

## Communications.

### PUBLIC MATTERS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner, Sir,  
"The royal vices of age demand  
A keener weapon, and a mightier hand,  
Still there are follies, e'en for me to chase,  
And yield at least, amusement in the race."

In presenting the following Letters to you for publication, I hope I may not, ere I have done, be the means of arousing the ire of some press muzzler that may yet be slumbering in the Province, ere I get through with them; and bring trouble, perhaps, on innocent heads. But as I intend to interfere with no character, which in private may be models of perfection, but solely to attack public abuses and public characters, as has already transpired through the Press; I hope I may be pardoned in committing my thoughts to paper, and from the occasional twaddle of Reform going the rounds of the Press, more particularly some of the southern portion of it, setting forth the great and glorious Reform measures anticipated to be brought into existence by the present Government, at the ensuing meeting of the Legislature. And among the many things demanded is Vote by Ballot, Elective Legislative Council, Universal Suffrage, or to extend the Elective Franchise to Ratepayers.

Now don't the country wish they may get it whilst the present Government is in power, or anything else in the shape of Reform, that would be of substantial benefit to the public. No, no, as well expect grapes of thorns or figs of thistles; as any good or straightforward act by the present gentlemen in power. Let the people ask them for bread and they will hand them a stone; their whole aim seems to be self aggrandisement, place and power. And whilst I hesitate not to charge them thus, I shall hereafter show the why and wherefore. There is one thing, however, to be relied on, and that is, if they do not bring any good reform measures into existence the present or ensuing Session, there is little to be hoped for the next, it being the last, and the last session of a Legislature, generally, resembles somewhat a notorious sinner on his death bed, ready to promise or do anything for a further length of days. And if hollow promises or mock measures will serve the purposes of lengthening out their days, few Governments had ever more cause to resort to it than the present, for their political humbugging.

There are many public grievances that at present exist, and call loudly in my opinion, for redress or reform, although I confess I feel myself inadequate to the task. Still I hope, ere I have done, to bring to the notice of more able minds, the necessity of redress of such that I shall endeavor to point out, and in attempting to do so, it is not my object to court controversy, or yet become conspicuous, having no selfish ends in view further than a simple desire to benefit my fellow men, and hoping that something of the kind might not be unacceptable to many of your readers to ponder over; and whilst one party pleads for reformation and change, the other extols in the warmest terms the existing Constitution and Laws, it seems to me as if something would be gained for the decision of this question, if our Constitution was faithfully developed in its practical effects. What I intend presenting to the public is no refined and abstract speculation; it is from observation and delineation of things passing daily around us in the moral and political world. It is but of late that the inestimable importance of political principles was known, adequately apprehended or understood, in New Brunswick; although it is a known fact both to the philosopher and statesman, that the spirit and character of a Government intrudes itself into every rank of society.

But the truth is, the humble unsuspecting freholder either never thinks of, and believes that all powerful name Government to be quite beyond their reach; many never troubling themselves with books, philosophy, science, or not even a newspaper, without they happen to get one for nothing, or by borrowing from their neighbors, or plundering from a post office, believing the doctrine propagated by some worthies, that the business of the farmer is to cultivate the potage pot, and to devour its contents; and to trouble not their heads with politics; leaving the care of their souls to their Clergy, and of their liberty and means in the hands of, perhaps, designing and unprincipled Statesmen. The time was, and not long since, did a person call himself anything else but a Tory or good Conservative, he was in danger of being hunted out of the land as a dangerous character to the well-being of the community at large, until the noble Wilmot forced the conviction on public minds, that a person might hold a different name and still be a man of integrity, fill the highest offices, and be a lover of his country.

But I care not for names. Let a Statesman or a Government be judged by their acts, and the pity is that so few watch the sayings and doings of their members and satisfy themselves ere they should be fooled over and over again by the same person. Would any be found so careless as to employ a private servant for four years, entrust him with their rights and liberties, without watching well his ways. And yet they are to be found that will vole for a man and entrust his rights and liberties into his hands, and know nothing further about him until the expiration of four years, when he again is called on for his vote.

With these few introductory remarks, I

shall close the present letter, and in my next enquire into the real benefit that would accrue to the public generally from those contemplated changes. I am one of those that do not believe all changes beneficial reforms, and it is by such manœuvring that wholesome, constitutional, and beneficial reform is defeated, and reminds one much of the dog and the shadow, grasping at something, which if obtained, would prove of no great value.

Mean time, I am, yours, &c.

OBSERVER.

### COUNTY OF KENT.

Mr Editor—

It is with some reluctance I again ask for the insertion of a few lines, to notice the last two communications from 'Veritas' and 'R. Hutchinson.' It may be unnecessary for me to assure you that this reluctance bears a strong resemblance to that of the Sportsman, who knows that he is shooting at Birds which are but carrion, notwithstanding which he wastes his ammunition, neither is it important, perhaps for me to congratulate you on the circumstance of your paper containing those two 'gigantic productions,' being looked for by a few 'Select Rummies' in this quarter, with a gusto really alarming. It is not my province Mr Editor to dictate to you, how far personal attack shall proceed in your valuable columns, nor do I intend by indulging in such a course, to prostitute the usefulness of a Public Journal. If I could discover either the sense or the benefit of replying to the Communications in question, in the language of low invective, and false and disgraceful insinuations, it might incite me to an attempt to follow the example set me. I presume both writers believe they have conducted their letters in a style equally Honorable as Masterly, and feel a pride in having a discerning public to pass judgment upon them. I am perfectly willing to have it so, and to suffer the fatal consequences, but would join hope 'all my Clients won't despise me, nor leave me.' Some of the assertions and queries in 'Veritas's' letter, may justly entitle him to rank among the base and worthless, or to be regarded as one of those self-rendered unfortunates upon whose mind and passions Insanity has indelibly affixed its dreadful and polluting brand. Were I satisfied he did not range under the latter class, it would be an easy task to deal with him, but with such a 'Character' I confess myself somewhat at a loss how to apply any wholesome treatment, since corporeal chastisement is abolished towards the 'Idiot.' In leaving 'Veritas' to his fate for the present Mr Editor, it is not my desire to neglect him entirely, but will in due time submit his case to our County Superintendent of Schools for further instruction. I am ever fearful of incurring the displeasure of my Friends, and this naturally incites me to answer 'R. Hutchinson's' enquiry viz. 'Mr James, when did you become acquainted with the sentiments, moral rectitude, and a spirit of benevolence?' As near as I can at present recollect, it was before you 'R. Hutchinson' parted company with them, which would also be prior to your installation as Worthy Patriarch &c., the remainder, I need not trouble you with, as you already know all I could say, another such proof of your existence as your last letter afforded, would at the same time pronounce you to be 'Junius' himself. You surely don't play the Copyist? No—I remember to have heard 'He' was worn out some time ago from downright hard usage. This I fear is a tender subject as 'He' has honored many a heavy draft, 'do then let his ashes rest in peace.' Now Mr Editor I think I have troubled you long enough, and in all good feeling would wish your 'Correspondents' to understand, that though they feel themselves to be a 'band united,' their mode of attack is not fatal to the onslaught, and the next time they attempt to give the Public the details of the damages of a storm, they had better take truth for their guide, and forbear to make accusations both false and unjustifiable.

JAMES A. JAMES.

Richibucto January 14, 1853.

### BOOK-BINDING.

The Subscriber is now prepared to execute all orders in the above line, in a Superior Manner, and with Despatch. Particular attention paid to Binding NEWSPAPERS and Re-binding OLD BOOKS.

DAVIS P. HOWE.

Chatham, February 20, 1852.

All persons forwarding Illustrated Works, containing no printed "directions to the binder," for the placing of the Illustrations, will please, in future, to point out the pages opposite to which the Plates are to appear. The time lost in the examination of new Works, to find the true places of the Illustrations, is not at all compensated by the price charged for binding.

### Legislative Notice.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Tuesday, 6th April, 1852.

Ordered. That the Fortieth Standing Order of this House be for three months previous to the next meeting of the Legislature published in the Royal Gazette, and also in a newspaper in each County in which a newspaper is published.

That no Bill, Resolution or other Proceeding, founded upon any application addressed to the House of Assembly, be sustained by the Council unless an application to the same effect, with such documents as may accompany the same, be also presented to the Council in General Assembly.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 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.

### LONDON TIMBER TRADE.

The following Report of the London Wood Trade will be read with interest:

London Annual Wood Report.—The wood trade has largely partaken in the commercial prosperity of the country during 1852. In 1851 its sudden extension in London might have been ascribed to local causes, peculiar to, and centering in the metropolis. In 1852 without these local influences, more business has been done, with more spirit and energy, with better prices, and on an extended area; so that the indications of a successful year are strongly marked here, as well as in the other great ports of the United Kingdom, in all branches of the wood trade.

The returns of the Board of Trade supply data for the following estimate:

1852	Colonial Timber and Deals,	1,130,000
	Foreign,	870,000
	Total Loads,	2,000,000

The importation in London exceeded 1200 cargoes during 1852—closely parallel to 1851; both years were fifty per cent. in advance of those preceding which average about 800; while the quantity of hewn timber stands at the average of several years, the use of Deals, Battens, &c., or the sawn Wood, has taken an immense start during 1852, when 6,800,000 pieces replace the previous average of 4,900,000 pieces.

Some portion of this increased supply of Deals, it will be observed, is drawn from British America. Canadian Pine Deals, after several years of low depressed prices, have at length resumed a healthy condition. For the preceding year and until this summer their medium price taking second quality, was at and under ten guineas per standard hundred; commencing with the fresh arrivals in July at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , they have gradually been advanced to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. at the close of the season. In like manner third quality from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. early, have rested at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. now; and first quality from 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. on the commencement, can be quoted as high as 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. now. The importation has been very large and the result has been very good, for importers have realised as arriving. A large accumulation of the stock inevitably lies in season, in the public docks, yet it will on maturity find that consumption for which the pine of Canada has now become indispensable. Canadian white spruce deals have not advanced like Pine Deals, but more directly in the cheaper supply of New Brunswick Spruce Deals, with the advantage of lesser freight than paid from the St. Lawrence. While St. John's Spruce have proved a good import those of Quebec have cost too much, though the full rates of the year preceding have been maintained, with a small advance thereon. Taking the Spruce of New Brunswick and Canada together, we estimate an increased importation of nearly twenty per cent., and likewise the proportionate increase in their consumption over the two preceding years. So much have consumers become accustomed to the use of American Spruce, that foreign white deals will not be taken for them, unless they were to become much cheaper, which the increasing trade between Norway and France is fast tending to preclude.

Canada Pine Timber again begins to occupy an important position in our London trade—the quantity imported amounting to 10,663 pieces, equal to 16,000 loads in 1852, or double that of each two years preceding. Of the ship building sizes, which suit this port, there has been a good sale at a medium price of about 70s. Some selections of large have risen 10s., and even 20s. higher of three load meetings; but small meetings are quoted at 60s. The latter, as house building Timber, can seldom remunerate shippers, while Swede and Prussian Fir Timber is as cheap, often cheaper. Canadian Red Pine Timber, which was our large London trade under protective duties, languished for two years after the foreign duty was reduced and now ceases to be used for building. The importation was reduced, to 15,240 pieces in 1850, to 11,800 in 1851, and now consists of only 1662 large and long pieces, equal to as many loads, intended for conversion into masts and yards, though

little was fit for the intended purpose, as may be supposed by prices ranging from 70s. to 100s. per load; as Masts were scarce and much in demand, those imported, prepared from Red Pine, sold from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. per load, and large Yellow Pine Masts have commanded 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s. per load. Of Quebec Elm the supply is about 4000 loads, against 5000 in 1851, and this diminution, now apparent, secures full prices for parcels in the late fleet. According to size and selection, the prices were from 65s. to 85s. for the merchantable Rock Elm, and there is judgment to avoid any other.

Quebec Oak Timber has been depressed all the year, and some of the stock of 1851, which cost £6 per load, lies over to the present time. There were importers who held over and ultimately sold under 70s.; but when once so much below import cost an outport demand soon relieved us, and, with a prudent reserve 90s. has been resumed, and 100s. is the rate not unlikely to be realised for the remainder; the importation amounts to 1800 loads, all in large sizes. Small Quebec cannot compete with small Baltic Oak. Quebec Standard Staves were depressed under 60 $\frac{1}{2}$  per mile during the spring. On the opening of the season in July, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$  was realised; and while emigrant ships were outfitting, they rose progressively to 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ . This brought Staves to London from all the outports, and a large quantity has accumulated from the fall supply, which now bears no better quotation than 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Cull Standard Staves rose within 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  of the merchantable; and West India Puncheon Staves went as high as 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ , while buyers were eager. Although great demand for Memel Pipe Staves has recently raised them 20 $\frac{1}{2}$  per mille, the demand for Quebec Pine is not thereby stimulated. The stock of Colonial Staves on hand is large, 764 mille against 260 mille in 1851. The importation has likewise doubled, and the profit thereon very brilliant.

After heavy losses on the arrears of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Birch Timber, the market is free from the drawback of low quotations; the import from thence has been 3974 pieces, about 2000 loads, and chiefly of the large sizes, which, when fresh, has commanded prices varying from 55s. to 70s. per load. From the St. Lawrence, 1700 pieces of very choice Birch have sold from 70s. to 100s.; this is dressed perfectly square, without waste or defects, and gains esteem; the value dependent on average size—none should be under 14 inches. The tonnage of the ships from British America carrying wood to London, was:—From Canada, 91,482 tons in 1852, against 75,000 in 1851; from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 30,402 tons in 1852, against 39,436 in 1851. American Pine Sleepers of regular sizes have been imported under contract, and continue to be inquired for at full cost.

The importation of foreign Deals and Battens into London has risen during 1852 to the gross total of 3,843,000 pieces; the total of 3,231,000 pieces in 1851 was remarked as an enormous increase preceding years, which were found to average less than 2,000,000 of pieces; but the statement is still more striking when the consumption of foreign Deals and Battens is seen to be 3,596,000 pieces, against 2,656,000 in 1851, and about 1,800,000 on the average of four years preceding.

Of this large increase the great share belongs to the Baltic ports of Sweden, whence 985,000 pieces of Deals and 86,000 Battens, more than double the average of five previous years. The reductions of import duty have mainly contributed to the extension of this trade, as cheap wood can now bear the additional freight to which these imports are subject, as compared with the older established and nearer ports of Gothenburg and the coast at Norway. From Finland, also, there is a manifest increase of trade, or 541,000 pieces of Deals and Battens, against 379,000 in 1851, and 152,000 the mean average of several years before. As our trade with Finland and Sweden depends on being supplied thence with our cheapest Wood, the prices must necessarily be low. This has been the case throughout the past year; but as there is a very small reduction in the price since the last reduction in duty, the profit should be considerable, irrespective of the benefit derived by its mighty extension. Prices of Deals and of Battens may be stated from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  Petersburg standard, to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s.; taking the lowest qualities and the best or Gelfe. There are so many new ports, with names scarcely geographical, that it seems unnecessary to name them, except as the trade of Sweden and Finland in general terms. We have looked for a large increase in the supply of Swedish Fir Timber, and found it last year with an import of 33,200 loads, which has assisted in making up for the deficiency of Prussian Fir and Quebec Red Pine Timber, as our dependence here must always be on the low priced article. On its arrival the rate was 59s. to 52s., but the usual pressure for early sale reduced it as low as 45s. per load, when a reaction took place, and 52s. to 55s. was realized for the great bulk of the autumn supply. Some forbearance in the final sales has enabled importers to reach 62s. and 65s. as the closing quotation.

### NOVASCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

The following important Railway papers were laid before the Legislature of the sister Province, by the Hon. Mr Howe, when it was ordered that 500 copies be printed for the use of the members.

### RAILWAY PROPOSITIONS.

Messrs. James Sykes, John Brookfield, and George W. King, Railway Contractors, respectfully submit to the Government of Nova Scotia, the following proposition for the