

is to have a remedy. We'll have the sparrow hawks,' he added.

'We will said the Queen; and an extensive order for sparrow hawks was immediately issued.

In the meantime the twittering colony in the crystal palace were not unconscious of what was taking place at its Buckingham neighbor, and had a couple of messengers of their own flying between the 'two houses,' bearing hourly intelligence of the consultations held for turning them out of office.—Thus when Lord John Russell was with her Majesty, a clever sharp-eared young sparrow, alighted on the sill of the window outside, and overheard the whole of the conversation. As soon as the Premier departed, Master Sparrow, was back again, and gliding in through one of the ventilators, was soon telling the whole story to a council of veteran twitterers assembled in one of the highest branches. The council was presided over by a grey headed old sparrow, the Nestor of the many flocks that flitted about the Crystal Palace.

When the young sparrow had told all that Lord John had said, 'Pshaw?' cried the President of the Council.

'Net us; and we forsooth are fools enough to go into the nets, while we have plenty of room to avoid them—Lord John has seen his best days. Unless they can get a wiser counsellor than that, we'll bother Prince Albert and his brother commissioners, and break up their boasted exhibition,' and all these sparrows laughed and twittered, and provoked the Commissioners, who happened to be underneath, and who cried out with more vehemence than ever, 'Hang these sparrows!' Another messenger sparrow flew in amongst the feathered council.—The Bishop of London has just left her Majesty, and is going to eject us by Canon Law.'

A provokingly mirthful outburst of twitterings followed the announcement.

'The Bishop of London has enough to do to mind his own business,' said the veteran sparrow.

'Let him first get some strange birds out of his own diocese, and then come to disturb us. But he had better not throw stones at us—our's is not the only palace made of glass. I think we need not make ourselves uneasy, but go on building our nests.'

'We needn't,' cried all the sparrows from all the branches, 'we'll stay where we are.'

'The Duke is sent for,' exclaimed another messenger sparrow, making his appearance, and with some sign of trepidation.

'The Duke!' repeated they; but there was no banter in their twitter now.

But the President of the Sparrows' Council still put a bold face on the matter, and said in a boastful tone, 'The Duke would find he had not a Napoleon to deal with this time; nevertheless the sparrows were noticed not to go on as busily with their nest-building as before, when a fourth messenger flew in, and said he had just overheard the Duke suggest 'a sparrow hawk.'

'Then I'm off,' exclaimed the veteran President of the Council, popping out through a ventilator. 'That horrid old Duke—I was afraid he would hit upon an expedient.'

Communications.

CHATHAM, May 15, 1851.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—As your columns are always open to canvass the actions of men in office, I will, with your permission, express what I have reason to think is the opinion of a majority of the inhabitants of this County, respecting the conduct of their Members. I mean not to go into a detail of their "sayings and doings," but merely to show what they would, and what they would not do; and I shall also, I trust, without reserve, exercise that freedom of thought and expression to which, when not carried beyond the bounds of prudence, every British subject has a right. If any of our Members think they are wronged, then, perhaps, they may condescend to explain their motives for any and every of their actions during the past Session. As I wish to bring them separately before the notice of the public, I shall commence with one who, I think, is deserving of a *little more attention*, in one respect, than any of the rest.

When a man is returned to represent a County, it may be supposed that he has the good wishes of a majority of the inhabitants, and is considered by them as a person in whom they may with safety rest their dearest privileges; and when that man will so far degrade himself in the opinion of his constituents, as to sell himself to any particular party, especially when that party is known to act in opposition to the wishes of the people, then that man has not the respect for his country that a representative of the people ought to have. A man may be both humble and poor, still that is no reason why he should barter his privileges as a member of the Assembly. If he cannot discharge the duties of that office independently, why take it at all. If a man offers himself as a candidate for the "suffrages of the people," with the intention of serving merely his own interests, what could be expected of him but the most abject conduct. But how are his constituents to know but that his professions are sincere? How are they to read his thoughts? In some men even this might be practicable; but others (whether so by nature, or dint of continual practice, it is impossible to tell), will, with all imaginable complacency, tell you one thing and think another, and all the while stare you out of countenance. It has

also been the practice (and at the late election more than any former one), to make promises which are never intended to be fulfilled. Now, Sir, when a man is returned on the understanding that he will advocate those promises, is he not in duty bound to do so? and is it not to serve his own particular interests that he offers himself "to advocate the people's rights," when he refuses to redeem those promises. It is said they are only *political promises*; *white lies*, perhaps. But what can be more black; what can be more foul; what can remove a man further from his true dignity, than to deceive his country. And the blackest of deceit to his country it is when he takes such steps for his own *temporary welfare*. It may, perhaps, be pardonable in a man to deceive an individual—and few will allow even that; but when the country is concerned—when the inhabitants have been roused from their lethargy, and are looking to their representatives for something more than promises, then, I say, deception becomes worse than criminal; and although it may not be punishable by the laws of the land, there is not an unprejudiced man, who has one spark of honor in his breast, but would resent such conduct with scorn and contempt.

The public perfectly understand how far Mr Williston's conduct during the last election and session, has been in keeping with the above remarks. As yet I have made no *direct* allusion to him, but shall not content myself with letting him slip through my fingers yet awhile.

How many of his promises to his constituents did Mr Williston redeem? How many of his proposed measures did he advocate? Did he endeavor to bring about "a complete revision of, and reduction in, the salaries of public officers?" Did he redeem his promise with regard to the great "cash payment" question? How many of his pledges and promises respecting Trade, the Fisheries, Agriculture, Ship-building, Responsible Government, and Municipal Corporations, did he stand out boldly and advocate? In which of the measures brought in affecting the existence of the Government, did he oppose that body? and did he not know that the wishes of his constituents were in opposition to their actions? Did he not promise to act as an independent man; and has he done so? Have not all his actions been subservient to those in power? for which, no doubt, he has had a reward in some shape. To answer these questions to the satisfaction of the constituency, Mr Williston may consider himself called upon; and it is for them to judge whether he will do it in such a manner as they have a right to expect. But can he, and have any regard for the truth, answer them satisfactorily? Who will not say, No! He may make the attempt, but I much doubt if he will succeed. The constituency of this county have been taught a lesson they will not soon forget—a lesson they will ever have reason to remember; and who but Mr Williston has been their teacher?

I have endeavored, Sir, in the foregoing, to confine myself to Mr Williston's public career? It is not my intention to call him to an account for his private actions, for to do so I have no right. You will also say, perhaps, that in some instances I have been too severe; but you will please to recollect that my subject is no ordinary man—for a shaft that would enter deep into the breast of another, would fly by without making the least impression upon him, and such being the case, I have endeavored to govern myself accordingly.

The next of our Members I intend to bring before the notice of the public, is John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq. He also deserves a little attention. Do not imagine, Sir, that I intend to censure Mr J.'s public conduct; far from it. I merely intend to give him what I think the *whole* of his constituents consider his due.

Having no "ledger influence" to assist him in his election, we may infer that Mr Johnson was returned on his political principles alone, and those being in accordance with the wishes of the people, by them he was chosen to represent them in the General Assembly. In this respect some will affirm that he stands on the same footing as Mr Williston, and in this respect only. But in my opinion Mr Williston is more the "child of accident" than the man of the people. But does Mr Johnson resemble him in any other respect? Did he break promises made to his constituents previous to his election; and if so, in what respect? There can be little doubt, had he been so inclined, but he might have had opportunities advantageous to himself to do so. In canvassing through the several parishes of this county, Mr J. expressed, in terms not to be mistaken, the measures he intended to advocate; and in this respect he has kept his promises. The people knew his principles perfectly before returning him, and has not his conduct in the House been in exact keeping with those principles? Has he erred in one instance? Some there are who may not agree with Mr Johnson in his politics, but those are now greatly in the minority, in this county at least. Others affirm that he has too high an opinion of his own abilities, but this, at a fault at all, is a pardonable one, and so long as it is not a political failing, I shall not further meddle with it. From Mr Johnson's first attempt at legislation, a great deal is to be hoped, and it will be to his own advantage to pursue a straightforward course, as the position he now enjoys in the respect of his constituency, would be but poorly compensated for by any office which he could receive as a gift from the present government.

I shall here conclude with the two new members, and shall resume the subject in a week or two with the *old ones*. Personal feeling has not influenced me in writing this,

as I have no acquaintance with either of the new members, nor do I bear ill-will towards them. But Mr Williston's conduct has rendered him liable to censure, which I had hoped some abler pen would ere now have awarded. Could any possible hold be taken of Mr Johnson's public acts, I would not be the last to take advantage of it.

Fearing that I have trespassed too far on your kindness, I shall for the present conclude. Meanwhile I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

TERRY.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—The enclosed I received from Thos. M. DeBlois, Esq., who is now in San Francisco, with a request that I would send it to you for insertion in the Gleaner. Mr D. writes anything but favorably of the trade of that country; coal selling for \$5 per ton, and freight \$15, which is a fair sample of the state of trade generally. Not very encouraging for speculators.

Bathurst, May 6, 1851.

SAN ANTONIO, February 12, 1851.

Dear Sir,—In keeping with my promise, I now sit down to give you in writing my opinion of this country as regards its agricultural merits. I am satisfied from observation and some experience, that the land so situated as to be made use of for farming purposes, and particularly around the Bay of San Francisco, is of the very best description, and yields abundant crops of potatoes, wheat, corn, barley, and other grains, also vegetables of all kinds, without manure, and almost without cultivation. Watermelons, for instance, will grow to an immense size, with no preparation but digging up the ground, and putting in the seed. Last season the whole face of the country here was covered with oats, wild oats of course, but such a crop as many of our New Brunswick farmers would be glad to get off their cultivated lands. Those oats, if threshed, would weigh about thirty pounds to the bushel. We mowed last year fifty tons of them for fodder.

Fruit of various kinds grows here in the highest perfection; such as apples, pears, grapes, and some others. There is not, of course, a great quantity, because they are not cultivated, but there is sufficient raised on this Ranch to prove the capability of the soil to produce them to a greater extent. The climate is unexceptionable.

These are my views of the country; if they can be of any service to you or your friends, I shall be much pleased. What information I can gather leads me to believe that these long Ranches will soon be thrown open to settlers. Perhaps not all, but with few exceptions, another land will be like the sign on an empty house—*For Sale or To Let*; and I look forward to see, at no very distant period, plenty of good neighbours around me, living luxuriously upon the bountiful productions of the soil.

Hoping soon to have a visit from you, I remain very sincerely your friend.

E. C. P.

T. M. DeBlois, Esq.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MAY 26, 1851.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Assembly of this Island are at issue with the Colonial Secretary, who it appears, has refused his assent to the Act passed by the Legislature, authorising the issue of £20,000 in small Notes, redeemable in specie. The House unanimously passed the following spirited Resolutions on the subject, and appointed a committee of three of its members to bring in a Treasury Note Bill, and draft an address to Earl Grey:—

"Resolved, That from a despatch from her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies under date of the tenth of March, 1851, and transmitted to this House by his Excellency the Governor, the Assembly have learned with much surprise and regret, that Her Majesty has been advised to disallow an Act of the Legislature of the last session entitled an Act to authorise the issue of Treasury notes, and for the reduction of the public debt of the colony.—*With surprise*, because such act, involving matters of a nature purely local its disallowance is altogether inconsistent with those principles of noninterference in the local affairs of colonies having representative institutions, by which, for many years past, the Imperial government has professed itself to be guided; and because the act in question is not in itself, when fully considered, open to the objections urged against it in his Lordship's despatch;—*With regret*—because the disallowance of this act seems to indicate on the part of Her Majesty's Government, a desire to withhold from this Colony, a power assisting and extending its financial operations by means of a well regulated paper currency, which all the other North American Provinces exercise without control, and because the sudden withdrawal from circulation of the notes issued under this act, nine months after the act has gone into operation, and without the slightest notice, will necessarily tend to injure the public credit of the Colony, to derange its monetary affairs, to check public improvements, and greatly to

postpone the final liquidation of the public debt.

"Resolved, That with the view, as well of averting the evils here anticipated, as of respectfully but firmly vindicating our right to be permitted to manage our own affairs, where those affairs involve no subject for Imperial interference, another Act, similar in its provisions to the Act which has been disallowed, but with a suspending clause, be immediately passed; and that an humble address be presented to the Secretary for the Colonies, praying that it may be allowed.

"Resolved, That this House hereby pledges itself, fully to indemnify from loss, all parties who may hold or receive in payment, any note issued under the authority of the said Act."

The Halifax Recorder says that Mr Gisborne's mission to Newfoundland has been eminently successful. The great Cape Race and Cape Ray Telegraph Line is to be immediately commenced under his auspices, the Government and Assembly having *unanimously* seconded and assisted his views in this matter.

The House of Assembly of Newfoundland has passed an address to the Governor, requesting him to appropriate £600 sterling, to the importation of seed potatoes from one of the neighboring colonies to be distributed among the poor settlers.

NOVASCOTIA.—Last week we gave the Resolutions passed at the great Rail Road meeting which was held at Halifax on the 14th instant. The Novascotian concludes a notice of the proceedings as follows:

"After the foregoing resolutions had been put and passed, without a single dissenting voice, W. B. Fairbanks, Esq., took the Chair, and immense enthusiasm was manifested in passing votes of thanks to the Mayor and others, including the Hon. Delegate. The meeting was the most numerous, respectable, and unanimous ever held in Halifax. His Worship the Mayor deserves very great credit for the manner in which it was conducted throughout. It will, as we have before observed, produce a prodigious effect in British North America. It is gratifying in the extreme to be thus assured that, for one day at least, minor points of difference could be forgotten by those who never acted previously in concert. We trust that, for all time to come, the same patriotic spirit may be manifested in this city, and throughout the country.—People are beginning to find out that differences of opinion in the political arena must not be dragged before the altars of public improvement, where, alas! so many hopeful schemes have been sacrificed to local prejudices and petty quarrels. Judging from the spirit which at present animates our citizens we are surely not far from the 'Good time Coming.'"

THE DELEGATION TO CANADA.—It gives us much satisfaction to be enabled to copy the following piece of news from the Novascotian of Wednesday last, and we hope the information it contains may prove correct. Every day's experience convinces us that some measure should be adopted by the respective British Colonies on this Continent, to promote a more harmonious action between their respective Legislatures than has hitherto existed, which must have the effect of promoting their future welfare. Our interests are the same, and we trust that measures of permanent utility will result from the conference of the delegates:

"We learn that the Convention at the seat of Government in Canada will be held forthwith, and also that New Brunswick sends her Delegates to the Convention conjointly with this Province. The vast importance of the topics to be discussed by the leading minds of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, cannot be overrated. The progress of events is to us quite satisfactory. The herculean labors and consummate ability of the Hon. Provincial Delegate have already unlocked the door of the Imperial Treasury, but much remains to be accomplished.

"The people of the North American Colonies generally, must now be convinced of the sincerity of the British Government to aid and assist them by every reasonable means. The 'magnificent boon' which has, upon certain conditions, been placed at their disposal, will have the effect of arousing their dormant energies, and waking them up to a sense of their truest and best interests. These certain conditions may at first sight alarm the timid or peradventure induce the courageous to pause; but the former can be reassured by candidly and carefully weighing the advantages, certain to accrue from accepting the proffered boon, and a calm survey of the ground over which they have to pass, in order to secure permanent prosperity to these provinces, cannot fail to encourage the latter to press forward in the path of Progression.

"Besides the Railroad, there are other and scarcely less weighty matters, with which the convention will be called upon to deal. It would be premature at the present time to canvass these; they are in good hands; and we confidently look forward to the time when every existing difficulty in colonial affairs shall have been satisfactorily adjusted."