

Communications.

SALUS POPULI SUPREMA EST LEX.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—The importance of Light Houses, Beacons, and Buoys, to guide the mariner, is so well known, that to dwell at length upon the subject as to why and wherefore they are needed, would be a waste of time. But having in our youthful days tempted the dangers of the watery deep, and on more than one occasion experienced the horrors of a leeward shore, we cannot but feel an interest in the welfare and safety of those, whose path through life is identified with our early associations.

To the experienced seaman, a passage across the broad Atlantic, is not fraught with danger; give him a good ship, plenty of sea-room, and he is in his glory. Old Boreas may whistle through the rigging to his heart's content. But his near approach to land in stormy weather, dark nights, and perchance a thick fog, is no enviable position.

No class of men have greater claims on our sympathy, or more right to have their comforts cared for, and be protected from harm, than our bold and hardy seamen. Such, however, does not appear to be the opinion of the Governments of these Colonies—though we know not to which it may be attributed, ignorance or apathy. A voyage to and from Quebec in the fall of 1848, gave us a tolerable idea of the dangers of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and we addressed two letters to one of the Journals, published in that City, pointing out the great want of Buoys and Beacons, on various rocks and shoals, and the absolute necessity of a Light House on Cape Rozier. The Canadian Government has since voted the amount required for the erection of a Light House on that dangerous Cape, which we had hoped would have been erected ere this. But the late Commissioner of Public Works, in his Report for 1851, published by order of the House of Assembly, gives the following reasons for its non-election.

An appropriation was made last Session, for the erection of a Light House on Cape Rozier. The establishing of a direct Steam communication between Quebec and Great Britain having been shortly after brought under the consideration of the Executive, it was deemed advisable to postpone the construction of the Light House, until this important measure should be first decided on, as connected with it, it would be necessary to erect Light Houses at the other points hereafter enumerated in this Report, the whole of which could be economically managed under the one establishment.

This is all very well, but we consider, that the lives of our fellow creatures ought to be a far more weighty consideration than the economizing of a few pounds. An immigrant ship was wrecked in that vicinity last Spring, and several human beings met a watery grave. A light on Cape Rozier would, in all human probability, have averted this catastrophe. The same thing may occur this year, perhaps to one of the new line of Steamers. In no part of the Gulf or River St. Lawrence, is a Light more needed. That part of the coast forms one of the finest ship-traps we know of, and more vessels have been lost in that neighbourhood than any other part of B. N. America.

Now in addition to the above Light, another is required in the Island of Miscou, in order, not only to facilitate the navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but, to enable all vessels bound for the Bay Chaleurs boldly to round that low and dangerous head-land. This is a subject well worthy the attention of the Members for Gloucester and Restigouche, being of the utmost importance to the Ports of Shippigan, Bathurst, and Dalhousie. In order to defray the cost to New Brunswick, an arrangement should be made with the Government of this Province, for the payment of dues for said Light, by all vessels entering the Gulf, the amount thereof to be refunded to New Brunswick by Canada. Such a charge would be cheerfully paid by all Ship Masters visiting Quebec or the Bay Chaleurs. We have spoken to many on the subject, all of whom, even Masters of Coast-vessels, state they would consider it a great boon.

The navigation of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence is decidedly the most dangerous we are acquainted with, particularly in the Fall of the Year—but the dangers might in a great measure be obviated by the outlay of a comparatively small sum for Bell Buoys and Beacons.

The Gulf of Finland, the High Road to St. Petersburg, is very similar to the St. Lawrence—abounding in like manner with Islands, Rocks, and Shoals—but there the Mariner can scarcely err—as he leaves one light astern another is sighted ahead—and every shoal or sunken rock, is marked by Buoys or Flags. These flags are a very simple contrivance. A tough pole of the necessary length is, firmly secured to a heavy stone sufficient to keep the pole upright in all weathers, and a flag is fastened to the small end, the flag being sufficiently elevated above the water to be seen over the crest of the waves. These flags and poles, must necessarily be renewed every spring, the ice carrying off or breaking those of the previous year.

Every facility afforded to our Navigators is a benefit conferred on the entire community, not only as regards the preservation of life, but the security of property. A dangerous navigation necessitates high rates of Insur-

ance, and consequent increase of freight, even the sailor regulates his demand for wages according to the nature and danger of the voyage.

The immortal Bard said that 'fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind.' Having practically experienced all the horrors of shipwreck, and, as previously stated, repeatedly undergone the trying ordeal of contemplating the chances of escape from a leeward shore—the howling of the rude midnight blast, and the roar of the rolling surge, as in mad fury it lashes the shore, invariably recall to mind the perils we have encountered in by-gone days—and a silent but fervent prayer is breathed for those whose path is on the briny deep.

In conclusion we may say with Falconer.

'Oh were it mine with tuneful Maro's art
To wake to sympathy the feeling heart;
Like him the smooth and mournful verse to dress

In all the pomp of exquisite distress!
There too, severely taught by cruel Fate,
To share in all the perils I relate,
Then might I, with unrival'd strains de-
plore

Th' impervious horrors of a leeward shore.'

MERCATOR.

New Carlisle, 11th April, 1853.

*For the information of the uninitiated, these Buoys have a large Bell firmly fixed on the top, which tolls with every motion of its supporter.

THE FISHERIES.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—It is a lamentable fact, that there is nothing in our colonial commercial affairs, that is buried in so much obscurity, or that Colonists know so little about, that all Correspondents, Editors, and Statesmen, steer so completely clear of giving a correct statistical account as our FISHERIES, and it is most amusing to read the unmeaning and obscure Editorials and Speeches, on Reciprocity, and the Fishery question, and in no way can it be accounted for, except that nothing in our commercial affairs is so difficult to obtain a correct account of—to place their value and importance in a clear, defined view before the public, as the fisheries of the British waters of North America. My attention has been drawn to an article in the New Brunswick Chronicle, of February 3rd, in which there are set forth copious extracts from the *Pictor Eastern*, on this subject and Reciprocity, a portion of which I shall present to your readers as a sample, with a few remarks, in another letter; and in this, present a few statistics to show a few fractions of the value of those Fisheries. First—I shall notice the official returns, published in the Gloucester Telegraph, of Mackerel inspected in *Missachusetts only*, and reexported in the New Brunswick. I shall confine myself to 1851 and 1852. In 1851 there were inspected of Mackerel 329,442 barrels, which at 40s. per barrel, would amount to £658,884: in 1852 it fell off to 197,768 barrels. Of other fish inspected in 1852, besides Mackerel, of different kinds, such as Salmon, Shad, Herring, Tongues and Sounds, and Salmon Trout, in all 9,254 barrels, which at 40s. per barrel, amounts to £18,508. This is independent of the Cod Fishing, which there is nothing said about. It may be said, that all this quantity may not have been taken in British waters. True, but observe, there is but one State taken into account, and observe the following extract taken from the Gloucester Telegraph, which goes far to show they were. Gloucester falls short nearly one half, notwithstanding there has been a large increase in the fishing tonnage of the place. This may seem strange to many, but to those engaged in the business it is rather a matter of surprise, that they have done so well. Never did a season open with better prospects than that of 1852. The success of the business in the year previous, had given an impetus to those engaged to prosecute it to a greater extent, and their arrangements were accordingly made. Their anticipations, however, were not realized, and we are now beginning to feel its effects. The falling off of the catch of Mackerel, and the large loss of property, has caused the income of the town to be much reduced, and this necessarily creates a pressure in money affairs; not enough, however, to damp the energies of our townsmen, who are still disposed to embark in the business the coming spring, with renewed energy. Our neighbours at Essex also, feel this depression of the business in the lack of orders for new vessels, there not being more than one half as many now building as there were last winter at this time. This depression in the fishing business, is mainly attributed to the troubles in the Bay of St. Lawrence. The increase of naval vessels, and the new restrictions imposed by the British Government, are among the causes of the falling off of the catch of mackerel, which it will be observed, is mostly in those towns which send vessels to those waters. Had our fishermen been allowed to fish as they have done in years previous, the catch of 1852 would have equalled, if not surpassed, that of 1851. Suffice to say, that the Americans have over 1000 vessels, and upwards of 20,000 Seamen engaged in the fisheries, and chiefly in the Gulf and Bay de Chaleur. I shall next notice one Port in the Colonies, the Port of St. John's, Newfoundland, and in comparing the comparative statement of the two last years, it will be found that 1852 far exceeds that of 1851. There were shipped from the Port of St. John's, alone, in 1852, of dried Codfish, 629,498 Quintals, at 15s. per quintal, would amount to £473,123 10s.; Of oil, the

produce of the Fisheries, 9014 tons, which at £30 per ton, would amount to 270,420. Seal skins, 405,439 at 1s. per skin, amounting to £20,321 19s.; Salmon 2,454 tierces, at 60s. per tierce £9,816; mackerel and herring 10,681 barrels, at 40s. per barrel £21,372; making a total in round numbers of £1,471,445, of those two places, saying nothing about all the other Ports in those Colonies. In a word, whatever the exports of Newfoundland is, it is from the Fisheries, likewise, a great part of the exports of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island. Canada is more of a consumer than an exporter of fish, and ere long will be a principal market. So is New Brunswick more of a consumer than an exporter of fish. Next take into account the amount of fish taken out of British waters, by France, Spain, Portugal, and all other Foreigners.

Next, the immense amount of fish shipped to the Mediterranean, Spain, the Coast of Brazil and many other parts of the World, by those Mammoth Houses, which have established themselves along our shores, from the Island of Jersey, and accumulated fortunes, dealing in codfish only. And as your Correspondent Mercator, has already observed, that the small Island of Jersey has about 100 sail of Shipping engaged in the North American Fisheries. It is, we believe, generally considered, that the two Firms of Messrs. Robin and Nicolle, afford daily employment to one thousand hands each, besides the immense number of Planters and others wholly dependent on them, to those add the important Firms of De Quettville, Janvier, LeBontellier, and LeBoutellier and Brothers, Alexanders, besides some twenty other Houses, either wholly or partially engaged therein. We have no means in this retired spot, of ascertaining the real amount of capital invested, but a rough calculation convinces us, that Jersey alone, has upwards of half a Million if not a Million of Money at stake in the Fisheries. If the above named sum be vested in the fisheries, and few there be knowing more about it than your correspondent, being for a length of time closely connected with one of those Firms, it is not unfair to presume that there are some Millions of Pounds worth of Fish shipped yearly from our Shores, by those extensive Houses and nothing said about it. For let it be borne in mind, those vessels alluded to, are none of your Shallops or Herring Smacks, but many of them full rigged Ships.

It is nothing uncommon to see six or seven full rigged Ships, at one of the Houses of Robin & Co., to be loaded with scrawled fish for a foreign market. Next think of the immense home consumption of fish in all the Colonies, more particularly along the shore and fishing coast, fish, in many instances, a daily article of food, which is quite impossible to form an estimate of; yet I think, few need doubt one way or other, there are taken yearly out of British waters, value to the amount of between ten and fifteen Millions. And think not this an overdrawn picture, and before you pronounce it chimerical, make yourself acquainted with the value and extent of those Fisheries. Take up your chart and examine their extent: think of the Americans alone having 1,000 vessels and 20,000 men engaged in those fisheries, and principally in British Waters, many of them making two, three, and some of them four voyages a year, besides all other Foreigners, think of the vast amount of all kinds of fish sent to the West Indies from the different Ports in the Colonies; think of the enormous amount used in home consumption, and then tell me, is it an overdrawn picture. Nay, from personal observation, and from what I can glean from the most reliable sources, I will hazard a further opinion, at the risk of public censure, that I am below the mark. Feating to trespass on your patience, I shall close the present, and resume the subject in another Letter. I remain at present, A friend to the

FISHERIES.

*As some of your readers may not understand the term Planters, it may be proper to add, that they are an independent class of fishermen, employing men, and fishing on their own account, taking their supplies from those Houses, and paying them in fish, or otherwise, as it may suit them.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

Mr Editor,

Our Soj disant Government has been down upon us here, and its track like that of the Si-rocco over the desert, is marked by blight and destruction. Unscrupulously they seem to delight in tearing away every thing that is good, or sound, or true, and introducing such material as can be made to administer to their wants, and execute their wishes—unholy props of an unholy Edifice. Of all their acts bearing this stamp, (and already they are not few) the removal of the Sheriff from his office, stands out boldly prominent, sudden, startling, and unprecedented. Neither in Canada nor in England we are sure would such a despotic act be perpetrated at the present day with impunity, but here—

Importe!

This gentleman who has executed with credit to himself and satisfaction to the inhabitants, the onerous and responsible duties of High Sheriff for sixteen or seventeen years past; of whom it has been said that during all that time he cannot be charged with the commission of one deceitful, mean, or unfeeling act; and whose intelligence, and knowledge of his duties have never been questioned, is now arbitrarily set aside, contrary to the expressed wishes of the people, upon the miserable pretext of interference in an election; twisted it seems out of the disclosure

of an unpremeditated and confidential conversation held with a friend, while resting for the night, during a hasty journey to the south end of the County; and which we believe he has never been afforded an opportunity to refute or explain. If a wrong was done of this character, it was to the people, and one would suppose that they alone should judge it. But no, their judgment and wishes have been totally disregarded and despised.

The injury inflicted is not so much upon the individual as upon the County, through the loss of an officer whose place cannot easily be filled. He retires with the esteem and affection of all good men, and may calmly look down upon the oppressors, the greatest of whom might well be proud to possess the reputation he has acquired. But to us, those acts are significant of the animus of our Rulers, to reign by terror rather than justice, regardless of such claims as honesty, ability, faithfulness, and truth, they remove every impediment, Napoleon-like, to the security of their power, and recklessly cry—*oderint dum metuant*.

Blindly do they mistake the character of the people, if they imagine that the absence of all violent display of opposition, indicates tame submission to these corrupt practices; quiet but deep, is the sense of the unfortunate position in which we are placed, and before the Judgment of a higher power overtakes them (and its approach is evident for *Quos Deus Vult perdere prius dementat*) some effectual mode of relieving themselves from this intolerable oppression and disregard of their interests and wishes, may be discovered by

THE PEOPLE.

Gloucester, 18th April, 1853.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 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.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

The question of the stability of the Turkish Empire, and the evident design and desire of the Russian Government, to dismember that country, is a subject which is engaging the attention of the Leading London Journals. The Times, it appears, is the only paper that takes part with Russia, and has brought down upon itself, in consequence, the opposition of its contemporaries. The Morning Advertiser thus notices a recent Editorial in that journal, or "the thunderer," as the Times has been designated:—

"It is printed in the English language, but that is the only thing English about it. It is, where Russia is concerned, Russian all over."

On the same subject, the Daily News remarks:

It is not for the interest of England that Russia should be permitted to plant the sign of conquest and of despotism on the shores of the Bosphorus. It is not for England's honor; it is not for her welfare in her fame. Two mighty principles are in presence of each other in Europe—the enslavement of the people, and their moral, social, and political emancipation. But the dumb and dark despotism of Russia is the incarnation of the one; and progressive institutions of out spoken England are the refuge and the rampart of the other. Since Canning's time the influence of England has never ceased to be felt in protection and sustenance of the weaker powers, and in wise, because disinterested, resistance to all schemes of encroachment by their absolutist neighbors; and the abettors of Russian aggrandisement are fully conscious that this standing policy of European freedom has become a sacred tradition and a fixed principle with the reading and thinking millions of our people. They know that while this policy animates the nation, no intrigue of diplomacy, no bargain between bureaucrats, can ensure for a month even the tacit complicity of Great Britain in Russia's plots of partition. The people will have none of it, they want no share of the plunder, and they will not stand by like cowardly accomplices to see the murder done.

OREGON.

RECENT intelligence from this country report that rich Gold deposits have been