

Communications.

TO JOHN W. WELDON, ESQ., &C.

SIR,—Holding as you do so many public offices, it is quite impracticable for me to address you upon all at once. I shall therefore devote the first letter to you as Deputy Treasurer for the Port of Richibucto, an office which I believe you have held for nearly five and twenty years. Whether you have filled it with honor and integrity during that period will be shewn before my task is over—a task and a duty, Sir, which, however difficult for me to perform, I regret much that it has not been sooner commenced—having for its object an expression of public opinion and judgment of several of your public acts, in various public situations. Nor will you, I know, for a moment wish to be irresponsible, particularly to a people who have so long entrusted you with their confidence, and all of whom, more or less, contribute their mite to compensate you for some of your public and invaluable services. It is strange indeed that some one more notorious than myself as a public correspondent, has not long ere this, honored you with a place in the columns of the Press, there being no one more worthy of, and having greater claims to such a mark of distinction. It shall, however, be my study to make you every amends, and if, in my efforts to enlighten the public on some of your public services, I fall short of success, I beg you will attribute the failure to a want of ability, and not of the will.

I find, Sir, on looking over the proceedings of the Legislature during the past winter, that among other things, an Act was passed to increase the duty on vessels entering the port or harbour of Buctouche (within your district as Deputy Treasurer of the Port of Richibucto) for Buys and Beacons, to one penny per ton; and I also find on referring to our laws of the Province, that in the 10th and 11th year of the reign of Geo. 4, cap. 16, an act was passed subjecting such vessels to a duty of one half-penny per ton only; so that from the latter time, being the year 1830, till last winter, (being a period of nineteen years) the duty to which vessels were subjected for Buys and Beacons for entering the port of Buctouche, was one half-penny per ton. I also find by the act of 1830, that the Deputy Treasurer who collects such duty, shall pay it when required, to the Commissioners of Buys and Beacons for the port where it is chargeable, and shall render an account to such Commissioners, upon oath, of the money so collected. I have looked in vain, however, to discover if such Deputy Treasurer had the authority to appoint one Commissioner for such port, or whether he could appoint any person at all to expend any of the duty so collected, if given to him for such purpose by such Deputy Treasurer.

Now, Sir, from these researches I am compelled to ask you, First, whether you have, since the year 1830, collected the duty of one half-penny per ton imposed upon vessels entering the port of Buctouche for Buys and Beacons, until the passing of last winter's act, increasing such duty to one penny. Secondly, whether you have not, during the above period, or for fifteen years of it, accounted to your own self-appointed commissioner, John Bowser, Esq., for the duty you have collected, in just such a manner as you pleased, and in no case paying over to him annually during all that time, more than fifty shillings. Thirdly, by what authority did you select Mr Bowser as a fit and proper person to expend the duty thus collected, or rather so much of it as you were disposed to pay into his hands. Fourthly, whether during the above period of nineteen years you have not exacted from the owners, masters or consignees of such vessels, one penny per ton for such duty, instead of one half-penny, when you knew it was illegal and unjust; and Fifthly, have you, during that period, accounted with the Province for a penny or one half-penny, as having been the amount collected by you for such duty.

These questions are easily answered, and they are also too significant, I presume, to escape your attention entirely. Need I say it is expected you will answer them, not only fully and satisfactorily, but quickly; and I cannot doubt but you will do both, unless your known and unbounded generosity prompts you to award to me the right and pleasure of answering my own inquiries. In such case my next letter shall contain such answers.

I am, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. JAMES.

Richibucto, County Kent, May 27, 1849.

The Politician.

United States Press.

From the New York Herald.

CANADA—WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT MOVEMENT?

Many of our cotemporaries indulge in the belief, that because there is not a continuance of the rabid and violent outbreaks which recently disgraced Montreal and other cities, that peace and quiet have been permanently restored, that parties will settle down, and that matters will take their usual course. We cannot coincide with them in this opinion. We think that Canada is on the verge of a great crisis, and that the days of British connection are numbered. Every account received from there, proves the existence of a rank, bitter, and irreconcilable hatred between the French and British races in those Provinces, a hatred which is not disguised, but is reciprocal, openly avowed, and one which, according to every indication, nothing short of a miracle can ever heal. The association known as the British American League and its branches, are the offspring of this deadly animosity of races, and the same may be said of the mission of Sir Allan McNab. Now what can be the ultimate object which this British association can have in view—what will be done in case the home government should refuse to veto the indemnity bill, and Sir Allan McNab's mission be unsuccessful? It is evident from the relative strength of political parties in those Provinces, that the British party cannot gain any advantage, and least of all, gain political ascendancy, by political means. What, then, are they to do? Bitter, unrelenting hostility to the French is proclaimed—relief from French rule is sworn—a determination that the British shall rule Canada is published in almost every British journal, and is on the lips of almost every one of the British party. This state of things, in our opinion, forbids the supposition that peace and quiet are permanently restored in Canada. If the bill for indemnifying the rebel losses be sanctioned by the home government, the whole British population will be incensed, and will no doubt attempt violent measures of some kind. If, on the other hand, the bill be disallowed—of which, however, there is no probability, according to present appearances—it will be considered a violation of the principles of responsible government—a reflection on the majority of the members of Parliament who passed the measure, and a slur on the Governor General, to be followed, of course, by his resignation, or removal from office.

The question then results in this—what form will the action of the British party assume when it becomes known that the indemnity bill has been allowed by the home government, for we do not think there is any probability of its being rejected? A war of races—a deadly struggle between the French and the British for the mastery, will follow, or the upper Province will be separated, forcibly if necessary, from the lower, and will either become a separate and independent nation, or solicit admission into the American union.

The British Press.

From Sidney's Emigrant Journal.

THE CONTINENT versus THE COLONIES.

It has been common, for some years past, for fathers with fixed incomes and large families, young widows, and fixed pensioners, to resort to the continent, led there by economy, cheap education, cheap amusements, and, not unfrequently, the genial climate of the south of Europe. In Belgium, in Germany, and especially in France, small colonies of English established themselves, monopolising the best of everything, raising the price of rent and provisions, grumbling, and rearing a race that was neither English nor French. The sons cultivated moustaches, wore shooting jackets, odd caps, frequented the cafes, and divided their time between smoking bad cigars, courting the grisettes, and talking about their noble relations, and what they meant to do when they came into their estates, in company with three or four white-headed old blackguards, like Sir Tom O'Rafferty, Captain Splash, and Dick Du'Em, who levanted when Velocipede won the Leger. It is a very odd thing, but almost every English and every Irish family living on the continent has noble relations, and a reversion in an uncle and a ring fence, as well as expectations of commissions in the army, and places in the post office, or customs. As for the girls, they, generally pinched hard, learned how to make soup maigre, and their own frocks; dressed dowdily in the morning, and divinely at balls and concerts; sang, played on all manner of instruments, spoke all languages, and dreamed of great matches with the young noblemen who stay a day or two in passing at the hotels, and go to the town balls 'just for fun.' If such families were poor, they gradually got into debt with the tradesmen; if rich, they wandered from watering-place to watering-place, from Baden to Carlsbad, from Naples to Paris, until everything was *rococo*, and nothing amusing.

But the end is always just the same; the parents die, and the fortune, if any, has to be divided, or they find that Jane, Mary, Julia, and Fanny have no chance of getting married abroad, and they want to do something with Jack, Harry and Walter, who are growing up more expensive than when they ran about in blouses, content with a few sous for gaiters, so they decide to return to England. They do

return after five, ten, or fifteen years' absence, and find themselves forgotten by all their friends and connexions.

The years of revolutions sent such families home by hundreds, to exhibit a most piteous spectacle in London, and all the cheap idle towns in England. The sons are fit for nothing, not accustomed to industry of any kind, with a great contempt for trade, and no chance, having no connexions, no professions. When the means of such young fellows are exhausted, their chances vary between enlisting, turning billiard markers, and driving a patent safety cab. The daughters are miserable; such smoky climate—no fetea—no balls—theatres expensive—everybody busy—Englishmen all bears. Perhaps they who were too aristocratic at Tours to visit pretty Mrs Barm, because her father kept an hotel in Manchester, discover an aunt married to a linen-draper, or that their own father, the pensioned deputy-inspecting officer of the Board of Red Baize, had commenced life as butler to Lord Middlewick. At any rate they are without friends and without society—with accomplishments for which they have no use, and tastes that only make them unhappy. The eldest is lucky, and marries old Colonel Trincomalee, without either heart or liver, and a pair of wonderful spindle shanks. Jane turns nun, and remains in France in a convent. Julia becomes a governess, and every day she wishes she was the housemaid; at length she marries Vocalini, the singing master; they give day-lessons, and live in an attic; while pretty little Fanny, the pet of the family, runs off with Captain Bolter, late in the service of Don Carlos, at present subsisting on the strength of his wits and moustaches. Now, thousands of such families, if they had planted themselves in British colonies, would have lived just as economically as in France or Germany, been more happy and more respectable, less genteel, and more independent. The sons would have early embarked in suitable employments; the daughters would have found husbands. This fact is adverted to in our last in a letter from Canada; it is equally true as regards Australia.

Among not the least advantages of colonies are the facilities for cutting down expenditure in the safest way, that is to say, by cutting off unnecessary luxuries. In Canada an officer and gentleman can drive his own waggon to market, while his daughter looks after a store, without losing caste. In Australia many a well-born, well-bred gentleman is his own groom and gardener, and lends a hand to his stockman, herding cattle, dressed in a pair of fustian trousers and a shooting coat; whereas if living in Europe, he must either keep up his idleness and his wardrobe, or lose his self-respect. Philosophers may preach as they please, but in this civilised country of ours, it is very difficult, indeed it is impossible, for a man to pursue a liberal profession successfully in a seedy coat and a pair of patched boots. A large house, large concomitant debts, a large family, and a large practice; these are common concomitants. How would poor barristers get on without the robes to cover the deficiencies?

Now in a colony, officials and town shopkeepers excepted, a great equality of costume prevails, and a great equality in style of living. Money can be put out at good interest, can be safely invested on improving property, and industry and energy need never be wasted. Many a man living near a great town in England, dependant on some government or commercial appointment, labors away at a little flower garden, early and late, in a manner that would in a colony actually secure permanent independence. Even two hours' labor a day for ten years would make a wonderful difference on a piece of wild land in Canada or Australia.

This idea is particularly worth the attention of those who have moderate incomes and large families. There is no necessity for raising any capital. Let them be content to live on their income in Canada, at the Cape, or in any of the Australian settlements for a year or two, and then decide on investments. It will be less luxurious, but infinitely more satisfactory than a continental exile. To Irish gentlemen, whose ruin has been crowned by late events—to annuitants, and pensioners, with families, driven from the continent by wars and rumors of wars—to farmers who dare not face the uncertainty of the future corn markets—to all who are prudent and industrious, so that they have but sons and daughters wise enough, or young enough, to learn to get their own living—our colonies afford peace, prosperity, independence.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, JUNE 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.

WEST INDIES.—A late New York paper furnishes us with some interesting news from this quarter. The dates are

from Demerara and Barbadoes to the 30th April.

The loss sustained by the revenue, through the expiration of the Colonial Duties Act, already amounts to twenty nine thousand dollars, and this amount will be, by the elective controversy, considerably increased. The island from centre to circumference, is in a chaotic state from political agitation. Mobocracy and a licentious press are doing their work of destruction,—the rule of the former is the worst of tyrants, and the delusion of a corrupt press just as bad,—as it spreads its poison through every branch of society, and demoralises generations yet unborn.

Accounts from Demerara reached here yesterday, announcing that a formidable insurrection had broken out by the colored population. The authorities had the military out, and quiet was not restored until upwards of one hundred were killed, and twice as many wounded and taken prisoners.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The arrival of the Mail Steamer Falcon, has furnished the Editor of the Halifax Sun with a few items of news from this island, which we annex:—

The Falcon had much difficulty in making a harbor on her downward passage in consequence of the large quantities of ice on the coast—and was obliged to put into Ferryland, when Bishop Field and other passengers left her and walked to Saint John's a distance of fifty miles. She was detained at this port from Wednesday till Sunday.

A large number of Tradesmen and Fishermen it is said, have made application to the government for means to take them out of the country, in consequence of their destitute circumstances.

It appears from one of the papers that the sum of thirty thousand pounds is to be expended in main and agricultural roads. This should give employment to a large body of laborers.

Mr Kellogg is doing wonders in the temperance way at Saint John's. Many of those who have enrolled themselves under the banners of Total Abstinence, are persons of considerable influence in the community.

ST. JOHN.—The Sawyers, Laborers, and Ship-Carpenters, have each formed themselves into companies, and codes of Rules for their future guidance, and the regulation of wages, hours of labor, &c., have been drawn up. They meet every week, and pay unto the Treasurer one Shilling sterling per month, which is to be appropriated as circumstances may require, for the relief of members out of employment, or in case of sickness. The hours of labor specified per day, is from 6 to 6, deducting one hour for breakfast and one for dinner.

QUEBEC.—The papers furnish the following comparative statement of arrivals and tonnage at the port of Quebec, up to the 25th of May, in each year:—

	Vessels.	Tonnage
25th May, 1848,	273	107,317
" " 1849,	182	73,937
Loss this year,	91	33,480

CANADA.—On the 21st ult., an address was voted to the Governor General, in favor of the removal of the Seat of Government to Quebec and Toronto, four years alternately. It was carried by a majority of five.

The following is the answer of Lord Elgin to the above address:—

GENTLEMEN,—The subject of your address invoking the exercise of the Royal Prerogative, in a matter involving very serious consideration of public policy, shall receive my best attention.

I must not conceal from you, however, that in my opinion so serious a change in that policy ought not to be lightly ventured upon, and that, above all, the pressure of an apparent temporary necessity for that change, must not be allowed to exercise an undue influence upon the adoption of it.

The Montreal papers confidently state, that the Earl of Elgin will dissolve the Legislature at no later period than a month after its prorogation.

A Correspondent at Montreal, under date of May 24, writing to the Editor of the Quebec Gazette, says:—

Business continues very dull, with no prospect of amendment,—our political troubles have of a most injurious effect upon the whole mass of the people: bitter animosities prevail to a great extent; and the tone of a large portion of the press is unfortunately calculated to keep up the much excitement and irritation.—Unless the Home Government soon interferes with their authority by suspending the existing constitutions of the Colonies, and substituting one calculated to promote their union and general well-