

the art of teaching, his qualifications are considered complete. I would ask, can all these requisites be acquired without diligence, time, perseverance and expense? And ought not the services of a man so qualified, be considered valuable? Only think of Teachers having to proceed to Fredericton or St. John, some having to travel two hundred miles, to attend a Training School, without any provision save £5 Provincial allowance. How could a man of family be expected to be subjected to such inconvenience. A certain person lately observed (in answer to the objections raised by some Teachers, about being unable to proceed thither, on account of pecuniary embarrassments) that the knowledge there acquired, with some other benefits, which I should designate imaginary, but which were supposed would result from attending this literary institution, was a sufficient inducement for attending it, and would prove to be a satisfactory compensation. Teachers are often paid off in bills and promissory notes of this kind. Where is the man of any other vocation that would like to be so treated. Contrast the situation of the Teacher with that of a common labourer; the latter commonly receives five shillings per day, sometimes higher wages, and tradesmen receive still higher wages. The most illiterate and ill-behaved individual in the Country, receives better payment for his labour than the Teacher. If an Indian happened to emerge from the forest who never knew that there was such a thing as a Normal School in creation, and who did not know but the Constellation of the Great Bear, and the Czar of Russia, were other appellations for Bruin of the forest, would he, does any person imagine, feel grateful if he was in search of employment, to be offered Teachers wages? I think his native dignity would be insulted. I know not whether many would be inclined to believe all I am stating. If however, I have deviated from what is real, I will willingly retract.

The late Superintendent of Schools seemed inclined to believe that the present low state of Education was caused by the prosperous times, which fortunately exist in this Province, and which induced young men to relinquish teaching for more pleasant and lucrative employment. This is sufficient acknowledgment that the salaries of teachers are not above mediocrity. The Inspector of Schools for Northumberland, does not coincide with the Superintendent on that point. The import of his observations is, that it was to prosperity in trade, and increase of population that he looked for a happy change. Can it be that the true cause of evil is not understood, or that it remains to be discovered. But hire and pay Teachers by the month—give them at least as high wages as an ordinary mechanic—the high value I set on their labour would compel me to ask better payment, but for fear of incurring the displeasure of the people, generally by so unreasonable a request, and for entertaining such wicked designs, I shall be moderate in my requests at least at the first onset, then will good times increase the facilities by which they may be paid. Until something of this nature be done, the condition of Schools and the character of Teachers, will remain unchanged. In vain may Legislators prepare acts and Superintendants propose amendments, Inspectors enforce and advise, and the people cry out for better Teachers, while the present state of things remain. In the House of Assembly a short time since, one of our Representatives, Mr Johnson, spoke rationally on the subject of Education, and favourably towards the Teachers. I feel pleased when I know that educational interests are advocated by such an able man. I may here observe (although it has been already taken notice of by all our journalists and others) that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in his speech at the opening of the Parliament, said not a word about Education. Of course, although I need not presume to draw any inference from the above, there are very many who cannot be denied the privilege of thinking, and myself, feel a pain in my thoughts.

But notwithstanding all these unfavourable omens, and the manifest disinterestedness displayed by influential men towards the cause of Education, there are many who would wish to see learning flourish, and peace and prosperity abound in our land. And if there be anything which promotes the advancement of civilization, the blessings of peace and contentment, it is Education; and it there be ought which strengthens vicious habits, and contributes to their propagation, it is her rival—Ignorance. I think there should be some Legislative interference to cause people to educate their children. Note the rejection of the taxation system by the inhabitants of a certain parish in this County. Man was constituted a rational being—and if that great principle by which he was rendered so superior to brutes be overlooked, he degrades himself, and lessens his elevation and reputation as a citizen of the World and a member of Society.

But to give a stimulus to men's minds in general, regarding this subject, is not an easy matter, when so many consult their pockets before any public good. Due reflection is particularly requisite in order to foresee the advantages resulting from a proper system of Education. Selfish and interested motives should be laid aside in deliberating on it. There

could not be a nobler theme, there could not a more desirable subject occupy the pen of the philosopher or the politician. If the wish to promote morality, or establish the true principles of civil liberty be entertained, if our own public and personal interests be consulted, the diffusion of knowledge, through schools and other places of instruction, becomes necessary in order to accomplish such desirable views.

I cannot allow my observations to close without expressing a hope that the reasonable, well-disposed people of the Province, will reflect on the present degraded state of the Schools, I know there are some people totally ignorant of their condition. A solitary individual like myself can do but little towards rebuilding a broken constitution; the help of the strong, the assistance of the influential, are necessary. An eminent modern writer, in speaking of the European race says:—"They have distinguished themselves from the other inhabitants of the world, by the arts of peace, continued advancement in civilization and successful cultivation of science, and literature; and in fact, it is to these studies, and the results produced by them, that the superiority of their arms are principally due."

I hope Mr Editor, you will not consider me a trespasser on the columns of your paper.
I am Sir, Yours, &c.

CONSISTENCY.

Legislative News.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER.

FREDERICTON, 25th March, 1854.

Dear Pierce,

Again I write without much to say. The Election Bill has been thrown out of the Council. Indeed it would have been lost in the House had they put it through upstairs. The majority in the House are opposed to passing such a Bill, though bound to vote for the principle of Ballot, because of the pressure from without. Means would be taken to defeat a law of this nature under any circumstances, by objecting to the details, and in the present case it would be opposed as originating in the wrong quarter and as being too late to effect the next election, and I have no doubt had the House received and entertained this Bill, it would have been amended so as to make the Council elective, and the Lords would then reject it. It may be thought that the "Radicals" should bring in an Election Bill, but you must see that anything of this kind would be useless, it might do to make a noise about and serve popularity seeking, though insincere men, but the Government could not and would not allow it to pass; indeed they ought not, because, if they approved of the principle, (which they do not) they should bring it in themselves, and allowing the opposition to carry such a measure would be a defeat, and an acknowledgment that what they could not perfect themselves had been accomplished by a minority, thus admitting their own incapacity. It may do for professed Liberals out of the House who sincerely hate what they profess to advocate, and who desire to injure the honest Liberals for their own ends, or to serve some soured defeated candidate at the last elections, to complain of the minority doing nothing; but common sense must show that it would be a useless waste of time to bring in a measure without any hope of success, while at the same time it would be injudicious in that party thus to trammel themselves, or the Liberals who may come in next election, by laying down the details of a measure to bind their successors, or afford a handle for the old party should they be in the opposition next House.

The House has been in supply one day this week, and fearful to say, have passed a grant of £214 odd, to James Boyd which they call his back pay and travelling charges, while the seat was held by Fitzgerald. This is laying down a dangerous precedent—it is the first instance of the kind in British legislation, it is wrong in principle or rather is devoid of principle. The sitting Member gets his pay while serving, and Mr Boyd might as well claim all the expenses of the scrutiny and even those of his election in the County. The division was 19 to 15. Street, Kerr, Johnson, Montgomery, Read, Gordon, and McPhelim voting against, and Barberie and Wilkinson for the Grant—Cattler not present. Let folk talk of retrenchment and economy after this. I said two years ago that I looked upon the majority of the present House as more reckless in money grants than any former House, and every day since has confirmed this conviction; unfortunately the press has been too general in speaking on this subject, and their remarks are calculated to mislead the public and involve an honest minority in the general charge; let the people, however, refer to the Journals for the last four years, and mark those whose names are found in favor of such grants, not judging by an isolated vote only. It will be found that one set of men are always found on the side of extravagance, while the other have been as steadily opposed to it.

There is no time fixed for taking up the Orange or Liquor Bills, but they will be committed ere long. The former of these will provoke discussion this year, as the advocates are determined to be heard; the opinion is that it will be lost, as last year by a majority of one, rather close work, on the eve of a general election. The Liquor Bill will probably be lost also, and some stringent license law passed.—The Attorney General's Bill to prevent habitual drunkenners, by sending the parties to the Lunatic Asylum, may be right in principle, but not practicable in details. The expense of proceedings in Chancery; the enormous cost to the Province; the insufficiency of Asylum accommodation; and the danger of abuse in the exercise of such powers as are proposed to be given, render the expediency of the measure problematical, and the chances of the bill passing doubtful. Should the Orange Bill pass in the House by any chance or mishap, it will be lost upstairs. We have pretty good evidence of the evils resulting from such organizations, when we see the combination of Orangemen in the House; the party appear to act in concert on any question which affects individual members, and it is more than hinted that the Boyd grant was carried by this feeling. It would be a pretty state of things should there be a general majority of this or any other organized party in the Legislature, who would sink important political principles and sacrifice the general welfare, for petty party purposes of any kind; but when these purposes are subversive of equal liberty and the

free exercise of individual thought and independent action, as men and christians, it is only surprising that intelligent men can be found in the Province who claim the right of private judgment for themselves, yet not only desire to deprive others of equal rights, but in reality sacrifice their own freedom and become the mere slaves of party, and the tools of faction; the evil will ultimately become too apparent to escape the observation or claim the support of the veriest devotee; but in the meantime, the public interest must suffer and the public peace be disturbed to a fearful extent. Those Counties have great reason to rejoice where no such organization exists, and fearful will be the accountability of that man, whether Protestant or Catholic, who first suggests or renders necessary any such combination, to shame religion and disgrace the community.

FIDES.

Extracts from the Journals.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF TRADE.

The Committee of Trade have had before them a Petition from Messieurs J. and R. Reed, and W. and R. Wright, of the City of Saint John, Merchants, praying a Grant of £10,000 sterling per annum, for a period of ten years, or a less period, during which they may run a line of powerful screw Steamers, equal in every respect to any now traversing the Atlantic, between the Port of Liverpool and St. John, New Brunswick, carrying an English Mail, and reserving the liberty of touching at St. John's, Newfoundland, on their outward and homeward trips. Fully alive to the importance of the subject, the Committee have given this Petition much consideration, and having ascertained that a less bonus than that asked for would not ensure the establishment of the Steamers on the line, they do not feel themselves warranted in appropriating so large an annual sum, and for so long a period, to encourage the enterprise.

The present and prospective liabilities of the Province for laying down Railways, and erecting other public works, in the opinion of the Committee, are fully as great as the circumstances of the Province will warrant; and these considerations have had a powerful impression on the minds of the Committee in inducing them to decline a recommendation to the House to entertain favourably the present application.

The Petition of William Napier, Gauger and Weigher, at Bathurst, praying compensation for his services in that capacity the present year; the account accompanying it is certified by Deputy Treasurer Read: Your Committee recommend that £8 4 6 be granted Petitioner in Supply.

The Petition of John Fraser, accompanied by an account for Gauging and Weighing at Miramichi the past year; this is also certified by the officer in charge of the Treasury Department there: Your Committee recommend that £8 11 6 be granted him.

The Petition of Sprague, Soule and Company, Ferguson, Rankin and Company, and ninety nine others, inhabitants of the County of Gloucester, praying Legislative aid towards building a public landing at the Grindstone Quarry at New Bandon, and for placing mooring anchors and buoys for the safety of vessels thereto resorting. Entertaining a favourable opinion of this application, it is recommended that a grant of £100 be made, no Warrant to issue until it shall be satisfactorily certified to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, that a similar sum has been subscribed, paid and expended by a Commissioner or Commissioners to be appointed for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of the Petitioners.

The Petition of Charles Lloyd, Loeker, Searoher and Waiter at Dalhousie, praying an increase of Salary. The answer to this application is referred to Treasurer.

The Petition of Charles Lloyd, Searoher and Waiter at Dalhousie, praying compensation for Gauging and Weighing the past year: Your Committee recommend that £3 2 be granted him.

The Petition of Martin Cranney, of Chatham, Northumberland, praying remuneration for services as Gauger and Weigher the past year, certified by the Officer in charge of the Treasury Department there: Your Committee recommend that £23 11 6 be granted him.

The Petition of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland, praying aid towards completing the Steam Boat Landings at Chatham and Newcastle, on the great line of Roads from Halifax to Restigouche. Individual enterprise has already contributed £600 or £800 towards the establishment of Steam Communications at these places, which have nearly all been sunk, but the Steamer has been built and is now plying. Difficulties arise in crossing often, from the fact, that on one side particularly the water is shallow, and it becomes necessary to extend the wharfs there erected to ensure at all times communication: Your Committee, viewing this application, from its importance favourably, would recommend that £200 be granted in aid.

The Petition of L. P. W. Desbrisay, of Richibucto, Merchant, praying reimbursement of Duties paid on a Fire Engine and Hose there imported: Applications of this kind have always been sustained, and the Committee recommend £9 2 5, the Duties so paid be refunded him.

The Petition of James Long, praying compensation for losses sustained in consequence of Bridges having been erected across the Cocagne River without a Draw: Your Committee cannot recommend the prayer of this Petition.

The Petition of John McDougall and sixty four others, Merchants and other inhabitants of Miramichi, praying that an Act may pass to prevent Sawdust and Mill Rubbish being thrown into the Harbour: Your Committee recommend that a Bill be prepared by the Members for Northumberland, to carry out the object prayed for (if necessary).

The Petition of David Wark, John W. Holderness, and L. P. W. Desbrisay, Wardens of the Port of Richibucto, praying that measures may be taken to improve the Harbour of that place. Conceiving that the deepening and improving our principal Harbours are among the most judicious and legitimate appropriations that can be made by the Legislature, your Committee recommend that a sum of money not exceeding £5,000, be placed at the disposal of the Government for such purpose. That in the first instance they would recommend that a scientific engineer should be employed by the Government to ascertain the practicability of permanently improving the entrances of the Harbour of Richibucto, and submit a plan and estimates to the Government, and if they should determine that an expenditure be made, they should authorise the work, and so on with other Harbours requiring deepening and improvement.

The Petition of George Kerr, Treasurer of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, praying reimbursement of Duties paid on one of Hussey's Reaping Machines imported the past year by that Society. As the Committee of Trade have always heretofore reported unfavourable on applications for Drawbacks by Agricultural Societies, it is recommended that a similar course be adopted in this case.

The Petition of William McLeod, and others Commissioners of Sick and disabled Seamen for the Port of Richibucto, setting forth that they had exceeded the Legislative grant in the sum of £123, in erecting a Hospital at that place, and praying a grant therefor. No account of the expenditure is attached: Your Committee require further information before recommending any part of this claim.

Petition of John Ferguson, and twenty seven others, of Bathurst, praying aid towards the erection of a Public Wharf at Bathurst. As there has not been erected one Public Wharf in Gloucester at the expense of the Province, and as there is no accommodation at Bathurst for the landing of Cargoes, except the Bathurst Bridge, which frequently receives damage by such landing, it is recommended that a grant pass for £200 towards that object.

From the Fredericton Reporter.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, March 11.

This morning a short debate arose on a motion offered by the hon. Mr Wark, in the course of reading the revised Laws, to the effect that as twenty persons only are required to legalize a parish School Meeting, a less number than the prescribed one (ten) should suffice for a district meeting. He wished to see the point decided by a majority in both cases. This case was managed with admirable ability by the honorable mover, but after a debate of about an hour, during which we were twice interrupted, the motion was lost on a division. The law consequently stands as on the condensed code of the commissioners. We were just able to catch the concluding words of hon. Mr. Stoves, who said it was better to let the Parish School Law remain as it was for the present, and when Public opinion required an alteration, it would soon be effected. He did not think with some hon. gentleman, that so little was effected under the present system; on the contrary he believed that a vast amount of good had already been done, and that the people were not by any means so infected with ignorance, indifference, apathy, and neglect as they were represented. He knew that in his part of the Province the people take great pains to see that their money was in this instance properly expended, and that their privileges were duly exercised. The present law was operating favourably; and with respect to the design of reducing the number of persons to do business at a district School Meeting, he thought it would prove of no advantage.

On the clause for paying £50 to the Training Master in St. John.

Hon. Mr Wark observed that he thought the sum quite too small for the application and talent which were necessary for the service, and that if it lay in his power he would willingly increase it. To this the hon. Mr Gilbert replied that he hoped the gentleman opposite was not going to revive the training school, with all the extravagance which its management had entailed on the country; and to this again the hon. Mr Brown replied, that his honor who had last spoken did not understand the subject, as the Training-School had never been abolished, and was still kept in excellent order by its master, Mr Duval of St. John. To another clause defining the election and duties of parish officers.

Hon. Mr Gilbert moved as an amendment or addition, that the County of Queens be exempted from its application.

Hon. Mr Wark spoke highly of municipal institutions—alluded to their adoption in Canada—and stated his belief that the time was fast approaching when their adoption must become general in all the Provinces. He considered that in placing the business of the people within their own control, the greatest boon in the power of the Legislature was afforded; and wondered how the people of Queens, when he had always learned to be both wealthy and intelligent,—could come to the conclusion that they were, not fit to transact the business of their own respective parishes. He would ere granting this request them another year's trial, and he hoped that in course of that time they would learn to place more confidence in their own ability and resources.

Hon. Mr Gilbert replied there was no indication of political principle displayed at the Parish meetings in Queens; on the contrary the rabble rushed forward and carried the election by storm. For this sort of behaviour the quiet and respectable portion of the people, required the remedy of re-vesting these appointments in the magistrates, as he hoped their reasonable request would be complied with. The bill setting forth this wish had been read in session, without a single vote to oppose; and it would be a hard case to throw it out where the will of the people cannot be so well ascertained as among themselves. If responsible Government was to be the criterion, did it not allow people to exercise their own judgments in their own business.

Hon. Mr Brown would deeply regret that such an amendment should be passed to restrict the general law of the Province. The provision thus sought to be discarded in Queens, was the very best that could ever be entertained for the introduction and practice of that self government which the people of New Brunswick must shortly adopt, in common with these colonies; and as they are a well informed people in Queens, he could only conceive that there had been some unfortunate mistake made in the introduction of the Bill which had been passed in another Branch of the Legislature. It was at least a singular measure to prevent those persons from electing their own parish officers; and it was rendered more so from the fact that there was no petition from the people themselves in its favour. He would not believe that the people of Queens were so ignorant, and he would not break down a general law, the repeal of which would set a mark upon that fine country.

Hon. Mr Ryan said he would vote for the amendment from two considerations:—first, a Bill embracing its provisions had been passed in the House of Assembly; and next, in the county where himself resided (Kings) the operation of the present law had been unfavorable; and the magistrates in a body were opposed to it. He believed that at those parish meetings the rabble rushed forward and ruled the elections as they wished. If there were a prohibitory (Liquor) Law, the people might be left to their own choice; but as this was not the case, the purity of the election would be best maintained by leaving the appointments to the magistrates.

Hon. Mr Saunders must, previous to his excluding any county from the operation of the present Law, hear some good reasons to prove its bad tendency. It was evident that the country must prepare itself for self-government; and a more simple and appropriate mode could not be provided than that of these rural gatherings from which the present motion would claim an exception. He feared that the meetings were not properly supported—that men of wealth and influence had not patronized them; and if so—as stated by the hon. mover himself—it was no wonder that they had proved a failure. It would indeed be a singular circumstance if the men of Queens were not capable of electing their own pa-