

Communications.

THE NORTH.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—I hope you will give the following communication a place in your valuable journal. I would not have troubled you with anything from my humble pen, did it not appear to me that we are approaching a crisis never before equalled in our history, which will and must affect our Province from its centre to its extremity,—a crisis, perhaps, without a parallel in the world's history. It is no five-penny matter that our Legislators will shortly be called together to consider, but a matter of the most vital importance, involving the interests of thousands, and perhaps millions of human beings,—a matter, in fact, that will not only affect the people of the present day, but influence the destiny of millions yet unborn; and it becomes our Statesmen seriously to consider what they are about, for it requires their most solemn and serious attention. The eyes of their constituents are upon them; their neighbors are watching them; the statesmen of Britain and its millions of souls are waiting in anxiety their action; and when they are placed in the balance let them show to the world that they are not found wanting. Let no party feuds disunite them. Let no selfish motives influence their actions. Let no paltry distinction mar a scheme, that children yet unborn may curse them for. Our Province and the neighboring colonies are hanging in the balance, and it now remains with ourselves to rise to a mighty nation, or be talked of as things of the past.

Many of our friends and writers in the South, believe themselves to live in the modern Athens—the seat of learning and wisdom, and think every person and writer fools that agree not with them, and affect to sneer at the north for their presumption in imagining they can ever become anything, and quote foolish extracts to support their views, the writers of which know no more about the north than themselves, but are merely given to bolster up their rotten ideas, and then, without further inquiry, they are set down for facts, which tends to lead people at a distance astray, whereas if "the true state of the case" was known, it could not fail to place these characters in a most contemptible position. And, sir, to me there are some strange and mysterious arguments used to carry out their views. They say the north is a barren wilderness, therefore it would be madness to take the rail road there. Now the first reason, that of barrenness, is an unblushing falsehood, which any writer should be ashamed of, for the amount of ignorance, and the wilful suppression of truth, which it contains, particularly after the appearance of Professor Johnston's able Report, abounding as it does with valuable and statistical information,—a Report which every man in the Province should read and make himself thoroughly acquainted with. Does the Professor call the north barren, and incapable of improvement? Yet he falls far short of the quality of the soil, from the fact that the very best land in the north is yet in a wilderness state, which can be proved at any time, by any scientific person; land which will surpass anything the south can produce (their marshes not excepted), and we dare them to the test. That it is a wilderness we acknowledge; there are millions of acres of wilderness land in the north, which can easily be seen by looking into the Crown Land Office at Fredericton; and the question is simply this, What are the people of the south going to do with it? Will they act like the dog in the manger, or will they induce simple emigrants to come to the Province, and cast them adrift in a portion of the country which they deem unfit for anything, and which they look upon as the extreme part of the frigid zone: so that they cannot write or speak about the north without spattering their brains against the north pole, or fancying themselves within the grasp of the polar star, making themselves believe that the north is at such an immense distance from them, and of so sterile and inhospitable a nature, as to be unfit for any thing but to become a second Siberia. This is the only conclusion which can be drawn from the tone of the southern press; but they wish to make it appear that the south is a clear and fertile country, and possessing a great trade. Now, would some of these parties be kind enough to explain to us how they mean to act: do they intend to allow emigrants to come into the country, and if so, do they mean to cause the present inhabitants of their clear country to give place to strangers, for they surely would not be so inhuman as to place them in a part of the Province, the bare mention of which seems to congeal the blood in their veins, and where these unfortunates would be in danger of being buried by avalanches of snow, unless there happened to be some convicted felons among them; but they certainly would not place honest, civil christians, in a land they dread so much themselves. Or do they mean to say that the trade on the river St. John is of such vital importance, or that there is any probability of its becoming such, that it would be any inducement to force a railway up that river, clear of the lumbering business, which at best is but a fluctuating, treacherous and uncertain trade, and becoming more and more so every year. If so, it is really flattering, and there is some hope for us yet; it in a great measure dispels those terrifying things which often emanate from our southern friends, in the shape of taxes, &c. Or is it purely selfish and mercenary motives which actuate them, caring nothing for the general welfare of the Pro-

vince, so long as private ends and private purposes can be served. If so, we shall feel under deep obligations to those wisecrackers who figure in the southern prints, to come out plainly and tell us what they want, and what advantage it will be to the Province generally to adopt their route, and we shall endeavor to govern ourselves accordingly. We often hear such strange arguments and terrible anticipations, that we are quite prepared to hear anything.

We are told the British Government has a right to build a portion of the Main Trunk Line. I confess, notwithstanding all the elaborate wisdom and writings that have been poured forth, the arguments are simple and childish in the extreme. What right have we to call on the British people to contribute towards our public works and the improvement of our country? Just as much as they would have to call on us to contribute something towards paving the streets of London, and with better grace, it being the capital of our nation.

But, say they, it will benefit the British Government by relieving them of their surplus population. Suppose that correct—yet still it would be no reason why they would do so—the argument would be just as sound on the side of a person going into a shop to purchase an article the price of which was ten shillings, but he found out that by paying this price it would benefit the shop-keeper. No, says he, you ought to let me have it for five, and if you do not I will go to your neighbor and pay twenty for it. I am a Colonist, but like to see fair play and common sense. I would like to know what would be thought by every Colonist if any of our members was foolish enough to bring in a bill to tax us for some public improvement in Britain. I think, Sir, I cannot convey my ideas better respecting this subject than by the following allegory:

A large family may be compared to a nation,—the king and queen standing in the same relation as the father and mother of the family. Now suppose John—one of the older branches—was working for himself, and that he comes to his father and says, Father, I want you to lend me some money. You know I have got a large and rugged farm. I have taken a notice to improve it, and I think I will show you it will be of mutual benefit to us; but I am short of cash. Go on, says the old man, and I shall hear you. So when he has told his story the old man says:—John, I am proud of you. Some of my family have been trying to persuade me that you are a good-for-nothing fellow, that you were a burthen to the family, and the sooner I disowned you the better. You have quite altered my opinion of you. I will lend you as much money as you want to improve your place, and at half the rate of interest you can get from any other person in the world; at the same time, John, I wish you to give me your note of hand to pay the principal and interest when it suits you. I promise you I have every desire to assist you, but I wish to do things in a business-like manner, for you know I have a large and troublesome family, and many of them say they have to work too hard to keep up the homestead. Now if I do not quit giving away their hard earnings to every scamp of the family who can tell a fine story, I shall certainly be ruined beyond redemption. It would be further desirable, John, that I should appoint some trusty person that you and I both have confidence in, to see that the money be laid out in a proper manner, and to the purpose it is wanted for. No, says John, I shall do no such thing; if you lend me the money, lend it, and let me have none of your dictating. You always shove your nose into my affairs just as if you were better acquainted with them than I am myself; so I tell you what, old man, if you don't lend me the money and take my word for principal and interest together, I will just clear out and join a lot of fellows that hate you like poison, who, besides a great deal of small talk they often have about you, meet once a year and hold a great ball, at which they laugh and make all the fun they possibly can of you. Their best bouncers get up and tell how they have whipped and kicked you round like an old sack, and that if they could only get a chance they would do it again and again. Their old women and young girls meet at those balls to enable them to teach all this to the children; and further, let me tell you there are many of them a rade set of fellows: run-aways and outlaws from different families, who have not been marked, and who would just as soon stick a knife into your ribs, or any other that would happen to differ from them, as not; and all but defy any one to call them to account for it. They even work some of their people like cattle, and use them in the most brutal manner, for no other earthly cause than it being their misfortune not to be so handsome as some of themselves. In fact every one of those fellows do pretty much as they think proper—every one having regulations of his own. They often have great disputes, and like to have some quarrels, as might be expected from their being composed as they are of so many different families. Yet notwithstanding all this, if you do not give me everything and anything I ask, and quit dictating to me I will join them, and one day or other I will take the advantage of you, and when you are taking a nap to yourself or engaged in some great work, I will give you a regular thrashing.

Oh John, John, says the old man, how can you talk or act so. You know I cannot help what others say about me; but I am sure you have no cause to complain. I have watched over you from childhood up I have shed all but rivers of blood and hordes of treasures, which the family now groan under,

to maintain a property which I have given to you, and for which I never asked you for a shilling in return, nor do I intend to. I have always guards around your property, and have sent some of my most trusty servants to take a walk through your fields, to see there was nothing wrong, and keep things in their proper places; and when any of your neighbors threatened to break into your fields or impose upon you, I walked out myself and shook my fist at them, and told them plainly if they did not behave themselves and let you alone they would get something from me that they would not like. And notwithstanding the bragging of those folks of what they would do to me, they know better than to take a round or two with me. The squabble I had before with those fellows, you talk of joining is no criterion to judge by. I was then entangled among friends and foes. I scarce knew where or who to strike for fear of striking a friend. It was a kind of a row, and many of those I wished to strike got away from me into bushes, and left me to hunt them out if I could. But, John, don't you be so foolish as to join those fellows, or use any such threats as these to me, thinking to frighten me, for just as sure as you do I will whip both you and them until you will be an example to all future upstarts. They cannot save you. I have whipped better men than the whole pack of you, and the world knows it; for when once fairly roused I strike a blow that is sorely felt; and you all but deserve a back-handed slap in the mouth for your impudence in talking to me so. What do you want that I have not given you? I have told you to regulate your affairs as best suited you—circumstances leaving me merely the honor of sanctioning the thing, which I always did except when you came with some foolish request, or was too ignorant or in too much of a hurry in serving some private purpose to place the matter in a proper form before me. I never asked you out to assist me in my quarrels with my neighbors, if you did not think proper yourself to volunteer your services. I never offered to tax you or ask you to contribute anything towards keeping up the dignity of the homestead which you feel so proud of, and which you often point towards and call home; and notwithstanding all this you grumble and say I am driving a hard bargain with you. When I offer you as much money as you want at a nominal rate of interest, you still fret and say that I should myself go to work for you, notwithstanding I have offered to send you as many men as you want to work on your farm, clear of all expenses, and also some trustworthy persons to see they perform their work. True, some of them are not of the very best of character, but I think, John, they are quite as good as are to be found in the band you were talking of joining. But I see it is myself in person you want to work for you. Well, John, to be plain with you, you are a fool but don't know it. If I go across your property, or ride in any of your coaches, I am willing to pay for it, should it even be for your advantage and protection I take the journey. But to go and work for you I cannot do. If you are so full of "pride and poverty" that you will not take work for nothing because you fancy yourself so very pure, although if the truth was known you have as great scoundrels in your family as I have in mine, but the want of a chance or necessity not compelling them, prevents them being seen in their true colors, that you deserve to want. You further find fault with me because I wish to appoint men in whom I have confidence, although you are at liberty to watch and see that they lay out the money in a proper manner and to the purpose intended. Why, man, I am surprised at your impudent simplicity, to think I would trust so much money in your hands. Do you forget that you were once independent and had a few pounds to the good. Now how did you act: why, you gave a fistful to one and a great present to another, dinners and levees to all kinds of idlers, paying a lazy fellow sometimes great wages for doing little else than picking his finger nails, an employment of very little utility to the family at large, in fact you appeared like a spendthrift, with your showing off and acting the great man before your neighbors. Ah! John, John, you made a great fool of yourself that time. It was dishonest for you to do so, as you knew that the discredit would fall on your family; yet now you go about and complain of your poverty and debt to your neighbors, and think it cruel of them if they do not assist you in the work, and find fault with me for not giving you the money into your own hands, to do with it as you thought fit. Why, man, you would not know what to do with it; it would frighten you; it is more money than you ever had in your life. But if you are honest you need not be afraid of me. You are not the first of the family I lent money to; but did you ever hear of me distressing or suing them. They always put me off with some fair story if they were not able to pay.

Now I ask you, sir, or any reasonable man, what should be done to a son who would act or talk so to a parent. Would you blame the old man if he would turn cross and stubborn with him. No, I think not. I think, Sir, you will agree with me in saying the above is a true picture of the Colonists and Mother Country.

I fear, Sir, I have already trespassed too far on your columns; and in hopes you will allow me, on some future occasion, to review some more of the crack arguments of some of our wise heads, I remain, Sir, yours truly.

A COLONIST.

Restigouche, August 21, 1851.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1851.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

The Annual Ploughing Match and Cattle Show for the County of Gloucester was held at and in the neighborhood of Mr Ferguson's Farm-yard, Bathurst, on Tuesday, the 7th instant, and, considering all things, the attendance was not so good as it ought to have been. The very fine weather was rather injurious than otherwise, the farmers having taken advantage of it to gather in the heavy stock of grain in stook. Still, under the management of the present Committee (principally practical men), it was anticipated that a larger and better Stock would have been on the ground.

The Show of Cows was the most numerous. The Sheep, principally crossed Leicesters, were about the best Stock on the ground. A Sow, shown by Mr Alexander Brown, and one by Mr Mulloy, of Saltash, were greatly admired, and there was also a very superior Ayrshire Bull. There was a great paucity of Ploughmen.

The Judges of the day were Messrs. Chalmers and Fleck, of Belledune, and Matheson, of Bathurst.

The following is a list of the successful competitors:

PLOUGHING—First Prize, Robert Moody.
Second do., Wm. Deacon.
Third do., Jas. Wetherall.

CATTLE SHOW.

Bull, aged, 1st prize, R. Ferguson; 2nd, J. Wetherall.
Bull, two years old, 1st prize, J. Wetherall; 2nd, C. Doucet.
Bull Calf, one prize only, to Robert Ferguson.
Cow, aged, 1st prize, C. Hotchkiss; 2nd, Wm. Mulloy.
Heifer, 2 years old, 1st prize, R. Ferguson; 2nd, Mr Doucet.
Heifer, 1 year old, 1st prize, Dr. Bishop; 2nd, Wm. Mulloy.
Heifer Calf, one prize only to William Mulloy.
Ram, aged, one prize only to William Mulloy.
Ram, yearling, one prize only to Dr. Bishop.
Ram Lamb, 1st prize, Mr Napier; 2nd, Mr Deacon.
Ewe, aged, one prize to Mr Napier.
Ewe Lamb, 1st prize, Mr Napier; 2nd, R. Ferguson.
Sow, 1st prize, Alex. Brown; 2nd, Mr Mulloy.
Spring Sow, one prize to Mr Brown.
Spring Bore, one prize to Mr Mulloy.

The Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee will take place at the office of the Assistant Secretary, on the last Tuesday of this month.

W. NAPIER, Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

The Montreal Herald contains a review of the Trade and Navigation Returns recently laid before the Legislature of that Province. It is gratifying to perceive the marked improvement which has taken place in the trade of Canada, but there is one feature which will not be acceptable to the northern country, it is this—that while the amount of business transacted with the former is decreasing, the trade with the United States is augmenting. We give below an extract:

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports for the year ending 5th Jan., 1851, was £4,245,517, which we find by comparison with the returns of the preceding year was in excess of that period by £1,242,918; and the duties paid in 1850 were £615,645, against £444,547 in 1849. This statement, however, does not exhibit the whole excess of importation in the latter over the former year, as the value of the goods in bonds had increased by £63,989; so that the total excess of importation over 1849 must have been £1,306,907.

We now give a comparative statement of the two years importations of some of those articles whose consumption is generally supposed to indicate the comparative prosperity of the masses of the community, viz.: coffee, sugar, molasses and tea:

	1849.	1850.
Coffee, cwt.	9,232	10,188
Sugar, cwt.	103,689	130,498
Molasses, cwt.	55,712	61,009
Tea, lbs.	3,076,528	3,517,106

A comparison between the imports from various places will also be interesting. The increase between the two years from Great Britain was from £1,669,002 to £2,409,980—£738,078, or nearly 44 per cent; that from the United States was from £1,242,855 to £1,643,715—£398,860, or nearly 32 per cent; while the increase from other foreign countries was from £41,824 to £91,303—£49,479, or 118 per cent. The augmentation under the latter item is doubtless due to the repeal of the navigation laws and consequent admis-