

when enquiring into the practical utility of Phrenology, because, here you see, persons who desire to exercise arbitrary power over the thoughts and actions of their fellows, have a mode prescribed by which man may be brought literally under their thumb.

There are abundant proofs that the brain is the organ of mind, which neither occasion requires, nor does time permit me to advance. But there is one which to my mind would alone be sufficient, because while it condemns the doctrines of materialists, it accounts for the aberrations of mind in lunacy and mental derangements. If, for instance, we say of a lunatic, or fever patient, that in the one case the brain is diseased, and in the other that there is an over-excited or inflammatory action of the organ, we at once account for the effects, without impugning the soul's immortality or immateriality. But if we really say that the mind and not the organ is diseased, we deny both of these, because anything which is liable to disease is material, and subject to death and annihilation.

The next point Phrenology contends for is, "that upon the size, form, and healthy state of the brain, depends the power, direction, and correct manifestation of mind."

Now, that this is true, we have either to admit or we must deny the reasonings of analogy, the authority of the old writers, sculptors and artists, whose evidence was given before Phrenology was hinted at, and therefore given with unbiassed minds, with no aim but that of copying nature correctly; and we should also have to deny the evidence of our senses, and resist the facts as witnessed in our daily intercourse with man.

Take, first, the argument that the size, form and healthy state of a muscle or nerve, are indicative of strength, power of motion, or sensation,—that the olfactory nerve, in the nostrils of a hound, are larger than the five nerves of sense in man, and where much surface is required in small space, nature has made provision for the requisite. Thus the human lung consists of a number of air cells in layers, and the human brain presents a greater surface from its present formation, than it could possibly do in the same space, if it were one circular ball, or mass of matter, without convolutions.

[To be continued.]

Mr Pierce,

Having seen a communication in your last Gleaner, making some remarks on the Report of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, dated at Napan, and bearing the initials of my name, and hearing that I have been accused as the writer of it: but I have neither directly nor indirectly had any hand in it, nor did I know anything of the same until I saw it in the Gleaner.

Your inserting this in your next publication will greatly oblige,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE JOHNSTONE.

Napan, February 6, 1851.

#### OUR MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—You have complained more than once that in this northern section of New Brunswick, Mechanics' Institutes are, from some cause or other, unpopular. You have at the same time expressed your profound regret that they are so; and, impelled, it would seem, by this feeling, you have both written and published—you have said and done a great deal, with a view to render them as you said, "more popular among us than they appear to be." You have essayed to raise them from their low place in the public estimation and to set them in a position to be more attractive to the public eye. If, Sir, we may judge by the desponding tone in which you continue to speak on the subject, your labors and your zeal have not been crowned with that measure of success, which should follow in the wake of honest intentions and earnest endeavours in a good cause. With respect, Sir, to the various reasons that might be given for this untoward feeling, gradually increasing, you have not been explicit, but, have rather left them to be inferred or discovered by the sagacity of your numerous readers.

Permit us, Sir, at this time to unite our heart-felt regrets with your own, and to give expression to our sentiments. Entertaining towards Mechanics' Institutes in general, the most friendly feeling, we wish for them a career of uninterrupted prosperity. We therefore lament sincerely the present unhappy state of those among us. We grieve that institutions designed by their originators for a beneficent purpose, to afford, in the language of Lord Elgin, "innocent enjoyment and recreation," should be reduced to this sad extremity, requiring the continued appliances of the Press, aided by powerful stimulants, to sustain their feeble existence. At the same time, sir, we feel ourselves bound to declare—indeed it is self-evident—that any institution to be popular must be grounded in the affections of the people. Wherever placed, in whose hands soever, may be its control and management, it must be popular, shed a wholesome influence upon, it must diffuse its benefits among the people at large. Especially should this be the case, when it has been built up, or, in any way aided by the united contributions of the public.

Now, with respect, sir, to the two Mechanics' Institutes in this county, in which we are more immediately interested, the fact is unquestionable, that, with regard to any influence they may exert—any benefits supposed to flow from them they are altogether local—circumscribed. Or, if they do exert a

beneficial influence beyond the immediate neighborhoods in which they are respectively situated, it is so small that it is imperceptible—inappreciable. Whence it follows that, if they would be lasting, if they would be prosperous, to say nothing about popularity, they must possess inherent energy—they must possess within themselves the elements of vitality—they must possess, so to speak, hearts and lungs of their own—they must prepare, vivify and circulate their own blood. When these conditions are fulfilled then may we look for their growth, strength, longevity, and prosperity.

From the Report of the Committee of the Newcastle and Douglastown Mechanics' Institution, published in the Gleaner of January 6, it appears, sir, that they recommend a renewed application to be made to the House of Assembly the present Session, for a grant of money, "a liberal sum," to enable the Society to procure Books, Apparatus, and Natural Curiosities for the use of the Members. We are sorry, sir, to see such a move now being made; we hereby enter our protest against such a move, because we believe that it will have a direct, an unavoidable tendency to render the Institute still more unpopular; indeed, to cover it with a weight of odium requiring the work of years for its removal. We should not shut our eyes to the fact, that that part of the body politic called the people, is, at this age of the Province, a very different creature from what it was in bygone days. It is now a thinking, a sentient being; its moral sense is comparatively enlightened; its perceptions of right and propriety are acute and searching, scanning the acts of Legislators and of others with a tact and penetration unknown to former epochs of this Province. The Printer is abroad, carrying with him light and knowledge into every town and hamlet. Whence, it has come to pass that the people, the masses, are now as shrewd and discerning as they were formerly credulous and simple; and, to practise their arts and impositions on them, the Legislator and politician will henceforth find it a work of comparative difficulty.

Now, sir, will this people, can this people fail to perceive the injustice, the oppression, the cruelty of this contemplated measure? A measure which goes to take away from the hard earnings of the poor man, to make their small pittance still smaller! and for what? Forsooth to buy books of Philosophy and Curiosities!—and for whom? Why, sir, for persons who, as compared with themselves, are in possession of ample fortunes—men who count their money by thousands. These people think, and we cannot help agreeing with them, that the most odious form which mendacity can assume, is that of a stout, able-bodied man, standing at the corner of the street, and soliciting charity from all the passers by— from men, women and children too, vastly poorer than himself. Such a beggar would in all probability, receive, if not the imprecations, at least the rebuke of the various contributors. But, most assuredly would they remonstrate when they should come to discover that all their small sums, bestowed upon him out of their hard earnings, were gone to procure for the mendicant, "minerals," and "rocks," and "fossils," and a "museum," for his own "innocent enjoyment and recreation."

And it might perhaps help to swell their "note of remonstrance" to reflect, that in their own distant and wretched habitations, or in many of them such a thing as a book was not to be found.—Not so much as a Primer or a Spelling-book, or the Blessed Gospel; that, far away in the wilderness, their little ones had never seen the face of either missionary or schoolmaster.

But, Sir, it is unnecessary to pursue this subject further. It is unnecessary to go into an elaborate argument to prove that two and two makes four. Our only object, our only anxiety has been to present to your view a true, though faint emblem, a true, though homely picture of those persons, who are about to assume again the attitude of petitioners and to re-enact the scenes of last winter. Entertaining at that time the same sentiments on this subject that we do now, we felt it to be our duty, after mature consideration, to resist with our feeble energies, the granting of money by the House for any such purpose. In support of a good cause and with right and justice on our side, as we thought, we entered into the contest, and we had the satisfaction and pleasure to see victory at length declare in our favor; and this too, notwithstanding "the members of the County did all in their power—all that human agency could do, to obtain the grant."

What new agency the Petitioners propose to invoke now, at their second trial, we are not informed. But, of whatever kind that agency may be, whether human, or of "spirits from the vasty deep"—or whatever it may be we will not despair. If need be, we will enter a second time into the contest, rather than see an institution affording "innocent enjoyment and recreation," and promising to be ultimately useful, sacrificed with its permanent and truest interests, to the cupidity of a few book-fanciers and curiosity-hunters. We will not stand with folded arms and see it immolated—the victim of popular odium—envy, distrust, jealousy—the victim, in short, of all their bad passions which are called up when justice is abused, or the moral sense of the community, outraged. As we have said before, sir, the moral sense of the public is enlightened and it is with us. The popular feeling is with us, whatever may be said to the contrary, and, if this proposed measure, so odious in its inception and progress, shall ever be consummated, it will be the sure prelude of the decline and downfall of the Insti-

tute—a catastrophe, which none can deprecate more than ourselves.

Having now brought these remarks to a close, we will avail ourselves of the present occasion, sir, to tender our acknowledgements to those Members of the House, who labored last winter, so zealously and successfully, to carry out our views—the reflex of the popular will. To the hon. Member from Charlotte, Mr Thomson, in particular, are our acknowledgements due, who presented our Remonstrance and enforced its arguments on the House. We tender this tribute the more cheerfully because those gentlemen were pleased to speak so flatteringly of our humble efforts—the indirect means, they said, of "saving the Province twelve hundred pounds!" Reposing entire confidence in those gentlemen, and fully persuaded, that, aided by others, they will continue to advocate our cause, we take our leave of the subject for the present, with a strong hope at the same time, that the Petitioners, after mature reflection, will abandon their suicidal project.

THE THIRTY-FIVE.

Newcastle, Feb. 7, 1851.

### Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1851.

#### EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer Canada arrived at Halifax at noon, on Monday last, in a passage of sixteen days. The papers by her are to the 18th January, but they furnish but little news of interest. There is no intelligence of the missing steamer Atlantic.

The Pope has appointed another Roman Catholic Bishop for Ireland. He has also intimated his intention of sanctioning the Queen's Colleges in that Island.

We give a few extracts from the papers thus obtained, which will be found under the proper head.

#### OUR ELECTION.

It will be seen by the Sheriff's notice in another column, that our Election is to take place on Friday the 21st instant. The day of nomination is Monday, the 17th instant.

Our readers will also find immediately under this notice, Mr. Street's Address to the Freeholders. We have no fault to find with this document. He promises to perform all that the most sanguine reformer could wish. But can he perform them, clogged as he is with some of the most noted obstructives in the Province, is a question which must obtrude itself on the mind of every person who has observed how the affairs of the Province have been conducted for the last fifteen years.

We cannot disabuse our minds of the idea that Mr. Street has committed a sad error in attaching himself to the present Government. The people have no confidence in them. They never will be persuaded that Mr. Street will receive assistance from them to carry out any reform, or to introduce measures to improve the condition of the people, or advance the general interests of the Province. We think he would have appeared more acceptably before his constituents, and stood a much better chance of success with the Assembly, had he refused to attach himself to the fragment that remained of the present Government, and promised to form a new one, independent of the existing Cabinet, out of the known Liberal members in the Legislature.

We think he will be returned without opposition—but have little prospect that he will be able to maintain his stand, without he shakes off some of his present co-adjutors. It is needless for us to mention names—Mr. Street knows as well as we do, the parties alluded to: he has heard their names mentioned "many a time and oft," in his late canvass, and will hear them again when he appears before his constituents.

County York.—It would appear by the following article copied from the Fredericton Reporter, that the Grand Jury in that quarter have been doing good service to the inhabitants of York, by investigating the County Accounts, and telling the Justices in Session that they have sadly mismanaged the public business. There is scarcely a county in the Province where the same evil does not exist. The Government must see the necessity of not only a change in the Magistracy of the Province, but also an alteration in the mode of making the appointments:—

"We publish in this day's paper the closing presentment (No 7) of the late Grand Jury, to the Court of General Sessions of this County. The document emanating as it did from a Body of Men, having the great principle of the New Law under consideration, and duly sworn to give it effect, was nevertheless dis-

cussed by the Court—or at least a great part of that antique Body, in a most unfriendly manner, and was also made the subject of a good deal of out door conversation. We have since learned from several Members of the Hon. Bench of Magistrates, and from one in particular, of many years standing, who led the discussion, that their worships—that is the majority—acted in extreme ignorance of the duties of the Grand Jury under the new Act, and also in palpable ignorance of the statistical facts as furnished by the Jury to the Court for their consideration. One wise Saw delivered by one of their Honors was, that the Grand Jury had no right to pass any derogatory remarks upon the City Council, 'because such a course was personal' Aye, swear a Grand Juror to the faithful discharge of his office, and then, should he happen to present to the Court, any public abuses which exist in the County—tell him that he is personal! This is a relic of the old intolerance which filled prisons and inquisitions in the dark ages; but thank God, even its echo is now scarcely to be heard within the bounds of civilized society. Notwithstanding the Court passed an order for the publication of the presentments of the Grand Jury, we understand that they have postponed it, under plea of expense; it is therefore lucky that this heavy item is likely to be saved, in consequence of our happening to have been one of the rabid gentlemen, who dared to come before their honors with such a formidable array of faces, figures and firmness.

UNITED STATES.—The following account of a most disastrous accident was telegraphed to St John on Wednesday last:

"Awful Steamboat Disaster. One Hundred Lives Lost.—The steamer John Adams, from New Orleans for Cincinnati, sunk yesterday at three o'clock, near Granville, in five minutes afterwards her cabin floated from her hull and broke in two, all the deck passengers numbering over one hundred were lost. All so the deck hands and firemen, excepting two. None of the Cabin passengers were lost, though they did not succeed in saving any baggage."

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The Head Quarters says: 'It is rumored, and we have good reason for believing the rumour to be correct, that Charles Connell, Esq., is appointed a member of the Legislative Council. Should this be true, Charles Perley, Esq., will be entitled to his seat as a representative for Carleton.'

NOVASCOTIA.—The Sun says that the leader of the Government came down on Friday to the Assembly, with a most satisfactory report of the Financial affairs of the Province, shewing an increase over the last year's revenue of £15,000.

THE RAILWAY.—We are glad to perceive that there is at length some cheering intelligence from the other side of the water, in reference to the important undertaking—the Railway. It appears that letters of a very encouraging nature have been received from the hon. Mr Howe, and the Novascotian contains an account of a very interesting meeting which was held at Southampton, to take into consideration the subject of the Railway, and Emigration to the Colonies, at which Mr Howe made a lengthy speech. We give below an Editorial from the Novascotian of Wednesday:—

"In intensity of interest every other matter yields to Mr Howe's Mission to England. We are glad to announce that, from advices received by the Hon. Provincial Secretary, everything connected with his errand is getting along swimmingly. From all we can learn the British Government favors the Halifax and Quebec line in preference to any other. This will by no means interfere with the construction of the line to Portland.—Everything seems to favor the success of the mission. The circumstances of the times are developing themselves most auspiciously. Relief from the burthens which pauperism and crime are levying, in an alarmingly increasing ratio on the people of England, is peremptorily demanded. This can only be accomplished by a system of Emigration and Colonization. The British Cabinet is waking up to this fact, and Mr Howe is now engaged in the arduous duty of making John Bull sensible of it also.

On the other hand British statesmen are becoming alive to the fact viz. that the United States of America are fast rivalling the British Islands, and that the former are even now bidding for the commerce of the world. Apparently astonished at the progress already achieved by the Great Western Republic, in its brief but brilliant history, the leading men of the mother country view with alarm the gigantic project of the Americans to connect the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by means of a Railroad. The United States with their extended territory—having a foot on each of these great oceans—with out stretched arms to grasp the remainder of the continent and all the islands adjacent—and now aiming at the monopoly of the trade of the Eastern seas—may justly be considered the great rival of England. The prize is a noble one the possession of which at once elevates the victor to the position of dictator to the world. It will be fortunate for the peo-