

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE  
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OLD SERIES] *Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

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## Communications.

### Gaspe Company Affairs.

To John Murray, Esq.

We, the undersigned, Magistrates, Merchants and others, residing in the County of Bonaventure, sincerely regret that circumstances have lately occurred, connected with the "Gaspe Fishing and Coal Mining Company," upon which, we as personal friends of yours, and well-wishers to that undertaking, feel called upon thus publicly to express our opinions.

The commencement of operations in this District, of a wealthy and influential Company, was hailed by us with heart-felt satisfaction, because we felt assured that, if conducted on a prudent, yet liberal basis, the entire population of both counties would be benefited, not only by the mere expenditure of capital and employment afforded, but by the managers becoming the patrons and promoters of every improvement, tending to ameliorate the condition of the inhabitants generally, and such we had reason to believe, would have been the aim and study of the two chief superintendents, successfully removed by the machinations of men who, if we may judge from their acts, can all along have had but one end in view—the ultimate ruin of the undertaking.

The Shareholders have, we presume, at length formed a correct opinion of the character of those, by whose false statements they have hitherto been deceived, and the power delegated to Messrs. J. & M. Tobin, of Halifax, to enquire into the state of their affairs, and by those Gentlemen transferred to you, doubtless appeared to all parties sufficient to enable you to protect the interests of your principals. But the sequel has proved how little either they or you knew of the individuals you had to deal with. Your authority has been set at defiance, and to the disgrace of the District, officials are found who construe into felony your lawful acts and take action thereon upon charges "unfounded in truth as they were base and villainous in conception."—added to which your opponents have been countenanced and supported in their illegal proceedings, by those whose office would elsewhere be considered a sufficient guarantee for their respect at least of the Law.

We are induced thus severely to comment on the conduct of these parties, because we consider that such a course is not only injurious to the public interest, but establishes a precedent fraught with danger for the future.

Your unexpected departure from among us, without having accomplished the purport of your mission, is to us a source of infinite sorrow, and we feel convinced that your long experience and intimate acquaintance with the trade in this quarter, would have enabled you to place the business of the Company on a sound and respectable basis; and much as we regard the untoward events which have called forth this address, still we are happy under the trying circumstances in which you have been placed, to have it in our power, to bear testimony to the high opinion we entertain of your judgment and ability, assuring you that you possess in an eminent degree, the confidence, esteem, and good wishes of all those among us, who during an intercourse of many years have had abundant opportunity of appreciating your worth.

Trusting your enemies, who are in truth those of the Gaspe Company, may receive the reward they so justly deserve, and that under the control of Gentlemen whose word shall be their bond, this important undertaking may be what we are convinced it ought to have been—a source of profitable investment to the shareholders and a blessing to the District.

We remain, Dear Sir,  
Yours ever faithfully,

Signed by J. J. CALDWELL, J. P.  
WM McDONALD, J. P.  
N. BOISSONNAULT.  
MATTHEW CALDWELL.

And by 64 others.

To J. J. Caldwell, Wm. McDonald, N. Boissonault, and Matthew Caldwell, Esquires, Gentlemen,

I thank you sincerely for the very friendly address which you have this day presented to me, and shall ever retain a grateful recollection of the kind feeling and favorable opinion therein expressed.

This public manifestation of your regret at the shameful treatment I received in my endeavours, to place the business on a sound and respectable basis, from those whose duty it was to respect the authority of their employers, implicitly follow my directions, and afford me all the assistance in their power. I highly appreciate, and am much pleased to see, by the large number of signatures to

the address, that my conduct has been so generally approved by the respectable inhabitants of the county of Bonaventure.

Your satirical expressions in the commencement of the operations of the Gaspe Company, were without doubt, well founded, and I quite coincide in your opinion, that had they been conducted with prudent liberality, both the county of Bonaventure and Gaspe, and not only these, gentlemen, but the adjoining ones also, would have benefited largely, both by the expenditure of its capital, and the fostering care of its managers, whose influence would have been given to the promotion of every improvement, and to the benefit of the inhabitants generally.

Knowing the fate of my two predecessors, it seems strange even to myself, that I was so inflated, as to place the slightest confidence in men, whose general conduct has been such as to cast a shade of suspicion over all their actions; and as you correctly state, gentlemen, the sequel has proved how little either my principals or myself know of the individuals I had to deal with.

I am sorry that recent events so strongly justify me in admitting, that it is a disgrace to your District, that it contains officials who can construe into felony, lawful acts, and take action thereon, upon charges as unfounded in truth as they were base and villainous in conception. Such creatures, however, gentlemen, it appears there are, and you all know them to be capable of lending themselves to any purpose, to suit the interests of their worthy friends.

These men and their associates, have been countenanced and supported, and let me add, gentlemen, assisted in their illegal proceedings by those, whose office should be a guarantee of their respect for the law, and justify the assumption, that nothing but what was strictly in accordance with its precepts, would receive their approbation.

The power transferred to me, doubtless ought to have been sufficient to enable me to protect the interests of my principals, and also to place the business of the company on a sound and respectable basis; but gentlemen, my authority was set at defiance by the servants of the company, and every obstruction and annoyance which they could devise and execute, were resorted to by them, to prevent my accomplishing the purport of my mission, and with what respectability and success the affairs of the company had been conducted, you are all acquainted, a lavish expenditure of means, for purposes not necessary. The injudicious management of every branch of the business, without system or regularity, a reckless disregard to promises which has destroyed all confidence, and a want of proper attention to dealers, are some of the causes which have brought matters up to their present deplorable condition, and proves beyond dispute, that the parties in charge, particularly the agent at Pabos, possess neither experience, judgment nor discretion, and are therefore totally unqualified to discharge the duties of so important a situation, and that under their management, as a matter of course, ruin must speedily ensue.

The Saw Mill and Lumbering Department under the particular management of Duncan Bruce, evidently has been the most unsuccessful branch of the business, which is rather surprising, as Mr. Bruce was one of the first, if not the very first projector of the scheme, and no doubt you will remark the correct accounts he gave of the capabilities and resources of the country to the good people of England, in order to induce them to become Shareholders.

In the first annual report of the Directors, they speak in very flattering terms respecting the favourable prospects of the Mill and Lumbering Department, as being under the superintendance of Mr. Bruce, an able and experienced Lumberer, second to none in America. Where the Directors received this valuable information can be only matter of conjecture, but it is supposed that the Gentleman referred to, with his usual and characteristic modesty, was his own trumpeter; be that as it may, one thing is certain, that having succeeded in obtaining a snug salary, his subsequent operations do not exhibit that knowledge and experience his employers seem to have given him credit for, as practicable and successful master lumberers openly assert that there is nothing like management in his department, numerous almost incredible circumstances could be adduced to substantiate this fact, but perhaps the most decided proof of incapacity and want of judgment is that the mill is placed in a situation, where from the commencement, it has long been unprofitable and must soon become useless, and the general impression is, that he anticipated the capital of the Company having been frittered away without adequate returns and the patience of all concerned wearied the whole of their property on this side the Atlantic would ultimately fall into his own hands, and some of his confederates; who have

not sufficient sagacity to keep their own secrets, have unguardedly avowed such a hope, and that should such occur they would make it a Yankee concern, when a Mammoth business will be done—but I calculate Jonathan will be not so easily duped of his 'collars' as John Bull has been of his pounds.

The very flattering terms in which you speak of my judgment and ability is pleasing to me, and it is under the unwarrantable treatment I have received, most cheering to find that I possess in an eminent degree the confidence, esteem and good wishes of all those among you, who during an intercourse of many years, have had abundant opportunities of appreciating my worth.

Those who have in this affair voted as my enemies are undoubtedly also the enemies of the Company, and most sincerely do I hope for the benefit of all concerned, that they will soon be superseded by gentlemen whose words shall be their bond, and by whose means, this important undertaking will become what truly it ought to have been—a source of profitable investment to the shareholders and a blessing to the district.

Again, thanking you for this flattering mark of your respect and sympathy, believe me to be Gentlemen,

Your friend,  
JOHN MURRAY.

To John Murray, Esq., of Yarmouth, in the Province of Nova Scotia, now in the District of Gaspe, Representing the Gaspe Fishery and Coal Mining Company, &c., &c.

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned, inhabitants of the County of Gaspe, consider we should be wanting in a sense of duty towards you as a respectable friend and old acquaintance, were we not to avail ourselves of the opportunity which presents itself, of expressing to you our sincere regret at the treatment you have experienced in the recent discharge of your duty, being fully satisfied that no conduct of yours which was not authorised, ever justified the opposition you have met with. But Sir, surrounded by subordinates of the Company, whose designs from the period of your arrival at Pabos in February last, were manifest to frustrate your management of the concern, it would have been surprising to us, who knew the parties, if you had found more favour at their hands, than two of your predecessors, and we can, but congratulate you if your time among them is likely to be shortened by it.

Aware that your mission here on the part of the Company, was to make such a change in the management of their affairs, as would place the business on a sound footing, and thus ensure its future success, we regret that from causes which you could not have anticipated, some of your objects have been temporarily defeated, and while we are happy to have it in our power to bear testimony to your character, ability, and intentions to carry out the views of your principals, we cannot but feel indignant at the conduct of the men who conspired against you, which leads us to the conclusion, that it was high time for the Directors of the Company to look into the state of their affairs.

As to the persecution and abuse which you are personally subject to from these men, we beg to assure you, that emanating as it does from characters who have not shown sufficient honesty of purpose to establish themselves, as you have done these many years, in our good opinion, we view their behaviour towards you with disgust, and sincerely trust their days of rule are numbered. And in thus strongly exposing our disapprobation of the conduct of the present servants of the Company, we are more particularly induced so to do because we consider that the prosperity of the County and District of Gaspe is in some measure identified with that of this important undertaking.

We are, Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

Signed by JOSIAH CASS, J. P.  
DANIEL LELIEVRE,  
J. J. MORTARTY,  
J. ALEXANDRE,

And 253 others.

To Josiah Cass, Daniel LeLievre, John J. Mortarty, and James Alexander, Esqrs. Gentlemen,

I thank you most sincerely for the kind and flattering address which has been this day handed to me by Wm. McDonald and E. Martell, Esqrs., by your request. This mark of public respect and private regard, is not the less welcome for having appended to it the names of many respected friends and old acquaintances, and it will add another link to the chain of friendly reminiscences of the inhabitants of Gaspe, formed by an intimate and cordial association during a period of upwards of 30 years. When I assumed the management of the Gaspe Company's affairs, it was with a confident hope that my general ac-

quaintance with the people, and experience in the business of the country, aided by the co-operation of its agents and the willing assistance of its clerks, would enable me to soon overcome the obstacles to its success, and remove the disadvantage it appeared to be laboring under. The fact which was not unknown to me, of two Gentlemen having previously failed to accomplish a similar purpose, did not deter me from making the attempt, but rather stimulate me to it, and while I gave them credit for all necessary talent, ability and intentions, I attributed their want of success to accidental circumstances, and a deficiency in that local knowledge and experience of which I presumed I possessed a larger share. Perhaps Gentlemen, I also flattered myself, that feeling a much greater interest in the prosperity of Gaspe and its inhabitants, than with all due deference to my predecessors, who were strangers, could possibly do, I would be enabled to apply my energies with greater success; but Gentlemen, I met with opposition where I expected to have received assistance, and encountered so many obstacles, that (as you are aware), my anticipations and desires, have ended in disappointment and defeat. This opposition and these obstacles, Gentlemen, I am sorry to say, were created and carried into execution by those whose duty it was, had they discharged it faithfully, to have assisted me in every way they possibly could or I might desire, and not 'conspire' for the unworthy purpose of preventing the execution of my orders, destroying the benefit of my management and injuring their employers. Had I known the parties I had to deal with, so well as you appear to do, my anticipations of success would have been less sanguine, and my operations more decisive and complete. I quite concur in your opinion, that it was high time for the Directors of the Company to look into its affairs, and am equally indignant at the conduct of those, who by their machinations, prevented my placing the business on a sound footing, and to ensure its future success.

The personal abuse and persecution I was subject to, I cared not for, emanating as it did from persons whose whole course of action has been marked by unblushing rascality, and an utter disregard to any other feelings than those of personal interest, promoted by base unworthy means. But Gentlemen, although sympathizing with you, as I sincerely do, in your regrets that I have been defeated in my endeavours to place the affairs of the Gaspe Company on a sound footing, I am sorry that I was so, not only for the interest of those whom I represented, but also for that of yourselves and the public generally, whose prosperity is without doubt in some measure, identified with that of this important undertaking. Still I hope that brighter days are yet to come, and that under a more successful management than mine, and a more wise and judicious method than that of those now conducting its operations, the Gaspe Company's affairs will soon be placed on a basis, more profitable to its shareholders and more advantageous to the people; and while I regret my inability to secure it this happy consummation, I cannot refrain from acknowledging the gratification I felt on the receipt of your friendly address, and I assure you that it affords me very great consolation to find that my conduct in the unpleasant and trying circumstances in which I was placed, has the approval of such a large number of the respectable and impartial inhabitants of Gaspe, as the address just handed me presents. Hoping that this desirable consummation will soon arrive, and that each and every one of you will benefit by the event, believe me to be Gentlemen,

Yours truly,  
JOHN MURRAY.

(To the Editor of the Gaspe Gazette.)

Sir,

I have read in the Gazette of the 10th inst. your remarks on the affairs of the Gaspe Company, and with you and every other well wisher for the prosperity of the County, must deplore the miserably embarrassed state which the affairs of the Corporation have got into. I have no source for information, nor the assistance of friends to provide me with little secrets connected with the Gaspe Directory from its conception, but always considered the undertaking to be founded and conducted in the broadest principles of honour and integrity, and from my slight acquaintance with the Gentlemen who have the management of the several departments, I considered them above countenancing anything that would require secrecy on their part. The consequences arising from the mismanagement of the Company's affairs last fall, are that many poor families are suffering for the want of the necessaries of life, and I fear before the opening of the navigation it will be much worse. When the fact came to be made known, that John Murray, Esq., of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, had arrived, clothed with full power to