

called for vengeance; that terrible debt is still unpaid.

The old man's voice became husky with emotion, and uttering a deep groan, he fell back on his pillow. 'Well,' exclaimed our American friend, who was the first to break silence, 'surely, there is a Divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we may.' Apparently by the chapter of accidents, but in reality by the hand of an over-ruling Providence, I am brought here to-day.' Approaching the old man, he said with deep feeling, 'Edmund Everton.' At the sound of the name he started from his bed; 'yes, that is my name, what have you to say?' 'My name is Atherton,' replied the other; 'I am the son of your friend. He fell, it is true, upon the field, wounded, but not mortally. Often, around the household hearth, have I heard the tragic event narrated, and the general impression was that you had committed suicide. Your friend still lives, the kind and indulgent father of a large family, and Emma Arlington is the sharer in his weal and woe, his joys and sorrows.'

I will not attempt to describe the effect this disclosure had upon the old man. I thought for the moment the spirit had left the shattered tenement. We were anxious for his safety, when the man who had the care of him came from the village. Too much exhausted to speak, we thought it advisable to leave him. Soon after he paid the debt of nature, requesting to be buried beneath the shade of a large pine, which now stands the solitary sentinel of the old man's grave.

July, 1850.

#### ON THE REGIONS OF THE NORTH.

*In connexion with the causes now in activity in destroying the Animal and Vegetable Kingdom, or Animate and Inanimate Nature, from all that is well authenticated.*

BY WILLIAM SMITH,  
Shoemaker, Miramichi, New Brunswick.  
TO MOSES H. GRINNELL, MERCHANT, NEW YORK.\*

After quitting this Island they came, July 16, in sight of a promontory to which the name of Cape Newbenham was given. Here Captain Cook desired one of his officers to land, in order to see what direction the coast took beyond it: which he found to be nearly north as far as he could descry; at the same time he took possession of the country in the King's name, and left a slip of paper enclosed in a bottle, on which was written the names of the ships, and the date of the discovery.—On the 9th of August he anchored under a point of land named by him Cape Prince of Wales, and is remarkable for being the western extremity of America, distant only thirteen leagues from the eastern cape of Siberia. This fact Captain Cook had the glory of ascertaining, the truth of which had only previously been conjectured, on the vague reports of the Asiatic inhabitants, and the imperfect observations of Russian navigators.—He had further the honour of correcting an error in the Geographical plan of America, as laid down in the Map: as he discovered the so called island of Alasca to be in reality the eastern point of America, as explored by Behring in 1728. About the 17th he had reached lat. 70 deg. 33 min. when a brightness was perceived in the northern horizon like that reflected from ice, which is commonly called the Blink. This reflection is doubtless caused by the friction and pressure of the ice, which produces electricity; as any two substances whatever, when insulated and pressed, tend to procure light. By the appearance of the Blink, or snow light, an experienced seaman can tell the character of the ice; that of overfield ice is the most lucid, and is tinged with yellow; of packed ice it is pure, while newly formed ice has a grayish Blink, and a deep yellow tint indicates snow on land.

Some hours after this appearance was noticed, the ships then being in latitude 70 deg. 40 min., a field of ice impeded their further progress towards the north, and on reaching 44 deg. the ice seemed as compact and as solid as a wall ten or twelve feet high. Notwithstanding these difficulties, Captain Cook continued to traverse the icy sea, until every day the ice so increased as to preclude all hopes of attaining the object of his voyage, and indeed the season was too far advanced to render it consistent with prudence to make any further attempts till the following summer.—But as he went southward he employed considerable time in exploring the sea and coasts of Behring's Straits, both on the Asiatic and American shores. The result of this investigation he entrusted to a Russian, named Isymolof, who had formed a settlement on the Island of Oonalaska, a trust he discharged with great fidelity. But the melancholy catastrophe that befell this illustrious navigator at Owhy-Hee, one of the Sandwich Islands, is too well known to require a repetition, and terminated an expedition that commenced under such happy auspices.

Such a brief summary of those voyages and expeditions to explore the regions of the north, sufficiently proves that the polar seas have remained in the same condition during a series of ages. The great icy barrier may partially shift its position in different seasons; but it soon returns to its ancient limits, and for ever repress all approach of the navigation. Whether some new application of human ingenuity, joined to perseverance, shall at last surmount that frozen rampart by water is still in the womb of time. The notion of a stream rushing beneath a frozen arch is

\*Continued.

very doubtful. For after the sun has entered the summer solstice, and gradually advances above the equator, so his rays in an equal proportion beyond the pole are not felt. It is computed that during eight months the polar seas are one unbroken surface of ice, which extends in every direction from the pole, filling the area of a circle of between 3000 and 4000 miles in diameter. While the land covered with snow, presents one uniform scene of splendid brightness, the death-like stillness is of the most dreary appearance in the total absence of the vegetable kingdom, while the sea is loaded with a mass of congealed water from ten to forty feet thick, and many millions of tons weight. The sun is absent from this dreary region ninety six days, during which time the thermometer is considerably below Zero, and the cold so intense that the breath, and other vapour accumulated by the sailors of the expedition, given by Captain Parry, during the night in the bed places froze. Those who incautiously exposed themselves to the intense frosts which benumbed mental as well as corporeal faculties, independent of the frost bites on the cheeks, noses, and extremities, looked wild and spoke so thick and indistinctly, it was impossible to draw a rational answer from them. The mental faculties generally returned gradually with the circulation, but in many cases, notwithstanding every attention, amputation of toes and fingers were necessary. For in one instance to such a degree were the hands and feet of an individual benumbed, that when they were plunged into a basin of water, the surface of the water was immediately frozen by the intense cold suddenly communicated to it.—Nor is this all; a painful sense of drowsiness and torpor overtakes persons walking among snow, which gives them an overpowering desire to fall asleep; they awake no more this side of time, and the reflection of the dazzling light from the snow, is the cause of an inflammation of the eyes, and causes much suffering to those affected. The air in those inhospitable regions being so thin and rare, being entirely destitute of carbon, and all pure oxygen, one might hear conversation going on half a mile distant as distinctly as in a close room, by the ordinary course of talking. The middle of September being the latest time the navigation of the polar seas can be performed with safety, and for seven weeks only can the sea be said to be navigable even then during this period, the adventurous seaman is involved in a labyrinth of huge icebergs. Before the close of October, the reindeer, musk, or white hairs, ptarmigans, brent, geese, golden plover, snow buntings, and other animals, migrate from this dreary region into a more genial clime, and the solitude would be unbroken were it not for the wolves and foxes, the only inhabitants during winter. Almost nightly, when the atmosphere is clear, the aurora borealis, that beautiful meteor, throws a splendid torch all around, and confounds the beholder with the brilliancy of the scene. Of the various notions and hypotheses respecting this phenomenon, by some it is thought probable that the two strata of atmospheric fluid proceed in opposite directions; the one from the equinoctial towards the polar regions, and the other in the opposite direction, are charged with opposite electricities, and that they are in different degrees of temperament and humidity, the upper stratum flowing from the equator towards the poles being of a higher and more charged with vapour than the lower, proceeding from the pole to the equator: they must thus be charged with opposite electricities, that would communicate and neutralise each other. The opposite temperature would be reduced to their mean, and under circumstances these changes might be attended with the evolution of electrical light, and with the condensation of transparent vapour into their clouds; as the watery particles of these clouds form, a certain degree of electric conductivity would be established, by which this subtle fluid might be propagated to short distances; but the greater dryness of the air, both above and below this region of thin mist, would oppose an unconducting barrier to its escape.

As soon as one thin cloud, or thin strip of cirrus or fleecy portion, or bouge, became charged with electricity, it would occasion, by the laws of electric phenomena, an opposite electrical state in that portion nearest it; and these opposite electricities would instantly attract each other, fly together, burst forth with fire, and become neutralised. If there should be a plane in which such thin clouds are framed, the subversion and re-establishment of the balance of electricity, being thus begun, would be rapidly propagated throughout the whole of this space, and produce that rapid undulatory motion which we observe in the Aurora Borealis.

After the continued action of the sun has at last melted away the great body of ice, a short and dubious interval of warmth occurs. In the space of a few weeks, visited only by slanting rays of the sun, frost resumes his tremendous sway. It begins to snow as early as August, and the whole ground is covered to the depth of two or three feet before the month of October; along the bays and shores the fresh water poured from rivulets, or drained from the collections of thawed snow, become quickly converted into solid ice. As the cold augments, the air deposits its moisture in the form of a fog, which freezes into a fine gossamer netting, or spicular icicles, dispersed through the atmosphere, and extremely minute, that might seem to excoriate the skin, when hoar frost settles on every prominence in fantastic colors. The whole surface of the sea steams like a lime kiln, an appearance called the frost-smoke, caused as in other instances; the production of vapour by the water being still warmer than the incumbent air. At length the dispersion of the mist,

and consequent clearness of the water, announce that the upper stratum of the sea has become cooled to the same standard; a sheet of ice spreads quickly over the smooth expanse, and often gains the thickness of an inch in a single night. The darkness of a prolonged winter now broods impenetrably over the frozen continent; the moon being visible for fourteen days, or one half of her monthly course, her faint rays only discover the horrors and wide desolation of the scene. The settlers, covered with a load of bear skins, remain crowded and immured in their huts, every chink of which they carefully close against the piercing cold, and cowering around the stove or the lamp, they dose away their sleepless nights. Their slender stock of provisions, though kept in the same apartment, is often frozen so hard as to require to be cut with a hatchet. The whole inside of their hut becomes lined with a thick coat of ice, and if they happen for an instant to open a window, the moisture of the confined air is immediately precipitated in the form of a shower of snow. As the cold and frost continues to penetrate deeper, the rocks are heard at a great distance to split with loud explosions; the sleep of death seems to wrap up the scene in utter and oblivious ruin. At length the sun re-appears above the horizon, but his languid beams rather betray the wide waste than brighten the prospect. By degrees, however, the further progress of the frost is checked. In the month of May, the famished settlers venture to leave their huts in quest of fish, on the margin of the sea. As the sun acquires elevation, his power is greatly increased. The snow gradually wastes away, the ice dissolves apace, and vast fragments of it, detached from the cliffs, and undermined beneath, precipitate themselves on the shore with the noise and crash of thunder. The ocean is now unbound, and its icy dome broken up with tremendous rupture; the enormous pieces of ice thus set afloat are by the violence of the winds and currents again dissevered and dispersed; some times impelled in opposite directions, they approach and strike with a mutual shock, like the crash of worlds; all-powerful, if opposed, to reduce to atoms in a moment the proudest monuments of human power.

The sun, as we have observed, is totally withdrawn from this dreary region for ninety six days; but to compensate for his long absence, he continues an equal period in summer to shine without interruption. Now, by a beautiful arrangement, the surface of the ocean itself, by its alternate thawing and freezing, presents a vast substratum, on which the excess of heat and cold in succession, are mutually spent. In ordinary cases, the superficial water, as it cools, and therefore contracts, sinks down into the abyss by its superior quality; but when it grows warmer, it expands, and consequently floats incumbent, communicating afterwards its surplus heat with extreme slowness to the mass below. But the seas within the arctic circle being always near the verge of congelation, at which limit water scarcely undergoes any sensible alteration of volume: from a considerable degree of temperature the superficial stratum remains constantly stagnant, and exposed to receive all the variable impressions of the sweeping winds. The piercing cold of winter therefore spends its rage in freezing the salt water to a depth proportional to its intensity and continuance. The prolonged warmth of summer again is consumed in melting those fields of ice, every inch of which in thickness requiring as much absorption of heat as would raise the temperature of a body of water 10½ feet thick, a whole degree. The summer months are nearly gone before the sun can dissolve the icy domes, and shoot with effect his slanting rays.

#### THINGS I DON'T LIKE TO SEE.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—I don't like to see persons who will neither perform nor commute their Statute Labour, endeavor to place themselves above the law, and when proceedings are taken against them, resort to Certiorari, &c., to get clear of the fine. But I do like to see such persons pay the piper most beautifully at the end of the dance.

I don't like to see the Overseers of the Poor put to a great deal of unnecessary trouble, in order to prevent the parish from being burdened with a spurious population.

I don't like to see loafers, whose general employment is to watch for dereliction of duty in parish officers, gather the petty scandal afloat, and carry their ill-arranged crudities ten miles, for the purpose of getting a friend to shape them into an 'article.'

I don't like to see 'Sandy' roads continually throwing dust in the eyes of the community. I don't like to see a Returning Officer at a General Election, adjourning the Poll for the purpose of getting some brandy and water, and for the three succeeding days, while the Poll Book is in his possession, being in that oblivious state vulgarly called 'being drunk.' In a word, I don't like to hear 'stop thief' bawled from the throat of the chief himself.

Your obedient servant,  
HAZELTWIG.

August 1, 1850.

#### COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

In looking over a Gleaner, I think of date the 7th instant, I observe you state that a correspondent in Restigouche informs you that Messrs. Montgomery and Barberie were returned by small majorities. Whoever your correspondent may be, he must either have willfully perverted the truth, or been lamentably ignorant of figures, or their relative propor-

tions. There were three candidates; two out of the three must therefore be returned. The two old members run very evenly together throughout, and at the close Mr Montgomery led Mr Barberie 12 votes; the opposition candidate, Mr Cook, being led by the former gentleman 90, and by the latter 78, and considering the paucity of voters naturally incident to a new county, which but a few years ago was a wilderness, the numbers look like anything but small majorities.

I cannot say with certainty the number of votes in the County; I should think, however, not more than 400 in all, as but few of the back settlers have as yet obtained their grants; but this will not be the case long. The new settlers are getting ahead, and in a very short time will be enabled to pay for their grants, either in labor or money, and then Restigouche will be able to boast of a numerous constituency; and if so far not numerous, the numbers are amply supplied by their independence, as has been fully proved at the two last contests. I cannot supply you with the numbers at the different polling places, but as to the general result as above stated, I can vouch for its correctness.

Your obedient servant,

FAIR PLAY.

Restigouche, July 26, 1850.

### Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1850.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Canada, Steamer, arrived at Halifax on the morning of Wednesday last, in a passage of 10½ days. Our mail was received here on Friday; but the papers are extremely barren of news. We have copied a few paragraphs.

STEAM BETWEEN QUEBEC AND PICTOU.—Quebec papers report that the Steamer Alliance is to leave for the Gulf of St. Lawrence en route to Pictou, Nova Scotia. It is said that Mr Wilson, her proprietor, has an idea of making arrangements for carrying the English Mails to and from Canada by this route. The Alliance is reported to be a large and powerful vessel.

SPUNK.—All the Reporters in the Canadian House of Assembly have withdrawn, in consequence of one of their number having been called to the bar of the House and censured, for requesting a member of the Assembly, who was conversing near the reporters's gallery, not to interrupt him. The whole press have resolved to report no more in that House.

It appears that His Excellency's invitation to the gentlemen of the Press at the Convention in Toronto, to partake of the Hospitalities of Emsley House, was respectfully declined.

#### TOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

Two weeks ago we announced that the Lieutenant Governor had passed through this place on a visit to the neighbouring County of Gloucester, where he purposed spending a few days fishing in that noble stream the Nepisiguit. While there, we understand His Excellency had most admirable sport. A correspondent has furnished us with a brief sketch of his enjoyments in that remote district of the Province, which we believe was never before honored by the presence of a representative of royalty:—

His Excellency left Bathurst, accompanied by Francis Ferguson, Wm. Napier, J. Reed, Esquires, and Dr. Gordon, and visited the Grindstone Quarry at New Bandon, under the superintendence of Mr Ford, and rested at the farm house of Mr Gavin Kerr, in the immediate neighborhood. He inspected the Fishing Establishment of Mr Alexandre, at Grand Ance, and partook of some refreshment, which had been kindly prepared for him.

At the Carquet Ferry he was met by the Hon. James Davidson, Rev. Mr Paquet, Mr Blackhall, and Mr Sewell, Supervisor of Roads, and remained that night at the house of Mr Blackhall. While at this place he visited the establishment of Messrs. Robin. From thence he proceeded to Shippigan, in a boat, via the "Little Pass," where the boat grounded several times; and had His Excellency been a quarter of an hour later, the tide would have so much receded, as to have compelled him to remain in this disagreeable strait for 12 or 24 hours.

At Shippigan he visited the Establishment of Mr Harding, with whom he remained for a day; and accompanied by Mr Alexandre, Jun., paid a visit to the large Fishing Establishment