

"By Jove! do you? Well I'll tell you what we'll do; you shall compose some poetry and send it to her as it came from me."

To this, of course, I immediately consented, and accordingly composed the following, which I headed 'Impromptu.' This I enclosed to the lady in a sheet of highly scented embossed note paper.

Red are your lips, but redder not than those Bright cheeks that rival the redness of the rose,  
Deep is the color of the violet blue,  
But bluer 'tis not than thy bright eye's hue.  
Maid of Boston ere we part,  
Give, Oh! give me back my heart,  
Let me not forever sigh  
Leat for thee I soon may die.

The note containing this beautiful composition I directed a servant to take into the parlor that evening, and deliver open to one of the ladies present. At a proper time, sure enough, when a number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled in the saloon, in came the servant bearing the note, which he presented to a lady, but not the one for whom my friend had intended it. 'What is he doing?' whispered he to me, 'he surely makes a mistake.' 'That is true,' said I, 'but it cannot be helped now.' In the mean time the astonished lady perused the delectable epistle, and suddenly laughing outright, she declared it could not be meant for her. 'What is it? what is it?' cried every one—'Do let us hear it!' She accordingly read aloud the lines I had composed for my unfortunate friend, and afterwards looking at the superscription, said, 'It is addressed to Miss Emma—' 'To me?' exclaimed that lady—'Impossible! Who would address such stuff to me?' She took the note, and examining it, found that she was in reality its object, and perceiving the signature to be that of her admirer and my rival, she directed towards him a scornful glance and immediately left the room.

'Well, what was the result?' inquired we. 'The result, why she rejected him and accepted me. He vowed vengeance, but never carried his threats into execution—and thus I became a married man.'

Communications.

THE SALMON FISHERY.

LUDLOW, 8th October, 1849.

Sir,—My attention having been directed to your Memorandum of the 10th August last, respecting the Fisheries in this part of the Province, I beg to furnish you with the subjoined observations, which relate to the Salmon Fishery on the River Miramichi.

The Salmon enter the Bay of Miramichi nearly in the month of June, and are generally found in all the considerable tributary streams before the last of that month. In the Bay and other tide waters, they move rapidly in shoals, but after reaching the fresh water they separate into small groups, some of which pass leisurely into each of the tributary streams, as they present themselves at short intervals, while other groups occupy, for indefinite periods, favorable situations in the principal rivers. During the latter part of July, in the month of August, and in the early part of the month of September, while the water is warmest near the surface, they are to be found, from the confluence of the tide to the uppermost waters of the River and its tributaries, occupying in quiet groups the deepest water that the several streams afford, and at all times showing a preference to such places when they are situated where the purest and coolest water is discharged by springs into the principal streams. This propensity appears to arise from the necessity which exists in cold-blooded animals, for a low temperature, not only in the evolution of the ovum after it is cast, but also in the previous stages of gestation. For in the latter part of autumn, when the water gradually becomes coldest near the surface, they begin to separate in pairs, male and female, and in the month of November, when the spawning takes place, they occupy separately, in pairs, small cavities evidently formed by themselves, in the beds of the streams, near the shores and sand banks, where the water is shallow, and at the heads of the rapids with which the rivers abound. At all seasons heavy rain, by suddenly increasing the quantity and changing the condition and circumstances of the water in the rivers—thereby affecting the usual haunts of the Salmon—has invariably the effect of setting them in motion; and in truth, it appears not improbable that the flood, occasioned by the melting of the snow, and by the large quantity of rain which usually falls in the spring, by forcing into the Bay a greater proportion of fresh water, at a time when it is congenial to the fish, attracts them at the first to enter the River; and that a recurrence of a nearly similar floods, at intervals during the summer and in the fall, produces the same effect upon those that arrive on the coast at a later period. A progressive deterioration takes place in the Salmon from the period of its first entrance into the fresh water, until it disappears in winter. The quality of the fish is not, however, much impaired until the middle of August, and it affords wholesome and palatable food until the middle of September,—in which latter month, and in the previous month of August, it is generally preferred for undergoing the preservative process of smoking. At this season also Salmon are commonly found in greater abundance than at any other time. When taken late in the month of October, the spawn of the female, as well as the sperm of the male, will escape from them by rough handling; but the female is never found free from spawn at an earlier period. The ova are then of the size of the

largest pea, the skin of the fish is thick and tough, and the flesh gelatinous and white; rendering it altogether so unpalatable and so unprofitable, that no necessity, which has heretofore visited the people of this country, has ever compelled them to use it, to any considerable extent, as an article of food.

In the Bay, and below the confluence of the tide, Salmon are taken partly by set-nets, which are not permitted by the laws to extend beyond a certain portion of the width of the river and estuary; and partly by seines and drift or sweep-nets, as they are technically termed, which, while suffered for the purposes of the Herring and Gaspereaux fisheries, cannot be restrained from taking Salmon and Grise at the same time. As regards the set-nets, it is not unusual for the owner to procure distinct portions of net, which (after being formed, at one end, into a peculiar trap or pound, and being fastened to the part which, suspended on buoys or pickets, occupies the legal breadth of the river), are separately extended down the stream; furnishing for ordinary occasions, convenient additional snares; while another portion, retained in its position by buoys alone, is at all favorable hours extended, slightly under water, quite to the opposite shore. In fact, the indifference with which these mal-practices have been regarded by the legally constituted authorities, has emboldened many, during the recent scarcity of food, to extend their nets openly from shore to shore.

A competent law, to compel the Overseers of Fisheries to be sworn into office, might obviate in some little degree these unfair modes of fishing; but it would seem that no great reliance can be placed in the efficacy of a class of men who, while pursuing their ordinary and urgent avocations, are not likely to have much spare time to devote to the purpose of watching, day and night, the nets of their crafty and vigilant neighbors.

The truth is, that the fish, becoming more wily from experience, approach with greater caution, as they advance up the river, every obstruction that appears to threaten their safety,—and, as in this they are aided by the increasing clearness and decreasing depths of the streams, the fisherman is induced to adopt, step by step, different methods to ensnare them; and finally, in the upper portion of the rivers, to resort for the most part to the use of the torch and spear, which, from the dexterity with which practice enables them to be employed, are effective every where in the clear, rapid water. This latter mode is not, however, exempt from the consequences of floods. When they prevail, the turbid state of the water renders it impracticable.

For twenty miles above the confluence of the tide, the South West branch, which is the principal branch of the river, partakes largely of the character of the estuary, in point of depth and opacity of the water, and the fishery, though to a much more limited extent, is conducted chiefly by similar methods, without being susceptible, however, of quite as many glaring abuses; the necessity for frequent intercourse by water communication, added to the limited width of the stream, and the increased rapidity of the current, rendering some of the ordinary expedients abortive. The spear is, however, used with great success in the rapids on this part of the river.

From this district to the upper waters of the river, comprising a distance of eighty miles of fishing ground, the shallowness and clearness of the water, the great velocity of the current, the inequalities in the bed of the stream, and the change that takes place in the habits of the fish, all render the use of set-nets inexpedient, and owing to the same causes, nets for sweeping and drifting are of little service, not repaying the expense incurred in preparing them. To illustrate these positions, it is truly affirmed that a set-net, belonging to this part of the river, has been left in the stream, suspended on pickets in the usual way, during a fortnight of the best periods for fishing, without yielding even one fish. This incident may perhaps be in part accounted for by the fact that during some seasons, in consequence of the scanty supply of water in the river, which gives greater facilities to illegal modes of fishing, very few Salmon, except Grise, make their way to this portion of the stream, until after the autumnal rains. It is to be remarked that the Grise are for the most part Milfers. The spawners of that age, as it would seem, do not often enter the fresh water, while on the contrary, the young Milfers appear to accompany the spawners of advanced age, in great numbers.

In the year 1845, an Act of the Legislature was passed, prohibiting altogether the spearing of Salmon, except by the Indian tribes. This act was so manifestly unjust towards the inhabitants of the upper part of the Miramichi river, where fishing with nets is almost impracticable, that no attempt has been made to enforce its provisions in that respect. Spearing might, however, with great propriety, be strictly prohibited in the month of October; for in the early part of that month Salmon are sometimes speared in considerable numbers, particularly in that part of the Miramichi river which flows through the county of York,—notwithstanding their quality is deeply impaired, and although the near approach of the season of spawning and of impregnation forbids their destruction.

Above Boiestown, fly fishing is practised to a considerable extent, by occasional visitors; but this method, from its uncertainty, and from the large portion of time always consumed by it, cannot be profitably pursued by the inhabitants generally.

There are two points on the South West branch of the river, notorious for the facilities which they afford for illegal fishing, and for the recklessness with which the immediate inhabitants avail themselves of the advantages of

their position: one at Asle's, near the confluence of the tide, and the other at Arbo's, a short distance above the mouth of Cain's river. At both these places it is the constant practice to extend nets across the entire river, at every favorable opportunity; and in the latter place to adopt besides every other known method of unfair fishing, some of which are indeed peculiar to the parties. To these unfair practices, so prevalent in the tide waters, and in their vicinity, aided by the superior natural advantages which the river there affords, is doubtless to be attributed the fact that the annual catch of Salmon is less by more than nine-tenths, in the upper eighty miles of fishing ground, than it is in the corresponding distance below.

The erection of dams across the smaller streams, by diminishing the accustomed scope of the fish, would doubtless have the effect of gradually lessening their numbers; but the fisheries on the Miramichi cannot be supposed to have sustained much injury by that means, as the dams heretofore erected, are inconsiderable, when compared with the vast number of streams which remain unobstructed in that way. It is evident, however, that a provision by law to compel the construction of fishways wherever dams are erected hereafter, is not undesirable. At the same time it must be confessed, that mills for the manufacture of lumber, have, in one respect, promoted an equal distribution of the benefits resulting from the fisheries, as the constant transportation of lumber by water to the harbour, has contributed not a little towards preventing the use of nets extending across the channel.

When the great increase of occasional fishers upon all the rivers, is taken into account, it does not appear that the annual catch of fish has diminished much during the last 20 years; certainly it has not decreased to the extent which many persons suppose. In fact, the quantity taken on the river Miramichi and its tributaries, was greater in 1848, than the quantity taken in any one of the preceding twenty years, while the present year has afforded an unusual supply to the fishermen in the Bay and in all the tide waters.

It has been suggested that a law, confining the Salmon fishery to three days of the week, during the fishing season, would, if rigidly enforced, conduce to a more equal distribution of the benefits to be derived from it, besides contributing greatly towards preventing the too rapid destruction of the species. Such a measure would doubtless be acceptable to many of the inhabitants of the rivers, but to the professional fisherman it would be inconvenient, if not highly injurious.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JAMES D. PRICE,  
Moses H. Parley, Esq., Government Emigration Office, St. John.

"Hereby hangs a tail."—Shakespeare.

Mr Pierce,—Your grumbling correspondent 'A Member,' would have rendered his elegant lucubration of last week much more edifying, had he enlightened us as to the identity of his membership. Of what is this grumbler a member? Is it of the Provincial Parliament? of the Northumberland Agricultural Society? of the Conciliation Hall? of the 'Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi'? or of the Annexation League? Be that as it may, 'fair play,' you know, 'is bonny play.' I confess I did fancy—perhaps foolishly—for we are apt to be fond of our own doings—that my work, done at the Ploughing Match, was about as good as any in the field; certain, others thought so, but the Judges did not, and I am satisfied. I certainly did not understand, however, that there was any rule 'drawn out by the Board of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, requiring each sod to be 8 inches by 5'; nor that I was tied down to any prescribed gage for the furrow; nor that the Judges had found out and acknowledged their error, of having awarded Galloway's prize to Fenton, 'ere the close of the day.' On the contrary, I am credibly informed that they, the Judges, did not make this discovery known to the Society for a week or two after the day of the Ploughing Match, although a meeting of the Board took place during the intervening period. Galloway—instead of finding fault with the Board, as 'A Member' would have us believe—has manfully said, that he is not the least alarmed but that ample justice will be done him; and that as great publicity will be given by the Board, on some future day, to his merits as a ploughman, as if his name had appeared in the list of winners.

This far, but no farther, do your correspondent and I differ. In what follows he and I will pull together like a pair of pothooks! As a member of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, fraught with the sentiments of the day, I am determined there shall be no more grumbling in our Society!

In this our go-ahead, d—I may care, glorious day and generation, liberty, equality, and ingenuity, are the three grand principles! What right, then, have six ploughmen, out of fifteen, to go home from any Ploughing Match with prizes in their pockets, while nine of their brethren go empty fistled away? that's the question.

At our next meeting I intend to move and advocate a series of resolutions, which, if the Society be not too wedded to old, hum-drum notions of right and wrong, I will and must carry, and thus remove all those causes of grumbling of which a member complains.

I intend, then, to move—1st, That as all grievances, real and imaginary, may be traced to the Board of Directors, not excepting the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary, these all be swept away as nuisances.

2d, That to remove all grumbling and growing, and cause every man to be well

pleased with the operations of the Society in future, the sum which has hitherto been granted, in graduating rates, to six ploughmen, be divided equally among all the competitors.

3rd, That there be no Judges; every man being the best judge of his own performance.

4th, But should there still be grumblers, among those whose work is obviously superior to the rest, then and in that case, it shall be the duty of the pleased ploughmen to hang all such grumblers to their horses' tails, and drag them round and round the field, till all their grumbings cease, and an end be thus effectually put to all such misconduct.

A DISAPPOINTED PLOUGHMAN.  
Halifax, Monday, November 1, 1849.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1849.

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.

STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

The papers continue to be occupied with long articles on the present state of affairs in the Colonies. The people on this side of the Province participate largely in the feeling, that a radical change is necessary in the administration of our local affairs. They also feel the effects which the free trade policy of the Mother Country is producing, by the small demand and depreciation in value of the products of our forests; money is scarce and difficult to obtain, and as we have no bank accommodation, there appears but little prospect ahead of a change for the better. All these things combined, conspire to create much dissatisfaction—hence the cause of the California emigration fever, the agitation for a Federal Union, a Separate Independence, and Annexation.

The Saint John Morning News contains several letters from Correspondents on these subjects, from two of which we take some extracts. The first two paragraphs are copied from a letter signed Veritas, and the other from one bearing the signature of Inquirer, and headed 'A few thoughts on passing events.'

Every man, and every body of men, how much soever their abstract sentiments may clash, must concur in this one grand opinion, that some very important change in our commercial and political condition is indispensable to our actual existence, and is therefore inevitable. A retrospective glance of the mental and moral eye must convince us that New Brunswick has too long been the theatre of religious dissensions and party strife; and that her people from those causes have become the dupes of political aspirants and Government misrule. I say from those causes, because no people can be prosperous or happy when unanimity does not prevail, and particularly when religion has been made the promoter of popular discord, instead of being the basis of Christian harmony. Because when the body of a people is split up into hostile factions and arrayed against each other, public morals and social order are trampled upon; the best interests of the community are sacrificed at the shrine of machination and revenge; and sectional discord is made the rostrum for unprincipled demagogues, who seek to aggrandize themselves at the expense of those upon whom they impose and whose cause they pretend to promote. The time has at length arrived in New Brunswick when the well-being of our common country, and therefore the enhancement of our individual prosperity calls emphatically for an active and a cordial union of all religious and political parties;—for an obliteration of past differences arising from whatever causes. Without an harmonious co-operation of all parties, and a decided expression of public sentiment, it is chimerical and idle to dream of effecting the regeneration of the country. It therefore becomes imperative on the people of New Brunswick to organize upon a systematic scale. If annexation is considered the ultimate and only permanent cure for our accumulating ills, then let a general and vigorous, yet constitutional movement be forthwith made in that direction. If, on the other hand, a prolongation of our connexion with Great Britain is to be perpetuated, under existing circumstances, (which is absurd to contemplate) then it is our duty, as a people, and as British subjects, to declare it openly. The sentiments of the majority ought to be made public, and that can not be accomplished without organization based upon deliberate and well-defined principles.