

thing must be done to revive our drooping trade, and develop our natural resources, thereby affording employment to our population, who are leaving us by hundreds. Not a vessel leaves our shore, but bears away numbers of our young men, the bone and muscle of the country, to enrich and strengthen a foreign nation.

A communication appeared in the Gleaner a week or two ago, over the signature of "C," in which the writer shows that the late House of Assembly was not more extravagant than its predecessors. That is, it was not worse than the one which existed in 1841, and since that time. You will remember that the celebrated "Reign of Harmony" was at its zenith at that period. Therefore the late House was as bad as the one which not only spent £120,000 of surplus Revenue, but run the Province in debt to the tune of some thousands, and gave Sir John Harvey £1,500 to purchase a service of plate. An excellent certificate of character, truly! So you see the best their friends can say of them is, that they have not been "more extravagant" than their predecessors. Wonder if, when "C" goes canvassing, he will have no better argument than that. Can he say that they brought forward any measure calculated to promote Railways? to encourage Agriculture and the Fisheries? Can he say that they made any attempt to reduce the enormous salaries of the officials about Fredericton, except the miserable *feint* which came off at the fag-end of the last Session? And even then care was taken that the Attorney General's salary was left untouched. No, he cannot. Not one solitary measure did they bring forward to relieve the Province, or to develop any of the many natural resources with which the Province abounds. If I am not mistaken, Mr "C" wrote and spoke of the Legislature of that period in anything but a complimentary manner.

Fellow Countrymen, will you again return your old members? They have proved themselves unable to cope with the exigencies of the times, and are therefore not the men to be entrusted with your suffrages at this crisis. I will state my reasons very briefly for making this assertion:—

In the first place one is too wealthy and too powerful, and the influence which his wealth gives him must be dangerous when brought to bear upon the humbler members of the Assembly. If this were not a sufficient reason for withholding your suffrages from him, I would remind you of the fact that he is, or was until very recently, a member of the present Government. That, in my opinion, would be sufficient to condemn any man who may appear before the constituency of the Province at this time.

Another is a non-resident, living in that hot-bed of corruption, Fredericton, having a very extensive practice at the bar, and therefore unable to devote that time and attention to his legislative duties which the wants and necessities of the country require. But read his card (published in the Gleaner) in which he asks you for a renewal of your suffrages. Why, the man appears to think that the salvation of the country depends upon the state of its Roads and Bridges, and refers you to their present condition as an evidence of the care and attention he has bestowed upon your interests while he has been in the Legislature. I think he will find that there are other questions to be decided besides mere local matters. The man who, having served nearly twenty years in the parliament of his country, can point to nothing else than the state of the Roads and Bridges as the fruits of his labor, is unworthy to be any longer entrusted with your confidence.

The third does not possess sufficient energy and determination to enable him to combat the wily and unprincipled men who have ruined the Province, and brought us to our present deplorable state. Besides, he is a fence man; he is afraid of offending either party, and is looked upon as quite harmless by all. Did he possess a larger share of the organ of combativeness, I doubt not he would make an able and efficient member. But with all his faults, it must be confessed that he is one of the few men who have maintained their principles in spite of the allurements of office. Had he displayed more firmness, he would ere this have taken a high position among the politicians of the Province.

And as for the fourth, poor man! I cannot for the soul of me conceive how he managed to obtain a seat in the Legislature. He possesses no qualifications which can enable him to do more than give a *silent vote!* and I think you will agree with me that we have arrived at a crisis when something more is wanting. If he has the welfare of the Province at heart, and wishes to serve his country, he will stay at home!

No doubt you will have an abundance of materials from which to choose; but will it be of the right sort? Do not pledge yourselves too hastily. Listen not to professions and promises, which will be as "thick as leaves at Vallambosa." Remember that

"Words are like leaves, and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found."

Do not choose men of the old school of politics—men of the "glorious old flag" school. Seek for men whose opinions and principles have kept pace with the times. Bear in mind that it is the man, and not his place of residence, that you are to look to. Fellow countrymen, if you be true to yourselves, and exercise the trust reposed in you in an enlightened and constitutional manner, not suffering yourselves to be dictated to by any man, however great or powerful he may be, you will have nothing to fear.

I am, Fellow Countrymen, your friend and servant,

PUNCH.

Chatham, May 30, 1850.

[The above communication was sent to the office some time ago, but was withdrawn by the writer for the purpose of making some alterations.]—ED. GLEANER.

COUNTY OF KENT.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—Pursuant to "Notice," the Supervisor of Great Roads is to attend at the Great Buctouche Bridge on Monday the 10th proximo, "for the purpose of letting at auction, to the lowest bidder, a contract for the taking down 750 feet of the said bridge, on the south side of the channel, and rebuilding the same solid, with logs and gravel," &c. &c. Now Sir, will you permit me through the columns of your valuable little journal, to ask Mr Chandler why it is that the money granted for the repairs of the bridge at Buctouche, is to be expended on the South side of the channel, whilst the portion of the bridge on the North side, and over the channel itself is in a much worse state now, than the South side would be, without any repairs, two years hence? By replacing three or four defective stringers, the South side would be perfectly safe for at least a year to come; but not so with the North side and channel portions, which are now so completely rotten, both in covering and stringers, as to be exceedingly unsafe, even for foot passengers, should they happen to step to either side of the middle planking.

I invite the attention of the travelling public to the matter, and think it would be advisable for the Supervisor to examine the thing a little more closely before the day of sale. He surely cannot be so short-sighted, as not to see the propriety of making some alteration in his present plan. The last money granted for the repairs of the Buctouche Bridge was expended in useless tinkering, which did not benefit the public as many shillings as it cost pounds. However, as that is past, let it go; but, should the present course be persisted in, I will probably, in another letter, endeavour to analyze the motives, and perhaps add a few other little matters by way of embellishment. Meantime, I remain, Mr Editor, your obedient servant,

WATCH.

Kent, May 30, 1850.

FROM "THE STRANGER'S" ESSAY.

Where now that orb that burn'd o'er Europe's plains—

O'er battle-fields to bind and shatter chains;
Who from an obscure isle, of low degree
Changed Nature's laws, confronted Destiny!
Flung on the stage 'mid Revolution's din,
A distracted people plunged in vice and sin,
In a blood-stained land by angry tempests torn,
Subdues the whirlwind and directs the storm.
That child of Fortune, at whose word alone
King's ceased to reign and beggars mounted thrones;
Who 'mid sceptres shiver'd and ancient thrones cast down
Made kings and nations tremble at his frown;
Till high o'er earth at length he sees beneath
Kings, sceptres, thrones and world lay at his feet!

What now remains of all his trophies, torn
From captive kings and conquer'd nations
Lorn?

What now remains of his long boasted fame,
But a fleeting shadow and an empty name?
The flames of Moscow's burning domes on high

In spires of flame illum'd the eastern sky,
Europe beheld, and trembled at the shock,
And hur'd the chief to St. Helena's rock!
And a narrow, lonely grave received the all
Of the man for whom all Europe was too small—

A heap of mouldering clay but now remains
Of him who bound and broke the world's
Strong chains!

Where now that Carthaginian and his band
Who from the Alps rushed o'er *Italia's* land;
Who for five years upon her sunny soil
In FREEDOM'S sacred cause did bleed and toil?

Who from the hands of vanquish'd knights and kings
Subdued, stripp'd off three measures of gold rings;

With whom declin'd, expir'd his country's fame—
Rome lost a conqueror, but Carthage lost a name!

Or where that Persian and his countless host,
Who sail'd along the Ionian's sacred coast?
That slave of passion and insanity
Who cast his chains into the raging sea,
O'er the dark waves of the broad Hellespont
With blind presumption and impious vaunt,
As if his fetters or his chains could bind
The raging sea alike with frail mankind:
Or where the relics of a Cæsar's fame,
Or the boasted conquests of a Tamerlane?—
Where now that chief immortalized in fame,
Who wrapp'd the Eastern world in a flame—
Who conquering went, from Greece to India's shore,
And mourn'd and wept when there remained
No more

To conquer, or in slavery's chains to bind,—
A blood-stain'd wretch sent forth to scourge
Mankind!

Where now that sacred "City of the Sun,"
The fairest that high heaven e'er shone upon,
Or even the spot where classic Carnack rose,
Or Moscow's domes and spires, mid Russian
snows?

Old Greece and Rome have vanished from the scene—

Troy, too, has faded down Time's meandering stream;
And Babylon with its "Gates of Brass" did fall

Beneath "the Hand" that moved along the wall!
In the onward march of time, Fate on them cast

One withering glance of ruin, as she past,
Upon their gilded spires and stately domes—
Their brazen walls, their palaces and tombs:
As the new-fallen snow melts from the verdant rays

Of the noon-day sun's bright and effulgent blaze;
Or the blushing leaves of the opening rosebud, torn

By the howling blasts of the raging winter's storm—

So from the piercing glance of Destiny
Shrank their fancied immortality.

Buctouche, May 24, 1850.

ELECTION MATTERS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—During your career as a public journalist, you have at all times evinced a desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the Province, by the promulgation and advocacy of sound political views and measures. Should you deem the following few and feeble remarks worthy of a place in your journal, I shall feel much gratification.

The present period may be justly considered the most momentous that has occurred in the history of the Province, either in its political or commercial bearings. And it is admitted by all that the present state of things cannot continue—that great changes are at hand. An important duty therefore devolves on the conductors of the public press, for with them, in an eminent degree, lies the power of enlightening the public mind, and directing it in the right path.

A general election will shortly occur, when every one possessing the Elective Franchise will have the power of exercising an important influence on the future destiny of our country. That power cannot possibly be judiciously exercised by a people who are uninstructed in the nature of the policy which it will be necessary for our future government and legislature to pursue for our benefit. How much good, then, may be done by a proper explanation of those measures which should be adopted by the men into whose hands the government of the country will then devolve.

Living in a remote section of the Province, where our means of obtaining political information are scant indeed, I, with many of my fellow settlers, feel the disadvantage we labor under in this respect; and how much we might be benefited by the publication in your valuable paper of a series of short articles, touching the cause of the present prostrate condition of our commerce, the means to be adopted for its renovation and extension, and the development of our abundant, but now dormant resources.

A proper knowledge of these subjects is absolutely necessary to enable the people to form a correct judgment of what course of action they will require of their Representatives in the next Legislature.

It is quite obvious that a different line of policy will be required of our government for the time to come. The feeble and vacillating course pursued by former governments, must give place to wise and vigorous measures. Our difficulties are pressing on us at all points, and if we know the means by which they can be alleviated, it is our duty to pursue the course which will lead to the attainment of that object. It is requisite that the people should be awakened to a sense of their rights, and know the necessity of sending men to the House of Assembly who will faithfully represent their wants and wishes. We require something more of our members now than the mere attention to local matters, and obtaining a share of the public revenue for Roads and Bridges. The condition of the Province requires that we should demand from the Home Government the sole and untrammelled control of our own affairs; and it is incumbent on us to send none but men fully prepared to do so.

Trusting that you, Mr Editor, or some of your talented correspondents, will, during the period that is to elapse between this and the approaching election, give us such information on these subjects, as will in some measure prepare us for the proper discharge of those rights we will then be called upon to exercise, that we may be no longer as men groping in the dark, or as automatons in the hands of others.

I remain, Mr Editor, your obedient servant,
A BACKWOODSMAN.
Gloucester, May 8, 1850.

United States News.

Halifax Sun, May 27.

The Niagara arrived on Saturday morning at a little after seven o'clock, and steamed off again in gallant style for Liverpool at a few minutes after nine.

There is a war in Washington. All the skirmishing has resulted, at last, in a regular stand up fight. Masks are thrown off, and a battle has commenced. Mr Clay has thrown down the gauntlet, and it is to be seen whether or not the President will pick it up.

We are glad, says Bennett's Herald, that a crisis has come in its plain and unmistakable shape. We shall soon know where the country is.

The interference with the Cuban expedition is well understood by the great practical statesmen of the day. Mr Clay has given his opinion of that movement, so has Mr Yulee, and Mr Webster, and others. They all vary in their mode of treating the subject, but all their thoughts point one way.

We must be prepared for a sudden and important change at Washington.

LATER.—The excitement here is truly fearful.—The speech of Mr Clay is regarded as a declaration of war upon the administration.

The hostility of the Cabinet to Mr Clay is extremely bitter. One or the other must go down. The whigs are consulting with Mr Clay to night, and the President is busy with his cabinet.

It is anticipated that the Republic will attack Mr Clay to-morrow; but his friends are resolved to fight it out manfully, and the whole scene is very exciting.

EXPEDITION TO CUBA.—Within the last few days information has been received by the Government rendering it most probable that a military organisation has been set on foot, within the United States, formidable both in numbers and from the characters of those engaged in it, for the purpose of attacking the island of Cuba, and revolutionizing the Government.

We are informed that the President of the United States, immediately upon the receipt of the information, directed orders to be issued for the vessels of the home squadron, as also for the steamer Saranac and the frigate Congress to proceed forthwith to the island of Cuba, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any military force, organized in the United States, was proceeding from thence to Cuba for the purpose of invading that island and revolutionizing the Government, with express instructions in the event of such being the case to prevent the landing of any such force, or the carrying out of any expedition or enterprise; and with further instructions, in the case of a landing having been effected, to prevent the landing of a reinforcement, or of any arms or provisions under the American flag, intended for such expedition or enterprise. In obedience to these orders, we understand that the steamer Saranac proceeded to sea on Saturday last, and will probably reach Cuba by Thursday next, where it is expected she will meet the Germantown, the Albany and the Vixen.

It is confidently expected that the whole naval force ordered thither will reach the island of Cuba before any considerable number of those engaged in the enterprise can possibly have effected a landing, and thus prevent a violation of our treaty obligations of amity and peace with Spain.

St. John Morning News May 29.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.—Letters have been received in town from Washington of a late date; and it now appears that all the New England Members are determined to oppose any reciprocity bill that does not include the Lower Provinces. The greatest friends of the Canadian bill are the Western members, who want the navigation of the St Lawrence. The slavery question is far from being settled. It is our opinion that there will be no reciprocity bill in any shape, passed this Session of Congress.

From the Boston Bee.

SAD CASE OF POISONING.—Five persons, all members of one family, were poisoned a short time since, in the township of Walpole, in Canada, by eating wild parsnips. The father had dug them on Friday, and the family had kept them till the Sabbath, boiled them with meat, &c., and but them in soup. Joseph Allen, his wife, one young man eighteen years old, a boy 12, and a girl 5 years old, were all poisoned to death by eating of the dinner. Four of them died in less than four hours, but the little girl survived till Monday evening. Mr Allen and wife were members of the primitive Methodist Society, and he had been an accredited local preacher up to the time of his death.

THE SMALL POX.—We are informed that our city is, comparatively speaking, overflowing with this horrid disease. Do the city authorities know this?

From the Boston Gazette.

CHAIN FACTORY STOPPED OPERATIONS.—Chain Factory on F. Street has stopped making large chains for the present, and by this stoppage, thirty or forty men have been thrown out of employment. The proprietors, Cotton, Hill & Co., have been obliged to adopt this course on account of the low tariff now in operation. The English manufacture heavy chains and send them here for sale at a lower price than American workmen can afford to make them.

Nearly half of the six hundred iron furnaces in Pennsylvania are said to have been stopped, together with 100 forges.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

ENERGY AND ENTERPRISE.—There are at this time no less than eighteen ocean steamships—contracted for and on the ways—or receiving their machinery, at this Port. Setting down their average value at \$275,000, we find that there is here invested, or is in process of investment, an aggregate capital of \$4,950,000, equal to nearly five millions of dollars.

Only one hundred and twelve steamboats were blown up on the western waters during the year 1849—THAT'S ALL.—Boston Pilot. Six steamers now ply regularly between New York and Chagres.