

It is not my intention here to enumerate the many grievances under which we labor. They are well known already; and it is obvious that over the whole area of New Brunswick, as well as in Canada, a feeling of discontent is rapidly manifesting itself, and that it only remains to come to a true and unanimous conclusion as to the safest medium of redress,—and that can only be by ORGANIZATION. We are now in a state of transition, void of credit on the one side and without respect or confidence on the other. When we talk of our condition to the wisest, the leading, and the most indifferent amongst us, the simultaneous answer is, 'Annexation must and will come about; it is merely a question of time.' Then if it must and will come about, there must exist a necessity for such an alternative, and that necessity is immediate, and consequently immediate action should be the maxim. If the people of these colonies should be drawn to the alternative of seeking amelioration of their condition by annexation to the United States, they cannot be justly charged with having adopted such a course from a dislike to Britain—and her institutions; nor from a predilection in favor of republican government, but from urgent and dire necessity. Experience has taught them that the general policy which England finds conducive to the interests of her trans-Atlantic subjects is incompatible with theirs; and consequently that they must act for themselves or be doomed to a fate at variance with the character and immunities of a free people.

I am one of those who can subsist for a long time on the beautiful though sometimes fatal delusion called Hope. Nay, I believe it almost impossible from past experience, that after hope has entirely disappeared, and nothing left but the bare remembrance, that such a soothing feeling once existed—that many are to be found who could drag out a temporary existence upon the mere shadow of things—the substance of which has long since vanished from our view, and passed into the shades of oblivions never to be recalled.

Is this the case with any in New Brunswick? I think it is. Have we in this Province had anything but hope to build our future prospects upon, for the last five or six years? I believe not. Then, what is actually our present position? Let experience answer—and facts attest. Every steamer which leaves our shores, conveys to the authorities in Downing street the confirmation of a state of depression, downfall and bankruptcy already, but partially realised by Canada and New Brunswick—and but imperfectly represented by a small portion of a self degraded and servile press. I am not, however, among those who believe, that a plain unvarnished statement of the effects which have befallen us, through the insane policy of England, will have no avail in our behalf—No, I believe it would! But there is in this Province, (and I blush as I record the fact) a clique, who hold the reins of Government, and wield the power they possess, for the benefit of none but themselves, and who are supported by a portion of the press, who are ever ready to lend their aid, to anything in the shape of mean, slavish sycophancy? How much soever, the Government of England may be wedded to a policy, which has already brought discontent, degradation and ruin upon a portion of her colonial dependencies? How much soever a section of the House of Commons may be willing to commit any wrong, that will keep the present Ministry on the Treasury Benches—I cannot believe that the people of England would tamely acquiesce in a course of misgovernment, (if the matter were fairly represented to them,) which if persisted in, will eventually deprive the nation of some of its richest possessions, and reduce her to the degraded position of a second rate power. Yet, alas, it is but too true, that we have but little reason upon which to rest a hope, few grounds even to base the thought of prospective reparation on. England has looked on with the utmost indifference, and seen us gradually decline—she has gazed in apathy upon our struggles, and witnessed with the greatest unconcern the result of her own acts, which have fallen without the noise, yet with all the force of a thunderbolt, upon a loyal and devoted people—a people who lived in comfort if not in affluence till reduced by British Legislation to a state little short of universal destruction, beggary and hopelessness. In spite of all this, however, a few of the inhabitants of this Province, cling with that fondness which is the creature of early association to the skirt of Britain.

America is willing to receive us, but we turn our back upon all that is not England. Is it self interest that induces this feeling? Let the rulers of England review the facts and answer for us. England has ruined us—America has not—retaliation would seem to urge on us the acceptance of the offer. England treats us with silence and negligence—America spreads her arms to receive us—pride would lead us to resent the humiliation. England admits the produce of foreign countries into her markets upon nearly the same terms as she does ours—America would remove the duty from our staple articles immediately if we joined her union.

England imposes upon us the support of an expensive, aristocratic government—the institutions of America preclude such extravagance, economy would induce us to unite ourselves with America. Our food comes from America, and is taxed because it is foreign—our union with the States would emancipate from taxation, the necessaries of life, and our poverty would seem to induce us to seek the aid of the republic. But the people of New Brunswick have lived so long in allegiance to

the British Crown, and have been so much accustomed to breathe in an atmosphere of loyalty, that like spaniels they would rather kiss the heel that spurns them than look upon another flag. They are ready to resign every thing to England if their fellow subject, who deprive them of the means of making a comfortable subsistence, would so far retrace their steps, as to afford them the mere chance of existing by a life of hardship and severity scarcely second to slavery itself. Interest would seem to lead us to look to America—affectation would still make us dependent on England.

There are, perhaps, sophists in England who would try to prove that a connexion with America would place us in a worse position than we are, let them believe this if they can, but let them not argue on their conviction, for the purpose of persuading the Government to continue a system of Legislation, which will assuredly deprive the British crown of some of its brightest jewels. The worm has been trodden under foot a long time, but it may turn at last. There is yet time for England to win us back to her, if she is desirous of doing so, but if the present policy is pursued, can any one question our cause of distrust, or our incentive to think aloud. The British Government may affect to treat the colonial embarrassments of the empire lightly; but they may yet result rather too heavily even for Earl Grey's phlegmatic disposition.

CANADA.—This Province still continues to be much agitated by the question of annexation. The removal of the seat of Government, it appears, has at length been decided on, and Toronto and Quebec are alternately to be honored with the presence of the Collective wisdom. The following communication on the subject has been officially communicated to the Mayor of Quebec:—

Crown Lands' Office, Montreal, Oct. 23.

MR. MAYOR.—After mature deliberation upon the address of our Legislative Assembly, dated the 19th May last, in favor of holding the seat of Government alternately at Toronto and Quebec, and on consideration that nothing has since occurred to diminish the weight of the reasons which gave rise to that address, the Governor General in council has come to the determination of acquiescing to the desire of the Legislative Assembly.

This decision necessarily causes the removal of the seat of Government to one of the two cities.

It has been determined that the new arrangement will commence by the immediate removal of the Government to Toronto, there to remain till the expiration of the present parliament, after which it will be transferred to Quebec for the four following years.

The Commissioners of the public works have consequently received instructions, to submit to parliament, at its next session, estimates of the charges and additions necessary to be made to the public buildings at Toronto and Quebec, for the accommodation of the Representatives of the Sovereign, the public offices, and the two branches of the Parliament in each of these cities.

It is, therefore, desirable that the Government should, immediately after the next session, enter into possession of the public buildings at Quebec, now in possession of the Quebec Corporation, in order to afford time to complete the necessary works, previous to the translation of the Seat of Government within the walls of your city.

For these reasons, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General, to notify the Corporation of Quebec, in accordance with the subsisting contract, that in one year from this date, the Government will again take possession of the public edifices now in charge of the said Corporation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your obedient servant,

T. BOUTILLIER,

His Worship, the Mayor of Quebec.

It appears by the annexed paragraph copied from the Montreal Herald, that this decision has caused considerable contention in the Cabinet, and led to the resignation of several leading members:—

THE MINISTRY.—A PRETTY KETTLE OF FISH.—These gentlemen have succeeded—if in no other kind of cookery—at least in making a pretty kettle of fish. By way of spiting the Tories, they brought in their celebrated 'conciliatory' measure, which has led from one thing to another, till it has led the Government to Toronto. So the Tories of that good city have not been quite so great losers as the radicals of Montreal, who would certainly have been quite as well without the bill and with the seat of Government as they are at this present writing with the bill—the whole bill, and nothing but the bill—and charges for ditto. In the meantime there is great earthquake in the cabinet and out-buildings. The Solicitor General West is gone, and a successor is not yet named. Mr Price, Crown Lands Commissioner, has resigned, and no successor has hitherto been appointed. Mr LaFontaine, men say, is to go to the Chief Justiceship in Appeal—the blunders in the act being all to be blinked. Then, again, the Receiver General could not think, in his delicate state of health, of going so far from home

as Toronto. So that we must catch a new hand to look after money, which will not be so difficult as might be under other circumstances, because the present state of the chest renders it unnecessary to ask the new comer to give security. The Provincial Secretary, too, is said to have only another fortnight to serve before he will give up his office. The question will then be, how the concern is to be reconstructed. Will there be any man or set of men in Lower Canada, who can keep Mr Papineau in the back ground—the present old soldiers being invalidated? If not, will not the old French Canadian leader secure sufficient support among the Upper Canadian Liberals of the more extreme School, to enable him to oust the present set of miserables? If he does, what will his Excellency, the dignified neutral, next undertake in the way of cabinet making?

For our own part we shall be very much surprised, if the plain speaking of Mr Papineau do not secure him a degree of attention among the Radicals of Upper Canada, for which his Excellency is little prepared, and by which he may be greatly embarrassed. The hon. member for Saint Maurice must cut his orations a little shorter, and he will be the oracle for the really earnest men of that party, who mean what they profess, and do not make politics the mere road to preferment.

CALIFORNIA.—As there appears to be at present quite a rage in this and the neighboring County of Kent, to emigrate to this land of promise, we conclude that news from that quarter is eagerly read and anxiously enquired after, we annexed some late intelligence. The first article is copied from the New York Herald of October 19.

We are indebted to Richard Voorhees, Esq., of this city, for the use of a private letter from his brother, Commodore Voorhees. Its contents are important to the owners of the shipping now in the harbor of San Francisco, and deserves particular attention.

The value of vessels now in San Francisco, and in the interior harbors of California, is immense, and probably equal to \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, and before the winter months set in, there will be four or five hundred vessels, worth probably \$6,000,000, in the waters of California, unprotected, and at the mercy of the wind and waves. According to Commodore Voorhees, a fire or a gale would destroy the whole of them.

Annexed is the Commodore's Letter:—  
U. S. Ship Savannah,  
San Francisco, Aug 13, 1849.

I arrived here, all well, at 4. p.m., on the 27th. The Ohio, which you know I was ordered to take to China, has been ordered to return home, in consequence of her men's time being too near out to go on the long route home originally designed by the department; besides she is very short of her complement, and I take the St. Mary's, a fine sloop of war, to carry to my station in the China Sea. But I do not, (as the Mary's is not here at present) expect to leave this port till about the middle of October, and may not be at Canton until about the 1st of January.

The papers give you a pretty accurate account of the state of things, so far as regards successful operations; but as to the unsuccessful there is nothing said; of the failures, the dispirits and the deaths—not a word. I would not advise a friend to come out here. There are already too many here.

Property at the city of San Francisco is at an enormous price, in the hands of speculators, who, with the gamblers, are making a fortune truly. They say that twenty millions are now in notes of hand in the pockets of the people here, for lots, houses, shanties, &c. In my opinion things can't last long in this way, and there must be an awful crash, sooner or later, amongst the 'gulled.' It is a great place, however, and a most important acquisition to our glorious 'Old Thirteen.'

There are about two hundred and fifty vessels in harbor, many of them large ships, and mostly abandoned and going to ruin.—They will all be wrecked in the course of the coming winter, if they be not taken care of in time. It is a most woeful pity to look upon the shameful waste and ruin of so much valuable property. The owners and underwriters of New York, and the other cities of the Union ought to petition the President for a man-of-war, whose special duty it should be to take care of the abandoned vessels, by taking down some of their yards and spars, and mooring them safely so as to prevent them from going on shore, or dragging against each other. Such is the position of these vessels, crowded together, that if the windward one were to take fire, the whole fleet would be burned, without the possibility of saving any of them. It is an immense fleet, indeed, and still they come, their forests of masts reminding me of Shakespeare's forest of Burnham wood coming to Dunsinane. I advise you to let the merchants know this.

D. F. VOORHEES.

The following extracts are taken from a Letter received from a Mr. John Nelson, formerly of Saint John, which the writer's friends handed to the Editor of the Morning News for publication.

SAN FRANCISCO, (CALIFORNIA,) }  
August 12, 1849. }

I left the States on the 1st May last and arrived here on the 9th day of August, making

100 days travelling through the wilderness, and I must say that I never suffered so much sore hardship in all my life put together as I have in that 100 days, and many a poor fellow has found his last home on these plains. I cannot give you anything like a description of the hardships encountered, but I will confine myself to what will be the most interesting and in my next letter I will be enabled to give further particulars. I am going to leave here to-morrow morning, for the Gold Diggins, about 25 miles from this place, where I shall stop.—

At present the Diggins extend for 1000 miles, but many will be disappointed in the quantities of the precious article which they expected to dig. I have made all the enquiries I could, and from the best sources, and find that the general amount obtained by each man at the mines, averages from \$16 to \$20 per day, notwithstanding there are instances every day of some getting very large amounts at the mines, the term luck is applied in such cases, so if a man is lucky he may get a fortune in one day. Men get £16 a day, and to hire by the year get \$3000 per year and found, though the prospects are not so good as is reported at home. I have not as yet tried the mines, though I have obtained about 9 ounces of the precious metal by the way of trading. I have got everything necessary for the mines. I paid yesterday \$32 dollars for a machine that can wash more than six men with pans. I laid out \$130 dollars for provisions and tools, and have enough left to buy my winter's supplies. I left my company at Green River, near the Rocky Mountains and started for California on horse back. I made the distance of 1300 miles from the 4th July to the 9th August, and out of 107 men only one beside myself has been able to stand the journey, none of the rest have yet arrived. I suffered much crossing the Sandy Desert, 95 miles without grass or water. My noble Indian Mare carried me over without a stop, my mule failed me about 4 miles from the water; I left him and went out myself and obtained refreshments, and went back with some water and got him in, I have him now and need him to carry my provisions to the mines. The loss of life and property is immense, not less than 2000 have died on their way from the lines since I left. I shall now give you an account of the state of the markets. Flour at this place is worth \$28 per cwt.; Pork, 75c. per lb.; Bacon and Ham, \$1 per lb.; Coffee 45c. per lb.; Sugar 50c. per lb.; at a place called Sutter's Fort, prices are one half less; it is the high freight for teaming that causes such high prices, and the distance is only 55 miles. I will not make as much as I expected when I started. The whole country abounds with gold, but it requires labor to find it, and no man need come here unless he intends to work harder than he does at home, and then he may expect to do something. In my next letter I will give you a real and true account, and this one I think will meet the truth as near as possible. I would say that no man need calculate to make more than \$10 clear of expenses per day, and that I think he can do and a chance to do better. I would advise no one to come by land; indeed it is my desire that it should be put in the papers, in order to stop their coming that way to California, as they cannot comprehend the difficulties and dangers of the land route. I have slept 75 nights, without a covering save the canopy of heaven. I believe I shall be able to realize about \$5000 for my year's labor, according to present prospects, and perhaps three times as much. I have stated things just as they are and have not over rated anything. Board rates from \$25 to 30 a week at the mines but men can board themselves for a dollar and a half well. Honesty prevails here and there is better order than there is in St. John.

Several young men left Miramichi for Halifax en route for the 'diggings' on Wednesday last.

We learn that the vessel with the California Company, is to leave Charlotte-town to-morrow. It comprises forty in number, principally young men, who have associated together and formed a division of the Sons of Temperance, under the title of the California Division. Their friends have presented them with a banner.

SALMON FISHERY.—In another page will be found an interesting Letter from J. L. PRICE, Esq. to Moses H. Perley, Esq. on matters connected with our Salmon Fishery, which has been kindly handed to us for publication. It contains much valuable information, and the suggestions thrown out by the writer are well worthy of serious consideration. We are glad to perceive that the government and people are awakening to a proper appreciation of our River Fisheries. We trust to see a spirited petition on the subject from this quarter, laid before the Legislature at its next session. It is high time that something were done to protect this valuable branch of trade, which is yearly becoming of more importance to us as the facilities for obtaining timber decreases.