

such foreign articles as are not charged any duty, or are charged a less duty than 15 per cent. on the price in England, we should charge the said customs' duty of 15 per cent. until the foreign country agrees to our proposition for reciprocal trade, or until we can agree to such other proposition as the foreigner may show to be more reasonable in his peculiar circumstances.

By following the foregoing line of principle and policy I am confident the Canadas and the West Indies could, at once, be resuscitated into the most prosperous and most loyal portions of the British empire. I see also, however, that it is more likely that our national infatuation may continue till, in the British colonies in 1850, as in France in 1848, the melancholy words, 'It is now too late' may come to be used; and, in such case the names of Peel and Grey will go down with infamy to posterity, as having reversed the British principle—that Honesty is the best policy."

The colonists will feel entitled to blame the Times only for the incorrectness of the impressions it leaves on the public mind. As to its mere violence or indignation of language, no class of her Majesty's subjects can have, in this respect, so often to ask the indulgence of their neighbors as have the colonists themselves. Our opportunities abroad make us more alive to the vast unemployed advantages of the empire, as by such experience we are only confirmed in the sanguine idea, that if true to ourselves, this country has no need to despond, and that England has yet at command, the elements of greatness and happiness, in a degree possessed by no other country in the world. We are satisfied that (set free from the circumstantial disadvantages of her church and aristocracy, and able to retain the disinterested social influences of these noble and time-honored institutions) England has an executive Government admitting of the prompt and independent execution of high designs, and containing within it capabilities at once of progress and accumulation, to a greater practical extent than does the principle of any other Government whatever. We see that her subjects may enjoy every advantage of democracy which a Republic offers, while they are saved the natural evils of democracy which are inherent in a Republic. And as the first or one of the first steps to centralise the productive energies of England, I would make the Colonies integral parts of the Empire. They should have their name even in common with the mother country and with each other. And Britain in America should not only be bound to Great Britain, but to Britain in India East and West by every tie which common interest, as well as common glory can create.

But, if the Government remains in the feeble hands of the Whigs, monarchy will be driven from America, and agitators will have it to say that nowhere but amid the wretchedness of European society would it be tolerated. They will even go the length of charging monarchical institutions with being the cause of all our wretchedness and misery as a nation. What a different prospect this from what I had fondly pictured to myself!—an hour of triumph for the colonies, when we could point the calumniators of British principles to the prosperous and happy condition of a great and moral population in British America—thus proving, that while British principles cannot (any more than any other principles) feed our masses, they are so far from being any impediment to this, that in circumstances equally advantageous they are at least as efficient an instrument of practical philanthropy as is the boasted Republicanism of the United States.

Your obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC BUCHANAN,

Member for Toronto, the then metropolis, in the first Parliament of United Canada, and formerly President of the Board of Trade of Toronto and of Hamilton, Upper Canada. Glasgow, 19th May, 1849.

### The Colonial Press.

From the Quebec Gazette.

### THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT ON CANADA.

Contrary to the expectations of some of our readers, the English mail which arrived yesterday, brought us no definite news from Parliament respecting the outbreak at Montreal. We publish three desultory conversations which took place in the Houses of Lords and Commons on the subject: but none of them convey any important intelligence, or enable us to prejudge of the views the home legislature will adopt.

Mr. Roebuck's speech in the House of Commons, is, however, worthy of serious attention. No member of the House of Commons, probably, has spoken or written more on Canadian affairs than Mr. Roebuck; and it is very likely that his opinion will carry no small weight in the discussion on the Indemnity Bill. He now comes forward, before the House is in possession of the official documents relative to the outbreak, before either the opposition are prepared to put, or the ministry to answer questions; and on the strength of 'private information,' furnishes the House with an outline of the proceedings of the Canadian Legislature and people; protests that the question of annexation has not the slightest connection with the troubles of April, and flippantly denounces the malcontents 'rabble, headed by bankrupt magistrates (!) who hold no stake or interest in the country, and who, although they pretend to great loyalty, would be rebels at any moment to serve their own purposes.'!

Far be it from us to follow the inconsiderate example set by Mr. Roebuck, and to prejudge the House of Commons before we hear their

final decision on the matter. But, at the same time, we cannot suppress our deep regret at the tenor of the news the two last mails have brought us from the English Legislature. By the former, we read that Earl Grey considers our connection with the mother country as based solely upon interested motives, and of so fragile a texture that the slightest injury done to our interests would be sufficient to sever it. Canada remains British, in the estimation of the Minister, because it profits by so doing: Canadian loyalty is in the pockets of Canadians, and noble earls, &c., cannot suppose it to reside elsewhere. This is a sore interpretation of the sentiment which roused us in 1812 and 1837; almost as repugnant to the feelings of Englishmen as the translation of the word according to Mr. Blake. It would not be a matter of great difficulty to argue from these premises, that Canadians are unwise and inconsistent in remaining British at the present moment; but we refrain from so unpleasing a task, and remain silent, if not content, in the hope that there are others in England who comprehend loyalty in a more old-fashioned sense than Earl Grey.

Mr. Roebuck deserves less charity at our hands. This honorable gentleman, meditating no doubt, another eloquent pamphlet on Canadian affairs, grounded like his speech on 'private information,' presumes to term the leaders of the British party, 'bankrupts, having no stake or interest in the country.' Those men, 'bankrupts,' who concentrate among themselves nine-tenths of the wealth of the country! Those men 'bankrupts,' who, with some half dozen exceptions, include the whole commercial community of Canada! Those 'bankrupts,' one branch of whose business is sufficient to feed and clothe the several constituencies of their political opponents! Those 'bankrupts,' whose commerce forms one of the sources of England's prosperity and wealth! But we are wrong: there are bankrupts among them; many, indeed have suffered; and thus incur the virtuous indignation of Mr. Roebuck: but what made them bankrupts, Mr. Roebuck and his colleagues know full well, and would have acted a more becoming part by calling them to mind.

'They have no interest or stake in the country.' Indeed; then, will Mr. Roebuck let us know who have?

Let Mr. Roebuck take a little more time to consider the matter: let him read the names which are affixed to the petition for the disallowance of the bill; and he will then find that these very men, whom he regards so lightly, concentrate in themselves the wealth, the influence, and a large share of the intelligence of Canada; that their stake in the country is infinitely greater than that of all the other citizens of Canada together; that it is upon them that the Tariff will operate, that their interests alone are affected by the Shipping Act; that these Navigation Laws, whose discussion has created such excitement in England, are comparatively a matter of indifference to the French party here, and weigh only on those so called 'bankrupts,' in fine, that out of ten measures introduced into Parliament, six, at least would injure them alone, if wise.

'They would be rebels at any time if it would suit their purposes.' We were not rebels in 1774, we were not rebels in 1812, we were not rebels in 1837: we were loyal to our cost. Rebellion is an art we have yet to learn. We have a conception of loyalty perhaps erroneous, perhaps obsolete, but to which we are so obstinately attached that we have often sacrificed our dearest interests to our connexion with Britain; and Lord Grey's logic has not, as yet, modified our mode of viewing this sentiment.

But if, at any time, it should become the will and intention of the British Canadians to rebel, Lord Grey will learn that as in our loyalty so in our treason, feeling would be paramount to interest: and Mr. Roebuck, for a parallel to a rebellion of these Canadian 'bankrupts and rabble' wherewith to embellish his next pamphlet, will have to look to the history of his own country in 1640, and that of an old colony in England (also inhabited by 'bankrupts and rabble') in 1774.

## Communications.

### ON EDUCATION.

"It is Education that improves the powers implanted in us by nature, and it is good culture that strengthens the heart: whenever moral principles are wanting, vices degrade the fair endowments of nature."

The subject of Education is unquestionably the most important that can engage the attention of the Philanthropist; and the advantages accruing to all classes of society from a general diffusion of useful knowledge, cannot be overestimated.

Man, in his ignorant and uncivilized state, is prone to cruelty, sensuality and superstition. On the other hand, when civilized and illuminated by knowledge, he recognises in himself the intelligent and accountable subject of an all-bountiful Creator; and tastes the higher and more refined delights of his intellectual capacities, and calls aloud for Education, as indispensable to the full enjoyment of his rational powers. Man, therefore, as a progressive being, has been endowed with reason, and left to discover his own nature, and the na-

ture of external objects and their effects, and to adapt the one to the other, for his own advantage.

Before the admirable invention of printing, when the transmission of manuscript communication was difficult or unknown, there was little community of ideas: few could build their own discoveries or improvements on those of others; each was obliged to construct his edifice from a foundation laid by himself; the experience of former sages was locked up in manuscripts, accessible only to the very rich or very learned; a Book was a thing of price, written, too, in the dead languages; few men in the same age studied the same subject; a succeeding age probably took up the lucubrations of that which preceded, and hence the slow march of knowledge on every subject. To Printing, therefore, we owe the "Diffusion of Knowledge;" but printing itself at first was slow and expensive, and knowledge kept pace with it. As Books became more cheap, information increased, and the arts and sciences progressed more rapidly. At length came Steam, with her giant strides, and with the multitude of cheap publications came the greater diffusion of knowledge, and with it sprang up on every side discoveries and improvements in every science. Many men at one and the same time, were enabled to produce a ray here and a ray there, until the whole blended into one great and shining light.

The same power which spread abroad among civilized nations information, as to the intellectual faculties, has also increased the knowledge of the moral faculties of man. Although in consequence of great increase in the population, and of the publicity given to all acts of crime or of vice, the growth of evil may at the first sight appear on the increase; yet, in Great Britain, at least, never have the principles of Christianity been so well understood, or so actively carried out. Justice in the laws of the land—mercy—submission to the laws—clearer comprehensions of the Divine arrangements of riches and poverty, have been the result of the "Education of the masses."

It has been allowed by all past experience, that crime and guilt are the offspring of ignorance. It follows naturally that the contrary should result from knowledge,—not that a partial degree of knowledge may not lead a man to guilt, or, to speak more correctly, may not aid a man to commit crime. But that knowledge must have been imperfect. True knowledge is of God, and its fruits must be good.

Having shortly traced the rise and progress of knowledge, and its beneficial effects upon mankind, it is scarcely necessary in this enlightened age to enlarge further on the numerous and manifold advantages which would arise from its greater diffusion among all classes, but more particularly among the poorer class in this Province.

This very desirable result, however, can only be obtained through the medium of a well-regulated system of Provincial Schools, superintended by duly qualified Teachers. It is, therefore, the imperative duty of our Provincial Legislature, to hold out every inducement to well-educated individuals to devote themselves to the irksome and laborious task, by elevating their social position, remunerating their services, and increasing the public respect for the scholastic profession, by means of increased salaries—thereby rendering them independent of the fees of their pupils, which, generally speaking, the parents are totally unable to pay; necessarily compelling the teacher to withdraw from the scene of his usefulness.

The evils of committing the highly important office of instructor of youth, to ignorant and unqualified persons, which has hitherto been, and is still too often the case, almost in every parish throughout the Province, are self-evident to every thinking mind; and must, sooner or later, force themselves on the attention of the Legislature. It should be the peculiar care of all Legislatures that the People be not only taught, but taught well, if they would have useful and peaceable citizens and subjects, submissive to the laws of God and man—and this is especially necessary for the working classes. Obligated by this very dependence upon the labor of his hands to make Time his capital, the working man cannot expend much of it on the cultivation of his mind. Childhood or early youth is their period of study. What they learn then they may never have time to unlearn. It is upon the working classes (the numerical force of nations) that the peace and safety of nations depend. Riots, revolts and revolutions are accomplished by them, if not be-

gun by them; consequently true ideas upon the immutable laws of God, upon the social and religious duties, are not only essential to themselves, as individuals, but are absolutely necessary to the safety of the state.

In order to instruct wisely and well, Teachers must be competent. Whatever we desire to see well done, must be done by a capable person; and those who possess capability will never remain in the lowest ranks. If it were even in sweeping the streets, the man of most capacity would leave his competitors behind; and so in the scholastic profession, the man of ability will rise to his level. The laborer is worthy of his hire, and the diligent man will stand before Princes. In order to obtain capable instructors, their occupation must be made one of credit and emolument, otherwise they will find both elsewhere.

Many very eligible persons refuse to go to various districts to engage in agricultural pursuits, on which the prosperity of our country now solely depends, merely because they can obtain no proper instruction for their children; and men with numerous children are most likely to become useful and permanent settlers. It is therefore our anxious desire, not only for the sake of the present inhabitants, but for the future welfare of the Province, that Government take upon itself the nomination, and provide liberally for the salaries of the Schoolmasters. The property of the districts might be assessed at an increasing ratio, according to its increasing value; Government, in the meantime, making up such a respectable salary as will induce individuals of character and talent to supply the places of those who have, heretofore, by falsehood and cunning, managed to impose their pernicious services on the public, to the partial ruin, at least, of many promising youths, as may be daily seen in their indolent and slothful habits through riper years.

A TRAINED TEACHER.

Newcastle, 13th June, 1849.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 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.

CHOLERA.—This most dreadful disease is making sad havoc in the cities of the United States, and at the latest advices was spreading rapidly. It has appeared in Kingston, Canada, where fifteen cases had occurred, nearly all of which had a fatal termination. The Government of Canada had issued a proclamation stating, "that whereas Asiatic Cholera has lately appeared in some parts of the American Union bordering on the Province, it is expedient that An Act to make provisions for the preservation of of the Public Health, in certain emergencies, should be in force." We think that our authorities should be up and making provisions for any emergency that may arise; for it is impossible to say how soon this frightful disease may appear among us, as vessels from different ports in the United States and Quebec are constantly arriving in our river.

PORT OF QUEBEC.—The total number of vessels arrived at this port this season up to the 9th June is 321, being 81 less than last year, and a decrease of 29,301 tons.

CANADA.—The papers from this Province put us in possession of the following Despatch from Earl Grey to Lord Elgin, which approves of his conduct, and deprecates the idea of his resigning office.

Dowling Street, May 13, 1849.

MY LORD,—I have received and laid before the Queen your Lordship's Despatch of the 30th April, giving an account of the scenes by which the city of Montreal has been disgraced, and in the course of which the building occupied by the Provincial Parliament has been destroyed by fire.