

Communications.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—In reviewing the sayings and doings of public men, how much more pleasing it is to be able to laud than to condemn them; and in this communication I would commend JOHN M. JOHNSON, Jun. Esq., M. P. P., for the manner in which he has redeemed the pledge made to his constituents in this settlement, viz., that he would visit them annually before the meeting of the Legislature, state his political views, and hear their grievances and wants.

Although the roads were almost impassable, Mr Johnson, according to appointment, attended at the School House, in this Settlement, on Saturday the 13th instant, and after a familiar and friendly chat upon various topics, he turned our attention to the all-important subject of Railroads, and clearly proved to us that wherever they had been built, especially in Canada and the United States, whether as government undertakings or private speculations, they had not only improved the country through which they passed, but had also been a source of profit to the projectors, although constructed upon much less advantageous terms than those which may be obtained in the erection of the proposed line of Railroad between Halifax and Quebec.

On account of the bad travelling, and the doubt whether Mr Johnson would be able to attend, the meeting was not so large as could have been wished. Mr J. then promised to attend the following Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M., and accordingly he came, accompanied by several other gentlemen from Chatham. Although the attendance was numerous, still it was not so much so as might have been expected; but as Mr Caie very justly remarked, it would require a JOSEPH HOWS to arouse us from our apathy.

After recapitulating the substance of his remarks on the previous evening, Mr Johnson went on to show the incalculable benefits that must result to these Provinces from the construction of the Great Trunk Line; which he did in such a masterly manner, as to win golden opinions from all present in favor of both himself and the Railroad.

Mr Johnson having sat down, the chairman called upon Messrs. Caie and Loudoun, to which both gentlemen responded in a few very applicable remarks. The thanks of the meeting were then unanimously given to Mr Johnson and these gentlemen, for the interest they had evinced in our welfare, by coming at so much personal inconvenience to diffuse information relative to Railroads, and cheering us in the immediate prospect thereof.

It was likewise moved, and unanimously agreed to, that Mr Johnson, and our other representatives, are by us, their constituents, respectfully requested to use their utmost endeavors to obtain the Railroad on the line recommended by Major Robinson, and on no other.

It being then late, there was no time to say much about general politics, but I most respectfully beg to inform all our members, that we have grievances, and well they know it, and some that call loudly for redress, and we shall anxiously watch the efforts they make to bring that about.

Respectfully yours,

A FREEHOLDER.

Napin, December 23, 1851.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1851.

ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Morning News contains a long and very clever article on this subject. We have only room for the following extracts.

It will be remembered that the Government prepared a Bill making provision for the Election of the Councillors, which, if they brought under the consideration of that body before it was discussed in the Lower Branch—thus reversing the order of Legislation. On this proceeding the Editor makes the following judicious remarks:

"The action of the Government in that case is of a piece with the whole tenor of their conduct, when the people ask for reform. They are willing to do every thing that is right; but when they have the opportunity of satisfying the just demands of the people, they exert their influence to destroy the hopes of the country. If the people through their Representatives asked for Elective Councils; and their address was favourably responded to by the Queen, surely it was a matter that concerned their interests; and the interests of those who were to be affected, to a trifling extent, ought to have formed no barrier to a wholesome reform. If we found fault with the Council, because it was thought to be obstructive in its character, and by its acts, and the Queen thought us not unreasonable in asking for a change, what right, we ask, had the Government to consult the wishes of that Council, the root of the evil, as to whether they would be willing to place their seats at the disposal of the people who complained so bitterly of their power? If it was right to consult the Council after Her Majesty's

approval had been obtained, then it was wrong in the House to petition for that approval; if they knew that the reform after all, would have to originate at the other end of the building."

The Editor then proceeds to comment on the conduct and construction of the Council as follows:

"We contend that Elective Councils would give us INDEPENDENT MEN—the independence of resisting Government influences—not stubborn men to oppose anything calculated to advance the interests of the country. But we would here ask of what use is a Council, if it is to act in concert with the Government in all things? This quiet submission to the crafts of designing politicians is certainly not in accordance with the principles of sound legislation. Dependant men in a colony are not always in a condition to resist temptation. There is no analogy between the House of Lords, where every man is wealthy, and a Legislative Council, where almost every man is poor and hungry for office. If the Government passed a Bill called for by the people, and an elective Council should reject it, the people would have the power at the Husbings of rejecting them. But we can apprehend no such difficulty—for if both branches sprang directly from the people, they would both be equally zealous in carrying out their well understood wishes. What are the difficulties now? They are multifarious. There is no independence in the Council. Being the nominees of the Government they are in most cases the creatures of that Government. The Government may pretend to be quite patriotic in the House, willing, apparently, to satisfy the demands of the people—if, for example, we ask for vote by ballot, extension of suffrage, &c.—and yet exert their influence upon the Council in a quiet way, and have the Bills thrown out up stairs. The Council pocket the people's money while in Session, and yet the people have no controul over them. Nay, we could name measures that have been passed in the lower House, based upon retrenchment and reform—for example, in cutting down the monstrous salary of the Adjutant General, for reducing the fees of registering wills and deeds, &c. &c.—and there was always influence enough brought to bear upon the Council, by acquaintances, cousins, and interested parties, to destroy the Bills, and disregard the wishes of the people. We can account for their obstinacy in no other way. The late appointments to the Council ought to be sufficient of themselves to arouse men's understandings to the real state of the case. To suit their purpose, or carry out an object, to disarm a stubborn opponent, or weaken the power of the people in their own House, or on their own ground, the Government have only got to exercise the prerogative, and buy up their men, as they would so many sheep, and shove them up stairs, out of the way.

"It may be inquired if the Elective principle is to be applied so generally, why would not one house answer as well as two, seeing that the members of both houses would have to be chosen by the people? We answer, that in either case one branch would be a check upon the other—nay, much more so if the Council were independent of the Government and House of Assembly. But, the Council need not be elected in the same form that we now return members. We would adhere to the American practice, as nearly as possible, in choosing persons for the Council. The Senators in Congress are elected by the electors—i. e., each State Legislature sends two Senators to Washington for four years; and while the elective principle is carried out in their case, the Senators do not come in direct contact with the people, and consequently are independent of petty and party influences. Our plan would be to allow each County in the Province to elect, say twelve upright, honest, discreet persons—and let these meet together and choose two of the best in the County for the County.

"Thus, the parties chosen in the first place, would be the pick of the people; and in the second place, they would in all probability, not abuse their discretion and disappoint public expectation by picking out two men for higher honors, less estimable than themselves. We might explain ourselves much more fully upon these points, if we had the time and space.

"The Responsible Government such as we have in this Province, is only another name for a Despotism—and this is founded altogether upon the political ignorance of the people. Theoretically we have representative institutions. Practically we have an 'Oligarchy,' a 'Family Compact,' ruling the country and the Legislature, as it suits the interests of themselves, their families, and expectants. Until the people are better prepared to exercise their privileges as become freemen, and return honest men to the Legislature, it would be a saving of expense to the country, and a benefit to our interests, if we were governed like the people of Cuba, by a Captain General, who alone would be accountable for the acts of his administration."

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

We are indebted to the Fredericton Head Quarters for the following paragraphs. We are happy to perceive that there is a prospect of the Law for the Establishment of Municipal Corporations being tested. That those institutions are much required is very generally admitted, and if the parties elected to office be

conscientious men, and possessed of energy and spirit, the benefits would be immediately felt. We do not think this Law is such as it should be—its machinery is too complicated, and the putting of it into operation attended with much unnecessary trouble. It is the Law, however, and as our population appear fearful to test its working qualities, we are gratified to perceive that the inhabitants of other Counties are determined to give it a trial. One thing we are certain of, that the public business of the County will never be conducted satisfactorily until the people have the management of their own local affairs.

The following are the paragraphs alluded to above:—

"The Saint Andrews Standard, of the 17th instant, contains a paragraph headed 'Municipal Act,' which runs:

"We have received from the High Sheriff a Requisition with two hundred signatures, praying him to call a public meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of incorporating the County of Charlotte. The notice will appear in our next. The meeting is called for the 29th of April next."

"A notice similar to that about to be issued in Charlotte has for some time been published in the Carleton Sentinel, signed by the High Sheriff of the County of Carleton, calling a public meeting on Thursday, the 29th January next, the object of which is to decide whether the inhabitants of that county will avail themselves of the provisions of the Act for establishing Municipal Incorporations in this Province."

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

To the attention of Theophilus Des Brisay, Esq., we are indebted for a copy of the Returns compiled from the Census taken the present season, from which we take the following extracts. It appears that the population of this County has increased, since the last Census taken in 1840, fifty and a half per cent.

Inhabited Houses,	1619
By how many Families inhabited,	1855
Houses now building	70
Stores, Barns and Out houses,	1589
Total Population,	11,631
Estimated quantity of cleared land,	19,312
Number of tons Hay cut,	6835
Number of bushels of Wheat raised,	23,594
Number of bushels of Barley raised,	8078
Number of bushels of Oats raised,	53,005
Number of bushels of Buckwheat raised	1235
Number of bushels of Ind. Corn raised,	2223
Number of bushels of Peas and Beans,	1257
Number of bushels of Turnips raised,	15,408
Number of bushels of Potatoes raised,	314,147
Number of Neat Cattle,	2562
Number of Cows, how many milked,	2015
Quantity of Butter churned	82,691
Number of Horses,	1174
Number of Sheep,	8522
Number of Swine,	3317

THE CASH BILL.

The Editor of the Saint John Morning Times, after briefly recapitulating the provisions of Mr Williston's Cash Bill, comments on it as follows:

"The above is the pith of the Bill alluded to, and we think that there never was a Bill brought before our Legislature (with perhaps one exception) more calculated to injure the laborer himself than this Act. If it should go in force the laborer must finish his work before he can get any portion of his wages, unless it should be convenient for his employer to give him money. A man can not haul lumber unless he can find a lumberman who has cash to pay him, although he may want a dozen different articles which the employer might give him. A fisherman cannot buy salt and pay for it in fish—he must find a moneyed man to buy his fish, and then take his money to buy the salt. We might instance a dozen other cases in which the Act would be destructive.

"In short words, it would amount to this, that no person could carry on business unless he had money, or could get credit for it. We know that a large credit may be obtained in England for goods, and but little for money; and should this act come in force half our business would be destroyed, for none but large establishments could carry on business, and men of small capital would have accordingly to shut up shop, whilst the laborer, in depressed times must starve, because the law would not let anybody, who (though he might have beef, flour and potatoes) had not ready money to employ him.

"The system employed in this country, of part goods and part money for labor, &c., has, no doubt, its advantages, and we have been informed, towards the north has been employed by the merchants in a very improper manner, who, of course, have felt the result in the end, of their improper conduct, and are now very low indeed. But it is a system, without which a new Country cannot get on. It is incident to a state where there are few men of means out of business, and when the circulating medium is small. As the county grows older and capital accumulates, it will be found advantageous to pay laborers in Cash, and the system will gradually work itself out. But at present we believe that the cash system would, if forced by law, seriously hamper the business of the country."

HIGHLY IMPORTANT OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

FREE TRADE.—We are indebted to the St. John Courier for the following important documents:—

In the President's Message an allusion is made to the overtures for a convention upon the subject of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada, which have been received from the British Minister at Washington. Copy of the correspondence alluded to appears in the New York Herald of Saturday last. We have not room to-day for these important documents in detail, and therefore give such parts as we deem of most interest.

In March last, the British Minister at Washington, in forwarding to the American Secretary of State the copy of Mr Hincks' letter written in January last to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House of Representatives, stated that deep and general regret had been manifested in British North America, in consequence of no bill having passed during the last session of Congress, to place upon a satisfactory footing of reciprocity the commercial relations between the United States and the North American Provinces; and adds—

"The Canadians especially consider that their application for an interchange of agricultural products has failed of success, because they have generously, and without stipulations, conceded many commercial advantages which it was in their power to bestow, upon the trade of this country; and they seem to believe that their only mode, at present, of obtaining adequate attention, is to replace themselves in the situation in which they were placed previous to making the aforesaid concessions.

"For many reasons I deem it desirable to prevent, as soon as possible, this feeling, if it is a false one, from gaining ground."

"I wish, therefore, to know, whether you would be disposed to enter with me into a negotiation embracing a consideration of the various commercial advantages affecting the trade and intercourse with the British North American Provinces, which have been and could be extended by the British Government and by the British North American Provinces themselves to the United States, and also with respect to advantages of a like kind which could be conferred by the United States on the Provinces, to the end that such a convention, touching these matters, may be drawn up between us, as would be agreeable to both Governments, and beneficial to all parties."

On the 29th March the Chief Clerk in the Department of State at Washington was directed to inform the Right Hon. Sir Henry L. Bulwer that his letters would be submitted to the President with the view of obtaining his directions upon the subject at the earliest convenient day.

The next document in the published correspondence is the following, addressed to the United States Secretary of State:—

"British Legation, Washington,

June 24, 1851.

"Sir,—I have already expressed to you, at different periods, and especially in my note of 22nd March last, the disappointment which was experienced in Canada, when, at the close of the last session of Congress, it was known that no progress whatever had been made in the bills which had been brought forward for three years successively, for reciprocating to the measures which passed the Canadian Legislature in 1847, and which granted to the natural productions of this country an entry free of duty into Canada whenever the Federal Legislature of the United States should pass a measure similarly admitting into the United States the natural produce of the Canadas. This disappointment was the greater, inasmuch as the Canadian Government has always adopted the most liberal commercial policy with respect to the United States, as well in regard to the transit through its canals, as in regard to the admission of manufactured goods coming from this country.

"I have now the honor to inclose you the copy of an official communication which I have received from the Governor General, Lord Elgin, by which you will perceive, that unless I can hold out some hopes that a policy will be adopted in the United States similar to that which has been adopted in Canada, and which the Canadian authorities would be willing, if met in a corresponding spirit, to carry out still further, the Canadian Government and Legislature are likely forthwith to take certain measures, which, both in themselves and their consequence, will effect a considerable change in the commercial intercourse between the Canadas and the United States. I should see with great regret the adoption of such measures, and I am induced to hope, from the conversations which I have recently had with you, that they will be unnecessary.

"The wish of Her Majesty's Government, indeed would be rather to improve than impair all relations of friendship and good neighborhood between Her Majesty's American Possessions and the United States; and I feel myself authorized to repeat to you now, what I have already at different times stated to Mr Clayton and yourself, viz: That Her Majesty's Government would see, with pleasure, any arrangements, either by treaty or legislation, establishing a free interchange of all natural productions, not only between Canada and the United States, and all her Majesty's North American Provinces; and furthermore I am willing to say, that in the event of such an arrangement, Her Majesty's Government would be ready to open to American shipping the water of the River St. Law-