

## Editor's Department.

## MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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.

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The closing Lecture for the season of this deservedly popular institution, was delivered by JOHN M. JOHNSON, Jun. Esq. on Thursday evening last, to a very numerous audience; and as it embraced a large amount of statistical and other matter, well worthy the serious consideration of the people of Northumberland, but more especially of the town of Chatham, we give below—with the assistance of the Lecturer—a brief synopsis of the same, in the hope that the remarks relating to the causes that have operated to place us in our present unenviable position, as well as the suggestions thrown out for our future line of action, will receive that serious consideration which the great importance of the subject demands.

The Lecturer, in a Review of the past proceedings of the Institution, from its formation in June, 1846—pointed out its progress and advance from few members, small funds, and slender hopes, to its present state of prosperity and utility; when it numbers fifty six members besides annual subscribers—has a library of three hundred volumes, an apparatus worth £70, and funds to the amount of £70 or £80 more.

He next congratulated the Institution upon its success in obtaining Lecturers during the whole of the present season—apologizing for merely mentioning the names of the Lecturers, and their subjects—for the first season; and for so briefly reviewing those of the season now closing—as the main object which he wished to occupy their attention, required him to hasten onwards.

He then enumerated the Lectures delivered during the first season, as follows:—

The opening Lecture—by James Caie, Esq.  
Two from the Rev. Mr. Macbean—on Astronomy.

Two from the Rev. Mr. McCurdy—on Gravitation.

Two from the Rev. Mr. Henderson—on the Progress of Knowledge from the early ages.

One from James Caie, Esq.—on Agricultural Chemistry.

One from Mr. Martyn—on Educating the Working Classes.

One from Mr. Thomson—on Diet.—Two on the Advantages of General Knowledge.—Two on Pneumatics.—Two on Phrenology.—And the closing Lecture, by himself.

The Lecturers for the present year were—

1st.—The opening Lecture—delivered by the Rev. Mr. Macbean.

2nd.—On the Advantages of Knowledge—by W. Carman, Esq.

3rd.—On Matter and Motion—by himself.

4th.—Comparative Anatomy—by S. Benson, Esq.

5th & 6th.—The Mechanical Properties of Atmospheric Air—by the Rev. Mr. Henderson.

7th.—On General Knowledge and its utility—by James Caie, Esq.\*

8th.—On Heathen Mythology—by Mr. Joseph Spratt.

9th.—The benefit of Knowledge and the means of obtaining it—by the Rev. J. McCurdy.

10th.—Industry and Knowledge, as opposed to Indolence and Ignorance—by Mr. William Forbes.

11th.—The Lever, and the Wheel and Axle—by himself.

12th.—On Self Instruction, and the other means of Education—by Mr. James Millar.

13th.—On Egypt—by Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.

14th.—Comparative Anatomy, being confined to the Circulation and Respiration, by S. Benson, Esq.

15th.—On the Electric Telegraph—by Mr. Gisborne, of the Quebec Telegraph Company.

The closing Lecture by himself.

The Lecturer next observed that he believed it was customary in reviewing the proceedings of these Institutions to enumerate their leading objects. But as these had been so ably shown by several Lecturers during the

\* The Lecturer briefly remarked on the several Lectures, and in the name of the Institution thanked the gentlemen who delivered them, with the exception of the 7th, delivered by Mr. Caie, which, he requests us to say, was inadvertently omitted in the hurry of making his notes, and begs now to apologize to that Gentleman and the Institute for the omission.

season, he would merely give one or two instances to shew that a Mechanics' Institute was one of the best modes of imparting knowledge—he said, that did we make the most of our time and ability, it would be little enough to employ upon those branches which constitute our particular business—but on the other hand, General Knowledge was a great auxiliary to success in any calling. That the question therefore was: how we could gain this knowledge with least loss of time? and the answer was: by each imparting to his fellows that knowledge which his own reading and experience has given him. Suppose, said he, a country were to be explored, you would not deem it economical or prudent for 20 or 30 Geologists to travel in the same track—but that each should take a different route—then meet together when each could impart to the other the result of his individual survey—and just so in the great world of science, let those who from necessity or inclination had extended their researches in various tracks, impart to each other their individual knowledge, and the whole would be instructed to an extent which none of them could have attained by his single labor. That the effect had already been to give to each individual present, some information, which, before they lacked, the proudest and most learned would be ready to admit. But there was another, and not inferior road by which these institutions led to knowledge. Man was, and had been, from his cradle, in a great measure, the creature of imitation, and when the rising generation beheld those who were before them in rank and years, devoting a few hours in the search after knowledge, they would at once be impressed with the idea, that knowledge was not only useful but honorable. The example would be irresistible, where nothing else could avail, and the Juvenile Lecture Room would become an intellectual play ground. Books instead of marbles would be the game in which each would seek to excel. Reason alone must shew that such would be the effect, but in this instance, experience supplied the place of argument, and there was now a Juvenile institution in Chatham, which was destined at a day not far distant, to impart a steady and enduring lustre in this institution and through the land in which we live. Once impress upon the minds of youth, the importance of knowledge, and impart a taste for its acquisition, and you have more than half accomplished their education. To these boys then he would say: Go on as you have commenced, and—

'Nurse with tender care the thriving arts;  
Watch every beam Philosophy imparts.'

Mr. J. now proceeded to the chief subject of the Lecture, and spoke nearly as follows:

1st. He intended to make few remarks upon the past and present state of our trade and business.

2dly. To give some idea of what we might do, did we improve the capabilities and resources of the country. He would give a statement of the average exports and imports of the county during ten years, gleaned from the Custom's returns, and other authentic sources, and shew, that as on the one hand, a division of labor was a mean of general improvement, so on the other, a community of interest and action was essential, and instead of fritting away our energies in opposing each other, we must apply our strength to the same end of the lever, did we hope to remove the weight which had so long depressed the county, and rendered individual exertions nugatory. That it would not do for all persons to embark in the same line of business, nor for one to be engaged in all; because each would then be opposing and interfering with his neighbor.

Some years since, the timber was looked upon as the only trade of the country, and it was prosecuted to an exclusive and inordinate extent, before we had even attempted to produce the necessary supplies. Men were engaged at enormous wages; provisions imported at great expense; hay, for instance, was purchased at the rate of £14 or £15 per ton, flour at £8, and beef and pork at £10 per barrel; these, and other articles, at similar prices and great expense, had to be conveyed in o the woods, and when the timber came to market, it would not realize in Britain more than two thirds of its actual cost; he knew it was, yet thought that these were glorious times, because the labouring men could in the spring play pitch and toss with doubloons. Such times however, were more ruinous than glorious. It was altogether a forced business, and its nature and effects no less gambling and uncertain than the game of pitch and toss. It raised wages to an inordinate and ruinous rate, without benefitting the laborer; it deprived those who held land not only of the will but of the power to farm. It took the wealth from the surface without leaving or returning anything to enrich the soil. All the money which could be realised by the timber was drained out of the country to purchase the means of manufacturing it, and even then we were left in debt. He did not mention these things for the purpose of inducing unavailing regrets—but as a person leaving the other side of the river in a dark night, would place a candle in his window when all was darkness here; so that, by looking back he might direct his onward course,—so he would point out those things which were past, as a guide and warning for the future.

The whole amount of our imports into this County each year from 1835 to 1844 inclusive, was no less than £161,229  
The whole export to meet this only 132,366

Thus leaving a yearly balance against the County of £28,363

Could we hope soon to grow rich at this rate; if we did, we must at least cease to be honest—but this was not all. The annual amount of Freights between this County and the neighbouring Colonies was £11,808, and we had but one schooner belonging to the port. The average amount of profit made by the Novascotians upon the sugar, rum, and molasses imported, and upon our exports, via Halifax, though small, was too much for us to lose; it would exceed £2,000 a year, and this was independent of the Freights of those articles between Novascotia and the West India islands. When such was the state of our trade, was it to be wondered at, if we found ourselves in want of money as a circulating medium, and had to make our bargains for goods payments. Did we expect when we sent £100,000 in timber, deals, and new ships to Great Britain, and required in return £120,000 in British goods, that those kind, good people, from mere brotherly affection and love for the Colonies, would throw in a broken stowage of £20,000 in specie, just that we might be able to make cash payments in this Country. No! we must find some other way to better our condition, as we lived, if we could not pay our debts, we must learn to live more moderately. 'Where there's a will there's a way,' and in truth, unless there was a will, we would have to be away.

Political Economy, like many other sciences, was sought to be made a very mysterious thing, and beyond the reach of common people—and some folks would appear very learned, simply because they could not be understood—but this mystery was nonsense and merely served to make a science less useful, without adding a whit to its importance. If a man had a salary of £300 a year—and his expenditure was £400—what course should he take to avoid the threatening poverty—he would certainly double his exertions—and increase his income, or curtail his establishment and diminish his expenditure, and if wise he would do a little of both. Just so then should we act in this County—we should not only enquire what we could do without, and what we could export additional; but also what we could produce at home—how much beef, pork, and flour could we raise upon the farm, and here he would again refer to statistics and figures. The wheat, flour and meal annually imported during the period before mentioned amounted to £24,597 0 0

The oats, potatoes and vegetables	6,231 0 0
Meats fresh and salted and live cattle	23,543 0 0
Butter, cheese, candles and soap	4,947 0 0
Leather and hides	1,594 0 0
Dry and Pickled fish	3,486 0 0

These amounted to 64,386 0 0

This sum saved would wonderfully improve our circulation.

Which of these articles could we not produce in abundance? Would it be said, that we could not raise our own flour? which of the exporting countries could produce wheat weighing 67 lbs. per bushel? Then again, why should we be importing 60,000 bushels of oats annually? there was not an acre of upland from Boies Town to Escuminac, which would not produce better oats than we were constantly importing. Did we fear the potato rot? Let us guard against its consequences by sowing turnips, carrots and beet-root. But the weevil, 'tis said, alarms our farmers. Why the very country which supplies so many markets with flour—has been long invested by the weevil. The Legislature of Canada had to prohibit the growth of wheat for three years, in order to starve out the insect. But there was an antidote for this too—we could sow beans, peas, barley, rye and oats—so that when we could not cheat the weevil, we could at least prevent the weevil cheating us. These crops would prove the basis upon which the other branches of Agriculture would rise, hay in abundance would follow vegetable and grain crops, beef would be next produced, and butter, cheese, candles, soap and leather, as a consequence would follow.

The wealth taken from the land in this way (unlike the timber making), would leave double wealth behind it, wealth to the extent of £60,832, by diminishing our annual outgoings; and wealth to that extent thrice told, by clearing, cultivating and enriching an additional number of acres. He had heard it said that our winters were too long, and that we had not grazing grounds; but this was as absurd as the cry raised ten years ago, that we could not grow wheat. The winter was as long in Westmoreland as here, and the people of that county could afford to feed their cattle over, and to carry their beef 100 miles to market, and yet make money! and as for grazing grounds, look to the North West, South West, Renous, Barnaby, and other intervals. See the extent from our Bay shore marshes, and in fact the smallest of those 1000 streams which intersect our forests, was lined with the best of ground for this purpose. But perhaps it would be uncharitable to deprive the Cumberland people of our market; we might however, do this with a clear conscience, for these good people would not suffer by it. He believed it was a fact that farmers from Westmoreland drove their beef down to the St. John Market upon its legs, and brought back imported flour and meal; and why was this? not because they could not raise their own grain, but because they could make such a good business out of us and others, by selling beef; they would not take the trouble to cultivate their uplands, but did they lose these

markets they would then turn farmers instead of mere graziers, and the money they then sent out of the Province for meat would be saved. This was reason why he thought that our economy would not injure the Westmoreland people. Did we want proof that farming was the business for a country? look at our Neapolement: what part of our county could produce the same number of men, who grown comfortable—nay, he would say by industry and economy. Where could we find the same amount of unincumbered property in any lumbering district in the county?

The next object to which we should direct their attention was the Deep Sea Fishery; he must say, that it appeared as if the bounty of Providence had made us untidy and lazy. While to one County nature given Pine groves, to another Hackmatack ship building, to another Farms, and to another Fisheries; the one in which we lived possessed each and all of these benefits to as great extent as any County in the Province; but to the present time many of these blessings had been abused, neglected, or forgotten. Would ask if it were not more than a shame that the people of this County were imported Fish? and whether we should not be expected that article to the extent of £60,000 annually. They came to our very doors, almost unable to take them, and yet we did not supply towns with Fresh Fish for table use. Stand upon Point Escuminac on a fine morning, could count 100 sail of American craft, and the wealth that belonged to one British County—and for what purpose did they think?—merely to sell it to another and sister county whose produce we were annually importing through the medium of Novascotia?

He would next mention that the Westmoreland Manufactures imported yearly from Great Britain amounted to £12,171, and the County Manufactures to £20,396. Now, a great portion of the former would consist of cloths, and much of the latter be exported articles of finery, and therefore by a new economy, and some little attention to the manufacture of Homespun, one half of the mer, and one third of the latter import could be dispensed with, this would amount to 792 per annum, which added to the £24,597 before mentioned as unnecessary to be imported, would reduce our present imports about half; all this we could do without embarking in any new trade, or at all increasing our ports; but he would not have us stop. Bricks were yearly imported from Great Britain, and Coals to some extent. Now, we could manufacture in the very heart of the town, and indeed all over the country. Americans could not furnish themselves a supply of coal, and he believed we had no coal in Canada. This and the honoring county of Kent were evidently beds, of course with our present limited means we were not prepared to embark in it, but could we not invite capital into the country for this and other purposes. One best way to secure this, would be to establish our character for prudence, economy enterprise as a people—instead of being considered a set of rash and foolish spendthrifts. If we could not succeed in securing employment for new branches of business, and new employment, we could at least make farthing in freights, and by this means attract employment to many persons and benefit their families.

The annual freight paid from this County and from Richibucto, Shippegan, and other ports exceeded £1000, and this traffic would employ 6 schooners of 40 tons.

The inter-colonial carrying trade from this port, would employ 35 schooners, of 60 tons each, and 143 men, being each schooner to make six trips each in the season. Now if we must have vessels to this extent, and could not increase our ports beyond what they were, we ought to do half our own carrying trade, and do no more than this, we should require seventeen schooners of 60 tons each, and men for this trade alone. How then was it that we had but one schooner owned in port? Was our wood not so good as the lock and spruce of our neighbors? This was not the cause. Had we no harbor for the vessels when built? Look at the streets covered with boys, who had no employment than mischief. Let but three of these be induced to go a voyage two, and then set them adrift among playmates, and you would soon raise 17 crews, without depriving us of any men usefully employed on shore. The of adventure is too strong in youth to the temptation, and by being allowed to itself in this way, would greatly add to the peace and plenty of our towns.

There was no use in minding the present business of the country could support its inhabitants, and if so, what became of our rising families. The state of this County reminded him of the story he once heard of the two lawyers (persons would be telling stories of these people well it was said that a Lawyer came to a village, and by an by a second came they were like patridges at this season generally found in pairs.) The Lawyer remained some time, till at length they all the village, having of course lived on the people, well, it was enquired how did live then? Oh! replied the party, they upon each other, to be sure. Now, the fact with the people of this County, had been living upon each other, and would last; and it now would appear, looking the example of the Lawyers!