comprising some 100,000 acres.

OREGON.—The United States Senate on the 12th instant, passed the bill from the lower house, providing for the future government of the above-named territory with the proviso prohibiting Slavery within its limits. General Shields has been appointed Governor of the country, and Messrs. Turney, Brant, and Burrell Judges.

MEETING IN QUEBEC.—A very numerous meeting of individuals friendly to Emigration, was recently held in Quebec, when a series of Resolutions were adopted. The Chronicle of the 15th instant, gives the substance of the same, as follows:

That Emigration might be rendered either a curse or a blessing to this country, according to the manner in which it might happen to be undertaken; that therefore it was advisable that the people of Canada urge on the Imperial Government the necessity of organizing a systematic colonization, and paying its requisite expenses; at the same time protesting against the present unaided and unorganized deportation of our fellow creatures, which already exposed us to fever and almost to famine. The resolutions set forth, that as the British public were already burdened with the support of their poor, it was their interest to invest their money in such a way as would rid them for good of those who are liable to be a recurring incumbrance to them; that consequently their suffrages might be solicited on the ground of self-interest, as well as on considerations of a more extended policy, involving the improvement of the transatlantic commerce and colonies; that for the attainment of the object in view, it was requisite that a course should be pursued in accordance with the position and circumstances of this Colony: the application of hired labour was therefore suggested in matters non-agricultural only—the plan of agricultural settlement proposed was briefly, that the British nation should pay for the location of the settler, and his maintenance until the first harvest, the emigrant giving a bond for his expenses, payable within a given time, and his lot improved by his exertions being liable for the same; thus making the expense of emigration and settlement a loan subject to recovery. A committee was nominated by the meeting, the publication of information on the question in England was recommended, and also the forming of an association in order to carry into effect the views advanced in the resolutions.

BISHOP HUGHES.—This gentleman, the Roman Catholic Bishop of New York is now on a visit to Halifax.

CANADA.—The Agricultural Journal of Lower Canada for the present month has the following gratifying paragraph respecting the crops:

In our last we stated that a good crop in Canada this year would go far to improve the circumstances of the country, and we rejoice to say that, from present appearances, there is every reasonable hope that we shall realize an ample crop, with the blessing of favorable harvest weather to save and secure it.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT POLK.—In the House of Representatives on the 10th inst., a communication was received and read from Nicholas P. Trist Esq. dated Westchester, (Penn.) giving the history of his agency in framing the