

cord of a single voice.

This is the hardest and the bravest task which a true soul has to perform amid the clashing elements of time. But *once* has it been done perfectly unto the end, and that voice, so clear in its meekness, is heard above all the din of a tumultuous world; one after another chimes in with patient sweetness, and, through infinite discords the listening soul can perceive that the great tune is slowly coming into harmony.

Communications.

The perusal in the *Miramichi Gleaner* of some extracts from a recent publication, entitled 'Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies; including visits to spots of interest in the vicinity of Windsor and Eton,' by Edward Jesse, Esq.,—insensibly led us into a melancholy train of thought. We called to mind the Tombs of various Sovereigns of England, in the very spot the author has described. The Chapel Royal Windsor.—The beautiful varied and romantic scenery around. The majestic pile, which, as it were, in proud defiance, raises its battled towers aloft, while the gorgeous standard of St George, floating in the breeze, reminds us, that this is the fitting residence of Royalty—Windsor Castle.

Eton College—that noted Seminary, where—so many famed in English history, received the first rudiments of that powerful oratory, destined to rivet the attention of the Nobles of the land, within the venerable Hall of St. Stephen. The Montem—at which we for the first time beheld the bright blue eye, and smiling countenance of our gracious Sovereign. We then bethought ourselves of St. Paul's, whose stupendous dome arising amid the vast capital of England, appears to bid defiance not only to the elements, but even the all-destructive hand of time. The splendid monuments erected within the sacred walls, to the memory of philanthropists, statesmen, and heroes, by their admiring countrymen, appeared as though arrayed before us. Then of that magnificent monument of ancient architecture—Westminster Abbey. There are deposited the 'ashes to ashes, and dust to dust' of Kings and Queens, Lordly Prelates and Proud Barons, Statesmen, Warriors and Poets. We recalled to mind in rapid succession, the various cathedrals of old England, whose sacred aisles we have trod. York Minster consumed by the torch of a maniac incendiary; Winchester, Salisbury, Rochester, Canterbury, Lincoln, Beverly, Worcester and Gloucester, all containing the last mortal remains of persons who have prominently figured in the history of past ages. From the latter our imagination led us along the winding romantic scenery of the river Wye to the ruins of Tintern Abbey, that magnificent relic of monastic pride and grandeur. Thence to its compeer, Netley Abbey, where we have spent many a happy hour; and as we sat musing on the various changes which have taken place, and the mutability of all earthly grandeur, we asked ourselves this simple but searching question, 'Are there no other Temples, no other monuments of departed worth, which have some claim to remembrance? Many! These magnificent piles of ancient architecture have their attractions, their peculiar associations; but the humble village Church, with its neat grave yard, has, for us, far more pleasing recollections.

We have, as before stated, visited the tombs of the various monarchs, who have sat upon the Throne of our father land. We have oft times wandered through the beautifully situated and attractive cemeteries of Highgate, Kensal Green and New Head, all in the vicinity of the mighty Babylon of Europe. We have sauntered among the tombs of the far-famed Pere la Chaise, in Paris, and contemplated amid these vast receptacles of human ashes, the splendid monuments erected to the memory of those who have played some important, or remarkable part in the great drama of life, and upon which the chisel of the statuary hath, in many instances, emblazoned virtues, of which no record can be found save on these *Beacons of immortality*.

How different have been our reflections when on a balmy summer's evening, we have strolled through the humble and quiet, but neat and attractive village church yard, surrounded by fine old oaks, with, perhaps, some sturdy yew tree, or a solitary weeping willow,—fit emblem to make the spot, where lies entombed.

'The friend, the father true,
Who as this lowly vale of tears he trod,
This one short maxim kept in view
An honest man's the noblest work of God.'

No elaborate workmanship is required to recall the memory of his co-parishioners, the lamented patriarch of the village. His virtues are not graven on the cold white marble, but are indelibly stamped on the warm, palpitating hearts of those, who knew how to value his worth when among them, and now in silence mourn his loss. Hark! what is that mournful sound? 'Tis the dismal toll of the village church bell, whose minute strokes proclaim the departure from this earthly tabernacle of the soul of a fellow creature. 'Tis the owner of yon venerable mansion, who full of years is gathered to his fathers. The news rapidly spreads, and each dwelling, not only in the village, but for miles around, becomes the house of mourning. A few days elapse, and the mortal remains of the fine old English gentleman are borne to their last resting place. Mark the long train of sorrowing relatives, who, unsolicited, have spontaneously neglected their daily avocations, to pay the last sad tribute to the memory of one, whom

they not only respected, but loved. Of him it may be truly said,

'Praises on tombs are titles vainly spent,
A man's good name is his best monument.'

Such scenes as these are to us, far before all that we have ever witnessed of this world's grandeur, for the feelings they naturally engender point Heavenward, and forcibly remind us of the words of Young—

'His thoughts the good man fastens on the sky,
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.'

How widely different the train of thought created by some gorgeous pageant, or soul-stirring scene, as they are oftentimes termed. They are but additional links, welded in the mighty chain, which binds our poor fallen nature to this terrestrial sphere.

We are of the number of those who have left their father land to seek their fortune on this mighty continent.—Our lot is cast amid the wild forest. We have left the scenes of our childhood, perhaps forever, and cannot entertain even the most distant hope—that when it may please him—who breathed into this moulded clay, the breath of life, and stamped thereon the express image of his person, to recall the spirit hence, that our mortal remains shall lie beside the smouldering ashes of our forefathers. No, they will mingle with those of the stranger, and strange hands will bear them to the tomb. But what of that—we are all brethren, members of the great human family. The Indian of America, or the swarthy native of the Torrid Zone is our brother. But the spot—have we a neat, well fenced village Church Yard? No, gentle reader, we are a civilised community, but our graves are left to be rooted by swine—and that, which in all other countries is considered 'Holy Ground,' is here exposed to be desecrated by the brute creation. This in a country where the timber required for the purpose, costs the mere trouble of getting it.

We are told the Church is in debt, and that the authorities cannot afford the money. Are there no other ways and means of removing the scandal. Do we owe no debt to the Dead? Children have the ashes of her who brought you into the world no claim upon you. Owe ye nothing to the memory of him, who by the sweat of his brow provided for your daily wants, and left you fields to sow and reap from, which he found covered with gigantic Pine or towering Spruce! Wives and husbands, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers is this the last resting place of any who were once dear to you! If so, and if the spirits of those who are gone before are permitted to look down upon this nether world, with what feelings must they think of those who can be thus unkind of the last tribute of respect they owe to the Dead!!!

NIL DESPERANDUM.

New Carlisle, Gaspe, }
May 8, 1848. }

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1848.

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.

NEW YORK TRACT SOCIETY.—American papers furnish us with the following account of the immense business which this philanthropic Society is doing:—It has printed during the last year, seven and a half millions of books and tract publications, averaging more than 27,600 per day during the year. Of these 737,800 were handsome bound volumes. During the past year, the society have circulated 40,000,000 of pages gratuitously, valued at twenty seven thousand dollars.

MELANCHOLY DISASTER AT SEA.—The *Polynesian* of December furnishes the following distressing piece of marine news:

The whale ship *Francis Henrietta*, Capt. Poole, of this port, fell in with, at sea, in May, lat. 42 N. lon. 150 E. a Japanese junk, of 200 tons, dismasted, rudder gone, and otherwise injured in a typhoon seven months previous.—The original number of the crew were seventeen, but when Captain Poole discovered them, they were reduced to four, and in a famishing condition. The crew had drawn lots for some time past as to who should be killed and eaten; the one upon whom the lot fell, if able, fighting for his life, and in some instances succeeded in killing one of the others, in which case the murdered man was first eaten. The survivors were shockingly scarred with darts and knife wounds, as if their lives had been often attempted by their companions. Capt. Poole kept them on board his ship for thirty days, and then put them on board some fishing boat, close in shore, about lat. 40. N. They were exceedingly

grateful, and manifested much emotion on leaving the whaler.

CANADIAN EMIGRANT ACT.—It appears that Her Majesty has withheld her assent to this Act. It imposes a tax of 10s. a head upon all passengers, indiscriminately, without distinction of age. In answer to some remarks made by Lord Stanley, on the subject in the House of Lords, Lord Grey replied:

It's a delicate thing to give any advice to Her Majesty with the view to annul an Act of the Canadian Legislature. * * *

It would not be well to interfere with the acts of the Colonists, especially on a question the merits of which they are particularly able to judge, and when it was evident the interest of the Canadians to encourage emigration.

PORT OF QUEBEC.—The Quebec papers furnish us with the following comparative statement of the arrivals and tonnage at that port from sea, 1847—8, up to the 17th May in each year.

| | | |
|------|-------------|------------|
| 1847 | 19 vessels. | 9176 Tons. |
| 1848 | 127 " | 54498 " |
| | 108 | 45322 more |

this year.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Gazette contains the following appointments. Our Executive Council, it appears, is at length formed, but from the incongruous materials of which it is formed, we have but little hopes of its holding long together, or working harmoniously.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, provisionally, until Her Majesty's pleasure be known:

The Honorable Lemuel A. Wilmot to be Attorney General, and a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council.

John R. Partelow, Esquire, Charles Fisher, Esquire, and Honorable William B. Kinneer, (Her Majesty's Solicitor General,) to be Members of Her Majesty's Executive Council for this Province.

SALE OF TIMBER BERTHS.—We perceive by the last Gazette, that the sale of the Timber Berths for the ensuing season, will take place at the Crown Land Office in Fredericton, on the following days:—

Restigouche and Gloucester—20th June.

Northumberland and Kent—20th June.

Westmoreland—22nd June.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION.

Last week we mentioned that a Special Session of the Magistrates of this County was to be convened on Saturday, to re-consider the question respecting the sum of six hundred pounds, granted by the Legislature for the relief of the distress which prevails in this county from the failure of the crops, and to supply destitute persons with seed. We at the same time expressed a hope, that the parties who were opposed to the acceptance of this grant at a former Session, seeing the evils likely to follow if some assistance from government were not obtained to enable indigent parties to procure seed, would withdraw their opposition, but we are sorry to say our hopes in this instance, have been disappointed.

The Magistrates present were: John Fraser, John T. Williston, Dudley Perley, Alexander Goodfellow, Henry B. Allison, John Nesmith, William Letson, John J. Donalds, Jared Tozer, A. Fraser, jun., R. Hutchison, D. McNaughton, and D. McDonald. The first named magistrate presided.

The Clerk read a letter from the Commissioners of the Poor for the Parish of Glenelg, urging the Bench to accept the grant. He also read a petition from Chatham parish, signed by 98 persons; one from Nelson parish with 108 signatures, and two from Glenelg, one having twenty eight names, the parties living in Black river, the other 20 names, the persons residing in Napan, all with a similar prayer.

The first magistrate who spoke was John J. Donalds, who occupied the attention of the Bench for some time, while he gave a most heart-rending account of the distressed state of parties living in the parishes of Blissfield, Ludlow and Blackville. He said, that a very numerous body of the residents of those parishes were not only in want of seed, but even the common necessities of life, so extensive was the failure in the last harvest from the ravages of the weevil and the rot in the potatoes. Many of his neighbours, he said, who had comfortable houses and good farms, were so reduced from the prostration of trade, the failure of the crops and the great scarcity of money, that they were compelled to subsist upon what creatures and bird

they could shoot and entrap in the woods, or what fish they could catch in the river. He pleaded earnestly on their behalf, and hoped the Bench would consent to apply for the grant which the Legislature had so liberally placed at their disposal. He felt satisfied if they would not, a number of farms in the parishes he had named, would from the necessitous condition of their occupiers, be but partially tilled, and many individuals compelled to leave the country, or seek relief from the parish.

Mr Tozer said, that as he wished the subject to come fairly before the bench, he would move the following Resolution:

That the Parish of Northesk get £66 13 4, being its proportion of the Provincial Grant for supplying destitute persons with seed.

This gentleman contended that the Session had no right to withhold their assent—the Legislature had granted it—and ample proof was before them that the inhabitants of the County required it—he therefore demanded it as a right.

This resolution was seconded by Mr Williston, who also contended that great distress existed in the County, and that the inhabitants of the rural districts were much in want of seed, and the means to procure it; they therefore expected that the members of Session would mete out to them justice, that they might reap the advantages which must follow from the liberality of the Legislature.

Mr Goodfellow remarked—that at a former special session he was in favor of accepting the grant—but now he questioned the propriety of so doing—owing to the lateness of the season, and the great difficulty which now exists in procuring seed. He censured the conduct of Magistrates in not attending to their duty at an earlier period, for had some now present been at their post at the former session the measure would have been carried. He was sorry to hear of the great distress which existed in the County, but taking every thing into consideration, he felt himself bound to oppose the acceptance of the grant—as he thought the time had passed when the intentions of the Legislature could be carried out.

Mr Letson pleaded excuse for his non-attendance, at the former Session to ill health. He advocated the acceptance of the grant—Seed, he said could be obtained, but the difficulty with parties was to obtain money. He contended that the season was not too far advanced, and he was afraid if they did not agree to take the grant, that the distress which now unfortunately existed would be fearfully increased, and that persons would be compelled to seek relief from the parishes.

Mr Williston again urged on the bench the necessity there existed for applying for the grant—the magistrates of St. John had refused to accept it, but had re-considered the question, and had decided on receiving it. He said that Mr. Jordan, one of the members, had stated before the Bench of St. John, that the Legislature had no intention of claiming the money from the counties—that they intended it as a gift—and it was only burdened with this condition, to prevent counties who were not in need, from applying. But this county, he maintained was much in want of it—and should the Legislature persist in having it repaid into the Treasury by assessment, they ought to take it. He wished gentlemen present would state all they knew respecting the state of the parishes in which they resided. He appealed to Mr McNaughton for his opinion. Petitions were before them from the parish in which he resided, and he must be in possession of the condition of some of the parties who had signed them.

Mr McNaughton replied—that from his own personal knowledge, he was not aware of distress existing in his parish.

Mr Williston mentioned the names of several persons, who were his neighbors, who had signed the petition, and asked Mr McN. if he did not know that they were in want of seed.

Mr McNaughton admitted that two of the parties were in need of seed, and that the third person named required it also, but replied that he had a number of cows, from which we inferred that he meant, that if he was badly off for seed, he could obtain means by disposing of them.

Mr Hutchison spoke against accepting the grant. A gentleman had said, that parties had been compelled to mortgage their farms to obtain money to procure seed. He was not aware from his own knowledge, that such was the case, but it was a legitimate transaction; if they required means to procure seed or any other thing, he thought it was no great hardship for them to raise it by mortgage, or in any way they thought best.