

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SKINS]

Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VIII.]

MIRAMICHI, MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1850.

[NUMBER 33.]

Communications.

ON THE REGIONS OF THE NORTH,
In connexion with the causes now in activity
in destroying the Animal and Vegetable
Kingdom, or Animals and Inanimate
Nature, from all that is well authentic
and true.

BY WILLIAM SMITH,
Shoemaker, Miramichi, New Brunswick.
TO MOSES H. GRINNELL, MER-
CHANT, NEW YORK.*

This intelligent captain sailed along the coast, exploring it carefully as he went along. On the 17th of July he encountered an immense body of ice, in the latitude of 63 S, and he spent nearly a fortnight in passing it, the weather being excessively foggy, and his ropes and sails all frozen.

On the 1st of August he described the American coast, at the parallel of 66 33, and found an excellent roadstead. Here he was much annoyed with heat and mosquitoes. The natives, Esquimaux, were very obliging, and bartered their commodities. They resembled the Greenlanders in their general appearance, but spoke with a clearer intonation. While Davis thus explored the west side of the strait which deservedly bears his name, he directed the other ships to sail up the Greenland sea, and seek for a passage on the north side of Iceland. Having reached that station, they held a north westerly course from the 10th of June to the 3rd of July, when they found themselves enclosed between two fields of ice. They now turned back, and saw Greenland rising high, and looking very blue; but they could gain no harbour, since a rampart of firm ice, at least three leagues in breadth, extended along the whole coast. Still keeping sight of land, they doubled Cape Farewell, and ascended as far as their former haven, in the latitude of 64. There they traded with the natives till an accidental quarrel arose, which caused some bloodshed. On the last day of August they departed for England, and arrived safely in the Thames on the 6th of October.

On the 9th of May, 1587, Davis sailed again with the same vessels, for the double purpose of trading in skins, and of discovering the North West passage. On the 30th of June he reached, as formerly, the island opposite to Baal's river, in the latitude of 64; but the natives had now become so bold and outrageous, as to tear the pinnace to pieces merely for the sake of the iron. Thence pursuing his voyage, he saw a great number of whales in the latitude of 67 40, and had some traffic with the numerous canoes he met. On the 30th he ascertained by observation that he was in the latitude of 72 12, and found the sea quite open as far as he could see to the north and west; but a strong northerly wind springing up obliged him to turn back. He now bore away for the American coast, his progress being much impeded by extensive fogs and numerous shoals of ice. On the 13th of July the natives crowded with their canoes from the shore, and he landed at the latitude of 68, the weather having now become very hot. During the rest of the month he sailed along the coast, touching occasionally, till he descended to the latitude of 62, where he found a large gulf and a strong current running from the west. He pursued the same track about a fortnight longer, though he met with vast islands of ice; and on the 15th of August, at the latitude of 52, his vessel being leaky and his provisions falling short, he departed for England, and after much variable weather, he arrived at Dartmouth on the 15th of September.

The discoveries made by Davis in the Arctic seas, though they failed in attaining the main object, were on the whole extremely important.

Nothing more was attempted by England for some years. At last the Russia and Turkey Companies resolved to send at their joint expense, an expedition to explore the North West passage. Accordingly on the 2nd of May, 1602, George Weymouth sailed from Radcliff with two fly boats, the Discovery, of 50 tons, and the God Speed of 60 tons, victualled for 18 months, and carrying 35 men and boys. On the 22nd of June he got sight of Cape Desolation, in Greenland, at the latitude of 60 37, and steering nearly on the same course, he descried in six days more the bold shore of America, at the parallel of 62 30. He now pushed northwards along the coast in spite of the thick fog and the numerous banks of ice he encountered. The cold was often so piercing that the mist froze as it touched the rigging, and the sails and cordage became encrusted with thick ice.

On the 20th of July, Weymouth, having reached the latitude of 68 53, his crew, filled

with alarm, secretly mutinied, and put back the helm during the night. Weymouth succeeded in restoring discipline, yet saw himself obliged by circumstances to continue a southerly course. Two days after, the sea being perfectly calm and smooth, he sent a boat to procure a supply of ice from a floating island. It seemed as hard as a rock, but after a few strokes the whole mass, shaken by the internal tremor, was rent with a noise like thunder, and precipitated into the deep. About the latitude of 55, he perceived on the 16th of August, low land, girt with pleasant islands; and here he thought a passage might be found, but a violent storm arose, which drove him homewards, and on the 4th of September he was forced to put into Dartmouth.

In 1607, a company of London merchants gave the command of a ship to Henry Hudson, an active and enterprising navigator, for the discovery of the North West passage, who set sail from Gravesend on the 1st of May. Passing the Orkneys, he saw on the 11th of June 6 or 7 whales, in the latitude of 67 30. Now shaping his course nearly north east, he endeavored to ascend the Greenland sea. In this attempt, he had for a whole month to contend with foggy weather and frequent shoals of ice. On the 2nd of July he saw in the latitude of 78 50 land on the west side, but defended by an immense icy barrier. With difficulty he escaped being embayed, and worked his way further northwards, till on the 15th of July, having reached the high latitude of 81 1/2, he had the mortification to see his progress completely barred by the trending and frozen sea. Hudson therefore turned back, and after escaping many dangers from the shoals of ice, amidst foggy and tempestuous weather, he at last reached the Thames on the 16th of September.

Hudson now entered into the service of the Dutch East Company, and took his departure in a yacht from Amsterdam in the early part of 1609. On the 21st of May he doubled the North Cape, and in spite of blowing and foggy weather, he advanced through shoals of ice to Nova Zembla, but finding the sea frozen, he returned by the Faroe Islands, touched at the Banks of Newfoundland, and approached the low sandy shores of America, at the latitude of 43 50. Some of the savages came out in their canoes, and traded with him, and at the latitude of 44 1, he went into a large river which still bears his name, and which gave occasion for the Dutch settlement of New York. Thence he sailed along southwards, sometimes trading and sometimes skirmishing with the natives, till on the 20th of August, he reached the Cape of Virginia. The weather continuing hot and misty, he spent some weeks in exploring the rivers and bays on the coast, and had several sharp conflicts with the Indians. On the 7th of November, 1609, he safely arrived at Dartmouth.

Next year the London Association dispatched Hudson again to the North Sea. On the 17th of April he departed from Blackwall. On the 5th of May he made the Orkneys, and reached Iceland on the 1st of June. He saw troops of whales, and for several days he attempted in vain to approach the coast of Greenland, which appeared strongly girt with ice. He therefore bore away for Davis's Straits. By the end of June he saw land in the parallel of 62°, but was impeded by mountains and islands of ice, one of which caused great alarm by oversetting or revolving very near him. Continuing to ply forward, he had penetrated far into the Strait which bears his name, when he saw his vessel completely surrounded with ice. The crew was much disheartened, yet he succeeded, with great labor, in approaching somewhat nearer the shore. Hudson called the land, which rose high and was covered with snow, Desire Provoked. In the bay, some mountains of ice had taken ground at the depth of 120 fathoms, and there was plenty of drift wood. For many weeks he strove to extricate himself by following the tides and the occasional openings of the shoals of ice. But all his efforts proved in vain; and on the 1st of November his vessel was embayed and completely frozen in. The provisions being nearly gone, the crew had nothing but the prospect of starving, through cold and hunger, during a long and dreary winter. Insubordination had crept among them before, and with the utmost difficulty they were now restrained from breaking out into actual mutiny. For several months they had to endure all sorts of privations. They caught a few fish, or killed some birds occasionally, yet they were often compelled to eat the most disgusting food, such as torpid frogs, dug up from the frozen ground. Several of the crew sickened and died. At last everything was consumed. The ice having now broke up, the ships began to weigh anchor, and to work into open sea. But when their hardships seemed at an end, a severer fate awaited Hudson, whose vehement and capricious conduct disgusted the bulk of his crew. Headed by the mate, and a young volunteer whom he

had especially patronized, they rose upon their commander, tied his hands and feet, and thrusting him and eight sick men into the shallop, inhumanly turned him adrift. Hudson and his companions, thus abandoned to the mercy of the elements, with scarcely any provisions, must soon have perished from hunger and cold. The ringleaders of the mutiny, however, did not long enjoy the fruits of their crimes. After breaking up the chests and plundering the stores, they proceeded with the ship; but provoking the savages whom they met, by their wanton license, they were killed in some sharp encounters. The rest of the crew with great difficulty at length reached Galway Bay, in Ireland.

[To be continued.]

REPLY TO PUNCH.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—For some time back a considerable part of the Press of the Province has made itself notorious for its attacks on the members of the House of Assembly, on account of their extravagant and unjustifiable expenditures of the public money, and thereby deserving the gentle epithets of vagabonds, highwaymen, &c., and ending with asking what have they done? Nothing. Turn them out. The Gleaner, to its credit, is one of those that echoes and approves of the cause, and has made itself notorious also, if not by Editorials, at least by transferring to its columns those scandalous and offensive articles from hostile papers. But, Sir, do you know the cause that the degraded press of St. John is so rabid against the late House. Had they given them the Railroad from St. John to the Bend, thereby ruining the Province, they would have been lauded to the skies, and all their political sins washed away. But because they have refused their assent to such a suicidal act, they are designated as a worthless and degraded set of beings. The Gleaner has caught up these sentiments, and its columns have been thrown open to every worthless and unprincipled correspondent who has an itching for public writing, some of whom it is said belongs to your own sanctum, others the personal enemies of the members of the County.

Your correspondent Punch taxes them all as unfit for the next House, and hopes the country will reject them when the time comes, but Punch and his admirers may be surprised to find that the county takes quite a different view of their acts and deeds, and it may be gall and wormwood to him to find them triumphantly returned. Let Punch show where the members have been guilty of gross and extravagant expenditure. Does he not know that the majority rules in all cases, and if the members of the County had it not in their power to check improper grants and other expenses? Let him show, I say, that they voted for these extravagances, and then he may have some right to accuse them. I don't stand here as the advocate of the House of Assembly, as I know well that there are many old stagers there that ought to be sent to the right about, and should never put a foot inside that House again.

Let any reasonable and unprejudiced mind look over the proceedings of the last Session, and he will there find more work and labour done than in any year during the last ten. But new hands at the political bellows, with all sorts of hollow professions, will bring back the good old days of Sir Archibald Campbell. What a pity those solons are not in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe, to assist them there also by their wise sayings and doings. It is idle to talk or to write against such persons. They are guided entirely by feeling, and not for the good of the country. If the present men have not done their duty, the country in a short time will decide the question.

One of the members is set down as being too rich, and therefore he must necessarily swamp the rest. Let Mr Punch give himself the trouble of looking through the Journals, and there he will find his answer. The gentleman alluded to knows better than to tamper with the rights of any individual member.

The second is a non-resident, and his only recommendation money for Roads and Bridges. Now, Sir, is this right or honorable to find fault with the absent, because he sets forth in his card that he assisted to do a great deal for those vast public services throughout the country. Had he known he would be thus attacked, I am sure he could have enumerated scores of other beneficial acts done by him and others for the good of the country.

The third has not sufficient energy, and he is a fence man. Look at his acts and see if Punch is correct. I am sure he is not, but had he attended to some private communication sent to him from certain parts of the Province, he would be thought of in a different manner. But because he was honest and en-

deavored to do right, he is now to be shelved along with the rest. Wait!

But as for the fourth, poor man, Punch is puzzled to know how he got a seat in the Legislature. Now, Sir, of all men in the community he and his assistant are the very men who ought to know best about it, and in all probability will have the satisfaction again of knowing a little more of him. Did he not speak on several occasions when necessary? Did he give a silent vote on the St. John and Shediac Railroad bill? On the Orange Bill, and on many other questions affecting the interest of the country. But no, Punch's motives are to depreciate and run down the present members, so that the new aspirants may have no trouble in slipping into their shoes. I predict, however, that the shadow of some of them will never be reflected in the Legislature of the Province.

You may think Mr Editor that by advocating and giving the use of your columns to the rabid effusions of those interested persons who are endeavoring to run down the political existence of the present members, that you will extend and make your paper more popular. I will tell you what you are doing, you are dividing and splitting up the community into sections, part of which cannot be friendly to you if you persist in your present course. I have to apologise for the length of this communication, and remain, Mr Editor,

Your obedient servant,

Miramichi, 6th June, 1850.

THE GAME OF CHESS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

With every desire to be brief, I fear I shall not be able to compose the disturbed spirit of *Astrea*, or satisfy his inquisitive mind, without writing at some length. True it is he desires chiefly to know the utility or beneficial effect of this noble Game on the mind, but it must be obvious that mere assertion will not satisfy this stickler. I shall not, however, stop to tell him of its antiquity—that it was first played at the Trojan war, 3000 years ago, invented to make the Grecians forget, for the time, their wives and children, or to make them contented with their condition, and to emulate each other in military tactics—or whether the game was not known 1000 years before that eventful action, by the Chinese. Certain it is that it has been played for ages past, in all civilized countries, by Generals, Emperors, Kings, Bishops and Philosophers. It is essentially a military game; and it is well known that Napoleon used to fight his battles over again on the Chess-board, so that he might observe where his blunders lay, and provide against them in future. That prince of philosophers, Franklin, who was not one likely to be carried away by general opinion, without reflection, has very aptly styled it the Game of Life. In most works on mental discipline, the learning and practice of this game is strongly recommended, and classed with the science of Mathematics, as a means of fixing the attention upon one object, and of getting into the habit of steady and protracted application.

For the particulars and laws of the game, and the disposition of the pieces, I find it more convenient to refer *Astrea* to works on the subject, than to trouble you with the particulars I have written—fearing that they may not be interesting to your readers generally. That it is a game full of interest seems to be admitted by the observation of your correspondent, and the effect he describes it as having had upon himself; but then he fears it is interest without profit—in his own words “an idle amusement, a trifling occupation, not calculated to produce any beneficial effect upon the mind, and as having a tendency to lead to gambling. In these views I entirely differ with your correspondent, as I shall presently explain. The object of the game is to put the king of your opponent in such a situation that if it were any other piece it would be subject to be taken. When you have done this you say “check,” and unless the king can be put in a place of safety, or you can take the attacking piece, or another piece can be safely intercepted to stay the impending blow, it is “checkmate,” and the game is at an end. Your plan of attack must be gradually formed from the commencement of the game, and this, together with the variety and value of the pieces, and their diversity of movement, seems to me to be that which makes up the interest of the game, and causes such a variety of feeling. It is nothing more or less than a trial of skill—play and not chance. Hence it is that one who loses a game at chess, feels it more keenly than if it were a game at chance. No excuse is admitted but the impetuosity, want of knowledge, carelessness, oversight, or mistakes of the party defeated. The object of each player is therefore twofold—to form his own plan and conduct well, and to discover and thwart the intentions of