

ed at the ship-yards, in which there are now many vessels of every variety in progress. Eighteen shillings a day is paid, but with this there is evident dissatisfaction, twenty shillings being asked. It is apprehended that the request will soon assume the shape of a demand.

A bill on Saturday last reported to the New York Assembly, to regulate the hours of labor on the public works, and in all manufactories, and at all mechanical trades. It provides for ten hours labor on six days of the week,—prohibits children under ten years from working in any manufactory, and children under fourteen years from working more than eight hours.

This act shall not apply to those engaged in agriculture, in manufacturing lumber, or to those engaged in the domestic affairs of household work.

General Pierce was installed into office at Washington, on Friday the 4th instant, and, as usual, delivered an address to the assembled multitude at the Capitol. The ceremonies were opened with prayer, for the first time since the inauguration of the elder Adams.

Speaking of the Address, the Boston Daily Advertiser says—As a matter of taste, one would have preferred that the address had something less of, what is called abroad the national characteristic of American popular addresses, in its allusions to the past history, and the future destinies of the country. Yet considering what is without question the actual national taste, in this matter, it would be perhaps unreasonable to find any fault on this score.

On another point, however, which involves something more than a question of taste—an important one of policy, if not of principle—we cannot forbear to express our regret, at the expression of an opinion which it is to be apprehended may lead to misconception abroad, and tend to encourage a dangerous popular feeling at home. We refer to the following passage, manifestly indicating the desirableness of obtaining possession of the island of Cuba, and even further extension of territory.

“Indeed, it is not to be disguised that our attitude as a nation, and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions not within our jurisdiction eminently important for our protection, if not in the future, essential for the preservation of the rights of commerce and the peace of the world.”

With this we may couple, as in our judgment equally injudicious, the following re-assertion of what is called the Monroe doctrine, and which, unfortunately, for its chances of recognition abroad, comes in too near juxtaposition with the declaration above quoted.

“The rights, security and repose of this Confederacy reject the idea of interference or colonization, on this side of the ocean, by any foreign power, beyond present jurisdiction, as utterly inadmissible.”

The two declarations taken together amount to an unreserved assertion of the right to extend the jurisdiction of the United States over the American continent unrestricted by any interposition of European powers in aid of States now in acknowledged possession. As to the defencibility of this position we have no disposition to go into any discussion at present.

On another point, which is of some importance in its bearing on the future harmony of the Union, we are happy to see an unequivocal declaration of the principles of the President. We refer to the following passages of the address, and other passages relating to the same subject:—

“I believe that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this confederacy, is recognized by the Constitution.”

“I believe that it stands like any other admitted right, and that the States where it exists are entitled to efficient remedies to enforce the constitutional provisions. I hold that the laws of 1850, commonly called the ‘compromise measures,’ are strictly constitutional and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect.”

EUROPE.

The Steamer Baltic arrived at New York last Sunday night, bringing Liverpool dates to the 23d ult.

The Earl of Clarendon has assumed the seals of the Foreign Office, in place of Lord John Russell.

During the past week information had been received at Lloyd's of the wreck of three emigrant vessels to Australia, with nearly 1,000 passengers, all of whom were saved. The ships were the Sir Fowell Buxton, lost off Point Tuburas, Rio Grande Dec. 11; the Eglinton, Sep. 8, near Fremantle, Australia, and the Express, date blank, near Sydney.

AUSTRIA.—The London Advertiser announces the discovery of a very extensive and well organized conspiracy in Hungary against the Austrian rule. Italian letters say that there are now circulating in Hungary a proclamation signed by Kossuth,

granting a general amnesty to all those persons who were formerly opposed to Hungarian independence. It appears that regular guerilla bands are forming all over the country, and that ‘things do not look well.’ It is added, from Austrian sources, that the Government is perfectly well informed of what is going on, and that arrests are continually but quietly taking place. It is also added that the Austrian force now on the Bosnian frontier will be made to serve a double purpose; one part will guard the frontier, while the other, formed into flying corps, will scour Hungary.

Communications.

ANSWER TO A READER.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir—It is recorded in history, that the cackling of a Goose, once saved Rome, but whether a like effect will be produced by your valuable correspondent A READER, remains to be seen; and I little thought my humble productions and weak effusion, would have claimed such an honorable notice from so worthy a character, and so pure a ‘mind,’ free from all ‘disorder,’ as a Reader. A man of truth, a public guardian, and a man of wisdom, but disliking ‘honor,’ and no doubt, a cringing, fawning sycophant to the powers that be. The public may now rest at ease, when they have such an admirable and zealous protector, perched on a watch tower, to pull the sting out of any obnoxious matter that would intrude itself in the columns of the Press, by means of an unguarded Editor, and the people need be in no dread of being ‘misled’ by spurious effusions from any ‘disordered mind’—and believe me, Sir, I feel much flattered in being noticed by a man of sense, that should I err, I shall soon be put right.

Now, in justice to myself, Mr. Editor, let me state how I came to fall into this grievous and monstrous mousetrap. I called on a friend for the Journals of the House or Acts of the Assembly of the Province for 1851 or 52. He said they were lent, but handed me, I think 1849. But in this, to be pointed and particular, not having the same acts at my hand, having obtained the paper containing the Letter of A Reader, a long way from home, being on a journey, therefore I write from memory and on the spur of the moment, while I took an hour or two to rest myself. Still, I say, I feel satisfied it was 49. I then asked the said friend if there were any alterations in the Public Salaries of late, he assured me none that he was aware of; I therefore took that as my guide for ‘the show of truth,’ which your correspondent would wish to impress on the mind of the public, which I had so outrageously passed over. But to return to my ‘mistake,’ and take up his statements, which must surely be correct, having braced and backed his assertions with page, &c. of the acts and journals; and what do we find? I said that the Chaplain of the Legislative Council and Assembly got £25 each—corrected by A Reader £20 each—error £5. I said that the Sergeant at Arms in the Legislative Council and Assembly, each got 20s. per day—corrected, 15s.—error 5s. I said Door Keepers of both houses, 12s 6d—corrected, 10s—error 2s 6d. I said the Provincial Treasurer got £600—corrected, £500—error £100. I said the Solicitor General got £600—corrected, £230 13 4—error £369 4 8 and the last which fills up the catalogue of my ‘unfortunate blunders,’ and occupied so much of your Reader's valuable time to correct, for the love of keeping the public from being misled, is—that I said the Auditor General and Receiver General, got 6000,—corrected, 3467 3 0: happily no pence here—error 2531 17 0. Now the public may rest easy in mind as to all danger of being misled, having received so valuable and generous a purge from A Reader; and as there happens to be neither farthings nor fractions in the above calculations, as given by A Reader, that the most stupid school boy can see it at a glance, and few there can be but must appreciate the unwearied exertions, unparalleled exactness, moved by compassion, with a sacrifice of time, to expose ‘such unblushing falsehoods,’ lest they should lead a simple and undiscerning public astray, by any out-pourings from a ‘disordered mind,’ and as the rest of my productions has been so extremely ‘harmless,’ there is nothing, gentle reader, to dread.

And now, Mr. Editor, having got so far, I shall address myself with a little more respect to A Reader. And now, gentle Sir, in drawing up my chair and making your acquaintance, for I love to draw near to a man of perception, permit me to ask you, what have you made of all the other generals, the clerks, and the extras: you surely will not pass over all this, and allow it to go uncontradicted, for if so, I fear some simple mind may believe its correctness. Pity it is, which must cause many to weep, and me to mourn, that you ‘have neither time nor inclination to follow this writer,’ otherwise we might be blessed with a noble criticism, to serve as a catechism, to be used in schools, by the author of A Reader. And Sir, as you have repudiated the idea of ‘have a public man do duty for the honor of the thing,’ please inform the public in your next essay, on the correctness of the following questions which I have worked out with great labor, but being but a poor scholar, and bad in figures, I am afraid of a whipping if wrong, from your masterly mind, if I again should attempt ‘to mislead’ by wrong calculations, and if found correct,

and you publish your report, I promise you I shall apply by petition, for a slice of the extras, for your valuable services. The following are the questions: If a door keeper's salary amounts to 7s. 6d. per day, as passed and approved of by A. Reader, how much is that a year, answer 136l. 17 6. If a Postmaster's salary is 40l. a year, how much is that per day? answer 0l. 2s. 2 5-18d. Question, if a Postmaster's salary is 15s. per year, how much is that per day, answer 0l. 0s. 0 9-726023d. So if I am correct, I believe after all, that a door keeper, hard and humble though it be, is better than being a Postmaster in the Country, as I said in some former letters. And another question, I confess I am struck with, but which you can readily answer, that is, what are a Postmaster's hours, to give satisfaction to the public, and next, should a mail be detained by storms or otherwise, until midnight, or near morning, where should the mail be left, in the stable, at the post office door, or arouse the Postmaster to receive it? answers to those few questions would be thankfully received. But Sir, you might think those things beneath your notice. I have heard it said by hen-wives, that a good cackling hen laid always a large egg; you raised a great cackling about a few trifling mistakes, as already noticed, but oh, Sir, after all your labour, your egg was extremely small. But perhaps your next birth may be more comely, as all breeders, it is said, generally improve. And, Sir, as you were kind enough to help me out of the blunder I committed, it would be ungenerous in me, not to give you a list out of the mare's nest you have fallen into.

You say I am ‘well known, a friend to Judges and no enemy to Postmasters,’ and then tender me the wholesome advice to ‘try and keep my own office pure.’ If you do know me I can only say, it is more than your betters do, and more than some of my most near and intimate friends can say; preferring to remain at present incognito, intrusting my name to the Editor only, with whom I feel satisfied of its being perfectly safe. And as to my office, I am happy to inform you I never owned one, never having sought office in my life, nor yet intend to; being quite able to earn my living by the sweat of my brow, knowing full well that there is always plenty of Cormorants and Vultures such as you, at all times, hovering to prey on any public carcass, and fill any spare offices to be found in all countries. And as to Judges and Postmasters, the friendship to them is common sense, having neither kith nor kin, friend or foe in either of the offices. But as I intend to address a few lines to the Editor, in which I shall notice you a little further, I shall close the present for fear of too great a length. And as I had the presumption in my introductory letter, to head it with a few lines of poetry, without giving the Author's name, which your eagle eye and keen scent might construe to plagiarism, although in that I may cry even, and quits, I shall close this to you, by drawing on the same Author for a few lines more, which I acknowledge to be somewhat congenial to my feelings.

“The time has been, when no harsh sounds would fall,  
From lips that may seem embued with gall,  
Nor foils, nor follies tempt me to despise  
The meanest worm that crawled beneath my eyes;  
But now so callous grown, so changed since youth,  
I've learned to think and sternly speak the truth;  
Learned to deride the critic's starch decree  
And break him on the wheel he meant for me.  
To spurn the rod a scribbler bids me kiss,  
Nor care if courts and crowds applaud or hiss.  
And you, Sir, though in ‘buckram shall have blows enough,  
And feel that you ‘are penetrable stuff.’  
And though I hope not hence unscathed to go,  
Who conquers shall meet a stubborn foe.”

Mean time, Sir, I am your humble servant,  
OBSERVER.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—In your last paper I was favored with another communication from Rate Payer, Lower district Newcastle.—I have no wish to charge you with partiality, but it savours of it, as my last letter, which was written in answer to the first part of his former one, was in your office on Thursday, and I think in justice should have appeared before his second letter. I want no favors but have a right to fair play, I being the attacked party.

I have discovered that I was in error in alluding to P. M. Newcastle, as the writer of Rate Payer's first letter; I therefore beg to apologise to that Gentleman, for having done so, as on glancing over the second communication I observe that I should have written J. F. Chatham.

He commences by telling you that I have appeared as the ‘champion and defender of the late act of the Sessions.’ There is not one word about the Sessions, except in the last paragraph; and I disclaim any such distinction, I only wish to defend myself as one of that body—but that assertion is in keeping with the tenor of his communication throughout. Rate Payer seems to suppose that assertions mean facts, and he has acted upon that principle throughout the whole of his lengthy epistle. He makes a great boast about his exertions in ‘asserting the rights and privileges of the people against arbitrary power.’ If he means the ‘late act of the Sessions,’ so often quoted, that great affair has been fully

explained in my last letter; but was it worth while, I could detail transactions of Rate Payer, that would fully entitle him to the character he wishes to fix on others.—Had he accused me of want of penetration in not having discovered his superior tact for invention and assertions, I would have understood him. He next alleges that a publication of the simple truth has given me offence. The way he has met the statements in my communications shows where the statements of simple truths were, and from the way he wince under it, shows that he ‘feels the Smart.’—Next that he cannot follow me through my deviations, what deviations; I only give a statement of facts respecting the preliminary meetings, not one word of which he has attempted to deny, but tries to get rid of them by attempting a parallel case, which, if true, would not answer his purpose, as I have never understood that two wrongs would make a right.

He quotes a hackneyed saying, namely, ‘a drowning man will catch at a straw,’ but if the writer would put off the old shoe and ‘put the Boot on the other leg,’ it would suit much better. I should like to know who has tried to make a mountain out of a mole hill. If any one is in that plight it must be Rate Payer and his scribe.

Will Rate Payer explain what he means by ‘A Goodfellow should remember the time he was appointed commissioner for the upper as well as the lower district the people did not approve, &c., does he wish it to be understood, that I was appointed to both the districts at the same time, if so, it is false. I acted as commissioner of the roads for the upper district of Newcastle for several years at the earnest request of those who I believe had the interest of the Parish as much at heart as ever Rate payer had.—And I was very glad when an opportunity offered to relieve me from a very onerous duty, for which I received no remuneration, but on the contrary, have accounted for money which I never received. Again a difficulty which A Goodfellow endeavored to make on one occasion when he was out-voted 2 to 58! Poor body he must be hard up when he asserts the same line twice over.

He next gives you a statement of the assessment of 1852; why Sir, I said nothing about 1852, never having seen the Assessment list of that year, I meant 1851, and a few years preceding, but since he has given you a statement, let us have the whole truth.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Amount, and other details. Includes entries for A. Russell, W. Russell, J. Russell, A. Russell, A. Goodfellow, D. Goodfellow for 1851 and 1852.

Will Rate Payer now say that in 1851, I was not assessed nearly as much as him and his friends. My son has always formed part of my family, and his Assessment has been paid by me. I could have had no reference to James Russell, Senr. who, so far as I am aware, has nothing to do with the mill concern, I therefore had only a reference to those with whom he was connected in that way. I am prepared to show when required to do so, that the Russells in the above list, possess a larger amount of real and personal property, than the amount assessed, independent of their Milling Establishment. An Engineer of high standing, informed me that their saw mill would leave £4 per day of clear profit, but suppose one half that amount—at round numbers—would be £300. for six months. Real Estate that will yield 12 per cent, is surely a good property, which would make her worth £2,500—and suppose their Flour and Meal Mill to be worth £500.—would be £3,000 on which not one farthing of Assessment has been laid for the two last years, which I think quite sufficient to explain why Rate Payer is so anxious to have an Assessor to suit his purpose, as since his Father's death, he has become the principal owner.

Would Rate Payer give the names of the ‘thirty-one persons who attended from the Upper or Miramichi part of the district,’ as there certainly was not half that number in attendance that were Rate Payers. He next says that the statement made by James Hay, Senr. was, that I would have a meeting of my own; Rate Payer and James Hay, Senr. have other sayings connected with the meeting of 1851 to explain and reconcile, they had better have a meeting for that purpose, at which I should like to attend—as I don't hold myself responsible for the sayings of either of them.

You are very gravely told by Rate Payer that I was the only person at the Parish Meeting of 1851, who had no business there, ‘he being a defaulter for his Rates, and it was only by courtesy that he was allowed to speak at all,’ I will tell how I was a defaulter, and leave the public to judge for themselves. At the previous January Term, an assessment for £15 was ordered on the Lower District, for the purpose of a Pound, and David Goodfellow was appointed the Commissioner to have it built. Had Rate Payer been appointed, all would have been right.—The Warrant to the Assessors ordered them to assess that amount, and to direct the Collector to pay the same when collected to the Commissioner. When the building of the Pound was contracted for, I undertook to pay the amount when completed, under the