

for a couple of coats, a paletot, or an Oxonian. 'You have my measure—no immediate hurry; this day week will do,' and he is off again on his way to the jeweler's. He accomplishes his easy round in the course of the day, and betakes himself to his scurvy lodging, and doffs his 'show togs' before dark; after which he is, perhaps, 'touter' in some gold or silver 'hell' in the purlieus of St. James's Street, or master of the ceremonies at one of the hundred casinos, open for midnight folly and debauchery. His pay varies from half-a-crown to three-and-sixpence a day, according to his figure and effrontery; and he considers it easily and pleasantly earned, inasmuch as he is, according to his own notions, to all intents and purposes a gentleman during the hours of duty.—*Chambers's Journal.*

Communications.

THE NEW PARISH LAW.

Mr Pierce,

Most of your subscribers, and perhaps many of the inhabitants of the County, are aware that by an Act of Assembly passed last winter, the Rate-payers on property in the respective Parishes, are authorised to elect annually, certain of the Parish Officers, and that the Justices in Session are bound to confirm such election. I believe, however, few are acquainted with the manner of proceeding under that Act, in order to benefit by its provisions; and I consider it highly important that it should have a fair trial in this County, as a test of the working of Municipal Corporations, and the election of all Parish and County Officers.

I have therefore drawn up something in the shape of directions for the guidance of the respective Parish Clerks, and inhabitants, that the elections may be made in strict accordance with the law, and with some systematic uniformity.

Should you think the information and Forms subjoined such as in your position as a public journalist you are called upon to publish, you would confer some benefit on that portion of the community who are striving for the free exercise of thought and action in this County, and somewhat aid me in the work I have undertaken as one of its Representatives.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. M. JOHNSON, JUN.
Chatham, December 12, 1850.

INFORMATION FOR THE PARISHES.

By statute 13 Vic. cap. 30, the inhabitants of each Parish may elect the following Officers, viz:

- 3 Overseers of Poor.
- 3 Commissioners of Roads.
- 1 Town or Parish Clerk.
- 3 or more Pound Keepers.
- 2 or more Hogreeves.
- 1 or more Surveyors of Dams.
- 1 or more Sealers of Leather.
- 3 Assessors of Rates.
- 3 or more Surveyors of Roads.
- 2 or more Constables.
- 1 or more Collectors of Rates.
- 2 or more Fence Viewers.
- 1 Clerk of the Market.
- 2 or more Boom Masters.
- 1 or more Inspectors of Batter.
- 1 or more Surveyors of Grindstones.
- 1 or more Field Drivers.

The mode of proceeding under this Act should be as follows:—

Some time previous to the first Tuesday in January, the Town or Parish Clerk should post up in different parts of the Parish, or publish in the local newspaper, a notice in the following form, or to the like effect:—

"Notice.—A Parochial Meeting of the Rate Payers on Real or Personal Property, in the Parish of _____, who have paid their Rates for the present year, will be held at _____, in the said Parish, on the first Tuesday in January next, at _____ o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing Parish Officers for the ensuing year; at which meeting, and before such election, the Overseers of Poor, the Collectors of Rates, and the Commissioners of Highways, for the past year, will be required to lay before the meeting copies of their respective accounts.

Q. R., Town Clerk.

Dated _____ December, 1850.

When the hour of meeting has arrived, the Town Clerk calls upon the rate payers to elect by majority of votes one of their number as Chairman, takes the yeas and nays, and declares the party so elected. The Town Clerk then takes his place as Secretary, and the Chairman calls upon the officers mentioned in the notice, to produce their accounts, which may be read or exhibited to the meeting.

The Town Clerk would do well to obtain from the Collectors, a list of those who had paid their rates, in order to lay before the Chairman, whereby he may determine who are eligible to vote, viz., Rate-payers on Real or Personal Property, who have paid their rates for this year.

The Chairman next calls upon the meeting to nominate a person as an Overseer of Poor for the coming year, which being done, the Chairman, without waiting for or allowing any other to be named, takes the yeas and nays, and if the majority vote in favor of such person, the Clerk takes down his name, and reads it aloud to the meeting, who then proceed to name another to act with him, and so on till the three be chosen, each time reading the name of the person last elected, before proceeding with any other. If any person proposed have not a majority of votes, no notice

is taken of it, but another named, and so on, till all the officers be elected. Only one person can be proposed at a time, and the meetings would do well to elect in the order above named, for the sake of uniformity, and because there is less chance of omissions.

In case of any dispute, the votes should be counted, and the number of yeas and nays might be recorded.

The next step is for the Clerk to make out a correct list of the officers elected, which may be in the following form:—

At a Parochial Meeting of the Rate-payers on Property, in the Parish of _____, held at _____ in said Parish, on the first Tuesday in January, 1851, pursuant to notice, and under the provisions of the Act of Assembly in such case made, Mr _____ having been elected Chairman by majority of votes

The following persons were elected Parish Officers for the ensuing year:

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

A. B.,
C. D., and
E. F.

COMMISSIONERS OF ROADS.

G. H.,
J. K., and
L. M.

(And so on, stating the Officers as elected, to the end.)

O. P., Chairman.

Northumberland, SS.

Q. R., Town Clerk of the Parish of _____ in the County of Northumberland, maketh oath and saith, that the foregoing is a correct and true list of the Parish Officers elected by a majority of the Rate-payers on property in the said Parish, present, & who have paid their rates for this year, at a Public Meeting called and held for that purpose, as above stated; this Deponent further saith that public notice of said meeting was regularly given by this Deponent prior thereto, the above named Chairman regularly chosen, and to the best of this Deponent's knowledge and belief, the proceedings of said meeting conducted, and the elections made in every respect according to law.

Q. R.

Sworn to at _____ in the said County, this _____ day of January, 1851, before me.

T. M., J. P.

The above list having been filled up, signed by the Chairman, and signed and sworn to by the Town Clerk, before a Justice of the Peace, should forthwith be transmitted to the Clerk of the Peace, that it may be on the files of the Court prior to the second Tuesday in January, when they meet.

And the minutes of the meeting's proceedings, also signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk, should be filed by the Clerk, to be handed over to his successor in office. The votes at the meeting are to be taken openly, and not by ballot, and none but rate-payers on real or personal property allowed to take any part in the proceedings; the act would therefore appear to exclude those who pay poll tax only, and those who are only assessed on income.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI.

CHATHAM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1850.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The American steamer Arctic has arrived at New York in 14 days from Liverpool; and the Royal Mail steamer Asia at the same port on Saturday week, also in 14 days.

The Royal Mail steamer America arrived at Halifax on the morning of Wednesday last, in a passage of 10½ days. By this arrival we obtained our papers to the 30th November. They contain a good deal of important matter, and we have in consequence devoted a large space to extracts.

UNITED STATES.—On the 2nd instant both Houses of Congress met for the Despatch of Business at Washington. The papers contain President Fillmore's Message. The Morning News thus notices this document; we have not room to-day to give the extracts, but shall publish them in our next number:—

"Presidents' Messages are generally of a very wordy character, occupying nearly the whole broadside of a paper the size of our own. President Fillmore, however, keeps himself more 'within the record of events'—he says nothing more than what is absolutely required, and yet says everything there is occasion for. Below we publish extracts, under leading heads, and this system will give our readers an idea of each subject touched upon, before going into detail. Instruction of a valuable nature is contained in the extract under the head 'Agriculture,' and if our Legislature would profit by it, our farming interests would soon present a better aspect. We particularly refer our readers to a perusal of that portion of the Message. The Agricultural condition of New Brunswick, which should be the first one thought of by the Legislature, has always been sadly neglected. A little wisdom and a little money are all that is wanted, to stimulate the people to cultivate the soil. For instance, the Legislature might endow a Model Farm, somewhere in the neighborhood of Fredericton, erect school houses upon it, and employ

competent Agricultural teachers, so that the sons of farmers might have a chance of learning the practical as well as theoretical science of Agriculture. Another means of encouraging the farmers of New Brunswick, would be to hold a Provincial Agricultural Fair, regularly once a year, the same as the Societies do in each County; and let the Province grant large premiums to the best articles of produce in the different lines. By adopting some such course of action as this, the capabilities of our soil and climate would be fairly tested, and the industry of the people would be directed into the right channel. The lumberman would keep out of the woods—and many persons, half idle, hanging about the large towns and cities, would be induced to turn agriculturalists. As Mr R. D. Wilmot appears to be the Farmer's friend, and takes a great interest in all that concerns the domestic industry of the people, we hope he will turn the above hints over in his mind, and introduce a Bill into the Legislature, next winter, having for its object a Provincial scheme for encouraging the industry of the farmer."

JENNY LIND.—The Boston Gazette relates another act of philanthropy of this noble female:—

"The citizens of Calais, Me., were much pleased and the heart of a needy woman cheered, by the receipt, on Tuesday last, of a check on the bank for five hundred dollars drawn by Miss Lind in favor of Sarah W. Clark, widow of the late Joseph N. Clark, mate of the barque Sophia, of Calais, who lost his life on the 3d of September, in taking off the crew of the Swedish barque Johanna, which was in a sinking condition."

NEW ADMIRAL.—It is reported that Sir Charles Malcolm is to succeed Lord Dundonald in the command of the squadron on the West India and North American stations.

A CAPITAL STORY.—A late number of the New York Knickerbocker contains the following capital anecdote, related by an habitual drunkard:—

"The story is told of a man who rarely failed to go to bed intoxicated, and disturb his wife during the whole night. Upon its being said by a friend that he never went to bed sober, he indignantly denied the impeachment, and gave the incidents of one particular night in proof. 'Pretty soon after I got into bed my wife said, Why, husband, what is the matter with you? You act very strangely! There is nothing the matter with me, said I, nothing at all. I am sure there is, said she, you don't act natural at all. Shan't I get up and get something for you? And up she got, lighted the candle, and came to the bed side to look at me, shading the light with her hand. 'I knew there was something strange about you!' she said; why, you are sober! Now this is a fact, and my wife will swear to it; so don't you slander me any more by saying that I hav'n't gone to bed sober in six months, 'cause I have!'"

NOVA SCOTIA.—We are sorry to learn that a very destructive fire occurred at Halifax on the morning of Wednesday last. We give below a brief notice of the disaster from the latest papers, which were published on the morning of the fire.

"A fire broke out this morning at 3 o'clock in the Officers' Mess Room, north barracks. The officers' quarter soon became a prey to the flames, and the entire range of barracks soon followed.

"The devouring element then seized upon the Block fronting on the North Barracks, nearly every building in which has been either burnt or gutted. At the time we write the progress of the flames has been checked, and it is believed that its further progress will be arrested."—*Nova Scotian.*

"Early this morning a fire broke out in the North Barracks, in the room adjoining the Officers' Mess Room, which with that entire block was entirely destroyed. The Officers' Quarters, separated from the soldiers' barracks, was saved. The fire crossed the street and has thus far destroyed nearly the whole block lying to the east, as far as Albemarle street. It has not yet at 12 o'clock been entirely got under."—*Postscript of the British Colonist.*

The Nova Scotian concludes an article on the discussion which has for some time past occupied the members of the 'Free Discussion Club,' a society which has been recently organized in that city, with the following sensible remarks:—

"The question naturally arises: what are those great interests which demand our attention, and why should these demand our attention to the exclusion of mere speculative theories? We answer at once—an extended system of self government, by which we can regulate our commercial relations in accordance with our best interests—a successful prosecution of the several branches of industry within our borders, untrammelled by the hand of monopoly, or at variance with the position we occupy in reference to our neighbors and natural customers—immediate action in the sacred cause of Common School Education, by which the blessings of knowledge may be disseminated among our youth—and last, not least, the elevation of ourselves in deed and not in word as freemen. We opine that the adoption of such questions for

discussion, would be infinitely preferable to pursuing phantoms of the imagination which cannot at present be realized. The question of annexation for example is purely speculative; so is Colonial Representation in the Imperial Parliament; and so is a Federal Union of these Provinces. At the same time we are free to admit, that if these Colonies had gone with the 'old thirteen,' they would now be in a much more advanced state. Nova Scotia in particular, would have been even now the England of America! It is just possible, there would not in 1850, be an Iron work in operation on the continent, except within the confines of this Province! But these advantages have long since passed away, and it behoves us to look to the facts of the case. 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush;' and we must use what we have in possession to the best advantage. It is neither wise or politic to sigh for what we cannot obtain; and it is equally suicidal to neglect the advantages which we enjoy—simply because we cannot get all that we want."

WEST INDIES.—Late accounts from the Island of Jamaica report that the Cholera was on the increase—200 deaths are reported daily in Kingston, and that every precaution taken to stay its progress had proved futile.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—A Royal Gazette Extra was received by the mail, containing a Proclamation by His Excellency, summoning the Legislature of this Province to meet for the despatch of business on the Sixth of February next. In consequence of a rumor that such was the intention of the Government, we made some comments thereon, pointing out the impropriety of this measure. We copy below the remarks of several contemporaries on the subject, all of whom agree with us in condemning the course pursued by our present rulers. We can account for it in no other way than that they are determined as long as possible to hold on to office.

The New Brunswicker remarks:

"Several of our contemporaries have recently expressed their indignation because rumor had it that the Legislature would not be called together before February, and in the Morning News of yesterday we find some sensible remarks on this subject, showing the injury which will be inflicted on the country by putting off the meeting of the Legislature to so late a period. These remarks were of course merely speculative, and we did hope that Government would make a show of disinterestedness, by calling the House of Assembly together at an earlier day, especially as many important questions will come up for discussion at the approaching Session; but alas! in this we are disappointed."

"This Proclamation fixes the meeting of the Legislature just one month later than it should. The coming Session must necessarily be a lengthy one, and it is of the highest importance that the business of the country should be proceeded with at an early day. It may be argued that the early part of February is the usual time of meeting; but when we consider the many pressing matters which must be decided during the first session of a new House, and particularly at the present period of our history, we can only account for it on the supposition that the Government are anxious to put off the evil day as far as possible."

The following is from the Morning News:

"There appears to be much excitement in the community, owing to a paragraph published in our last paper, with respect to the report that the Legislature is not to be called together until February. Many persons will not believe that it is possible the Government can be so recreant to the interests of the country, as to keep the people in suspense and anxiety so long, when all are looking forward for prompt measures in reference to public works, especially in regard to the Rail Road. Others, however, believe the report to be correct, and the indignation of such knows no bounds. Our city and county members, or the great majority of them, wish the House to be called together immediately. Some persons, however, seem to think that the Government are putting off until February, for the accommodation of the Legal gentlemen, on account of Court business. We can hardly believe the Government so base as to keep the whole country at a stand still, on account of a few lawyers. If so, then it is high time for the people of this Province to fall into the Canadian movement, and that is to unite upon the principle of keeping lawyers out of the Legislature altogether. We are not among those who would proscribe any man on account of his profession, whether he be a lawyer or an agriculturalist. But if it appears that any class of men are an obstacle in the way of progress—and this is a species of obstacle, if report speaks truly—then, by all means we should clear out the stream the first opportunity, and give the current a free passage. The convenience of the farmer should be consulted as well as that of the Lawyer by the Government—may more so. The rural members wish to get upon their farms as early in the Spring as possible; so that by not calling the House together until near ploughing time, the interests of the farm must suffer. But this is a mere abstract view of the case. The whole country demands an early meeting; and we believe