

his adversary. But says *Astrea* this game tends to encourage the practice of gambling. If by gambling he means what I understand by it, a low, mean, disreputable practice of gaining money at play, and thereby keeping up a morbid excitement, nothing can be more untrue. Who ever heard of any person playing at Chess for anything but the honor of victory, and therefore it is frequently called a clerical game. Indeed, it is on every account fitted for the purpose of gambling. It frequently takes hours to get through a game, which must be done by skill; it would soon be discovered that one was more skilful than the other, who would therefore soon desist, as having no chance with his opponent. For gambling short games of chance are usually selected, as having more excitement in them, and as being more suitable to win or lose money more rapidly. It shows little knowledge of the game indeed to make such a charge against Chess. But again asks *Astrea*, is it beneficial to our mental operations? Without doubt it is. It must keep the mind, or certain faculties of the mind, actively employed during the game. Whether these be the perceptive or reflective faculties might perhaps be disputed. My own opinion is that both are called into exercise; and we know that it is by exercise, that the mind as well as the body is strengthened. It accustoms the mind to habits of severe thought and close attention—to foresight, prudence, and caution, and consequently to coolness and deliberation in action—to perseverance and patience, and shows the importance of looking well at every step we take. These are not confined to the chequer board, but they cling to us and follow us into our counting houses and respective places of business, and when we are engaged in the affairs of life, and in my judgment are quite as instructive to us "as a little amicable and social conversation upon any topic that the imagination thought fit to usher in."

I fear to encroach further on your time and patience, and therefore subscribe myself

A PAWN.

Chatham, May 24, 1850.

#### ELECTION MATTERS.

Dear Mr. Pierce,

If I could only hold a pen as well as I can hold a plough, or write these lines as straight as I can run a furrow, I guess I could make a pretty considerable sort of a swell in the columns of your paper. But alas! at writing I make but a poor fist. This being a rainy sort of a day, however, and but little doing out of doors, I will try to string together two or three common-place thoughts that have struck me as being of some importance at this time.

You Editors appear to be in a great sweat about the conduct, or rather *mis* conduct of our late Representatives. Your motto seems to be "Lay on Macduff;" nor shall I be guilty of misquoting the Avon Bard, by adding "Hold, Enough." Nevertheless, I would have you bear in mind, Mr. Pierce, that in the red list of ex-members there are many "good men and true." Even of our Northumberland four there are surely some "who have not defiled their garments;" and one who, after having served us some quarter of a century, has come out from among them with clean hands, and a "conscience uncantered."

While the short season of shaking hands, equality, familiarity, smiling, and sung for votes, is still in the future, it is no doubt right and proper, that the constituency of the Province, through the medium of its Press, should become as intimate as possible with all the *outs and ins*—the sins and shortcomings—of their late Representatives; in order that they may become the better qualified to make choice of their successors. Nevertheless, it strikes me that it would be more becoming in our public journalists—who necessarily lead the tone of public manners—to confine their strictures, more to their *measures*, than to the late members themselves. Abuse, to say the least of it, is but a cowardly cudgel wherewith to tick even an enemy; and grumbling, God knows, of all trades, pays the worst. Let the Press then tell us plainly, and in homely, but genteel words, what is really wrong, and how we are to right it. Enlighten us touching the *measures* of our late members, and leave us to judge by these measures of the men themselves, and the motives by which they were actuated.

Having presumed, in my jack-blunt sort of way, to say this much to Editors, I will now address myself to Farmers, and to Farmers friends. Come, I'll begin with a song—

"Now's the day, and now's the hour,  
See the front of battle lower."

Farmers, Freeholders—We must now begin to act, not talk. We have talked too much, but done nothing. Bear in mind that

"Words are but wind,  
'Tis deeds that prove the man."

For the performance of deeds, that shall rebound to our honor as men, and the comfort, happiness and prosperity of those who are soon to take our places, I tell you, this is the time. Thus impressed with the importance and responsibility of our present position, I am induced to submit the subsequent portion of this letter to your most serious consideration.

You are aware that of late the cry throughout this Province, about farming, and the necessity of affording the Farmer every facility, has been loud and long. Farming has been pronounced the panacea for all our difficulties, and yet what has been done for the Farmer, or to advance Farming? What has been done! Pshaw! Let any man consult the tariff list of the last Session of our Assembly, and he will find that nearly every article the Farmer produces, and should sell, is admitted duty free; while on nearly every article he has to purchase, an exorbitant duty has been

imposed! Do you wonder at this? I don't. Who framed and consummated that tariff list? Lawyers and Merchants. What are Lawyers? The most intelligent, best educated, and for any thing I know to the contrary, the most honest and upright, but certainly the least to be trusted, as Legislators, of any class of men in these Provinces. Out of whom do they squeeze their wealth? Out of Farmers? No, no! The less farming for them (I mean as Lawyers) the better. Do you wonder then that Lawyers seldom legislate with a clean eye to the Farmers? It would be marvellous strange if they did, I must not, however, be misunderstood. I am not opposed to Lawyers being Legislators. On the contrary, it is more than probable that at the coming Election I shall vote for one of the old, and one new Lawyer; the former having proved himself an able and useful member, and the latter, though young, the Farmers' friend, talented, and himself half a farmer. It is to their numerical, not their professional influence that I object. Thirty or forty foxes are no more necessary to capture one henroost than are so many Lawyers to legislate for a Province, possessing so little wealth, and so small a population as New Brunswick.

Why, then, was our late Legislature constituted of so many Lawyers, so many Merchants, and so few Farmers? I will tell you. Just because the Farmers of this Province, and particularly of this County, have been a parcel of *unorganized, easily gulled* blockheads, of whom I have hitherto been the chief, in that respect. Providence has placed in our hands the power to send of the four candidates, at least two. But no! That part of our duty, called *thinking and acting for ourselves*, we have quiescently assigned hitherto to others; and we are now reaping, alas! the bitter, but natural fruits of our folly.

No matter. *Nil desperandum* says the Latin adage. If it be *folly* to fret at what is past, and cannot be helped, it is *wisdom* to make our dear bought experience discharge the debt incurred by that folly.

The safest guarantee for any man's public actions, take my word for it, is his *self interest*. Give me, then, the FARMER to represent the Farming Interest; the MERCHANT to represent the Mercantile Interests, and the LAWYER to aid these, in making, amending, and unravelling the Laws.

Farmers, then, should lose no time in adopting measures best calculated to promote their interests at the approaching Election. *Union and unanimity* are necessary above all things. All petty jealousies about *locality* should be discarded. Never mind his locality, find your man, or men, and stick to them, "uncaring consequences."

Convene at once a public meeting of Farmers in each district. Let each local meeting appoint, say three delegates, in whom they have confidence. Each district having done this, let these delegates, or as many as please to co-operate, with the rest, meet together, and name the man they deem the best qualified to *advance and advocate* the agricultural and other interests of the Province. In this way, the will of the whole fraternity of farmers would be ascertained, and their united influence would tell upon the contest, with fifty fold effect.

If this, or some plan like this, be not adopted, or in other words, if Farmers will do nothing but grumble and growl like so many bears, why, like so many bears let them be content to lie down and suck their paws for sustenance.

As Farmers but seldom meet together, as Farmers, they should avail themselves of the meetings just suggested, to discuss those many political topics, in which they, in common with others, are deeply interested. For instance, the number of our Legislators, and the cost of Legislation, are subjects upon which they should reflect deeply, and upon which they should speak out manfully. New Brunswick is represented by about forty members, at a cost of 15s. per diem, each; and twenty Legislative Councillors, at a cost which it is impossible to ascertain. These 60 men sit in Session annually from 8 to 10 weeks. The expense to the Province (no wonder we are poor), including, of course, printing, postage, stationary, clerk's wages, Reporting, &c. &c., is said to exceed seven, some say ten thousand pounds annually, or forty thousand dollars! to which add the travelling expenses of the Executive Councillors, at £10 each per trip.

Liverpool, in England, containing a larger amount of population than all this Province, and with perhaps ten times its wealth, is represented in the British Parliament by two members, who sit out each session without any pecuniary pay or emolument. Now a great deal has been said about the necessity of economising the public money; and it has been the favorite game of a certain class of our Representatives, whenever the subject has been broached, to assume—chameleon-like—their most attractive colours, in order to gull the public into the belief that they are performing marvellous exploits in the war against Salaries. But have these would-be-deemed economists ever said one word about lessening their own number, or reducing or abolishing their own pay? Ah, no! Officials, no matter how hard wrought—no matter how great their responsibility and official outlay; officials must be ground down to the dust, and why? just that these catch-penny patriots may stand high with their constituents at the coming election. Ten thousand pounds are squandered yearly in speeches, numerically expensive by reason of their longevity, i. e., if the subject be of so grave a nature as a grant of from £5 to £10 to some old loyalist or his widow, (cost of debate often double the sum debated for); but charmingly short and senseless, if the State of the Province, or some such

unimportant topic be on the carpet. Verily, Mr Robby Burns, thou didst say truly

"If self the wavering balance shake,  
It's rarely right adjusted."

The Legislative business of this Province, in my humble opinion, might be transacted at a trifle of the present cost, and far more wisely, expeditiously, and efficaciously by only one member from each County, whose reward should be that of his own conscience, and the gratitude and affection of his constituency.

Hoping that in these few hints to Farmers I have not said anything to offend, and with many apologies for the length of this rough epistle, I am, Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A FARMER.

Miramichi, June 3, 1850.

#### CAPTAIN WATSON'S DEFENCE.

RESTIGOUCHE, June 5, 1850.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—In looking over your paper of the 3rd instant, I find a notice of "the inhuman conduct of Captain J. F. Watson," which statement I can contradict with a feeling heart. On my coming into the Port of Dalhousie, I was caught in a heavy gale of wind off the lower end of Heron Island, the ship having all sail set at the time, and short handed, and the crew being busy taking in sail. I was below at the time, when I heard the look out cry "a boat right ahead." I went on deck, supposing it might have been a fishing boat. I told the Pilot to be careful, and not run her down. I then helped the crew to take some sail off the ship, and 5 out of 12 of the men were aloft. When we ascertained that the boat was upside down, the gale was at its height, and the ship going at the rate of 9 or 10 miles an hour, and only 5 men and 2 boys on deck, including myself and officers. I ran forward to get the foresail off the ship, trying to stop her way. By the time I had the foresail off the ship was about half a mile to leeward of the boat, when I ordered the helm to be put down, not knowing whether the vessel was in danger or not when she came to the wind, and being light in ballast she lay over on her broad side, and was drifting to leeward. It blowing very hard, one of the officers let go the foretopsail halyards, thinking the mast would go over the side. I was obliged to keep the vessel before the wind, being in such a state of confusion. Landsmen do not know the state of a ship or ship-master when placed in such a position. When I came too at the ballast ground, it was blowing hard, and the sea running very high.

I, as well as my officers, expected every moment to see the vessel drag her anchors and go on shore. The vessels moored opposite the town were dragging their anchors, and coming in contact. I used my best exertions to save my fellow creatures. Had it been of any use to send the boat, I would have done so without hesitation; but no boat could have reached them.

I have further to contradict the statement of the Pilot's giving orders respecting the helm, as no person on board heard him give orders during the occurrence. I, being a stranger in the port, did not know whether I was doing right or wrong for the safety of the ship, being in a narrow channel. I remained on deck until 9 or 10 o'clock that night, after coming too at the ballast ground, and hoisting an ensign, expecting a boat would come off, as my boats would not have been able to reach the shore. I was however obliged to go to rest, being very much fatigued, having been so long detained in the Gulf by ice, always enveloped in thick weather. Landsmen do not know the hardships and trials a ship-master has to encounter, and I feel very much hurt to think, that after doing my utmost, I should be accused of such an inhuman deed.

I have further to state that it did not moderate until 7 o'clock next morning. When I left the ship it was three hours before I reached the shore, and when I landed I received a great deal of abuse, before I had time to explain the circumstance. It is not true that the boat was within 12 feet of the ship. I would have thought it a very cruel thing indeed, had they been so near, not to have thrown them a rope's end. The nearest the ship was to them was from half a mile to a quarter. I will feel grateful if you publish this in your next paper.

I remain, your obedient servant,

J. F. WATSON, Barque Alcyone.

The undersigned, being my officers, witness the same.

THOMAS LOGAN, Mate.

ROBERT LOGAN, 2nd Mate.

#### SECOND EDITION.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1850.

#### YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

PICTOU.—The Chronicle complains of the business prospects of this place, which is attributed to the stagnation of trade in the manufacturing districts of the United States, which has lessened the consumption of coal.

ST. JOHN.—The Committee of the Colonial Association has issued a most admirable Report for the guidance of the Constituency of the County. It is said that the Protectionists have adopted it with one or two unimportant alterations. We hope some good will be effected thereby.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States.—By private letters from Washington we learn that the Senators and Representatives from Maine are decidedly opposed to reciprocity with New Brunswick and the Lower Colonies, unless "wood and lum-

ber of all kinds" are excluded; and they contend for this exclusion on the ground that our small stumpage dues on Timber would render it impossible for Maine to compete with us in the American lumber market. It will be observed that in the reciprocity bill with Canada, the products of the fisheries are not included. If the products of the forests and fisheries are excluded, we see no occasion for any further commercial negotiation with the United States—especially as it is modestly asked that New Brunswick should concede the free navigation of the St. John; the abolition of so much of the fishery convention of 1818 as excludes American fishermen from fishing within three miles of the land; a repeal of the export duty of one shilling per ton on American timber floated down the St. John; and a repeal of the laws which prevent aliens holding real estate in the Province.

Foreign Vessels.—During the week, Foreign ships of various countries have been dropping into our harbour, for the purpose of taking timber and deals to Great Britain, which they are doing at a low figure, not so much with the prospect, we learn, of making anything by the freight home, as paying their expenses back to the other side of the Atlantic, after bringing out a freight to the United States.

We learn, in conversation with an intelligent mercantile gentleman just arrived from England, that a month ago there was not a single Colonial built vessel for sale in Liverpool docks—that among the latest sales, a New Brunswick built ship (not of the first class) was sold to a native Spanish merchant, who had her immediately iron kneed, &c., preparatory to her receiving a Spanish register, and sailing under the Spanish flag.

Numbers of foreigners from various countries connected with navigation are now in England, making contracts for ships of various sizes and tonnage, and at no prior period has ship building been so brisk, or so many contracts for vessels entered into.

We also understand, that owing to money being plenty, and the duty having been taken off bricks, house building will be carried on more extensively than for many years past throughout Great Britain. We may therefore look forward to an increased demand for our timber and deals, and more remunerating prices for those staple exports of the Province.

The Londonderry Iron Mines.—We learn that Wednesday last, a party of workmen from the United States passed through this city, on their way to Londonderry, N. S., there to commence the erection of furnaces for smelting iron ore. These workmen are in the employ of C. D. Archibald, Esq., of London, who came out as passenger in the steamship Asia, and proceeds at once to his extensive iron mines at Londonderry, there to commence the smelting and manufacture of bar iron on an extensive scale.—*St. John Courier*.

UNITED STATES.—It appears that the United States are likely to be involved in serious difficulties with Spain, in consequence of the late abortive invasion of Cuba. Mr Clayton, Secretary of State, has issued such instructions, that the American Consul at Havana, Mr Campbell, has claimed from the Captain General of Cuba, Count de Alcoy, that no prisoners, except those captured in the act of invasion, shall suffer punishment. Mr Campbell has made a direct demand that the 105 persons taken up by a Spanish sloop of war, on the neutral island of Contoy, shall be given up. The demand has not yet been complied with. It is reported that two vessels, reinforcements for General Lopez which were commissioned to land at different points of the island are still at sea. Their fate is still unknown. It is said that in the event of these vessels being captured by the Spanish, our squadron is instructed to demand them of the Spanish commander, and if they are not given up to seize them by force.

TORONTO, June 4.—The Legislative Assembly were engaged till a late hour last night discussing resolutions for an address to the Queen and English Parliament to pass an act making the Legislative Council elective by people divided into thirty electoral districts—also praying them to give the Canadian Parliament power to call a Convention, to frame a Constitution for the Canadas, to render it illegal for the Crown of England to veto any act of Canadian Legislature, except upon the address of both houses of parliament.

RICHMOND.—A Correspondent at this place says:—"Free Trade has made a commencement here in the arrival of the Norwegian ship Triton, from London, for a cargo of lumber for some port in Britain. Several of the same country, a few Prussians, and a Yankee or two are expected, to take cargoes to Britain. Farewell to British shipping, unless they can procure men at twenty shillings a month, and find their own stock of fish and Rye bread."

#### LOCAL.

LAUNCH.—A fine ship of the burthen of 850 tons, was launched, from the building yard of Joseph Russell, Esq., Beaubair's Island, on Wednesday, the 25th ult. She was named the *Omega*; and we learn she is the last vessel which that gentleman intends building here.

The Yankee Blade, a large American bark, arrived here on Sunday, to load with timber or deals for a Port in Britain; and we understand several others are expected.

#### Marriages.

At Newcastle, on Saturday, 1st June, by the Rev. W. Henderson, A. M., Mr MURDOCK MCKINNON, to Miss CHARLOTTE DUFF, both of the Parish of Blackville.