

greatest benefit. Though a little surprised at the tone of this letter he (Lord Derby) had not deferred executing the promise he had made to Mr. Hincks. He had brought the matter before a cabinet council, at which it was fully and deliberately discussed; and it was with great regret they had come to the conclusion that it was not to the advantage of the Provinces that they should sanction the proposed line, inasmuch as it forfeited the very main advantages which led them in the first instance to be anxious for its promotion. That communication was made to Mr. Hincks, about the 16th or 17th of the month. Sir J. Pakington had considered it the most respectful to write his dispatches first to the governors of the colonies, and then to communicate them to the representatives of the colonies, in this country.—In the meantime on the 13th, he (Lord Derby) had received an application from another society who were desirous of engrafting a scheme of emigration on the general scheme of the railway known to be in contemplation by the government; and on the 15th he gave an answer, that from recent communications great doubts had arisen whether the negotiations pending between the government and the colonial legislatures were likely to lead to the construction of the railway in question; and it appeared that the colonial deputies had first learned from the secretary to this society that the plan was not approved by the government. As far as personal respect was concerned, nothing could have been more cordial and attentive than Sir J. Pakington's treatment of these gentlemen. He received them at his own house, gave them invitations to her Majesty's ball, invited them to dinner, and constantly saw them on the same terms as the Secretary of State would have received any ministers accredited from foreign powers. As to the substance of the negotiation, he would say that the government had been most anxious to see it carried out; and he had been active in pressing it on the late government. But he thought a better course than giving a guarantee would have been to make a grant of the waste lands through which the line passed. He meant not to say that the guarantee would not have been redeemed by the Provinces, though the contribution might have pressed very hard on the Province of New Brunswick. Nevertheless, he had been quite willing to leave the construction of the line to the colonial legislatures, giving the desired guarantee, provided it was so constructed as to secure those advantages that were promised from it.—The noble earl admitted that it was a *sine qua non* that the line would be carried through British territory. It was not a slight deviation that was now proposed. But the great object was in connexion with the scheme of emigration, to have opened up a large tract of country in New Brunswick available for emigrants; but this had been lost sight of.—(Here the noble earl described the course of the line, as originally proposed, and the deviations could only be understood by reference to a plan.)

Major Robinson's line, he observed, had always been taken as the basis of the negotiation; but the proposed line, instead of making the circuit of the northern and eastern coast, made two right angles, passed by St. John, and was carried further to the west.—It was true that by this scheme there would be a less length of railway to be constructed; but Major Robinson's line would not involve a greater distance between Halifax and Quebec. The line by St. John might offer greater commercial advantages, but it abandoned the scheme of opening up New Brunswick to emigrants. The St. John line, for nearly the whole line, ran within a few miles of the United States territory, and there was no security that it would not pass on the United States side of the St. John River. Such a railway in an open undefended country, would not differ in the least, in the event of a war, from a railway carried through the United States territory. It tended far more to open up the United States than the British territory; and in some parts it was cut off by the rapid torrent of the St. John River from communication with the British territory. Under those circumstances the government did not think the project one which so carried out imperial objects as to justify them in giving a guarantee for the proposed expenditure by the colonial legislatures. To have undertaken such a liability without consulting Parliament would have been highly improper, and he doubted if Parliament would have sanctioned it. However much he might prefer the plan of granting waste lands, he would not have hesitated to recommend a guarantee had the line been such as to secure those other and more important objects to which he had referred.—On these grounds the government had thought it their duty to inform the governors of the Provinces that they were compelled, with regret, to refuse the guarantee, believing that the line did not promote really and truly British objects. The government had nothing to conceal, and there would be no opposition to the production of the papers.

Mechanics' Institute.

A Quarterly Meeting, of the Miramichi Mechanics' Institute, will be held in the Hall of the Institute on MONDAY, the 12th July next, at half past seven o'clock, P. M., when a full attendance is requested.

ROBERT L. THOMAS, Secretary.
Chatham, June 28, 1852.

Fresh Garden & Flower Seeds
AT WM. J. FRASER'S

Communications.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia,
June 28, 1852.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—I have seen in your paper of the 21st June, a Letter of Mr William Forbes's regarding the asphalt from Albert, in which he calls it coal, and details the experiments upon which he bases his opinion. Now, I should like to ask Mr Forbes, as a scientific man, if from those few simple experiments which he performed, he would be justifiable in closing this article with any fairness without pursuing his investigations further; or should he be content with the mere fact that because this substance is not just as fusible and just as soluble as the other asphalts, that it is not asphalt, but that it is coal? Does he not know that he will not get two asphalts to agree in these characteristics? Before I gave Dr Gesner my Report I examined it very minutely, and performed perhaps one hundred different experiments with it, all of which led me to the conclusion that it was asphalt and not coal. Mr Forbes attacks the opinions given as unscientific and discordant, but I am afraid Mr Forbes is more so than any of them. After arguing very strenuously that the substance in question is coal, he concludes by saying:

"The tar furnished by the destructive distillation of cedar wood when re-distilled furnishes a residuum scarcely distinguishable from Albert coal. It slightly dissolves in sulphuric ether, naphtha and absolute alcohol, and yields a beautiful gas when subjected to a high heat in a retort, leaving a light friable coke resembling the Hillsboro coal."

Surely this residuum is not coal; how, then, can he call this article which can scarcely be distinguished from it, Coal?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOSEPH OUTRAM, JUN.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, JULY 12, 1852.

OUR ELECTION.

An Election at all times causes considerable excitement, and if it were to end here, there would not be much cause for regret; but unfortunately during the course of canvassing, and the part taken by active partisans at the polling stations, much is said and done which leads to altercation and angry words. These break up old friendships, causes estrangement between relatives and neighbors, and frequently leads to riot.

We are gratified in being enabled to state, that the contest passed off in a manner creditable to the County. At all the polling booths the greatest order prevailed, and the best feeling existed between the contending parties.

Friday last being the day appointed for declaring the successful candidate, a large number of the Freeholders assembled at the Court House in Newcastle, when the High Sheriff opened the poll books, and declared GEORGE KERR, Esq., duly elected.

The following is the state of the poll:

	Kerr.	Mitchell.
Newcastle,	97	85
Chatham,	257	31
Ludlow,	9	23
Glencf,	145	34
Blissfield,	4	31
Northesk,	21	71
Blackville,	26	55
Nelson,	54	70
Alnwick,	125	24

741

424

317 majority.

After the poll was declared the meeting was addressed by Messrs. Kerr, Mitchell, J. M. Johnson, Jun., R. Hutcheson, Robinson Crocker, and D. P. Horan. During this "war of words," there was considerable "sharp shooting," but all was taken with good grace and becoming forbearance; and judging from the parties mingling together in friendly intercourse, we are led to the pleasing conclusion, that with the close of the contest all angry and unpleasant feeling ended.

The following are Mr Kerr's remarks: Gentlemen,

I stand before you this day as one of your Representatives, returned by a majority beyond my most sanguine expectations. From the late hour at which I was requested to offer myself, and the previous promises made by many freeholders to Mr

Mitchell, coupled with the confident tone which he and his friends maintained respecting his return, I would not have been greatly disappointed had he this day occupied my position.

While I acknowledge the pride I feel in occupying the place of one of your Representatives, I would have felt humbled if I were conscious that I had obtained it by any act or word unworthy of an honest man. To the numerous friends who invited me to come forward, and who tranquilly exerted themselves to the close, I am indebted for the handsome majority of 317, which I obtained. To these gentlemen, one and all, and to the whole body of freeholders who supported me I now return my sincere thanks.

It is a gratifying circumstance, and one highly creditable to the county, that notwithstanding the zeal and anxiety of the friends of both parties, the polling day passed over with a degree of order and good feeling that has seldom before occurred.

I told you that I was an advocate for freedom of election in its broadest sense. I have acted up to that principle throughout; and while I have canvassed the greater part of the County I asked no man to vote for me who had either promised or preferred Mr Mitchell; and I asked no man whom I knew would vote against me, to keep back.

I believe the canvass of my friends was equally fair throughout. While I say this I believe that many freeholders did not exercise their franchise, either from indifference or other motives. After canvassing the county, and observing the whole proceedings during the Election, I am more decidedly than before convinced that Vote by Ballot is the only course by which the true wishes of a constituency like Northumberland's can be impartially and independently expressed. I am aware that many of my friends have strong objections to this system, but it is incorporated in the proceedings of many public bodies both in the Mother Country and the Colonies, and is in operation in our own Province. I am satisfied that if the system were adopted, accompanied by a registration of electors, many of the objectionable features of the existing practice would be avoided. The custom requiring a candidate to canvass the Electors and subject himself to the degradation which every rightly constituted mind must feel, craving as a favor what should be freely and independently bestowed as a privilege, I would gladly see abolished. In its place let the Freeholders in their parishes nominate the candidates, send to a county meeting persons to represent their wishes, and let the delegates from the parishes agree upon the candidates to be nominated, and let the constituents support the men thus freely nominated by themselves. Some such change is required to get rid of the existing evils, and to enable the freeholders to give independent expression to their wishes. I will gladly co-operate in effecting any such improvement.

I fully expressed on the day of nomination my views on the various political subjects engaging public attention. With regard to Municipal Institutions, I repeat that so soon as the law is so amended as to enable the Electors in each parish to meet and express their wishes, I will go for the introduction of these Institutions among ourselves; and if a majority of the electors of the County go with me, I will gladly see the system receive a fair trial. I believe it is fully adapted to our central and populous parishes, and may be unsuited to the remote and thinly peopled districts; but being an important part of self-government, and one on which the minds of the people will never be satisfied till it has a fair trial. I am desirous of seeing it fairly tested as soon as a majority say they wish it.

I told you that I believed the Responsible system would not work harmoniously till a change be effected in the constitution of the Legislative Council. At present its members are appointed for life by the Crown; and I believe they must be elected as well as the Lower Branch. I am in favor of such change in this respect as will give the people more control over their acts; but the subject is one of serious importance, and has engaged the attention of the Legislatures of Canada and Nova Scotia, but nothing has yet been effected. I am in favor of such change as may be most suitable to our condition.

Reciprocity of Trade with the adjoining Republic and other foreign countries I am desirous of seeing fully carried out; but this can only be effected through intervention with the Imperial Government; and so far as I can I will aid in urging forward the measures now in progress to effect that important end.

I am represented as saying I would reduce the Judges' Salaries. I never alluded to the Judges, or gave utterance to any such sentiment. I do not think that the Judges of the land receive more than their high station and character demand. If the

Bench is to be an object of ambition to our highest legal talent, the salary ought to be such as to enable them to maintain in a becoming manner the high place, they occupy. I would gladly see their fees abolished, and their incomes paid wholly from the Treasury. It is unwise to have the Judges brought unnecessarily into public discussions.

I am in favor of the reduction of our revenue to the most reasonable standard, consistent with the exigencies of our public service and our public engagements, because I believe that with a limited revenue a stricter supervision over the public expenditure will be maintained, and the whole body of the people will be directly relieved. I am also desirous of seeing every public officer receive a fair remuneration for the trust and responsibility which his office imposes on him, but no more. It is a pitiful economy to withhold from public servants a reasonable reward for their services, when an infinitely larger saving might be effected in the contingencies and pay of the Representatives of the people, if that portion of the public expenditure be faithfully supervised.

I will co-operate cordially in furthering the extension of our fisheries, our agriculture and domestic manufactures by every judicious measure having that end in view, and also to improve the system of granting lumber berths.

The present, or any other Government shall have my support in every good and useful measure, and they will find me opposed to them in every other. I shall endeavor to give my hearty support to good measures, irrespective of the men who introduce them; my opposition in like manner to every other; but a factious opposition I will not intentionally offer to the existing Government or any other that my take its place.

The cry made about encouraging the mechanic and the laborer is hollow. What can either myself or Mr Mitchell do for either but give them employment and allow them fair wages, and pay them honestly in money for what they perform. This I have always done, and, to an extent, equal to any other man in my circumstances. I desire to see the system which prevails of paying for labor otherwise than in money, done away with, as fast as the change can be effected; but in all new countries a system of traffic is unavoidable, and it is only when competition arises that the introduction of a Cash system will take its place. To effect this I believe nothing would more contribute than a local bank. I used my best efforts many years ago to introduce such an institution, and although a respectable stock list was filled up and an act passed, it fell through by the Bill being rejected at home. I have since introduced an Agency of another bank, and the community is now receiving all the financial accommodation they can reasonably require.

I have given you my sentiments, Gentlemen, on all the points of interest I think necessary. I am sensible of the responsibility of the position I occupy. I know I will not please all my friends, nor can I expect to escape the fate of every man who enters upon public life. I will not doubt make enemies; but, Gentlemen, however much I may fail in coming up to your wishes, I trust I will be able at the end of my term of service, to return the trust you have reposed in me, and be able conscientiously to say that I have discharged my duty honestly and to the best of my ability. I again sincerely thank you, Gentlemen, for the honor you have conferred upon me.

(In reply to some remarks of Mr Johnson, Mr Kerr said:)

Before the last General Election Mr Johnson did say to me that if I would offer he would not. He then knew my political sentiments, and I have never since then given expression to any other. He has now exercised his own judgment and influence against me, and I never found fault with him for doing so. I am now, like himself, a representative for the county, and am accountable to my constituents for my acts. I shall be glad if we can co-operate in every local measure for the good of the County; and I will readily give him my support in every political question where I approve of his course. But I go free and unfettered to act upon my own responsibility, whether my views square with or are opposed to my colleagues. I ask the same right for myself that I freely accord to him.

Mr. Johnson spoke on the occasion in substance as follows:

It had been reported in the county by some of his political opponents that he had stated at the nomination that, in case of Mr Kerr's return he (Mr J.) would resign, and he wished now to refer to Mr Kerr or Mr Pierce whether he had said anything of the kind.

Mr Kerr then said that he had not heard Mr Johnson say so.

Mr Johnson continued: Had a Tory been brought forward he