

Rate Payer and his party may suit your views of right, I beg to assure you that there are a great many of the respectable Rate Payers of this Parish, and the County generally, who disapprove of the present system, as being likely to lead to a much worse state of affairs than under the old system so much complained of—and to convince you of that, would have been accomplished, had you attended the meeting described in my last number. Am I to understand that it makes not, however much the law, under which Town Clerks are acting, may be neglected or abused, their doings must be binding on the People, and confirmed by the Sessions: and whatever the *ex parte* statement of an individual; that body are to be tried and condemned without a hearing. If so, the sooner there is no Sessions the better.

I shall close for the present, and if time permits, will in a subsequent number, inform you who the *two* cuts and ins are, and what their relative capabilities are for the duties of their appointments.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A GOODFELLOW.

COUNTY BONAVENTURE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

By a recent Legislative enactment, a new order of things is established with respect to Agricultural Societies in Canada. We have now a Minister of Agriculture, to whom the various Societies will have to account, if not for their sayings at least for their doings.—We congratulate the present Ministry on this wise provision, 'tis a step in the right direction, and one which will tend to develop the Agricultural resources of the Province. A yearly Report must now be made, Accounts rendered, and the affairs of each Corporation conducted in an orderly and business like manner. No such check existed heretofore, and in some cases, at least, the *Lords of misrule* may truly be said to have reigned supreme.

By the provisions of the new Act, the old Societies are dissolved in Lower Canada and a new organization ordered in February. A meeting of the lower section of this County was accordingly convened by Mr Clarence Hamilton, the late Secretary of the defunct Society, for Thursday the 17th inst. A goodly muster was expected, but a severe Easterly snow storm prevented the attendance of all who were not in the immediate vicinity of the Court Hall. Fourteen subscribers only were present. His Honor Mr Justice Thompson having been unanimously called to the Chair, the election of officers was proceeded with, and our worthy Judge was elected President and Wm. Cuthbert Esq. Vice President by acclamation. Mr J. R. Hamilton, our learned Q. C., then rose, and, with his usual delicacy and good taste, proposed his Son Mr Clarence Hamilton, as a gentleman fully qualified to fulfil the important and responsible duties of Secretary and Treasurer. Whereupon Mr Martel, Barister and Crown Land Agent, proposed Wm Macdonald, Esq. which was seconded by Mr Cuthbert, and carried. Mr Hamilton having only three votes—His Father's and Messrs. Jas. Milne and Jno. McClellan, Gaoler. Poor Mr Hamilton's heart burns did not end here, for Jno. McKenzie, Esq. J. P. having been unanimously elected a Director, that gentleman rose and said, that if either of the Legal Gentlemen were to be proposed as Directors he was of opinion that both should be appointed, if one only was elected he would then interpret the Law according to his own views—if both, a great deal of time would be lost in useless argument—there were plenty of practical farmers who were far better calculated to manage the affairs of the Society than Gentlemen of the long robe, and he would therefore much prefer seeing both Esrristers left out. The learned Q. C. took the hint, made a virtue of necessity, and rose to second the motion. The following gentlemen were then elected—The Revd. J. L. Allain, D. LeBoutillier Esq. M. P. P., Messrs. Wm. McRae, Danl. Pigeon, Mathew Caldwell and B. McGie J. P. We stated that Mr Hamilton made a virtue of necessity, and we believe his conduct justifies such an assertion, for the learned Gentleman had not sufficient good sense or self command to conceal his chagrin and disappointment—he got in a towering passion—declared he would withdraw his name from the subscription list—offered to bet £50 that the society would not last six months—and threatened to establish a Township Society, thus proving that he had not read the Act, as it expressly provides that such can only be formed at extreme points of a County. But even supposing the Act did not prevent it, who may we ask, would he get to join him?—Echo answers—Who. As to his threat of withdrawing his name, that he cannot do, but if he could, we doubt if any of the members would miss or regret his absence from the meetings. His offer to bet is worthy of the man. Let him reverse the position and propose to bet that it would not exist this time twelve months, if he were a member of the Board, and we would be disposed to back him. What claim we would ask Mr Hamilton, has his Son to the Secretaryship—Is it his superior talent—his great experience and practical knowledge of business—of every thing and any thing appertaining to Agriculture? What a flaming Report would be presented to the Minister of Agriculture, if the Members of the Bonaventure County Society committed the entire management to the united talents of these Gentlemen. None of your vapouring theorists—of your crack brained superficial new lights! Even Professor Johnson would sink into insignificance before such an enlightened, prac-

tical and experienced phalanx. The circulars issued are proof sufficient—to wit—

We were not summoned to form a County Society, but a meeting of the County of Bonaventure Agricultural Society was convened, a body which did not exist, which was yet in embryo. To meet at 10 P. M! Some people prefer darkness to light. And as a climax, the would be Secretary signs by anticipation, as the duly elected Officer of the Corporation. There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip—is a very old adage, but peculiarly suited to this case. 'Tis really too ridiculous to dwell upon.

The new Law establishing County Societies, ours would extend from Port Daniel to Ristigouche, but the subscription list not having been sent beyond New Richmond, the Upper Townships may be said to be virtually excluded—though they were prepared to join us—and as the Act provides for Townships too far distant from the places where exhibitions are held, the inhabitants of the Western Division have now good reason to avail themselves of the provision to form a separate Society. This to say the least is a very great oversight. Our interests as a community are identical. "Union is strength" and by uniting together we should have sufficient funds to import Cattle, Implements of Husbandry, good seed, &c., all of which are much needed. If the funds are divided, they will be frittered away in prizes, and little or no good will result. That prizes should be given is all very well, if the greater portion of the money found its way into the pockets of the working farmer, but unfortunately the gentlemen Farmers carry off at least two thirds of the amount. The number of subscribers is consequently very limited, because the yeoman naturally says what chance have I of competing with Mr A. or Mr B. If the County unites, we should be enabled to give two good Shows yearly—that is so far as regards number and value of prizes—and still devote £100 per annum to the importation of Stock &c. As individuals few have the means of importing new and valuable breeds. Our present and late Member, Messrs D. LeBoutillier, and Wm. Cuthbert are the only gentlemen, we believe, who have imported Live Stock of improved breeds from Home. If thrashing, drilling, and winnowing Machines, &c., &c., suited for this Country were introduced, our young men, numbers of whom are good Mechanics, would be enabled to make all these useful articles which would soon be as common amongst us as they are in England. Economy of labour is the one thing useful in our day. No business can be successfully carried on without it—and in no country does the agriculturalist stand more in need of machinery, and implements tending to promote this vital principle than in British North America, where labour is expensive, and the seasons of seed time and harvest follow so closely upon each other.

We hope that the Members of the late Board will set their House in order, and have business like accounts at least for the winding up. It has been stated, on more than one occasion, that non subscribers had no right to interfere.—this may hold good to a certain extent, but we would remind the wiseacre who propounds such doctrines, that three fourths of the funds come out of the Public Treasury, to which every man in the County contributes more or less, and the Public at large, have a right to know what becomes of money so obtained. The gentleman who so coolly applied for and received a large amount for Prizes during the past year, will we trust be as ready to pay interest on the £13 12s., he then owed, and still owes the Society, as he was to receive it when he lent the Corporation money.

MERCATOR.

New Carlisle, 29th February, 1853.

PUBLIC MATTERS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir—In taking up the subject of an Elective Council, I confess that a great deal can be said on both sides of the question, and on what subject can there not be, when people are disposed to argue; yet I hope I may be pardoned in setting forth my views and opinions on what I look upon as a most momentous change, a change that should be well and truly weighed, and its advantages and disadvantages to the public truly considered, before it be adopted. A change that should be discussed in all its bearings before every constituency in the Province, at an approaching general election, and a test of public opinion taken upon it, ere it be adopted; for bear in mind, it is a change if once made, and found not to meet the expectations held out, it cannot be so easily reversed or REPEALED, AS SOME OF OUR BLUNDERING ACTS, without a great deal of exposure, trouble, and confusion. You cannot use that convenient word in military practice, when a blunder is made—AS YOU WERE: no, you have to go on, perhaps from bad to worse, and bear it.

The Legislative Council as at present constituted, is a humble imitation of the House of Lords, and is intended as a safety valve, to receive the effervescence of a spirited House of Assembly. They are chosen at present, by the Governor and Council from what is expected to be, the leading and influential minds of the Province, who are thoroughly acquainted with the interests and local wants thereof, and when elected to that position, to hold their seats for life. That being the case, one might suppose they would be above the whims of popular infatuation, and that they would coolly, calmly, and dispassionately examine all bills coming before them, and they being chosen by the

wisdom of the Governor and Council, sanctioned and strengthened by the People's Representatives, one might almost consider that their talent and wisdom would be superior to that of a House chosen by a multitude of people, and some of them of the most illiterate order. That such is not the case, cannot be denied; for we often find drones appointed to this body, as well as elsewhere, which may be all right, as dead weights are sometimes found necessary to the best of machinery. Yet, no one will deny, that men of sterling worth, and sound principles, are likewise to be found in Legislative Councils as at present constituted. Now, all, and much more, can be said of the British House of Lords; for a hereditary Lord can take his seat, be he a wise man or a dunce, yet in that enlightened land, with all their important changes, no one dreams of upsetting that ancient house; and making it elective. It is considered one of the corner stones of the Constitution. Now, upset the Legislative Council, and you at once strike a blow at the Constitution of Britain, as carried out in these Colonies; and it is neither more nor less than the entering wedge to Democracy and wholesale Republicanism. To make it elective, and still consider them a separate body, to me appears absurd. They would be but a second House of Assembly, composed of the same material, and possessing the same interests. Holding their seats by popular excitement, each bill as it was exhausted in debate in one house, would be taken up by the other, to undergo another display of oratory. It would then take (as it nearly does in Congress at present) pretty near the whole twelve months to get through with the business of the country. To me there appears something deep and designing in the move. I am more thoroughly convinced of this when I look at the parties engaged in striving to bring it about, both in this and the neighbouring Provinces—that is, the once loyal, staunch, and good Conservatives, and the extreme Radicals, or properly speaking, Annexationists.

The Conservatives were a good and a loyal class while they held place and high salaries. nobody could be more BRITISH in FEELING than they: to mention the American Republic, or contrast any of its laws or customs, might all but endanger a person of being convicted of high treason; but the moment they found that the People would no longer submit to be saddled and rode after that fashion, they all at once, like a sulky animal when whipped and goaded to move out of its stubborn position, will rear and plunge, and proceed at a rate, if not restrained, to endanger the breaking of its own neck as well as all others concerned.

Such, I look upon those now busily concerned in bringing about this great change, to be either one or the other of the class of persons named, and I do not blame any sound constitutional reformer, that desires British connection, not to be in favor of it, and to seek out some other means to remedy the defect of the constitution of the Council, [if such there be] than by making it elective. But if we must have an Elective Council, let Municipal Corporations be faithfully carried out throughout the Province, and the Mayors of each Municipality or County, for the time being, be a Legislative Councillor, as they in all probability would have a thorough knowledge of all public and local matters connected with their several Counties. But there is little hope of any straight forward, constitutional changes in our present defective system of government, while the present bungling, deceptive rookery of an administration remains in power; and I shall not style them so, without showing the cause, although it may occasion a letter or two more from my pen, to follow the windings and twistings of the present gentlemen in power.

Mean time I remain yours,

OBSERVER.

THE RAILWAY.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—Would you have the kindness to publish an Editorial of the Toronto Globe, and copied in the Nova Scotian of the 9th Feb. Likewise Mr Howe's Letter to the Members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly? It may serve at present as an answer to a paragraph that my attention was drawn to, in the Temperance Telegraph of the 3rd February, in which the Editor of that paper sets forth a tissue of perverted facts. Was it some of the other papers published in that quarter, which is always finding out some mare's nest, and their worth and veracity being now proverbially known, I would not have noticed it, or yet have troubled you. But when an Editor, respected for sobriety, sets forth such spurious and fallacious fabrications, what may not be expected from those who use a night cap. Surely the worthy Editor must have paid a visit to some of his West India friends, when he discovered in the Sykes & Co proposition to Nova Scotia, for building their Railways, 'Wooden Bridges', 'Wooden Station Houses', together with all those 'perishable materials'; and the wonder is, that the clever Editor did not discover a *Wooden Engine*, and as it is a Wooden Country, all things would then be in harmony by a single addition of a *Wooden Engineer*. One thing, however, is certain, a few more such pieces will enable people to judge of the paper's worth as to veracity. Now, the offer made by the Sykes & Co., and published in the Nova Scotia papers was—that they were to build their railways equal to the best English Railways, and subject to inspection when finished, to a competent Engineer; and we have yet to

learn that of such 'perishable materials' the English Railways are constructed. Would the worthy Editor, at his convenience, inform us in this dark corner, the price of the iron that goes into the New Brunswick Railways, as the people in this quarter are most anxious to know. There is one lamentable feature observable in the paragraph alluded to, that is, that Mr Howe is lowered in the Editor's estimation and must come down a peg! So that must be a setler to his public career. By publishing the above you will oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

21st February, 1853.

Mr Editor, In your last number the solution of a sum was required. I now send you the diameter of each man's share which comes to 2.26 inches.

Solution of question required, part 2nd, answer to which is 3 and 18. Worked by Double Position.

March 9th 1853.

Mr Pierce, The two numbers required by T. are 3 and 18, and the diameter of each Grinding Stone is 22.67757 inches.

A YOUNG GAFER. Upper Nelson, 5th March.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1853.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—15s. in advance: 20s. at the end of the year.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Seven lines and under, first insertion 2s. 6d., and 6d every subsequent publication: from 7 to 15 lines, 5s. the first, and 1s. every insertion afterwards. Longer advertisements in proportion. Advertising by the year as may be agreed upon.

No order except from persons with whom we have an account, will be attended to, except accompanied with the cash.

We should like on the opening of the navigation, to publish TWICE A WEEK, on a sheet somewhat larger than half the size of our paper. To procure a suitable Press, and other necessary materials, would involve an expense of about £200. Will our subscribers, who are the parties to be benefited by the arrangement, make an effort to put us in possession of the necessary funds? A small percentage on what is due by them, would enable us to carry out our wishes.

MR HOWE AND THE ST JOHN PRESS.

The following is copied from a long editorial in the Morning News, in answer to some remarks made by a Correspondent under the signature of "An Old Subscriber," to some comments made by the Editor in a previous number, on Mr Howe's Railway policy. We publish it as an offset to the columns of scurrility that have been poured on his head, through the Press on the other side of the Province. Our people seem to understand the matter thoroughly—they attribute it to the exertions he has made to have the main trunk railway to Canada, carried through the North Eastern Counties instead of by the Valley of the Saint John, and hence all the hard names and opposition; and so deeply are their minds impressed with this idea, that it will be a difficult matter to remove it.

We ask an Old Subscriber is it not a very remarkable thing, that the Government and Legislature should take up the Halifax and Quebec Railway originated by Mr Howe, and send Mr Chandler to England to borrow a million and a half of money, after Mr Howe had 'deceived' us in the above particulars! Surely after we had got our eyes open to the deception in some things, we had every right to conclude that the whole thing looked like a deception, a delusion, a trap! O—No!—None of us were willing to believe at that time, that Mr Howe had humbugged us. We thought of the money—and did not give up the ghost until the death warrant had been signed by Earl Derby. Had Mr Howe's scheme succeeded he would have been a God. He did not, and therefore base ingratitude struggles hard to make him a villain. But it will not succeed.

At one time (when the railway fever ran the highest in this City and Province) our paper stood almost alone in opposition to Mr Howe's policy. If again we had to stand alone upon another platform to vindicate Mr Howe's CHARACTER (which we never assailed) against the aspersions of his most inveterate foes, when they called him a knave, a wicked, designing man, seeking his own aggrandisement rather than his country's good—we shall, we trust, be found equally zealous in the cause of truth and justice. When people charge Mr Howe with mercenary feelings, to obtain the railroad solely on account of his own pocket, we ask them in turn did he ever rat—did he ever act the sneak by deserting his party for the sake of pelf? No! On the contrary, to sustain his principles, he threw up an office worth £600 a year. He sacrificed this sum in what he conceived to be, a defence of his country,