

matter in suspension had been deposited this appearance of absolute raggedness and sterility, could not have continued long unaltered. Atmospheric influences, heat and cold, moisture and dryness, worked surely then as now, and after a time the most enduring rocks began to crumble. As the decomposing fragments became minute, little patches of soil were formed here and there. If it were on the side of a hill the fine particles had a tendency to descend into the hollows, being washed down by the rain. In ordinary circumstances, therefore, soil must have first appeared in the valleys, in every little hollow of the hill sides. The durability of each particular species of rock, had of course much influence upon the readiness with which the soil formed. Thus most of the slates, many lime-stones and sand-stones soften and decay readily when exposed to the air; on these were to be seen soils at a comparatively early period, and such soils soon became deep. But the granites and some of the harder lime-stones, remain almost unchanged for a long number of years; and we see even at this day that the soils upon those formations are thin, while at frequent intervals project masses of the native rock, yet delaying the influence of time.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick:

From the St. John Chronicle.
New Brunswick Iron.—We have had our attention called to some further specimens of this precious production, (none so even than California Gold,) and which has just come from Boston, where it had been sent for the purpose of being converted into malleable bars. We have already spoken of the very superior quality of the pig iron, but we were not prepared to be informed that in both states, cast and malleable, it is superior to any known in the world. A bar was taken and wrought out cold to all imaginable shapes, without the least sign of crack or break in its appearance, and in such way that the very best Russia and Swede iron in the market could not withstand; and its superior toughness is such, that orders have been given to furnish the iron work for some large ships, of this native production, which is to be of not much more than half the weight now used for that purpose.

St. John Observer, April 10.

City of Fredericton.—At a meeting of the Council on the 2d inst., John Simpson Esq., was unanimously re-elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

Dominica, Feb. 28.—A very violent shock of earthquakes was felt in this town of about 20 minutes to 12 last night, which in point of severity has been surpassed by none which we have previously experienced. Fortunately its duration was very brief indeed. There is scarcely an individual who was not startled from his or her sleep, such was the severity of the shock. We have not been able to ascertain whether any damage had been effected thereby; but we hope not. We are told that another slight tremulous vibration was felt between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning, but of this we had no personal experience.

Novascotia.

From the Cape Breton Times.

Sidney, C. B. March 17.—The utmost destitution, as usual, again prevails in this devoted section of the Province.—Cape Breton is virtually the Ireland of Nova Scotia—and from the same cause—the perpetuation of an illegal Union Act. Daily instances of the most abject distress are coming under our observation. But yesterday we heard of the death of a person named Spiers, residing at Cow Bay, from actual STARVATION!—and should even but the one-third of the stories told by the destitute be true, we may anticipate the existence of a fearful state of things before the coming harvest.

Halifax Nova Scotian, April 11.

California Association of American Women.—An Association of American women is now forming in New York, under the auspices of Mrs Farnham (widow of T. J. Farnham, who died at San Francisco last summer) for the purpose of emigrating to California. The Association is approved of and recommended by a number of the first ladies and gentlemen of New York, including clergymen, judges, &c. No ladies under 25 years of age to be received, and to be well recommended for good character, fitness and capacity. The splendid Ship Angelique is engaged to convey the company to San Francisco, via Cape Horn, to sail about

the middle of April—passage \$250. The movement (says the Boston Journal,) has excited some indignation on the part of some of our bachelor friends, who regard it as an artful design to withdraw a large number of marriageable females from the market. Their wrath will doubtless be somewhat appeased when they learn that none under 25 will be received. The \$250 is to defray the expenses of the voyage, make suitable provision for their accommodation after reaching San Francisco, until they shall be able to enter upon some occupation for their support, and create a fund to be held in reserve for the relief of any who may be ill, or otherwise need aid before they are able to provide for themselves.

Reciprocal Trade with Canada.—The attempt to introduce a system of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada, meets with serious, if not fatal opposition in Michigan. Notice has been given in the Legislature of an intention to bring in a joint resolution instructing the Michigan Senators and members of Congress to oppose the passage of such a bill as has been before Congress during the past session. It is urged in support of such a step, that such a privilege to the Canadians would be suicidal to the interests of Michigan. It would admit six to eight millions of bushels of wheat into the eastern markets to compete with that of the west, and open a free market at the east, to all the vast pineries of Canada, which will give employment to her 14,000 saw-mills. The produce of these mills, the *Detroit Advertiser* says, is to be thrown into the eastern market to compete with the hard labor of their lumbermen, who are double the distance from market, and consequently will have this advantage. Canada Lumber once admitted free, and we shall be compelled to give up the eastern market *in toto*.—Our interest demands a prompt action in this matter.

United States.—The Mail Steamer Canada, arrived about 6 o'clock on Friday evening, having made the passage from New York in 52 hours—the shortest run on record.

Cape Breton.—The Sydney Times brings us information of very deplorable destitution prevailing in the Island of Cape Breton, and mentions a case of death from absolute starvation at Cow Bay.

We understand that there is a case of Small Pox in the City, brought by the Falcon from Newfoundland, on the 29th ult.

Canadian Gold.—Recently some Gold was found in the valley of Chaudiere, Canada. A ton of gravel, produced, when washed, \$4 worth of Gold.

Canadian Indians.—By returns made to the British Parliament, it appears that the whole number of Indians in Canada is 13,241.

The Shah of Persia has suppressed Slavery in his dominions.

The Christian Knowledge Society of London, has voted a second donation of £1000 to aid the erection of a Cathedral at Fredericton, N. B.

We notice that the men are already engaged in breaking the ground for the erection of the Temperance Hall.

Halifax Sun, April 11.

We shall have the Railroad!—New Brunswick, through the "second sober thought" of her Legislators has resolved to guarantee the payment of 20,000 annually for 20 years as her proportion of interest on the capital to be invested in the construction of the Railway between Halifax and Quebec. If Canada comes to the consideration of this question in a like spirit, and Her Majesty's Government be not scared by the rebellious threats of the Tories in either Province, this great Public Work will go on.

Canada.

Quebec Gazette, April 11.

Economy.—We learn by telegraph that our economical friend, the honorable member, for Gaspé, has gained a glorious victory over the present lavish Administration. Mr Latontaine having proposed that the pay of the members should be fixed at fifteen shillings a day, Mr Christie moved in amendment that they should be allowed twenty shillings a day, with six pence a mile for travelling expenses, which was carried amidst loud cheers and clapping of hands.

Gaspé Gazette, April 5.

By a private letter from Montreal, we understand that a Mr Charles Drolet, Advocate, &c., also one of the *Canadian Patriots* of '37-8, and who was obliged to fly to the United States, in consequence of the part he took against his Queen and Country, has returned to Montreal at the suggestion of some others of his patriotic

brethren; and as a mark of their high sense and gratitude to him for his *unsuccessful* attempt to drive the Saxons out of the Country is to be appointed *Judge in Gaspé!* What next?

A most enthusiastic Meeting has been held in Gaspé Basin, upon that all exciting topic "Rebel Indemnification." A right good old English feeling was exhibited, and a Petition forwarded to R. Christie Esq., for presentation to His Excellency the Governor General, praying him to withhold his sanction.

Communications.

TO THE HON. L. A. WILMOT,

HER MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Sir,—In my last I inadvertently made a mistake in the person of the successor of our late Warehouse Keeper, and can only attribute it to the hurried manner in which that communication was written, not having had time to revise, correct, or even read it, before forwarding it for publication. Knowing that that person had been an applicant for the office, and is otherwise identified with it, probably tended to this stupid error, which I request he will excuse, as it was quite unintentional, and without design. Really, the majority of office holders in this County are so intimately connected, either directly or indirectly, that such a mistake, even by a person well acquainted with the parties, is not to be wondered at.

Another advantage likely to accrue from a judicious increase in our magisterial representation, in addition to those already implied, would be the banishment of those unseemly exhibitions of manoeuvring and intriguing partiality, too often apparent, in the bestowal of even the most trifling offices. That of Health Officer to wit, which in the January session of last year, was purposely unprovided for, and again in June, (after being indignantly refused by the gentleman upon whom it was voluntarily conferred as a *pro tempore* appointment, by a Special Session, in the confident hope of a speedy return of the former incumbent) it was allowed to remain vacant for the rest of the season, rather than confer it upon him who was justly and professionally entitled to it, merely because this individual was personally obnoxious to the majority of the limited number by whom that Session was constituted; also that of Harbour Master, to whom the detail of connexions, with its marks of wonder and surprise, misapplied in my last, in this case properly belongs. Even the supporters of this functionary do not deny that the office should have been given to another, who, equally if not better qualified, had much stronger claims. But alas! for him, he was neither a favorite nor connexion. *There were more Bailies than one in the mist that day.* And those of the Parishes, which have always been an exclusive monopoly, confined in a great measure (particularly in the Parish of Dalhousie) to the Justices themselves, and their connexions.

Perhaps the greatest advantage would be, that personal prejudices and partialities, no longer effective, would soon disappear, to which as a natural consequence would follow, a more just and dignified legislation, when those interested, knowing that their claims would receive due and impartial consideration, and that even-handed justice would decide, general confidence and respect would ensue, the moral dignity of the Bench be respected, and its just, beneficial and conservative tendency universally felt and acknowledged: a happy consummation devoutly to be wished for; but one which, I fear, is not likely to occur, if assertions publicly made within the last few days, should unfortunately prove to be facts. It has been stated by them that a lawyer, resident in Campbellton, has not only requested one of our members to use his influence in procuring him a seat upon the Bench, but has also communicated his desire to you, and petitioned the Government to the same effect. It has likewise been asserted by one of the above parties, that he and his friends have strongly urged our Representatives to procure this appointment, and he has shewn a correspondence with them on this subject. This person's friends state as their reason for recommending him, that he would be a most excellent hand to collect debts, and confidently predict that their expectations will speedily be crowned with success. This aspirant for public honors! present and prospective! has, I am myself aware, expressed a wish to several, that a public meeting be convened for the purpose of recommending him, and intimated his intention, should he obtain the appointment, of making a business of it. Judging by his penchant for Bills of Costs, I should say, a very pretty business he would make of it. Under his prolific management, suits at law would soon become of too frequent occurrence, and costs as numerous as even he could desire. Realise the anticipations of these parties, and you will rouse a feeling of indignation from one end of the County to the other. Such an appointment would be regarded as an insult to this community, and without doubt be resented as such. There is a lawyer in the Town of Campbellton—a gentleman—who, in that of Magistrate, or any other public office which he could consistently accept, would command the respect and confidence of all who know him, but I need hardly say he is not the person above alluded to. Beware of creating a similar nuisance in this county to that lately stated by the Hon. Provincial Secretary in the Nova Scotia House, to have existed in the persons of their dismissed magistracy; one of whom issued 120 writs in a day, and travelled 31 miles to try causes. Notwithstanding the assertions made, I cannot think either of our

Members would lend himself to such an improper recommendation.

The "subsequent rather anomalous conduct of one or two of the Petition's most active supporters," I will say but little about, as it perhaps does not come properly within the object of this communication; but this I will say—of one of them—that condemning a man's public policy one day, and forming one of an escort of private friends, on his way to the House as Member on the next, is very like blowing hot and cold in almost the same breath. I know there are some amiable and christian persons, who, abused and vilified in the grossest manner, injured and oppressed in every possible way, both publicly and privately, and when circumstances make it personally advisable, forget their wrongs, and having established a sort of patched-up friendship, countenance and support the very men who thus insulted and abused them; nay, even lend themselves to forwarding their purely selfish and personal purposes; but I much doubt the sincerity of these persons, and am strongly inclined to the belief, that this sacrifice in principle, is generally the result of personal favors, and pecuniary considerations. From the known principles and consistent independence of this gentleman, we had expected better things.

Having now, Sir, put you in possession of all the circumstances connected with our petition, both directly and otherwise, which I conceive to have any bearing upon the question, I beseech you to shew us, that the acknowledgment by the Government of the right of petition, and the promise of redress, is not a mere matter of form, productive of no result; that the just complaints of the people are entitled to receive from it a due and satisfactory consideration; that the wishes of the many are not to be obstructed by the influences of the few; that the Government will at all times willingly and readily correct abuse; and that the unanimous remonstrance of a whole community amounts to something more than the "mere marginal note in an old newspaper"; convince us that measures—not men—is the standing order of our Government, and we will then recognise uniformity in your principles and practice; principles of which you are such an able and eloquent advocate, and I a most enthusiastic admirer. Having a deep interest in the general prosperity of this County, and the welfare of its inhabitants, and feeling keenly the abuses which had crept into its judicial administration, (a prolific source of general irritation and discontent) I could no longer resist the conclusion, that to allow the present state of things to continue without notice, were an injustice to others, and unworthy of those independent, patriotic, and disinterested principles of which I profess to be a conscientious and fearless supporter. Hence the cause of my addressing you. Personal motives for doing so I have none; and although I am not one of the amiable school above described, I am unconscious of having been actuated in this matter by either private spleen, or personal malice; my only object has been the removal of evil, past, present, and future, and the reformation of abuse. I beg of our rulers to recognise the distinction between public principle and private spleen, and to believe me when I assure them, that I respect many of them, for the possession of much generous feeling and sterling worth; otherwise I might have gratified the feelings of many by a more personal and declamatory style. This I have anxiously endeavored to avoid, and have only to say to those persons, of whom I believe there are not a few, that a good cause requires neither unnecessary personalities or abuse for its support. Although much has been done by our Magistrates that is deserving of severe censure and stern rebuke, still they should recollect that these are not less human than the generality of mankind, and neither should they suppose them to be free from the personal influences and frailties which is natural to all men, and by which many of even the wisest and best are to a certain extent guided. We should make allowance for the faults of others, in the hope that a like generosity will be extended to ourselves. Justice should ever be tempered with mercy. Let us hope that they have derived wisdom from the past, and that their future action will shew they have profited by it. To you, Sir, it may be a matter of perfect indifference who the writer of these letters is, but to many in this county it will be a matter of serious conjecture, and the innocent may suffer; therefore I caution those who feel an interest in my identity not to hastily decide, for appearances are proverbially deceitful,—*they know not the man.* I am one who professes to be independent in his principles, consistent in his politics, and unprejudiced in his convictions; and who, having nothing to either hope or fear from the parties affected, felt perfectly free to adopt that course which necessity and expediency alike demanded, and honesty approved. As I have not aimed at either classical correctness in language, or elegance in style, I would, in concluding, say to the public of Restigouche, who probably feel a greater interest in this subject than you Sir, to whom it is addressed, calmly and dispassionately examine the facts, and think for yourselves; and if any there should be, who will endeavor to weaken their effect by disparagement of the writer, conclude that these are actuated by sinister motives, and are not the friends of either yourselves or the cause. If they cannot deny the facts, let them not try to shield the abuse, by sophistry and misrepresentations. And now, Sir, in conclusion, I most earnestly request of you to take this matter into your serious consideration and by granting immediate and satisfactory redress, prevent the necessity of again asking you, **WHAT HAS BECOME OF OUR PETITION?**

With all due respect, I am, Sir, who I am,

A LIBERAL.

Restigouche, 7th April, 1849.