

he past only can relate the mournful tale; for when the mind attempts the review, it sickens at the sight and recoils at the disgusting spectacle.

But, Sir, my letter has already swelled to too great a length, and with many apologies for this trespass upon your space and patience. I remain, Yours, &c.

A TRAINED TEACHER.

Kent, 15th March 1849.

P. S. Before I concluded the above I omitted to suggest to the "Gaspie Teacher" that it would be the first step towards a reformation of those evils, which he in his letter so sadly deploras, and likewise the first towards the embedding of that "foundation," which he with such exalted presence has discovered in the far of prospective, and with which he appears so happily to console his sorrowful heart, and to allay the turbulent state of his mind, were he and his brethren to imitate the New Brunswick teachers and organise a society based on similar principles.

#### MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

[The author of the annexed communication, has requested us to re-publish the letter inserted in our last number, signed 'A Member.' We cannot see any object to be gained by it, and as we have a large quantity of matter to make room for, we decline doing so. Our readers, if they require it, can refer to the article in question.]—ED. GLEANER.

Dear Sir,—In your paper of last week stood forth in bold relief the above communication, purporting to be signed by 'A Member' of the Mechanics' Institute; and as the object of the writer was doubtless to give it publicity, may a reluctant scribbler beg of you again to insert it with the following remarks. It is currently reported, and I fear as generally believed, that the writer of this article is no other than the lecturer himself; but for the honor of humanity I hope this is not the truth. For my own part, I will not, cannot believe, that any man—much less the lecturer—who can treat the subject of Physiology with such "consummate skill and ability," and therefore must rightly think on that subject—could so far degrade himself, as to stoop to such low, mean, despicable practices, and allow his vanity and unblushing impudence, thus to exceed all bounds of propriety, to raise himself in the public estimation, and have it believed that he is a man of extraordinary talent and knowledge. I will not, cannot believe it, nor will I attack this production as for a moment believing such idle and invidious slander; but suppose it to have been written by some precipitate, over zealous, short-sighted individual, who loves his friend too, too well, with a blind, dotting, foolish love; and I will not scruple to tell this individual, whoever he may be, that this is one of the most bare-faced and presumptuous productions ever seen in print; nor can I tell whether it excels most in folly, extravagance, ignorance, or falsehood; and I will now tell him my reasons for saying so. "A Member" sets out by stating as his reason for writing, to be in consequence of your absence from the Institute; that would have been a good reason, had you been in the habit of noticing any of the Lectures in your paper. This is evidently only a pretence; or in other words, in this particular, it is misrepresentation and falsehood. You were absent the previous evening, when Mr Stewart lectured, and "A Member" did not write to give you a short notice of it. The whole purport of the communication is evidently to extol Mr Caie, and his lecture. Of a like character is the concluding part of it, from "the attendance was but miserably small," &c. I have been in the habit of attending the Lectures regularly, and never heard, or supposed, that there was any other reason for the thinness of the attendance, than (in homely phrase) the hardness of the times, and the undeniable existence of a contagious disease. But this dissembler mysteriously pretends that there is some other cause, such (I suppose from his Latin quotation and concluding words) as party spirit, and division, and unfounded preference. No doubt, when a person has taken much pains in preparing a Lecture, it is disheartening to see a small attendance; but in the nature of things people will have their preferences, and form their prejudices; and is it not obvious that this, for its own sake, is too flimsy and insubstantial to be worthy of a public complaint. And is it not plain, whether seen by "A Member" or not, that such statements have a tendency to injure the Institute, and prevent persons joining who might otherwise be disposed to do so. From a conversation which I have had with an individual since the appearance of this extraordinary letter, I am fully persuaded in my own mind, that it has such a tendency. It is only a straw to give an appearance, for the sake of taking something else along with it. But let us come now to the pith, core, or drift of this communication. "A Member" gives you the title of the lecturer in *propria forma*, and informs you that you *knew* that he was to lecture. So far is quite unobjectionable. You are next informed of the subject of the lecture at full length, in inverted commas. I suppose I must have been very inattentive at the lecture, for until I saw it in print I was not aware of the subject so particularly pointed out. He next gives you a most gratuitous, unqualified, positive and presumptuous account of the lecture. He gives it not as matter of opinion, but as fixed, certain, undoubted; which is the only notice he takes of it. He says it "was new" (not cribbed or adopted); "abstruse" (learned, difficult), and yet "conducted throughout with consummate skill and ability"; that "the language of the lecturer was clear, forcible, and elegant"; that it "occupied about an hour"; was delivered in a "clear, distinct voice," with "becoming energy, grace and action." A very pretty picture! But "A Member" must be a

very abstruse simpleton, or suppose every one else are so, to publish such extravagant nonsense, in such unmeasured terms, or a knave to suppose that from his bewitching words, every one who reads must believe his statements. But it is too fulsome and ridiculous to require further remark, and needs only to be read to be fully appreciated. I am sure no one would wish to detract from Mr Caie, or call in question the originality or abstruseness of the lecture—his skill and ability—the force, distinctness, or elegance of his language—or the time—or the clearness or distinctness of his voice; or his becoming, graceful, and energetic action; but there is such a thing as going too far. When such public statements as these are made by "A Member," and as this one, "superior, however, as was the lecture—perhaps the master-piece of the season," the last but not the least in importance—it becomes a duty in those who feel an interest in the Institute, on behalf of Mr Caie, who must feel himself placed in a very awkward and delicate situation, through the misguided zeal of a friend—on behalf of the Institute—on behalf of the other gentlemen who have favored the Institute with lectures during the season—and on behalf of those who have not had an opportunity of attending the lectures, to notice this miserable scrawl. Being thoroughly convinced of the odiousness of comparisons, and more especially the public expression of anything of the kind with respect to a public institution, as may be seen from the tenor of this communication; I forbear expressing any opinion of the merits or demerits of the various lecturers, or of drawing any invidious distinctions. I will simply name the lecturers for the season. James Caie, Esq.—John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., well known as one of the chief supporters of the Institute—Rev. Wm. Henderson, a man of acknowledged learning, and withal humility—The Rev. Wm. Stewart, a gentleman who has lately come amongst us—and Dr. Thomson, and E. Willison, Esq., two gentlemen of Newcastle, each of whom kindly consented to favor the Institute with a lecture.

"A Member" by this time must have his eyes open, and see what he has done. He has either thrown out a reflection against the Institute—the other gentlemen who lectured, and the public who were unable to attend the institute, which we must either submit to without comment, or by appearing in print run the risk of losing Mr Caie's lectures in future, that is, if he be that weak, vain, silly man, his friend, or more correctly, his enemy, would have us suppose, by offering him such fulsome, extravagant and paltry trash, and by thus opening a door for the malicious tongue of the slanderous, or the embittered pen of the malignant. But Mr Caie, if the sensible, right minded man we suppose him to be, must be more indignant at a "Member's" communication than any other person.

Before I lay down my pen, let me make one other remark as to the falsehood of this communication. It purports to be written by a member. I scruple not to say that at least nineteen-twentieths of the members indignantly repudiate any such nonsense. Of course Mr Caie has not been asked the question, that would be every way improper and indelicate, but if "A Member" will inform us who and what he is, we will then be able to do him more justice. I must apologise for the unintentional length of this communication, how hard it is always to remember the maxim, "Vir sapit qui pauca loquitur!"

#### FAIR PLAY.

Miramichi, 23d March, 1849.

Mr Editor,—It was, indeed, unfortunate, that you were not at your post at the Mechanics' Institute last Thursday night, else in addition to what "A Member" says in your last paper respecting the lecture delivered by Mr Caie, (James Caie, Esq., I mean) on that night, the public in general, and Mr Caie in particular, should certainly have had the satisfaction of reading an Editorial, meting out to Mr Caie a justly merited meed of praise; and to which in making the suggestion, I have very great pleasure in contributing my mite, by requesting that the Committee of the Institute at their first meeting, consider the propriety of obtaining the permission of Mr Caie to publish, in pamphlet form, for the use of the Institute, or to any greater extent that they may think proper, a Lecture so fraught with interest both as to matter—language—and manner. The matter, "new—not easily handled—abstruse"—the language, "clear—forcible—and elegant"—the manner, "with consummate skill and ability"—voice, "clear and distinct"—action, "energetic and graceful"—the Lecture as a whole, "perhaps the master-piece of the season"!—!!—!!!

#### A POCKMOUCHER.

Pockmouche, 20th March, 1849.

#### SMALL POX.

Mr Editor,

Dear Sir,—As the Small Pox is at the present time prevalent in this community, having apparently become Epidemic, perhaps a few lines on the subject of this disease, and its former and latter preventives, Inoculation and Vaccination, may not be unacceptable to some of the readers of your useful periodical, through the medium of which we often "glean" much varied information.

The Small Pox is of Eastern origin, having been brought originally into Europe from Arabia. It became a very general and most fatal disease, and from time to time the cause of hastening thousands to premature graves. In process of time, however, a remedy was discovered, or rather introduced into Europe from other countries—that of Inoculation, which it is needless to describe. It may, however, be remarked, that many remained prejudiced against its adoption. When generally made

use of, it was found to render the disease more mild, as comparatively few instances occurred of persons who lost their lives when the disease was imparted to the system by Inoculation. Whereas, when taken in a natural way, fatal cases were of frequent and invariable occurrence. Until the beginning of the 18th century, the accounts we have of Inoculating the Small Pox are merely traditional, and confined to some Asiatic countries. The Arabians assert, according to Dr. Russell, that Inoculation has been the common custom of their ancestors, and they have no doubt of its being as ancient as the disease itself. In 1717, Lady Mary Wortley Montague, an English lady, had her son Inoculated at Constantinople, at the age of six years. He had but few pustules, and soon recovered. In 1721, the same lady had a daughter Inoculated in England. In April of the same year, Inoculation was successfully tried on seven condemned criminals in London. Soon after the children of the Royal Family, that had not had the Small Pox, were Inoculated with success. Then followed some of the nobility; and the practice, after combating with much prejudice, as already stated, soon prevailed, with favorable results, and no doubt was the means of saving many lives which would otherwise have been sacrificed to the virulence of the disease, taken by means of atmospheric contagion, or infectious communication.

Inoculation, however, was superseded in course of time by the valuable discovery of Vaccination, which is attributable to Dr. Edward Jenner, who was born in Gloucestershire in 1749. He first made it the subject of much patient investigation about sixty years ago. He was then led to search into the nature of Cow Pox, or rather to form an opinion that some such disorder existed from having, in the course of his medical practice, observed that among the dairy people of Gloucestershire, England, many resisted Inoculation; that is, it failed of producing Small Pox when applied. On enquiry, he found that this was uniformly caused by their having been the previous subject of a cutaneous disease, contracted from their cows. Mr Jenner now proceeded on a course of experiments, to ascertain whether the matter of Cow Pox, transmitted from one person to another, would prove preventive of Small Pox. The result was confirmatory of his expectation. The subject now became one of general interest. Honors and rewards crowded in upon the author. The University of Oxford presented him with a medical degree by diploma. He was chosen Fellow of the Royal and various literary Societies, and he received from the British Parliament a grant of £20,000. He was treated with distinguished attention by the Emperor of Russia, and other European Sovereigns; and after a life devoted to the good of mankind, died in 1823.

Much has been said and written on the important subject of Vaccination. There is known to be a sort of spurious Cow Pox, which it is of the utmost importance to distinguish from the genuine, as a want of such discrimination would cause an idea of security against the Small Pox which would prove delusive. However, it may be averred as a certain fact, (if the best medical authorities are to be regarded) that genuine Cow Pox received into the system by Vaccination, may be regarded as a permanent security against the terrible disease of Small Pox. It is therefore of great consequence that the genuine virus of the Cow Pox should be procured for the important purpose of Vaccination. The operation is in itself very simple, and can consequently be easily performed; but at most, assuredly requires some care and discrimination to ascertain from the appearance and progress of the vesicle, when formed, whether the matter has been genuine, and also whether the pustule produced has the proper appearance peculiar to Cow Pox. This will be best determined by medical care and inspection; and it is certainly much to be regretted that, while there exists a remedy so invaluable against the ravages of a dreadful disease, and one which past experience has proved effectual, it should not have been universally and constantly made use of as a safeguard, which it would undoubtedly prove to be, if the practice were in continual operation.

It is surely the duty of parents and others to make a point of submitting children to Vaccination at an early period; and had this been duly attended to in every family, it is more than probable that Small Pox would not have pursued its course as an Epidemic in Chatham at the present time. There has been no such visitation in this place for many years, and long exemption from the disease has most probably given rise to a false idea of security, or induced a want of thought on the subject. The instances or cases in which Vaccination had not been applied have been very numerous, which fact the very many recent Vaccinations sufficiently testify. It is, however, earnestly to be desired, that future care and strict attention may be invariably and continually bestowed upon this subject by parents, guardians, &c.; and also by their medical advisers, who, during professional visits, have frequent opportunities of expressing their opinion in favor of infantile Vaccination; and also are those best able and most competent to procure and distinguish genuine Vaccine matter, of which, were it in constant requisition, there would always be a continual supply.

As regards the poorer classes of society, including also the Indian population, some permanent arrangement ought to exist in every town and village in the Province, through the medium of which Vaccination should be bestowed upon them gratuitously, by a medical officer appointed by the proper authorities for that purpose; and this not only when the appearance of Small Pox indicates the necessity,

but at all times an institution of this sort should be regarded as indispensable.

By means of application in the proper quarter, Governmental aid might be no doubt annually secured for this most important purpose; and what can be of more importance than the maintenance of public health in a community, especially when situated near the sea-board, and liable to the influx of shipping.

Temperance and cleanliness are also valuable adjuncts in the suppression and amelioration of this disease; and it will doubtless be borne in mind by the members of our community, that abstinence from ardent and spirituous liquors is of great consequence, as the use of them invariably tends to aggravate attacks of inflammatory disease.

Chatham, March 21, 1849.

#### TO THE HON. L. A. WILMOT,

HER MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY GENERAL.

SIR,—A petition was forwarded from here nearly a year ago, stating that the town of Campbellton was without a resident Magistrate; and that out of the whole number holding office in this County, only two resided in the upper part of it, both at a distance of three miles from the town, and that one of these, our worthy and venerable Chief Justice, had from advanced age retired from public life. That owing to the want of such a functionary, the public suffered both inconvenience and loss, and praying His Excellency to grant immediate relief from the grievance, by making additional appointments, as out of 14 Magistrates appointed for the whole county, 8 of that number resided at Dalhousie, and 4 in the lower part of it. The petition also stated, that previous appointments having created an unconstitutional and dangerous personal influence, the Petitioners were induced to most respectfully submit for His Excellency's approval, the names of certain persons whose appointments would be satisfactory to the public, and tend to negative the injurious influence then existing. To this petition an answer was in due time received, informing the Petitioners that the matter would receive His Excellency's consideration; but from that time to this, no action has ensued, and a large portion of the inhabitants of this County still suffer the inconvenience, loss, and injustice so long ago complained of. I believe, Sir, it has long been established as the constitution of this Province, that the Government shall be administered in accordance with the well-understood wishes and interests of the people; and that all grievances, respectfully and properly represented, are entitled to immediate and constitutional redress. This being our constitution, I, as a freeholder of this county, and one of the aggrieved, take the liberty of asking you, Sir, as the leader of our Government, why that petition, shewing an unjust and injurious deprivation of both civil and political rights, and signed by nearly one hundred of the most respectable and influential inhabitants of the county, has not long ere this received that favor and consideration to which it is justly entitled. I ask, what has become of our Petition? Is the inference correct that because the people, laboring under a serious and pernicious evil, in seeking redress, rendered themselves obnoxious to the powers that be, of this our Lordly principality, and are therefore denied their rights? Perhaps it may be, that the Petition not having received the patronage and fostering care of the would-be great men our County can boast of, is not of sufficient importance to merit the consideration of his Excellency and advisers, and is consequently treated with silence and apparent contempt; or is it because that the petitioners having censured the political conduct of one of our members, and some of the most active and prominent of their number were personally obnoxious to both, you have so shamefully neglected their expressed wishes and interests, fearing that a recognition of their demand, and a compliance therewith, might by implication lose you a vote? fye! fye! upon it.

"If you are by such a fear beset, Be it by this consolation met; When our next election does take place, More worthy men than these their seats may grace."

As I have adverted to these gentlemen, I will take the liberty of asking them also a question: Why have they so far neglected the interests of such a large and respectable body of their constituents, as not to have brought the subject matter of this petition again under the notice of his Excellency and his advisers, and urged an immediate compliance therewith? Their neglect of duty cannot have proceeded from ignorance of the facts; what then does it proceed from? I will be so generous and charitable as to suppose it has escaped their recollection, but let them look to it, a day is coming when they may be taken to task for this and other delinquencies. The days of ledger influence and undefined political qualifications are fast upon the wane; our future representatives must be men of sterner stuff, than pompous merchants, and "eccentric" barristers, unless these mend their ways, and show greater wisdom united with a more becoming dignity. It is never too late to reform: I give them a friendly hint, and hope they will profit by it. This is, however a digression, for which I pray you will excuse me. I resume. Last summer two auspicious events occurred, which were hailed with much satisfaction by the inhabitants of this county, the visit of His Excellency and also that of yourself, and much good it was fondly hoped would accrue therefrom. His Excellency having on his tour acquired a personal knowledge of our localities and their extent, we felt confident would understand better our wants and interests, and would immediately on his return attend thereto; and that