

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

Nec aranearum sane textus-ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignit, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 17, 1849.

[NUMBER 25.]

Provincial Legislature.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, March 30.

Mr. End, from the Committee appointed on the eight day of February last, to take under consideration all matters relating to Couriers and Carriers of Mails, submitted a Report; and he having read the same, handed in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read. The following are extracts from it:—

The Committee to whom were referred the several Petitions connected with Couriers and Carriers, having attended to that duty, submit the following Report:—

No. 1. Is the Petition of William Kelly, praying a Grant of money to enable him to run a Weekly Day Stage between Miramichi and Fredericton: The Petitioner appears to be the Mail Contractor on the same route, and being compelled by the Post Office to travel by night, his establishment is found to be, so far, inconvenient to the public: Your committee regret that postal regulations should not have been made, when practicable, with a view to Public as well as Post Office accommodation; but, although anxious to encourage the Petitioner, in the present state of the Provincial Finances, they cannot recommend the whole prayer of his Petition, but suggest that £75 be granted to aid a semi-weekly Stage, to run on that Line during the Summer months.

No. 2. Is the Petition of John Wilson, of Miramichi, praying a Grant for ferrying the Mails, and keeping an efficient Team Ferry Boat at the North West and South West Branches of the Miramichi River: In reference to the ferrying of the Mails, the Committee presume that the Petitioner undertook the situation of Ferryman with a knowledge of its liability; and as to aid for the maintenance of the Team Ferry Boat, your committee regard such means of crossing Rivers in the light of moveable Bridges, and that it is within the power, and indeed the duty, of the proper Supervisors, to extend such assistance to them as may secure their efficiency and public convenience.

No. 5. Is the Petition of George Bell and Hector M'Lean, praying compensation for ferrying the Mails across the Ristibucto River in 1845: Your Committee cannot recommend the prayer of this Petition.

No. 10. Is the Petition of Roderick M'Leod and others, praying an additional Grant of Money to provide for a Weekly Courier between Miramichi and Shippegan: Your Committee recommend that the sum of £60 be granted to the Justices of the Peace of the County of Northumberland for that service.

No. 19. Is the Petition of George Wilson, praying a pecuniary Grant to establish a Weekly Courier between Bathurst and Shippegan: Your committee recommend that the sum of £60 be granted to the Justices of Gloucester for this service, for the year commencing the first of June next.

Your Committee recommend that the Grants of 1848 for Post Communications, not herein referred to, be continued viz:—

Bathurst to Pokemouche, for the year ending 1st June, 1849, £40 0 0

From Miramichi to Dalhousie, 100 0 0

The Committee appointed to take into consideration what sums it may be necessary to grant for repairing and improving the Roads throughout the Province, have had before them the subject of the Great Roads, and recommended that the following sums should be granted for the improvement thereof:—

GREAT ROADS.

Dorchester to Shediac, £40 0 0

Shediac to Petiscodiac, 40 0 0

Ristibucto to Chatham, 225 0 0

Bathurst to Belledune, 50 0 0

Belledune to Metis Road, 250 0 0

Federicton to Newcastle, 425 0 0

On motion of Mr. Street, The House went into Committee of the whole on the

Report of the Select Committee relative to the Lazaretto on Sheldrake Island, at Miramichi, which was submitted to the House on the ninth day of March instant. The Chairman Reported, that the committee having the Report referred to them under their consideration, the following Resolution was moved:—Resolved as the opinion of this committee, that the Report of the Select Committee upon the subject of the Leper Establishment on Sheldrake Island, and the recommendations therein contained, should be adopted by the House. And upon the question for sustaining the Resolution, the Committee divided as follows:—Yeas 19; Nays 12. Whereupon it was carried in the affirmative.

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

Quebec Chronicle, March 30.
THE CANADAS.

In politics as in common life, to know what can be done, and how to do it, is a most valuable species of information: the next is to know what can be done, and why we cannot do it.

The first enables us to attain a positive good, and the second saves us from the mortification of fruitless attempts; and with these well known axioms before us it is our wish to consider the advantages that would result to Great Britain, and the whole of the North American possessions, were general Union of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, to take place.

Situated as they now are, we find them like small societies torn by intestine brawls, with Legislative Assemblies entailing a most ruinous expense on the revenues of the different provinces; the Legislature of one enacting laws without any reference to the effect they may have on the prosperity of others; each with its little government, with its numerous heads of departments and costly offices, and the population of all suffering from the great and sudden change in the commercial polity of the empire—uneasy and discontented, because the change instead of being gradual has been instantaneous and attended with a general depreciation of capital embarked on the faith of protection to Home and Colonial industry. Hitherto the distances have been so great and the want of speedy communication such, that a general Union of the Provinces has not been desirable; but now that the practicability of a Railroad is established, at a cost that would leave a handsome return, it behoves all who are interested in the prosperity of British North America to petition Her Majesty for this measure.

We feel certain that the expenses of the general government of the United Provinces would not equal that now borne by Canada; for some radical change in the system is wanted, where the mere expenses of the Legislature alone in the item of printing is not far from £20,000 annually paid, for the pay of members and other charges as much more. From the men now in office in the different Provinces some opposition to such a Union may be made, although we are inclined to think they would all prefer it to 'looking elsewhere.'

It may be asked what inducement can be held out to England were she forming this Union, and giving the guarantee of the empire for the interest on the large sum of ten millions, which would be required to construct the Rail Road from Halifax to Lake Huron, that the next step would be annexation.

As colonists we have always regretted to see the leading men in the Imperial Parliament speak of the independence of these Provinces as a mere matter of time; but they should bear in mind that the great mass of the inhabitants consider themselves as much a part of the empire as if they resided in either of the kingdoms, and view their allegiance very differently from the Utilitarian school, now unfortunately so much in vogue in the

mother country, and in which the loss of her colonies is a lesson, in their opinion most deserving of general approval. We think nothing would tend to perpetuate the connexion as the raising these comparatively weak colonies into a large community, and we feel certain, that great as any expenditure would be to form the *real bond of union*, (for without a Rail Road, the plan is not feasible) that both directly and indirectly Great Britain would be the immediate gainer, were these changes made with reference to colonisation and emigration; for the redundant population which is pressing so sore on her energies, might be made under a well organised system, a source of power and not of weakness.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Farmer and Mechanic.

ORIGIN OF THE SOIL.
SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.

We have received, in pamphlet form, the Address of Professor Norton, of Yale College, delivered on the occasion of the great fair at Buffalo, in September last. It affords a rich repast. The following is an extract:—

The farmer of the present day who desires to improve, and to thoroughly understand his profession, has a wide range open before him. All of the natural sciences offer advantageous fields for exploration. In the air, the earth, the water, in the vegetable and animal worlds, the mind once aroused, finds sufficient space for the utmost energies.

Each one of the subjects that I have indicated, affords ample scope for a host of observers during a long series of years; even with the great progress already made in research, each possesses within itself a multitude of unresolved problems waiting for solution, and harmonious laws which we only need to understand, to be impressed with a still greater admiration than that we now feel when we are only able to see their incomprehensible workings.

These assertions it is my purpose, to illustrate to-day, by some observations upon one of the above topics.

I have selected the soil—not that it affords a broader field than some of the others, but it seems naturally to come first when we speak of improvement, and because it is the foundation from which all progress must be made. I shall confine myself to one part of this great subject—the structure, the physical properties, and the chemical composition of the soil. This may seem to some a narrow limit, but there will be no difficulty in proving it far too broad for the limits of a single address.

The soils which now exist upon the face of our earth, have been produced by a variety of agencies; the chief of these have been, the gradual decomposition and crumbling down of rocks themselves, and deposition by water. We know that the external outline of the earth has undergone most extensive changes. In some places it has sunk, in others risen. Sometimes it is evident, from the present conformation of surface, that violent currents of water have swept across strata of rocks, wearing away the uppermost, and transporting their ruins to fill up depressions elsewhere. We often find strata upheaved and dislocated by accident from below, and in many cases see the inferior rock presenting itself on the surface, having burst upwards in a state of fusion in spite of every obstacle. Scarcely a region can be found which does not present striking evidences of the throes, convulsions, and changes, which took place before man became an inhabitant of this planet. It is for geologists to decide, if they can, how long a time was occupied in these changes; suffice it for our present purpose that they have taken place, and that they seem to have been especially ordered for our benefit. Had the stratum last deposited or formed, continued unbroken and unchanged around the whole earth we should have none of the beautiful variety of scenery which now greets

our eyes on every side; no alteration of hill and dale, mountain plain and valley, with the attendant variations of climate and production, which now reminds us of perfection itself.

The soil would have been identical in composition over vast districts if not over the whole earth, being all formed from at least allied species of rocks. Now as few rocks contain all the materials for a good soil, this soil would doubtless have been imperfectly fitted to sustain most of the plants necessary for our existence and comfort. When exhausted, too, we should have had no store of mineral substances in forms convenient for supplying the deficiency.

The convulsions of nature, however, have been directed for our good, and they seem to have continued in a very long series before this earth was deemed fit for the abode of man.

Geological researches have shown us the existence of races of animal, that lived and died and succeeded each other in countless myriads, through long and indefinite periods of time. We find them all changed to stone, entombed in rocky sepulchres. Sometimes the appearance of the rock denotes that it was deposited from a calm and quiet sea, where the animals died naturally, and in consequence seldom remain whole or unharmed. In other cases life and its functions seem to have been suspended by some sudden change, so that we find large fish with smaller ones in their mouths but half swallowed, and others with their thorny fins yet erect in the attitude of fear or rage with which they received their death shock, when that sudden mysterious destruction came upon them. In some of these periods also, upon that part of the land elevated above the water, there flourished a vegetation of exceeding luxuriance.

Internal fires have borne a decided part in all these changes, if they have not been the chief agents. It is well known that even now, as we go towards the centre of the earth, for each foot in depth the heat increases, indicating interior combustion still active. In the early history of our globe these fires must have burst forth many times. The masses of melted matter may be plainly seen, penetrating the stratified rocks, filling cracks in their substance, flowing over their surfaces, or upheaving or contorting them.

But while some rocks were thrust upwards, others sank in corresponding depressions; and vast currents of water produced by these convulsions, seas and lakes turned out of their beds, seem to have swept over the world; completing the scene of confusion by tearing away and grinding down strata, bearing the materials to other regions, there to form beds of sand, clay or gravel, according to the nature of the original rock. The vegetation, at such periods, seem to have been carried into hollows, and buried deep by succeeding or continuing shocks, to form under enormous pressure and a high temperature, beds of coal, for the advantage of beings yet to be created.

Thus all these tremendous revolutions and changes of surface, seem to have been made with the great end of preparing the earth for the habitation of man, making its resources available to him.

In such a view the globe appears to have been a vast manufactory for our benefit. Its beds of limestone, of marl, of gypsum, are dispersed in every direction that they may be accessible to all; the various composition of its rocks, produces soils capable of growing every necessary plant; its ores are abundant in proportion as they are the more indispensable for the formation of necessary implements; while on the walls of our coal mines, we may still trace the forms of a gigantic vegetation which flourished long ages ago, and was then stored for our use.

It is not to be supposed that the present surface assumed its present shape, in every place at the same time. Some regions, without doubt, became tranquil long before others, but all must at first have presented a strange naked aspect. There was of course no soil, except in the tract of some former current where