

refuse the money, he went and got the cow, and then took her home and told the story, which was the richest part of the transaction.

On another occasion the sum of £1300 had been voted by the House to be expended on the road leading to St. Andrews. The supervisor drew the whole amount, and late in the Fall he took two of the members with him to inspect the road—he stated to the members that he had spent all except £300 of the amount, which he intended to reserve until the House should vote something more at the next meeting, in order to have enough to build a draw-bridge at a certain place. The House met shortly after this, and the supervisor presented his accounts sworn to, with the usual vouchers, declaring that the whole thirteen hundred pounds had been expended!!!

Another supervisor had the sum of £45 in his hands, to be expended upon the repairing of a bridge on the Nerepis. One day he went over to the half-way house, where there were some jolly fellows congregated, who did not belong to the cold water army. While dipping into their cups, said one, 'come, Colonel, put up the bridge and let us see who shall have the job.' Now, the party who spoke knew exactly what amount the Colonel had in hand, and so he bid to the exact figure. 'Oh,' said the supervisor, 'that won't answer; if I give you the whole £45, what becomes of my ten per cent commission?' 'Never mind,' said the other, 'I'll fix that all up with you.' And so the job was obtained. But the best of it all is, the work which cost the province forty five pounds, was all done in a single day!

Another gross imposition practised upon the Province was in the rate of mileage which members were in the habit of charging for, on going to, and returning from, Fredericton. According to their figuring they showed that the Province contained upwards of 170,000 square miles, when the fact is there are only 20,000—the difference will show the amount of robbery perpetrated upon the Province twice every Session. [For further particulars respecting this, we beg to refer our readers to the letter of correspondence in another column. Our readers will remember that we have several times referred to a report, that a certain hon. gentleman who lives in one of the upper counties, one winter came down to St. John to go to Fredericton, and in order to spin out the distance, and make up even change, he hired a man at Reed's Point to row him twice round Partridge Island.]

In the course of his remarks upon the contingent expenses of the House, the lecturer stated that so reckless was the conduct shown, that among other articles imported one session, for the use of members, were pruning knives, worth 20s each. He said that there was an honorable Councillor present who could substantiate this remark. [We would add, however, that a gentleman present at the lecture, who had been in the habit of importing stationery, &c., for the use of the Legislature, got up, and in making other remarks corroborated this statement.] There was also the article of snuff imported for the use of the members.

These are but a few of the abuses which the Alderman pointed out in his lecture; and we think we have given enough to show how the Province has been fleeced by these reckless spendthrifts.

We shall have to be brief now in what we have to say, and reserve the lesser points for another occasion.

The Lecturer would now take up the Government, and dissect its members, individually. He knew he was getting upon ticklish ground, and all he had to say would be as true as the truth itself—and was ready there or any where else, to defend his charges, upon the best of evidence. The leader of the government was Her Majesty's Attorney General, the Hon. L. A. Wilnot. For his services as Attorney General he was in the receipt of £600 per annum. But was this all? No! His exchequer practice amounts to £300 more. Nor was this all. His private business, at the lowest calculation, must be worth to him, £300 more—which in round numbers amounts to the handsome sum of £1200 per annum. At all events he would say nothing about his private practice—and then the office alone was worth to him £900. Here was a monstrous sum for a small country country that has grown so weak through political extravagance, and commercial vicissitudes, that its back bone is all but broken. But this was not all that was connected with this high functionary. How did he discharge his duties? He would explain presently. The office of Solicitor General was a mere nominal one, provided the Attorney General did his duty as he ought. The Solicitor General was in receipt of £225 per annum, but whenever he goes to perform a little extra service, or a great deal of that for which the Attorney General gets paid, he makes an extra charge. For going to Woodstock a short time since to prosecute the rioters there, he charged the Province £150 extra. The Attorney General did not perform the Circuit to its fullest extent—and wherever he did not appear in the Queen's name, then the Queen's Counsel came in for privileges. He had not yet shown himself in the counties of Westmorland and Northumberland. A short time since the firm of Gilmore & Rankin, in Miramichi, was obliged to pay a Queen's Counsel, viz: John Ambrose Street, Esq., for discharging the duties belonging to the office of the Attorney General; while Wm. Ebb, Esq., profits largely after the same fashion, on account of his silk gown.

The next gentleman, in order, on the carpet, was the Hon. Provincial Secretary, John R. Partelow, Esq. His office was worth £600 a year, clear of everything. In addition to this he was in receipt of £150 as Auditor of Public Accounts which duty he never performed—consequently the office is a perfect sinecure—

say, the very title itself was as great a farce as it was an imposition upon the country; for if there was a provincial auditor of accounts, viz: the hon. F. P. Robinson (who, by the way, the lecturer highly complimented, on account of his business-like habits and straightforward conduct), what necessity was there for a House of Assembly auditor? There was no necessity, and the Provincial Secretary was aware of it, as he never performs any duty in that way, and yet he draws his hundred pounds out of the Treasury. (The lecturer here told an anecdote in reference to certain conduct connected with this office, last winter, which need not be repeated.) In addition to the £700 drawn by the Provincial Secretary, there was his pay for being member, which amounted to £70 more. In round numbers he would say that the hon. Mr. Partelow pocketed £800 every year. He said that it was generally understood that Mr. Partelow was the Governor of the Province, and that Sir Edmund Head was the mere nominal Governor. He did not know how true this was, but he would mention a couple of anecdotes which he thought would go far to corroborate that surmise. (These anecdotes were given amidst rounds of applause.)

The next gentleman on the carpet was the hon. Mr. Chandler, who was the third consul in the empire. (The lecturer had just commenced to tell the audience that this gentleman was in possession of nine offices of emolument, and was about shewing them up *seriatim*, when suddenly the gas went out, and the audience were enveloped in total darkness. It was supposed that an enemy had done this; but our impression at the time was, that it was owing to some fault in the gas pipes, judging by the flickering of the lights, and this impression has since been confirmed—for we are given to understand that the lights in the Brunswick street Chapel, and also others in private residences, went out about the same hour. The Alderman had been speaking nearly two hours, and intended to finish his lecture with Mr. Chandler, when the accident happened, and this circumstance again strengthens our impression, for an enemy would have turned off the gas earlier in the evening, when the worst of the dirt was on the carpet, if there was any *torse* about it.)

In concluding this abstract of an address which occupied nearly two hours in the delivery, we may be permitted to observe that we never saw more enthusiasm evinced by an audience than on this occasion. In less than 20 minutes after the lecturer commenced, he appeared to carry the feelings of every one present, whether Whig or Tory, with him; and he was frequently interrupted by the most stunning applause, or peals of laughter, whenever he hit hard, or tickled the risibles by a well timed anecdote. The lecture, in theatrical phrase, was 'a decided hit,' and since the Alderman has put the iron into the fire, and warmed the people up until they now begin to bite their lips at the abuses of the country, he must go forward with his lectures without delay, in order that we may have the whole of the story at once.

The figures and calculations respecting the revenues, we obtained from Alderman Needham himself, on two pages of manuscript. The Report, with this exception, is from our own pen, and altogether from memory. On the next occasion we shall take down the heads of his subject, and then give a more ample account.

To the Editor of the Morning News,

Dear Sir,—Will you have the kindness to make the following corrections in your report of my Lecture:—

You make me to say that the Auditor General was a man of thorough business habits. I stated that he was a gentleman of the most strict integrity and uprightness, and that the business of that office was conducted in the most satisfactory manner by John A. Beckwith, Esq., head clerk, and that the auditor general and clerk were men who could neither be bought or sold. You also make me to say that Mr. Partelow received £100 as chairman of public and private accounts, and never did his duty. I stated that he had made no report for the last two years, and that he did not even call the committee together last winter. (As I was informed)—you also make me to say that Mr. Wilnot as Attorney General did not attend Westmorland Circuit. I stated that I was informed he attended that circuit, because of the fat retailers in civil cases his eloquence could command; but you are correct in reference to the Northumberland circuit.

Yours, &c.,

W. H. NEEDHAM.

To the Editor of the Morning News,

Mr. Editor.—The following statement of the amount of mileage claimed and paid to members of the Assembly, for attending the session of 1846, is the one which was quoted from by Alderman Needham, at his public lecture on Monday evening last. It may be possible that a few of your readers are not apprised that for every 20 miles, the pay of one day (\$3) is received. By reference to Chubb's Almanac, page 134, the actual distance of the members' residence from Fredericton can be correctly ascertained. Double this distance, and then subtract the aggregate from the respective distances as charged, and the amount of excess will be apparent. The Charlotte members have an excellent road, direct from Saint Andrews to Fredericton, say 70 miles, on which they actually travel, although they charge as if they went to, and returned from Fredericton, by way of St. John.

John Allen 40 miles, James Taylor nothing, L. A. Wilnot nothing, Charles Taylor nothing,

Robert L. Hazen 160 miles, W. H. Street 160 do., Charles Simonds 160 do., J. R. Partelow 160 do., John Jordan 200, Robert Payne 160, Philip Palmer 440, John Smith 480, D. Hanington 440, Robert Thompson 250, Jas. Boyd 320, G. S. Hill 340, James Brown 260, William McLeod 160, Z. G. Earle 220, John Earle 100, Thos. Gilbert 80, W. Scoullar 40, W. S. Barker 40, Charles Perley 140, J. M. Connell 140, A. Rankin 220, J. A. Street 220, J. W. Wilson 420, David Wark 420, W. Ead 520, A. Barberie 660, Peter Stewart 660.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1849.

IF 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.

CALIFORNIA.—As the doings in this region are creating considerable interest at the present time, we copy below an extract from a letter recently received from an acquaintance of ours, who some time since proceeded to this land of promise in the hope of improving his worldly condition, which hope, we sincerely trust, may be fully realized. The extract is interesting, as it gives a graphic description of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of the country, as well as of the numerous adventurers who are flocking to it; their amusements, and the state of society in and around San Francisco, the great seaport town of the district.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 13, 1849.

MY DEAR BROTHERS.—It is with the greatest pleasure I take the first opportunity of informing you that I have at length arrived here well and safely, after a long but pleasant passage of one hundred and seventy two days. I had not the pleasure of coming round Cape Horn, but no doubt was equally gratified by coming through the Straits of Magellan. We were twenty four days coming through, during which time we experienced a succession of head winds, and very cold, disagreeable weather. I have kept a journal of the voyage from Boston to San Francisco. I have also taken sketches of the principal stopping places in the Straits, both of which I hope to have the pleasure of showing you. Three years ago there were only five houses in the town of San Francisco. There is now about four hundred. There are, however, only a small number of good buildings—the majority being temporary stores and dwellings constructed of a small light frame covered with grey cotton canvass, &c. There is one hotel here, called the Parker House, which rents for \$95,000 a year. The owner came here about two years ago, secured all the land he could, and is now said to be worth \$200,000. The town is full of public houses fitted up on the most extensive scale that circumstances will permit, for gambling. After making a bar for selling liquor, every corner is filled up with Moate, Pharo, Roulette and Billiard Tables. The proprietors of these tables furnish a bank of from five to twenty thousand dollars, which stands filled up in silver and gold on the table, day and night, ready for all who wish to play; every one plays against the bank and not against each other; and these banks of five thousand dollars are sometimes broken two or three times a day. I saw a man win a thousand dollars in less than fifteen minutes. One half the people in San Francisco do nothing but gamble. I have seen more money since I have been here than would fill your horse-cart body heaped full, and yet everything is quiet and orderly. I have not seen a drunken man in the streets, seen no rows, and as to honesty, goods of all description lie in the streets day and night undisturbed. The accounts from the 'diggings' are very encouraging. Day before yesterday a man showed me a lump worth \$100; and yesterday a man came from the mines and brought with him one solid lump of gold weighing four and a half pounds, worth \$1000. This is not considered the proper season for going into the mines, it being about six weeks too early, but George has gone ahead to reconnoitre the ground, and left me here to look after the few things we have on board. The brig is going up to Sacramento City, a place which bids fair to rival San Francisco in a short time, and I shall go in her. Lumber is in great demand here, and is worth from \$350 to \$400 dollars per thousand, but goods of almost every description are low. Flour can be bought for \$6.50 per barrel; molasses, 25 cents per gallon; coffee at 15 to 18 cents, and tea at 40 to 50 cents per pound; fresh beef from 12½ to 15 cents per pound. But still, board is from \$12 to \$15 a week, without

lodging; a single meal \$1. There are almost three hundred sail of vessels in the harbor, of all classes, comprising some of the best and finest in the United States. I have seen no signs of agriculture in the vicinity of San Francisco. The land is one solid sand bank covered with low bushes, but not so thick but what the natives can travel in every direction on horseback. It is a novel sight to see the Californians on horseback. Some of them are extremely richly dressed, and have beautiful horses, and no people in the world are better horsemen. I have seen some very handsome, genteel, well dressed ladies, some of them American and some Spanish. The mornings here are calm and hot; about twelve o'clock the wind rises and the sand begins to fly, and every man eats, upon an average, a gill of sand a day. The wind goes down with the sun; the evenings are cold, and one requires over coat and gloves to be comfortable.

We see by our exchanges, that vessels are constantly sailing from the principal ports in the United States, for the modern 'El Dorado.' One has also recently left Saint John with a number of passengers for the same destination, and another is preparing to leave Charlottetown, P. E. Island. It appears the parties who are about taking their departure from that colony, have formed themselves into a company, procured a vessel, and are collecting an assorted cargo; and a schur, we understand, is now in this port, obtaining boards and scantling for them. Quebec papers received by the last mail, inform us that three vessels are to sail from that port this fall, for the same quarter. The annexed paragraphs are copied from the Gazette of the 12th instant:—

We understand that the Rory O'More has received her full complement of passengers, and will sail for San Francisco in a few days. Two other vessels are also advertised for the same destination, and have received many applications for passages from parties in Quebec, the surrounding parishes, and Montreal. One of them, the Lady Elgin is a well built comfortable vessel of nine hundred tons: those who make the passage in her are likely to be spared most of the hardships of their pilgrimage.

Among those who are thus leaving our shores are to be found, we regret to say, many gentlemen of the best families and connections in the country. We have heard the names of many mentioned, than whom in ordinary times, none had a better chance of success in the land of their birth. There are few among them whose humble station in life, or whose deficiency of education or intellect, rendered their prospects in Canada doubtful: the price of the passage has placed it beyond the reach of the lower classes. The emigrants are chiefly merchants' clerks, and respectable artisans and mechanics.

The following is the latest news from this region:—

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 6

By the Steamer Falcon advices have been received from San Francisco, to the 1st September, and from Chagres to the 1st October. The Falcon brings to New Orleans, \$70,000 in gold dust, a large mail, and many passengers.

The steamship Panama arrived at Panama, from San Francisco, on the 22nd September. She brought \$500,000 in gold dust, and 159 passengers.

The Empire City will bring on her return about \$600,000 in specie. (The despatch says she brings that amount, thereby intimating that she has arrived at New York.)

Accounts from the placers are very good. All accounts agree that it requires the severest hardships to obtain gold.

The general health of San Francisco is good.

A virulent form of diarrhoea had occasioned much suffering the past month, but its severity was slowly diminishing.

New gold washings have been discovered and old ones abandoned.

The waters of the Sierra Nevada are nearly at the lowest stage.

Two small steamers are plying on the waters of the Sacramento.

The Cholera had entirely disappeared at Panama.

The Unicorn steamer was to have sailed from Panama for San Francisco on the 8th.

POLITICAL.—Our Colonial papers embrace a more than usual amount of matter relating to our political affairs. To enable us to lay before our readers some of the important articles they contain, we have trespassed on our Literary department, and shall continue to do so for a week or two longer.

THE SEASON.—Our weather during the past week has been extremely fine, and the farmers have availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered, to dig their potatoes and turnips. There is no complaint of rot in the former esculent, which is reported to be a most abundant crop.