

Communications.

WESLEYAN MEETING.

An annual meeting was holden at Newcastle, on the evening of the 6th instant. Mr Allison in the chair.

The addresses of the several clergymen present, were chaste and pertinent, and altogether, this occasion was replete with interest. At this eventful era, when the Anglican and Scottish churches, are rent and torn assunder by internal dissensions, and the fairest portion of Christendom, the scene of the early dawnings of christianity is emphatically 'lying in wickedness,' it is some consolation to be told that the Methodist church still maintains her unity, and her pure and simple doctrine, drawn, we trust, from the true revelation, is gradually being extended, and her influence reaching to and spreading 'throughout all lands.'

The finances of the society are represented to be in a satisfactory state, indeed, we think, eminently so. For when we take a survey of these British dominions, we cannot but be struck with the listless apathy pervading the entire community in the cause of missions, and the smallness of the contributions in aid of the great christian treasury. The fibres of our religious sensibility seem to have become indurated; and the warm and genial current of christian philanthropy, chilled or dried up. But, happily we are not the true criterion whereby to judge. Happily for us, if we turn to the mother country, our eyes are gladdened by the cheering prospect,—the Wesleyans among others, pouring out their treasures in rich abundance, in furtherance of the great cause—'giving liberally and upbraiding not.' Noble, generous and magnanimous Wesleyans of England! May you go on and prosper in your labor of love, and prove yourselves worthy to inherit the promise, 'I will give them an everlasting name, which shall not be cast off.'

At the conclusion of the service, a collection was taken, amounting to several pounds.

Mr Pierce,

I was inclined to believe the declaration made by you some time ago, that no anonymous communication, reflecting on the character or credit of any man or body of men, would be countenanced by you, or have a place in your Journal; in that belief I have been disappointed.

I have no wish that my name should appear in your paper, aware of my own deficiency in every requisite necessary for the correspondent of a newspaper. But even with these shortcomings, when assailed by a malicious slanderer, under your ebbweb covering, I deem it a duty, not only to myself, but to those who have, I trust conscientiously, coincided with my views, to throw back the vile aspersions to the quarter from whence they emanated.

I have read of a captain Kearny, who was so much in the habit of dealing in the marvellous, that he finally became a notorious liar; and so much was he addicted to this vice, that he believed everybody to be such as himself. On the same principle your correspondent of last week, under the signature of H. M., having been so much in the habit of practising dishonesty and fraud, has concluded that everybody is just as bad as himself. No wonder, then, Sir, that he asks you 'what dishonesty is;' the initials he makes use of are very expressive of his creed, *Have Money*, dishonestly if you will, but *have money*. "It will be remembered," says this great champion of dishonesty, "that at the Session of the Legislature held last year, a grant was made for the ostensible object of purchasing seed, and affording relief to persons absolutely in need." "That about the same time the session ordered the building of an office, in which to keep the County Records." "Everybody who knows that our General Sessions are held in January, knows that that is a wilful perversion of the truth. The order for the building was made at the General Sessions in January, before the meeting of the Legislature, and consequently long before it could have entered into the mind of any member of Session, that such an act would be passed as the expenditure of £5100 throughout the Province. That I opposed the distribution of the grant of £600, this County's share of the whole, I do not deny, nor do I regret it; and with the same convictions I would do so again, aware that its distribution would be very improperly made, and entail upon the county a great grievance, inasmuch as the taxing of the industrious and frugal population to support the lazy and extravagant; and if I did oppose its being taken, I doubt not,

Sir, you believe I did infinitely more to supply the want than did H. M., notwithstanding all his anxiety to *Have Money*.

Your Correspondent says, "that the measure was at the time strenuously opposed on the ground, from the hardness of the times it would be impossible to collect, and highly impolitic to saddle the county with an assessment for an object that was not asked for by the people, and not wanted." I have yet to learn where else the opposition came from, with the exception of H. M., as every one admitted the want of it: a want that has long been felt. I am happy to say, the desideratum is now supplied.

I feel quite as much interested in the safe-keeping of the County Records as your Correspondent, and should be sorry to see them left to the caprice of any man. Hitherto, I believe, each of the officers have done what they could as far as the safety of the documents were concerned. Perhaps H. M. is not aware that the Government issued a Circular last year to the Clerks of the Peace in the several counties of the province, and in case the one addressed to ours has not reached him, I beg to give a copy for the public information: viz—

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has been pleased to make an order that the office of the Clerk of the Peace, in the several and respective counties of the Province, shall be kept at or near the Court House of the Shire Town, and that this order must be complied with.

I have honor to be

Your most obt. Servt,

(Signed) J. S. SAUNDERS.

H. M. is so much afraid that he will be deprived of the fingering of the money that he is now content that the county should not only be assessed for the £600, but also for the expense of the edifice, "which," he says, "should have been borne by general assessment." I have no doubt but his share of assessment will be small. If he be not ashamed of his own deeds he need not blush for the doings of the Sessions, and if the majority feel as I do, happy that he is not one of that number. I feel quite satisfied that the Legislature, actuated by a desire to do what is just and proper, will listen to the host of evidence of the misapplication of the portions applied for by these counties who unfortunately took it, will not re-appropriate the £600 to this county, in conformity with the act, but deeming it an act of justice to relieve us from an assessment, will apply it as the Sessions have asked for, I might almost add unanimously.

Whoever the person may be who handed the *Brimuda* libel case for insertion, he must have intended it for your own good, and it is to be hoped the advice will not be altogether lost.

I am Sir, your most obedient,

R. HUTCHISON.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, FEB. 20, 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.

THE GREAT RAILROAD.—The following is the petition drawn up by the Committee appointed at a late meeting of the inhabitants of Quebec, to be laid before the Canadian Legislature, relating to the great Rail Road undertaking:—

"That your petitioners have never ceased to view with the most lively and profound interest, the project of a railroad to connect the city of Quebec with Halifax, regarding it as of the greatest importance not only to this city and district, and to this Province, but also to the neighboring Provinces; and as an undertaking of national concern.

"That the very able and clear Report of the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government, to survey the proposed Trunk Line of Railway, appears to establish a practicability beyond the reach of doubt; and that your petitioners consider it to be their duty, and that of all the inhabitants of the North American Provinces, to give their aid to this magnificent undertaking by all the means and influence in their power.

"That your petitioners feel that they can hardly estimate too highly the important advantages which, as is clearly and powerfully shown in the Commissioners' Report, this en-

dertaking holds out to the Mother Country and to Canada, by encouraging and facilitating a continued flow of Emigration to this Province, by the increased commercial advantages it will afford,—by greatly facilitating the military defence of the Province in time of war,—and by thus ensuring to us the continuance of the powerful protection of the Mother Country, and strengthening and confirming in every way our connexion.

"Wherefore, your petitioners pray that your Honorable House will take into your grave and favorable consideration this great project, on which depends, as your petitioners believe, the preservation of these Provinces as British Colonies."

GOLD MINES OF IRELAND.—A late number of the *Herepath Journal*, thus speaks of gold mining operations in Ireland:—

We are glad to find that industry is likely to be well rewarded in Ireland, and the hunters after gold need not go as far as California to enrich themselves. The Wicklow gold mines, which were formerly worked by the government, and which by the parliamentary returns were made to pay even under their slovenly management, are now in the possession of an independent company, and likely to be worked with advantage to those engaged in it.

SOMETHING NEW.—We perceive by a late London paper, that a most extraordinary feat had been performed in that city by a Mr Baldwin:—

The Governor and Directors of the Bank of England having been informed of the extraordinary ingenuity of Mr Baldwin, and that he was able to split not only a newspaper, but a bank note, sent for him in order to test his skill. That his task might be as difficult as possible, they picked him out one of the old one-pound notes, which are printed on paper much thinner than the notes of the present day, and told him to split it if he could. Mr Baldwin took the note home with him, and returned it the next day in the state he had promised. The paper was not in the slightest degree torn, and seemed as though it had but just come from the manufactory, so little was its appearance affected by the operation. The directors remunerated Mr Baldwin for his trouble, but could not elicit from him the means he employed. The discovery is considered of much importance in connexion with the paper currency of the country.

A YANKEE NOTION.—An exchange paper states that a large quantity of Copper Coins, stamped as British Sovereigns, are being manufactured in the United States for shipment to California. The speculators in 'Gold Dust,' it is expected, will be enabled to pass them off on the poor native Indians as real sovereigns.

CALIFORNIA.—The Nova Scotian has the following article on the subject of the Gold Region, and the effects likely to be produced on the value of gold, if the extraordinary stories we hear related of the extent and riches of the mines recently discovered in that country, prove correct. There is one thing evident, that there is a great want of the precious metals at present in the world, for the purpose of trade and commerce, and more especially for carrying into effect many of the great enterprises contemplated by men of science for the benefit of mankind. Who knows, but the discovery of this region may be the means of enabling us to carry out successfully the great Railroad undertaking which is deservedly occupying so large a share of the notice of the Colonial Legislatures and people—we sincerely hope so.

From an official document, the authenticity of which we have no reason to doubt, we learn that the Gold region is no less than eight hundred miles long, and one hundred broad, and that there are beside mountains of quicksilver which only require to be opened, to pour forth their treasures. The great drawbacks to the felicity of the adventurer, are the privations he must expect to undergo—the scarcity of provisions—the lack of all attendance—the absence of all the comforts of civilised life—the fever and ague, and other diseases as may be induced by his new mode of life, while there is scarcely a possibility of obtaining medical assistance at any price. A box of Seidlitz powders has been sold for an ounce and a half of gold, and a surgeon when called upon to administer relief to a waggoner who had overtaken him on his way to the land of gold, charged him one hundred dollars for the first dose. We should think the first dose would have given him but little relish for the second. The love of riches, however, will set at nought all such hazards, and brave all such dangers. When one dies another takes his place, and it is confidently expected, that there will be an influx of at least fifty thousand immigrants to Upper California, by the first of August next. Such exhaustless mines of gold, must necessarily produce a complete revolution in our present monetary system. If what we now consider the most precious of our metals, becomes as plentiful and as common as what we call the commonest, either the value of one must sink, or the value of the others must rise. If the Californian Mines turn out to be what they are represented, then gold can no longer be considered a standard. It may be so nominally, but not in reality. The necessities and the luxuries of life, will fix its value. In California a barrel of four costs \$100, and a bottle of bad brandy \$8. This, however, is no true criterion, but is what might reasonably be expected, where a large number of people are gathered together, with plenty of gold in their pockets, and a few of the comforts of life to be had even for the purchasing. One of our poets says—

"Love rules the court, the camp, the grove." Some have been of opinion that gold was a more efficient agent than even Cupid, and we were always of opinion that brass was as necessary as either. It certainly, however, would rather spoil the romance of our poetry, were we to hear, some ten years hence, that a lovely Duchess appeared on a gala day, with a coronet of copper, while her servant wench wore bracelets of gold.

APPOINTMENTS.—Last Wednesday's Gazette contains the following appointments:—

The Revd. James Neales to be a Trustee of the Grammar School in the County of Kent, in the room of the Revd. John Black, removed from the County; and the Revd. Hugh M'Guirk to be an additional Trustee of the same School.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.—The Head Quarters of Wednesday has the following paragraphs relating to the proceedings of the Legislature:—

On motion of the Hon. J. A. Wilmot, the House went into committee of the whole, on a Bill relating to Salt Mines in this Province; Mr Cranney, in the Chair of the Committee.

Hon. J. A. Wilmot explained that the Government had been led to believe that there were Salt Mines in this Province, and that in order to the discovery being made public, it would be necessary for the Legislature to authorise the Executive Government to enter into an agreement with the discoverer to secure to him a certain rate per cent for a limited term of years, on the duties paid to the Government for the use of these mines, wherever they might be. The intimation that such mines did exist caused some surprise among scientific men, as it was supposed there were no deposits of Rock Salt on this side of Virginia. He thought there could be no objection to passing the Bill. The Bill was then read, section by section, and agreed to without any amendment.

The vital subject of economy in the expenditure of the Provincial funds, has now fairly arrested the attention of the Government and of the Legislature. A reference to our report of Monday's proceedings in the House of Assembly, will show that not only have the Government determined to bring in measures for the accomplishment of this object, by reducing official salaries, and introducing a healthy economy in every department of the public service, but that members of the House who have hitherto been supposed to belong to the opposition, have also resolved to co-operate with or rather aid, the Government in carrying out a system of economy, by bringing in Bills having for their object the reduction of extravagant salaries. The office of Clerk of the Peace is the object of attack at which the Bills brought in by Mr Taylor and Mr End are directed; although it appears very problematic whether they can reduce the present salary of the Hon. George Shore, yet there appears a decided determination to bring the salary of his successor fully within the limits of the most stringent rule of economy, which is consistent with the proper performance of the duties of the office. We are gratified to find that this feeling is common to the members of Government and the opposition, a circumstance which affords the best guarantee to the people of this Province that they will have no longer any occasion to draw invidious comparisons between official salaries in this country and the United States.

Mr Ritchie presented the Petition of parties in St. John, who are owners of a vessel which had put into Miramichi last year, and were subjected to expenses incurred in taking care of two sick seamen, who were refused admittance into the Marine Hospital at that port. The hon. Member contended that the petitioners had a just claim on the Province for to be reimbursed these expenses, as they had paid the Hospital money, and it was no fault of theirs that the men were sick, or that the Province had not fulfilled its part of the contract by providing an Hospital where those laboring under contagious diseases might be received. Petition received and referred to the Committee on Trade.

By the mail on Saturday we obtained the following letter from our attentive Correspondent at Head Quarters:—

FREDERICTON, Feb. 16, 1849.

Dear Pierce,—Since my last letter nothing has transpired in the Legislature worth recording. The time of the House has been taken up in receiving Petitions and Bills. On Tuesday, being the last day for receiving Petitions, there was a perfect avalanche of them, the members vying with each other which should have precedence to present their Petitions. The House did not meet till 3 o'clock on Wednesday, as it was impossible for the clerks to have the journals of the preceding day ready before that time. A few local bills were passed on that day. Yesterday, the House were in Committee of Supply, and the same sum was voted as formerly for the ordinary services.

A long debate ensued on a bill introduced by Mr End, subjecting Supervisors and Bye Road Commissioners to actions at law, at the suit of contractors. The Bill was lost by a large majority. I observed that your representatives