

vation and blindness, exhibiting in one view that a man with the comprehensiveness of an encyclopedia may not have a single vestige of originality nor any well digested theory of his own—capable of being reasoned into a probability of life, or producing a single shade of reality. I will now leave him. If he will repose on the flower-covered bank of a murmuring stream purling its musical waters onward, enriched by the bubbling noise of its pebbly bottom, while the soft and gentle passage of a summer breeze is playing upon his thought-distracted temples, and the birds may chant his dreamy reveries and carry his visionary fancy to supernatural realms, where he will drink in a higher and deeper and purer draught of reason and truth.

CORTEX.

October 19, 1850.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1850.

PROSPECTUS.

He who, speculation on the British Constitution, should omit from his enumeration the mighty power of Public Opinion, embodied in a Free Press, which pervades and checks, and perhaps, in the last resort, nearly governs the whole, would give but an imperfect view of the Government of England.

Conceiving that the free exercise of the Press is the foundation stone of the Constitution under which we live, and one of the many and invaluable blessings emanating from that source of all our grandeur and glory, Magna Charta, we shall endeavor to show how highly we value the one by preserving the other, in our regard, free and unfettered. Conceiving it to be the grand channel of communication—the main conduit through which all useful information flows—and the arena for the discussion of all matters of a public nature—our columns shall be open to all and influenced by none; and we shall hold ourselves indebted to such persons as shall favor us with their correspondence, to which we shall gladly give publicity, so long as they exercise their talents with propriety, and upon such subjects as will be conducive to the benefit of Miramichi, or the edification of our readers.

Our most strenuous exertions shall be used to render it the guardian of private rights, the redresser of grievances, the protector of the oppressed, and the terror of the oppressor, and therefore shall publish all communications intended to hunt down public vices by public exposure, to canvass public opinion by fair discussion, and to review public measures by just and honorable criticism; thus rendering our publication, as far as we are able, "a terror to evildoers, and a praise to those who do well."

Newspapers are the great engines that move the moral and political world, and are infinitely powerful to establish the character of a people, as well as to preserve their liberties. They are the great bulwarks that protect the natural rights of man, and while the great body of the people read, reason and reflect, the enjoyment of those rights will be unassailable, and while the Press is liberally supported, "the voice of the people will be as the voice of God."

We do not presume to compete with other publications, for circumstances render us inadequate to the task; nor are we so vain as to imagine that the benefits we have enumerated will result from our Journal, but we shall spare no pains to render it as useful as possible, and for this reason we request the favors of all those whose talents and local knowledge qualify them to co-operate with us—but we wish it to be distinctly understood, that our insertion of communications is not to be construed into our approbation of the opinion, or our concurrence with the sentiments of our correspondents; so long as our contributors write in an admissible style we will feel bound to insert their favors; we will not curb the natural powers of the Press to gratify our own private feeling; no, that shall be subject to the opinion of the public.

The above extracts are taken from our Prospectus on issuing the first number of the Gleaner twenty-one years ago, and we do not think we shall be accused of egotism when we say, that we have endeavored faithfully to discharge the compact we then entered into with our readers. If we have made any deviation therefrom, it was more from a desire to serve the interests of the public than to gratify any feeling or desire of our own.

In the above it will be seen, that in inserting communications, we distinctly wished it to be understood, that we did not by so doing, adopt or coincide with their sentiments—but how often have we been called upon to bear their transgressions, and mixed up with their incabitations, when we had no interest in the matter, and were only performing an act of duty. These literary conflicts we admit are too frequently indulged in, and often too acrimonious and personal; but they are mainly owing to the unnatural state of our society. When politics, as they are termed (or petty local feuds, as they should be more correctly termed) ran high, how frequently have we found ourselves in the same predicament as

the sons of Ishmael are, that the hands and voices of both contending parties were raised against us, and for a while were placed out of the pale of their society. These things we have withstood, if not with stoical indifference, at least with some degree of philosophy, knowing from experience, that when the cause of excitement passed away, they would come to their senses, and a majority of them at least, would then judge us aright.

We remember once, while one of those fierce conflicts was waging, a correspondent in handing in a communication which contained some severe strictures on us, said, that he would erase them if we wished: we replied—that he could please himself, to us it was a matter of indifference. He then said 'he presumed we were like the Eels; we had got so often skinned that we were accustomed to it, and thought nothing of the process.' Now, however much we felt disposed to be skinned occasionally, with composure, we cannot afford to be fleeced as we have lately been, and now find it necessary to turn over a new leaf. As this is the first number of a new volume, and not wishing to take our subscribers and correspondents by surprise, but to deal fairly and honorably with them, we state below the course we intend to pursue in conducting our Journal.

The Law says we are solely responsible for all matters appearing in our paper, and a verdict of a Jury comprised of freeholders of the county, has declared that they hold us to the very letter of the law. We of course consider this the opinion of the people; it therefore behooves us to take care of ourselves—and as the Press is not considered public property, and authors not responsible for their writings, we must in future keep a more vigilant surveillance over our paper.

In future all communications treating on public abuses, or arraigning public men for derelictions of duty, or unseemly conduct, before the bar of public opinion through our Press, must be accompanied with the names of the authors, and a guarantee to shield us from any pecuniary loss we may suffer by their insertion: but should these terms be complied with, we shall not feel ourselves bound to publish their articles. We know that many persons will consider these terms very stringent, as they will prevent the free discussion of public measures, and shield men in office from correction. We admit the truth of these remarks—they have already had that effect. But who caused us to adopt them—the PEOPLE. They cannot expect us to allow them to make use of our periodical for their advantage, and when they bring us into difficulty, leave us to the tender mercies of the Law. "A burnt child dreads the fire," is a trite and homely phrase, and as we have been scorched considerably, we intend in future to avoid the danger.

Literary compositions, or articles recording events of the day, will be thankfully received as formerly.

We tender thanks for the patronage hitherto extended to us, and shall in our future career, with the restrictions named above, which circumstances have forced upon us, endeavor to render our publication as useful as possible.

CANADA.—At a recent meeting at Bytown, the inhabitants agreed to be taxed to the amount of £15,000 towards purchasing stock in the Bytown and Prescott Railway. That is the way to carry out works of public utility. When will such a spirit exist in Miramichi, where, we are sorry to say, private interest, and party spirit have always had more weight, and received more consideration, than public measures or works of public utility.

Mr. Gough has been accomplishing wonders in Canada for Temperance principles. In Montreal two thousand persons had signed the total abstinence pledge. In Quebec his labours have also been crowned with much success. The Quebec Chronicle reports that one hundred and eight of the 19th Regiment and Artillery, took the pledge, after a Lecture delivered to them by Mr. Gough. The soldiers of the 20th regiment, have presented Lieutenant Horn with an address, requesting that gentleman to make known to the Montreal Temperance Society the high estimation in which the members are held by the men of the 20th; also thanking Mr. Gough for his labours among them. They conclude by informing Colonel Horn, that they are determined never to take another 'horn' as long as they live.

The St. John Morning News contains the following paragraph, relative to some import-

ant changes which have been effected in the License Law in Canada.

"We have received from a friend of temperance, a copy of the Quebec Mercury, containing the act lately passed, 'for the more effectual prevention of intemperance. The power to grant certificates for licenses to sell spirituous or malt liquors is vested in the senior magistrate, senior officer of the militia, and he church warden of the parish, at a special meeting held in April, of which 'due notice shall be given at the church door after divine service,' &c. Second, no such certificate shall be granted unless the applicant produces a requisition signed by the majority of the electors in his municipality, that a tavern is necessary at the place stated. Third, he must prove that he is worth £150 currency, free of all incumbrances, and give bonds in £50 to be of good behaviour, and produce the certificate of two justices, or ten municipal electors, 'that he enjoys an unblemished reputation, and is not addicted to drink.' If any person shall become intoxicated in any inn or tavern, and while in that state shall commit suicide, or come to his death by drowning, or perish from cold, or any other accident, the keeper of the inn, who suffered him to get intoxicated therein, shall be liable to not less than two nor more than six months imprisonment, and a fine from £25 to £100, the pecuniary portion of the penalty to be paid to such of the heirs, legal representatives, or surviving representatives of the deceased, as the court may consider to be most in need or deserving the same. No person not 'licensed to keep a temperance hotel, or as an apothecary, shall vend or retail any description of liquor known as temperance drink such as spruce beer, sarsaparilla, raspberry vinegar, ginger beer, essence or juice of lemons or oranges, or lemonade, under a penalty of ten pounds.'

A FAREWELL ADDRESS.—The following choice scrap from the valedictory address of an Editor 'out west,' pictures the life of a conductor of a public journal in not very attractive colours. We hope the poor fellow will obtain that piece of mind which he appears so solicitous to acquire.

"The undersigned retires from the Editorial chair with complete conviction that all is vanity. From the hour he started his paper to the present time, he has been solicited to lie upon every given subject, and cannot remember having told a wholesome truth without having diminished his subscription list or making an enemy. Under these circumstances of trial, and having a thorough contempt for himself, he retires in order to recruit his moral constitution."

NEW SPECULATIONS.—The New Orleans Picayune says that Barnum having succeeded so well in his Jenny Lind speculation, is now endeavoring to induce Queen Victoria and Children to visit the United States. Another paper reports that this enterprising purveyor for public amusement, is getting up a 'Mastodon 200 feet long,' which is to be made in Connecticut, and to be discovered in Western Missouri.

RESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.—The Morning News contains the following important announcement. If it is confirmed we may expect important changes in the Government and Judiciary of the Province.

"The resignation of his Honor the Chief Justice was handed in to the Governor on Friday. We have never had the opportunity since our residence in this Province, of seeing Mr. Chipman sitting upon the Bench in this city, on account of his infirmity; but he is pronounced to be a most sound lawyer and able jurist—and has always discharged the duties of his high office with much satisfaction to his brother Judges and the country at large, so far as his decisions went."

The Head Quarters, of Wednesday, in speaking of this subject, says—"We believe there is no longer any doubt that His Honor the Chief Justice has tendered his resignation of the high office which he has filled since 1834."

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL.—This law continues to lead to considerable anxiety and discussion, and fears are entertained that before long it will lead to bloodshed.

"The New York State Baptist Convention, which met at Brockport on the 9th, passed resolutions repudiating the fugitive slave law as contrary to the Declaration of Independence, and opposed to the direct grants of the Constitution to every citizen, and to the law of God. They pledge themselves not voluntarily to aid in giving effect to the law."

THE QUEEN AND THE CLERGY.—It appears her Majesty has been taken to task by the Bishop of London for presuming to act as she pleased, while journeying and residing in Scotland. A late London paper contains the following paragraph:

"The Bishop of London addressed a letter of remonstrance to Her Majesty, for not having a Clergyman of the Established Church in her suite while on her present tour, and for

attending a Presbyterian place of worship at Balmoral. A reply was sent to the Bishop expressive of her Majesty's disapprobation of such interference, and observing that her Majesty had not stepped out of her duty in attending public worship in the Established Church of Scotland."

STEAM AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.—A late number of the London Times has the following remarks on what has been, and what might be accomplished by these important agents. We hope the time foreshadowed by the writer, when the steamboat and electric wires will accomplish all that is suggested is not distant.

"There is, however another point of view in which this wonderful invention may be regarded, and in which it will be seen to be subservient to still greater social improvement than any which have yet been achieved. The constantly increasing commerce with America, and our growing relations, social as well as commercial, with her people, render a rapid communication with the American continent of increasing importance. This necessity of trade and society may be the means of a great improvement in one part of our country, which certainly much needs enlightenment and assistance—we mean Ireland; and her geographical position may be turned to use not simply to increase the rapidity of our correspondence with America, but to her own good. From the west coast of Ireland to America a voyage by steam might be performed in so short a time as to be measured rather by hours than days. If packets were to sail regularly between the nearest harbor on the Western coast and Halifax or New York, and there were a direct telegraphic communication between that Irish harbor and London, news might be transmitted from the borders of the Mississippi, and ultimately from the western coast of America, to every port of Great Britain and Ireland in less than a week. If, in addition to the telegraphic communication, a railroad were carried across Ireland, from east to west, all who prefer travelling by land would take their final departure from the Irish port, rather than incur the inconvenience and annoyance of the longer sea voyage which is necessary if the voyager start either from an English or Scotch port. The fastest liners would in that case not be those which sail between Liverpool and America, but Irish vessels would enjoy that distinction and advantage, and the moral benefit to Ireland resulting from such constant contact with men of other countries would be incalculable.

This plan of thus communicating with America has long occupied the thoughts of statesmen and merchants, and now, we are told, engages the attention of our Government; and certainly the Executive authorities in Ireland could not better employ their power than in ascertaining what are difficulties in the way of achieving this great national work. A tenth part of the sums that have been squandered upon making and unmaking useless roads, and in perfectly costly and unnecessary surveys, would have enabled us long since to ascertain the proper route for this great national railroad and telegraphic line, and we might now be prepared to begin the making of a road instead of surveying it. Still, entertaining the idea is a great step in advance."

It is reported that negotiations are now on foot with Government for the establishment of a submarine telegraph across the sixty miles of sea from Holyhead to Kingston, and on to either Cork or Galway, to be thence connected by steamships with the nearest telegraph station on the other side of the Atlantic.

INSURANCE.—It is with peculiar satisfaction that we refer to the notice in to-day's paper, of the Washington Farmers' Fire Company. The want of such an Institution in this section of the Province, has been much felt for years past. We are assured that this Company is highly respectable, and no better proof is required of its merits than the fact that in less than six years it has issued 112,000 policies. The number issued in three months ending 30th September, was 8641 policies, which we believe to be the largest number ever issued by a Mutual Company in the same time. The system is so safe, and the cost so moderate, that we think none will be without Insurance, who can avail themselves of the facilities afforded, and the man who now neglects to insure will be guilty of most culpable negligence, and not entitled to public sympathy in case of loss. In fact, we believe it to be the bounden duty of every man, however well situated, to guard against any possibility of loss, by which he may become reduced in circumstances; his creditors suffer, or his family become a tax upon society; and when the "doings of an hour" may be the means of bringing an individual into some one of these unpleasant situations, the importance of immediate action becomes apparent.

Ex Rosetta, from Liverpool.

60 Chests Superior Congou TEA,
28 cwt. Liverpool SOAP,
40 bundles SHEET IRON,
40 bars Sanderson's CAST STEEL, 1½ x 1
By WM. J. FRASER.
Chatham, October 25, 1850.