

Communications.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

THE NORTH.

Sir,—There seems at present to be quite a sensation among our southern neighbors, touching the Great or Main Trunk Railway, so called. One cannot take up a newspaper from the south without observing that it is almost wholly occupied with this subject, and each appearing to have cut out a course of its own. Now, if we are to take those papers as an index of public opinion in the South, surely our country is in a deplorable state.

Passing by the Morning News, with all its gabbling and nonsense and taking up some other papers that seem to join hands with him in deforming and deprecating the northern section of the Province, and imagining that every good quality is concentrated in the south; and if they really believe what they write they are more to be pitied than laughed at.—If they know better, and write to mislead, and serve selfish views, then they are knaves. But really, Sir, there is so much trash and nonsense argued and published now a days that a person is lost in wonder; and this north, (I suppose I must say our misfortune to live in it) comes in for a goodly share. I would have taken it for granted that the people and writers of the South knew no more about us than they have shown, which appears to be as much as they do of the Exiles of Siberia. Were it not that I saw in the Gleaner of the 18th instant two extracts from southern papers, one from the Saint John Observer and the other from the Fredericton Reporter, where they tell us all but in plain language that they will take the line where they please. Had it not been for that I would have set them down in their ignorance not to have known better. But when their want of modesty prompts them to trumpet forth to the world their own praises, and tell us plainly that "they will hear of no other road than that by the valley of the River St. John," it shows too plainly that they are imbued with a spirit of selfishness, recreant to the general welfare of the Province, and carrying out the saying that there can be none so blind as those who do not want to see. Ignorance could and should be pardoned, but I say shame on such papers that will style themselves instructors of the ignorant. We could pardon them in distracting their brains in running railways to the moon, to the north star, or round the north pole—all appearing to them as possible or likely as the route along the Gulf shore; and we could have admired their sublime flights of fancy, and wait with patience the outpouring wisdom of those modern philosophers, who seem to know more about the north pole and the north star than they do of the Province; and I say, had those papers a spark of shame in them, they would not trumpet forth to the world their arbitrary power. We have known long ere this that the balance of power was in the south, and well have they made use of it, for if a spring freshet in the river Saint John hove up a sand bank that displeased some fellow, or some blundering pilot, by coming down the same river on a catamaran, should run foul of a snag, all they have to do is to apply to the Legislature, and out a grant must come, no matter how foolish the scheme so long as the money was to be laid out in the south. But we never thought our southern neighbors would act the arbitrary and tyrannical part in a scheme involving the interests and future destiny of the whole Province, the neighboring Colonies together with the British Islands, without stopping to enquire and reason coolly as to the proper place to plant the Main Trunk Line, and endeavor to find out which would hereafter be the best paying line and the most benefit to the Province in general, and not confine themselves to the mean, low, selfish spirit that seems to characterise the people of the south at the present day. They seem as if they would not be satisfied if a railroad does not go between every house and barn. They are not satisfied with the Saint Andrews and Woodstock line going up the west side of the St. John, which we have contributed to; they are not satisfied with having the Saint John river cleansed and purified of all rubbish, rocks or sand beds, by Provincial grants, from year to year, until they can ply their steamers with pleasure and safety to any distance that would pay the most trifling boat to run, making it far to surpass a canal, and all but a young railroad through the southern part of the Province already. They will not be satisfied to get the Portland Railway to Saint John—which they will and must get, and there is not a man in the north but wishes them to get it, and believes it would be the interest of the North to have a railway to St. John, provided it be obtained in the proper manner, it being the nearest market, and promising hereafter to become the great depot of trade between the North and South.—They are not satisfied with all those advantages and many others that might be enumerated, but they must have the Great Trunk Railway to pass up this great valley of their river, which many there believe surpasses anything on the face of the whole earth, if a person can judge from their writers and a great portion of their Press, and that it is destined in future to become the garden of the world. No; they are not satisfied with all this. What will satisfy them? Will some of their newspaper writers be kind enough to inform us. Maybe they wish to strike off the northern section of the Province as a useless encumbrance, particularly all that portion of it whose waters pass not by Saint John. Or perhaps the Province is

wrongly named; it should have been called the Province of Saint John, and Fredericton. Mis St. John, and, in fact the name and interest of St. John to be the alpha and omega throughout the length and breadth of the land. Now, some of the people of the south are bawling out "facts," the meaning of which they do not seem to understand, or imagine others do not, and making a fuss about a great wilderness, a barren, frozen country, and endeavoring to make the northern portion of the Province all but unfit for any improvement.

Now, we shall give them a few facts, which, if necessary, can be proven an oath, by persons of undoubted veracity, to satisfy any judge; and let those worthies of the south compare it with the productions of their fertile valleys, and tell us how far they excel us. I have known upland producing from the second crop—it being taken from a wilderness state, without any manure—four tons of hay to the acre. I have heard the hon. John Montgomery say that he has weighed over four tons to the acre; "but," says he, "it would be no use to tell that to the people of the south for they would not believe you." Observe, Sir, I allude to upland, not to rich fertile spots of intervale, which is not a fair criterion to go by, for although many spots of intervale might be got to produce more than I have mentioned, yet, as intervale is only to be found in stripes along the sides of rivers, and at no place in those northern colonies presenting a field for settling, I shall say nothing about its production and confine myself wholly to upland. I have seen and measured oats, forty five pounds to the bushel, taken out of the bins, and going to the woods for lumbering purposes.

I have heard of oats in the neighborhood of Dalhousie, and I believe it to be true, weighing over fifty pounds to the bushel, and other grain in proportion. Now, Sir, let me observe that the land under cultivation in this north falls just about as far short of the land in the interior of the country, as the valley of the Saint John does to the valley of the Nile. And, as a proof of what I say, there are many of the front settlers now going back to the second, third, fourth and some to the fifth concession, taking upland and clearing farms which in a few years will be worth looking at; and let me also state for the information of those worthies, that there is a belt of country from the waters of the Miramichi round to the Restigouche, and until it joins Canada, full fifty miles in depth, and in some places more, from the salt water, the principal part of which is equal and a great deal far superior to the land now under cultivation in this quarter, and in the possession of the Crown—principally of wilderness, but not barren. Any person to travel in our forests would soon be convinced otherwise. Our fine forest trees would soon give the lie to that. But as yet it has been unfortunately neglected and still remains a wilderness, which troubles our neighbors at the south, and puzzles them to know what to do with it.

Now, will they inform us what they are going to do with those emigrants they are encouraging to our shore, seeing the south is in such a high state of cultivation and civilization. They surely would not settle them down in that horrid "wilderness north west of the Miramichi," when it would contain as many souls as is in the Province now altogether? No; surely not. They would not be guilty of so barbarous an act as that; they would settle them along the valley of the River Saint John—the present inhabitants no doubt giving place to them. Well, if so, we hope and pray they may be characterised by a spirit of less selfishness than their predecessors, allowing some honorable exceptions; or do those worthies mean to say that the paltry trade that at present exists, suitable to be taken by railway train, should be any inducement to take the Main Trunk Line by the Saint John valley; then, I say, it is no wonder they have been building Railways to the moon, and dealing so largely in railway bubbles, and getting up joint stock companies, and becoming great shareholders, if so, for Heaven's sake let it be a company, and let there be no more of the scheming villainy practised that has heretofore characterised proceedings of a like nature, defrauding people of their hard earnings and making them subservient to the few. But, passing all this, is there nothing else worth a thought of our friends at the south? Yes. Look at the fish trade of the Gulf Bay de Chaleur and the eastern shore of Canada; if it was properly prosecuted it would amount to more than the whole present trade of the Province.

Look at the wealthy mercantile houses on each side of the Bay de Chaleur, carrying their fish to a foreign market that the people of the south know nothing about. Let them look at the house of Robin & Co., the founder of which died a few years ago at Paris, who came out to this country and commenced life as a poor fisherman, yet leaving a legacy of some hundreds of thousands of pounds to different heirs; in fact, he might be called all but a millionaire. They should see the pamphlet containing his last will and testament; it might operate a little on their optics. Next comes the houses of Alexandre & Co., and the LeBoutilliers. The heads of the house of LeBoutillier, Brothers & Co. were, a few years ago, poor lads, clerks in the house of Robin & Co., but they now own quite a fleet of ships in the fishing trade. Either of those houses would buy half the amount of square timber shipped at St. John in one season, and not make bankrupts of themselves either. I have not said anything of the host of smaller merchants along the coast, who would be called great fellows in the south. Next look

at the hundreds of American fishermen, who come yearly from away round Nova Scotia, making two, and sometimes three trips annually, which our southern patriots know nothing about, and still there is room. Look at Newfoundland, which is amassing wealth by its Seal Fishery, and is it to be compared with the advantages that are offered by the northern shore of New Brunswick, and eastern shore of Canada. Look at the harbor of Gaspé, equal to any in America, presenting itself at the entrance of the River St. Lawrence. Is it not well known that the ice in the spring of the year, moves off our coast, and is carried down by the Gulf stream and westerly winds on to the Island of Newfoundland, and through the straits of Bellisle, thus forcing the Newfoundlanders to box and fight their way up to the sealing ground. And was there ever a Newfoundland seal fisher who visited our shore or passed the beautiful harbor of Gaspé, but laughed at the simplicity of people for neglecting the advantages which nature had bestowed upon it; and often have I heard Newfoundlanders say, that if they could but start from the Gaspé shore at the back of the ice, by which they could choose their position, that a voyage or two would suffice them for a fortune; yet these are facts which our friends at the south seem to know or care nothing about; and so sure as they place the line along the north shore, so sure will the people of St. John secure the principal part of that trade. They would thoroughly tap the trade of the north, which they would find to yield a better product than the dry bones of the St. Andrews and Woodstock lines, which makes their neighbors and fellow Colonists laugh at them, in place of leaving all this wealth in the hands of strangers and foreigners.

It may be asked, if all this be true, how is it that the people on the north shore do not engage in this great trade, and make fortunes for themselves. My answer is short and simple. The capitalists, and a great portion of the people of the north, have got entangled in the meshes of that enchanting but treacherous trade, Lumbering, which our neighbors of the south believe to be every thing. The rest are busy clearing the "wilderness." It is a further well known fact, that a great portion of the Nova Scotia fishermen come away round their own Province to the northern fishing ground, knowing it to surpass any place to be found in America, or perhaps in the world. Before they write or speak any more nonsense, they had better appoint a committee of inquiry, to find out a little more of the Province they live in, to enable them to draw more correct conclusions. They might surely place confidence in the Judges of our land. These gentlemen have always expressed themselves delighted with the appearance and productions of this part of the country, considering its infancy, and surely none would be so vile as to charge them with flattery, deception or falsehood. The people of the south are no doubt a great people, and we in the north feel proud of them, but they must not suppose they are all the world, or that there is no place or trade worth looking after but what is among themselves.

The writer hopes the gentlemen whose names appear in this communication will not be offended with the liberty he has taken, in placing their names so conspicuously before the public; as it appears to him absolutely necessary that some such statement of facts should be put forth, to check the misrepresentations and erroneous opinions prevailing at the south.

I am, Sir, yours,

A COLONIST.

Restigouche, August 24, 1851.

To the Electors and Freeholders of the County of Bonaventure, Canada East.

Gentlemen,

As most of you are no doubt aware, we are about to have a general election throughout the Province of Canada; and that you will be shortly called upon to exercise one of the dearest privileges we enjoy as British subjects—that of sending a fit and proper person to represent us in the General Assembly of the Province.

You are also aware that, although this is a very extensive county, with a large population, of which about twelve hundred are Freeholders, yet we are only allowed one member. I sincerely trust, gentlemen, that you will consider well the matter, and make a selection of one that is suitable—a man you can have some confidence in; one possessing something in the shape of principle, who is not seeking for office or place of emolument—and not one who, for filthy lucre, would sacrifice your homes, your properties, and your dearest rights.

It appears, gentlemen, that you have already three candidates in the field—David LeBoutillier and Joseph Meagher, Esquires, and a learned Queen's Counsel of Canada. A few days ago a meeting was held in the township of New Richmond, called by some three or four freeholders of that place, for what purpose is scarcely yet known. We had no intimation of the House having been prorogued, or dissolved, and it really appeared strange to see Candidates addressing the constituency while the house was sitting.

Probably the same thing has been going on throughout Canada, if so, I presume the people are determined to have a new batch in the House of Assembly. The meeting was opened by Joseph Meagher, Esq. who wished to know if the meeting had been called by the freeholders of New Richmond, or by a certain party in New Carlisle. He declared himself a Candidate, that he would support

the interests of Agriculture, the Fisheries, and the General Trade of the country. He considered the meeting premature, and at the proper time would address the people fully as to his political views. The next person who came forward was the worthy Queen's Counsel, supported on his right by his travelling protegee, and like all candidates of his composition, was profuse in his pledges.

The first thing he will have done is pay for Jurors; the next thing Bridges over all the streams in the county, to suit the convenience of the people; in the meantime, and in a short time, will have them riding in a first-class railway carriage. Again what he had done during the time he was in the house; how he had obtained for the County of Bonaventure twenty thousand pounds. This appeared to be the only thing he could recollect having done. Then followed a description of the man that is alone fit to represent us. He must be a man deeply learned, one of extraordinary talent, with a voice so vociferous as to rent the clouds, and wake up the sleepy old coves in the House of Assembly. Now, one would suppose that the learned Q. C. must imagine the people of New Richmond a set of ignoramuses, if they never see the public prints, or if they did see a newspaper, that they could not read it, when he tried to gull them with such balderdash and false statements.

In the first place, it is well known the Juror's Pay Bill was before the House last winter, and if it has not already become law, it will be among the first things that will next session. In the second place, that part of his harangue about roads and bridges, I consider nothing more than electioneering kumbung, and which every sensible man must be disgusted with. With respect to the twenty thousands pounds, which the learned gentleman makes such a handle of, and which he, J. R. H., has the audacity to tell the people he was the means of getting for this County, that is all gammon. Is it not well known that when the million and a half sterling was borrowed by Canada, that it was divided by a committee of distribution, throughout the Province, according to its population, forty thousand pounds of which were allotted to Gaspé and Bonaventure. And I can tell the people of Bonaventure, that had it not been for the said J. R. H., in place of only getting twenty thousand pounds for the District, that is, Gaspé and Bonaventure, they would have got forty thousand; that gentleman having represented to the committee of distribution that Gaspé was such a mountainous, outlandish place, that no improvement could be made in it. Consequently there was only twenty thousand pounds granted, a small portion of which went to Gaspé. This certain gentleman in New Carlisle is well aware of, and he stated to the people at the last election that J. R. H. was in no way instrumental in obtaining the grant, but it does not suit his purpose to make the same statement on the present occasion.

I presume, gentlemen, you are all well aware why the learned Q. C. has made so many desperate struggles for the representation of this County. "The three cocked hat he hoped to wear, &c." Yes, gentlemen, he has been long aspiring to a Judgeship. * * But you need not be alarmed; he will find himself at the approaching election, as on former occasions, in a most miserable minority.

Did he state to you, gentlemen of New Richmond, one word in regard to his line of politics? (as for his principles that was needless, as they are well known.) Did he state to you that he approved or disapproved of what the present Government had been doing for the last four years? Did he say he would be for retrenchment in all public salaries, so far as consistent with the public service, or for anything else of general utility. The grand hobby was the "Juror's Pay." Now we, the people of New Richmond, consider (and I imagine the same feeling prevails throughout the County) that the less we have to do with courts, lawyers, and juries, the better for the country. As for retrenchment, any one seeking office is not a likely person to say much about cutting down public salaries, but he is very likely to pin himself to a government, however corrupt, or however prejudicial it may be to the best interests of the country, provided he has a prospect of being shelved with a Judgeship, or some fat situation. You were told at the meeting something about merchants' threats; such is altogether clap-trap. I am satisfied the like was never thought of by any merchant in the county. And suppose they had the power, and were so ill-disposed as to drag their customers and neighbors into courts of law, for not voting as they wished, J. R. H. would be the first man to chuckle at your misfortune, and the assistance he would render you would be a few trumped-up bills of costs.

Now, with respect to the kind of man that should represent us, we have been told he should be a man of profound learning, &c. This is quite ridiculous. Is there not in the Township of New Richmond, a respectable farmer, who could represent us. There is no great display of oratory necessary, and although his voice may not be sufficiently powerful to "rend the clouds," yet with moderation and consistency, he might make himself heard in the House of Assembly. We want a man of sound judgment; one who knows the wants of the people, with a sufficient knowledge of the English language to know how to read it, and if he cannot write it correctly, to do so in a way so as to be understood. We want a man who will not basely cringe to any party—one who will act in a straightforward and independent manner, having a due regard to the interests of the people, and the trust reposed in him, with strict integrity of purpose.