

Communications.

FRIENDSHIP.

You tell me of Friendship;—where can it be found?
Oh, where shall I wander to seek for its charms?
I'd leave wealth and home, and this earth travel round,
To seek for that treasure 'mid danger's alarms.
The pleasures and charms of this earth I'd forego;
Home, riches and fortune I'd freely resign,
If heaven upon me would deign to bestow,
One heart as sincere and as faithful as mine.
A friend who would soothe when misfortune would chide,
And mourn when affliction would fall to my lot,—
A friend to whose keeping I could but confide
The prospects of youth, and the hopes of my heart:—
Oh, for such a friend I'd renounce all the pleasures
Of riches, enjoyment, of honor and fame;
Of pride and distinction, of earth and its treasures,
To have but one friend to call by that name.
I would roam by his side o'er the heights of the mountain,
From care, grief and sorrow, and misery free;
Or sit by his side by some streamlet or fountain,
Or pace the lone deck on the wide open sea.
No misfortune would grieve me, nor damp my contentment;
No grief, no affliction that fortune could send;
No envy, no malice, could wake my resentment,
To injure, betray, or desert such a friend!
At the close of the day I'd roam by his side,
When night spreads her mantle of darkness and gloom,
O'er cottage, o'er hamlet, o'er woodland and tide,
And weep o'er his grave when laid in the tomb.
Then if fortune has for me one blessing in store,
Or heaven one favor upon me to send,
That favor I ask from my heart, and no more
Of its blessings on earth but a FRIEND!

THE STRANGER.

Buctouche, January 21, 1850.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1850.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and inconsiderable 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.

TRACT SOCIETY.

A Public meeting of the Miramichi Religious Tract Society, was held in Saint John's Church, Chatham, on Tuesday last, 29th January, at 7 o'clock, p. m. There was a very numerous attendance on the occasion. Richard Hutchison, Esq. was called to the chair. The meeting was opened with praise and prayer by the Rev. Mr. McCurdy. The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting, it was moved by John Fraser, Esq. seconded by Henry Cunard, Esq. and unanimously resolved:

That the London Tract Society, of which this is an auxiliary, has been instrumental in effecting much good by its numerous publications in many languages, and that its publications are all of a character calculated to be highly useful.

It was moved by the Rev. W. Henderson, seconded by A. A. Davidson, Esq. and resolved unanimously:

That the dissemination of such publications is much needed in this place, and would, under the blessing of God, be productive of much good.

It was moved by the Rev. Mr. McCurdy, seconded by William Fraser, Esq. and resolved unanimously:

That we have much cause of thankfulness for what has been done in this country already, and much encouragement to persevere, notwithstanding the pressure of the present times.

It was moved by the Rev. Wm. Stew-

art, seconded by Mr. James Millar, and resolved unanimously:

That in all our actions we should be mindful of our dependence on the blessing of Him who alone can render our efforts truly successful; and therefore that we should mingle fervent prayer with all our exertions for the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

The meeting was then closed with singing and prayer by the Rev. Mr. Stewart.

WM. HENDERSON, Secretary.

TIMBER DUTIES.

The subject of the small duty in Britain on Foreign Timber, is creating considerable discussion in the public mind, and we frequently meet with remarks of the injustice of continuing these restrictions, while the duties are being removed from almost every other foreign commodity. The London Shipping Gazette of December 26, introduces a very sensible communication from a Shipbuilder at Sunderland, with the following remarks: "We think the arguments of the editor as well as his correspondent are unanswerable, and if the Government persist in admitting Foreign-built ships duty free, they must of necessity remove the duty on foreign timber. This is but reasonable and just to the British shipbuilders, and we would advise all our merchants who are engaged in the timber trade, to provide for this contingency."

We fully expected that the extraordinary announcement which we made on Friday last—of the intention of Government to admit Foreign vessels duty free, whilst the duty is retained on the materials, and on ships to be broken up—would be received with astonishment and disgust by our readers. The more the matter is considered, the more monstrous it appears. A Shipowner, for instance, may purchase in Russia five hundred loads of timber, and order it there to be manufactured into a ship, which will be admitted into this country, and receive a British register, free of duty, but should he desire to import the timber, and employ his own countrymen in the manufacture of his vessel, free trade legislators are 'down upon him' with a tax of 15 or 20 shillings per load! The heartless insanity of this legislation for the especial benefit of Foreigners, is plainly set forth in the following Letter from a Sunderland Shipbuilder, at which port it appears a movement is already on foot to demand the repeal of the Timber Duties.

To the Editor of the London Shipping and Mercantile Gazette.

Sir—I observe that the Government are about to admit foreign-built ships duty free. We have been under the impression here, that they were to be subject to 10 per cent. duty. Had that been the case, we should have been better able to compete with foreigners, and it would have been something like an equivalent for the 20s. duty we have to pay on Baltic or Hamburg timber.

But, in order to give the foreigner every advantage, government have taken off all the duty that was levied on foreign ships or manufactured articles, and will admit a Prussian or Hamburg built vessel, coming to England for sale, first, to bring a cargo of timber into any port in the kingdom; and, as soon as the ship arrives in port, a custom-house officer is sent on board, and there remains till the timber or raw material is all out—upon which there is a duty, on rough or hewn logs, of 15s. and 20s. on cut per load. As soon as the ship is delivered, the officer will very quietly tell you that you may dispose of your ship if you please—that is, the manufactured article—for she is duty free, the timber, the raw material that has come out of her, being all that duty is chargeable upon: and that because a majority of the members of the House of Commons are afraid that the British shipbuilder would be able, if there was no duty, to build a ship that could be sold as cheap as a foreign built vessel.

But why there should be 5s. duty more on the one than on the other, I cannot imagine, unless government consider the cut as 'goods partly manufactured'; and of course they must then put an extra duty on it, to prevent the British shipbuilder competing with the foreigner.

Now, the duty to be levied after the 1st of January is not only absurd and ridiculous, but contrary to common sense; and is another proof, if any were wanting, that our government are determined to do all they can to ruin the British shipbuilders—a better scheme for that purpose could not have been devised than to admit foreign ships wholly manufactured, free of duty; and the only reason I can imagine why they levy a duty of 10 per cent on foreign ships, wrecked or broken up, is because they are afraid the British shipbuilder should purchase the material and build the hulls of ships out of the good timber that might be available for such a purpose, and so evade the duty that is to remain on foreign timber as a protection to the foreign shipbuilder, and to secure a sale for these ships in a British port.

The shipbuilders of Sunderland intend to call a meeting to petition Parliament to repeal the timber duties; and it is to be hoped that the shipbuilders and shipowners throughout the

kingdom will follow the example, for it should be remembered that the material is used for repairing as well as building. I would, therefore, suggest the absolute necessity of getting petitions prepared for presentation as soon as parliament meets, so that the British shipbuilders may be put more upon an equality with their foreign competitors.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SHIPBUILDER.

Sunderland, December 23, 1849.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Expressions of esteem and regret passed between the sundry Divisions of the Sons of Temperance at Miramichi, and their Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch, on the eve of his removal to another part of the Province.

The Northumberland, Caledonian, and Newcastle Divisions of the Sons of Temperance, unanimously agreed last week, to invite their much esteemed Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch to a Supper, to be served up in the large Hall of the Northumberland Division, on the evening of Wednesday last, and to present him with an address from each Division, expressive of their regret at his removal, and their best wishes for his prosperity elsewhere.

The Hall was tastefully ornamented for the occasion. Its interior, however, though capacious, was inadequate to contain any save the Sons themselves, a circumstance they much regretted, seeing it deprived them of the "smile of dear woman." We are assured nevertheless, that the evening was spent in a highly pleasant and profitable manner.—Songs were sung, a few short speeches were delivered; and we, notwithstanding the lack of Ladies and Champagne, went flirting to and fro, like forked lightning—shocking a few, but inspiring by its electric influence all the rest; and several measures were adopted by which to advance the good cause of Temperance.

The first thing after the animal part of the business had been discussed, was the presentation—by one of the committee appointed to prepare it—of the Address of the Northumberland Division, No. 37, which ran as follows:—

Respected and Dear Brother,

Cold indeed must that heart be, that has not been touched with regret, when called upon to bid adieu to scenes and objects, upon which its possessor had long been accustomed to look with delight. To gaze for the last time, unmoved, upon the home of our childhood, or the playground on which we gambled in life's gay morn, or on the land where rest the dust of our forefathers, is a task which few men can brave with indifference. But colder far must that heart be, whose possessor could separate without sorrow from a Brother with whom he had long been familiar, and to whom he had been accustomed to look up with feelings of respect and admiration.

As Members of this community, Dear Brother, we, the Northumberland Division, No. 37, of the Sons of Temperance, beg leave to assure you we keenly feel the loss we are about to sustain by your removal to a remote part of the Province. During the period of your sojourn among us, it has been your lot to pass through some of the brightest and darkest of those scenes, to which all are more or less subjected: yet your walk and conversation, whether in weal or in woe, have uniformly been that of the genuine Christian—humble, circumspect, and manly. Having warmly at heart the good of your fellow men, and the glory of our God, you have ever been ready to aid whatever objects you conceived would promote the one, or advance the other.

As brethren who have walked together to the House of God, "and held sweet communion there," some of our number, more deeply, perhaps, than others, lament your removal; but we all, as with one heart, bear our willing testimony to the piety, consistency, and wisdom, with which you have ever conducted yourself as a member of the Christian sect to which you belong; conceding cheerfully to other men that blessed boon, highly prized by yourself, "liberty of conscience," you have "agreed to differ" with others for conscience sake; and cordially noted up to the maxims, that men may differ in opinion without differing in principle.

Although in common with others, we shall thus, as residents of the same place, and Brethren, some of us, of the same Christian communion, have occasion to regret your removal, there is yet another and closer relationship subsisting between us, which must be severed when we part; and that of all others which must occasion us the severest sorrow. It is that of our elder Brother, in the young family of "Sons," to which we belong. To you—our Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch—may be traced the origin, rapid progress, and prosperous condition of our Division, and also

of our little Brother-band of Cadets. Your attachment to the cause of Temperance—"the cause of all mankind"—sustained you under the parental task of nurturing and defending these branches of our Order, during infancy; and your prudence and perseverance have enabled you to watch over and direct every step of their progress hitherto.

For these things, Dear Brother, we are grateful to you; yet because of these things we shall the more keenly feel your loss, for in truth it will be long, we fear, ere we find your like again.

Brother, Farewell! We bid you Godspeed! May "Love, Purity, and Fidelity,"—the Divine principles of our Order—be inscribed, as by a sunbeam from above, on your heart, and on ours; and guided by the light of these principles, may we all, at length, reach that "haven of rest," where sighing and separation are alike unknown; where a never-setting sun doth shine, and where the tear of sorrow is wiped from every eye.

Wishing you a safe and pleasant passage to the land of the hereafter, the home of your youth, and a happy meeting with friends and relatives there; in due time a happy return to those in this Province you now leave behind you; and the enjoyment of health, happiness, and prosperity in after life, we again say—FAREWELL!

Signed in behalf of the Northumberland Division, No. 37, Sons of Temperance, this 30th day of January, 1850, by

THOMAS WEATHERLY, W.P.
J. M. JOHNSON, Jan., R.S.

REPLY.

To the Members of Northumberland Division, No. 37, Sons of Temperance.

My Dear Brethren,

Never was I more sensible of the difficulty of clothing my feelings in language than I am on the present occasion, for your Address has drawn my memory back to incidents which will always make me feel.

I became a member of your community about eight and a half years ago, and in looking back upon them, I have to say it in favor of this community, that I have received nothing but kindness from them. You notice truly that it has been my lot to pass through the brightest and the darkest scenes incident to our present probationary state. I have had indeed, in Miramichi, the happiest part of my past life, and the remembrance of it will never be blotted from my memory. But my All-wise and loving Heavenly Father saw good to mix my cup of joy with bitterness, and remove from me those that were dear to me as my own life. The having to leave the place where their precious remains repose, is to me peculiarly trying.

As to the expressions of your approval of my conduct, as a member of one of the sections of the Christian Church, they are stronger than I deserve. But this I will allow, that if one object is nearer my heart than another, it is to see Christians loving one another, and striving together with one heart and mind for "the hope of the Gospel." In this respect I sincerely desire to be the brother of every one who loveth the Lord Jesus.

In reference to our beloved Order of Sons, you have altogether lost sight of the fact, that no other credit is due to me than that of sometimes suggesting to you, what was desirable to be done, and occasionally encouraging you amidst the discouragements which those who engage in the moral improvement of their fellow men must ever expect to meet with. I have a high opinion of the great good our Order is calculated to effect among all classes, providing its principles are only faithfully carried out. That there will be defections, you must naturally expect, for this belongs to humanity. But, Brethren, deal with those in affection, using discipline not with harshness, but with as much mildness as is consistent with faithfulness, while you can perceive on their part a deep regret for the stain they may have brought upon themselves as well as upon you.

I have many things to say as my parting advice, but my unavoidable hurry in preparing for my journey prevents me saying more than this. Remember you are Brethren. Bear with one another in Love. Avoid extremes. Let there be always mutual concessions. No strife but this, who shall best by precept and example commend our association to those who are without.

The members of Northumberland Division I would remind that they were the pioneers of the order in this part, and I hope that they will always retain that honorable position; but in order to this there must be consistency of conduct and fervency of zeal. Be animated by the pleasing reflection that on every one you bring within your ranks, you are throwing around the most successful moral guard from the fearfully mortal plague of intemperance. Believe me, dear Brethren that I am leaving you with deep regret and sorrow, and your welfare will ever be to me next to that of my own family.

In the Bonds of the Order,

Your sincere Brother,

JOHN FRASER.

Miramichi, 30th January, 1850.

The following is the Address of Caledonian Division, No. 41:—

Sir,—We, the Officers and Members of Caledonian Division, No. 41, Sons of Temperance, located in Douglastown, being for some time past aware of your intention to remove to another part of the Province, believe it would be very remiss