

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

Old Series.]

NEC ARANEARUM SANE TEXTUS IDEO MELIOR. QUIA EX SE FILA GIGNUNT, NEC NOSTER VILIOR QUIA EX ALIENIS LIBANUS UT APES.

[Comprised 13 Vols.

NEW SERIES.

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 6, 1854.

VOL. XIII.

Communications.

COUNTY OF BONAVENTURE.

OUR NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES.

The Mackerel Fishery, the most valuable to the Americans, can only be prosecuted in decked vessels, our Fishermen are too poor to build the requisite craft, consequently this branch is wholly neglected by them. If the Mackerel Fishery be as important as you represent it—how comes it then, some may ask, that such a House as that of Messrs. Charles Robin & Co. do not build and fit out small vessels for the prosecution of so valuable a branch of industry? For a very simple reason we reply—those gentlemen belong to the old school—there is nothing of the progressive in their system. That extensive and now wealthy Firm, was founded near a century ago by Mr Charles Robin, who laid down certain rules and regulations which are as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. Their Agents have no right to act, judge, or even think for themselves.—The social or moral improvement of those by the sweat of whose brow they have amassed a large fortune, forms no part of the deed of partnership. Mackerel was little if at all thought of as an article of commerce in Mr Charles Robin's day—it cannot therefore be of any value now—and their chief agent would as soon think of arming one of their Ships for a Privateer, as of fitting out a schooner for the Mackerel Fishery! Dry Codfish is all they require for the Southern Markets—that article is their only aim and care, and in order to convince our readers how far self is the prevailing rule with this heretofore all-powerful, and extensive Firm, we shall relate an anecdote, illustrative of the special interest they take in promoting the welfare of their planters—the truthfulness of which may be relied on, so far at all events as the main question is concerned. When Mr John Le Boutillier was Agent for the House at Percé, he undertook to sow wheat one year, in order to satisfy himself how far it could be grown to advantage in the lower County. The result was highly satisfactory, both as to quantity and quality produced.—Proud of his experiment, he wrote to the House in Jersey to inform them of his success—when—ye shades of all the Howards!—in lieu of the commendations to which he was justly entitled—his employers laconically informed him that “they had sent him out to collect fish, not to make experiments in farming, and they begged that for the future he would abstain from giving the inhabitants lessons in Agriculture, which, if attended to, would naturally cause them to neglect the Fishery!” Yet those are the men who would fain dictate to us whom we are to choose as our representatives, who claim to have been the benefactors of the inhabitants of this Coast!

“O that some power the gift would give us,
To see ourselves as others see us.”

The Mackerel Fishery is not the only one which would be carried on to advantage in decked vessels. Codfish are more plentiful and of larger size on the Banks to which our hardy fishermen venture in their small open boats. The consequence is that many a valuable life is thus sacrificed, on the other hand half their time is lost going to and fro. But with a decked craft, they could remain off a whole week, salting the fish on board as the Americans do.

Let a tonnage Bounty then be granted, for five years only, in order to enable our fishermen to compete with the Americans, and a new era will appear in the history of Gaspé.—Let an active, efficient and intelligent man be selected, acquainted with both languages, to enquire into and Report upon the cod, salmon, mackerel, herring, seal, and whale Fisheries, from River Ouelle, to the Restigouche, the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, Labrador, Anticosti, and the Magdalen Islands. Let the capabilities of this vast seaboard be detailed and commented upon. The Exports and Imports, number of persons shipping, and boats employed, quantities of Canadian produce consumed, be all carefully ascertained, enumerated, and classified in a business like manner, then and then only, will the Legislature of this Province both see and understand the value and importance of our Fisheries.—But we beg leave to observe, with all due diffidence, to Messrs. Hacks & Co., or any other Gentlemen, who may be in command of the vessel of the State—that no M. D., Lawyer,

Notary, D. D., or other professional Gentleman is qualified for such a post—a knowledge of the Fisheries, of the *modus operandi* of Commerce and Nautical matters is indispensable. Let an advertisement be inserted in the leading Journals of the Province. Let the candidates undergo a searching examination, and the most efficient man will thus be obtained. The public money will not be fooled away, and the Ministry accused of favouring political friends, or thirsting stupid dolts, or worthless characters, into important and responsible offices.

A large amount is expended yearly for statistical data, Geological Surveys, &c., &c. all of which we approve of, but beyond Mr Fortin's Report on the least important part of our fishing coast, the Government is literally in the dark as regards the Fisheries of Canada. New Brunswick has set us the example in Mr Perley's Report—a brochure replete with valuable information—and what, we will ask, are the Fisheries of the Sister Province, at this very hour, in comparison to ours?

Let Messrs. Christie and Le Boutillier see to this. Let them renew their application for the granting of Bounties, let them call for some such enquiry as we have described, let them not take no for an answer, and they will finally gain their point.

In alluding to the Mackerel Fishery we have omitted to state that the Bay Chaleurs is one of the finest Mackerel fishing grounds in British North America.

We are happy to see that the Governor of Newfoundland devotes a considerable portion of his speech at the opening of the Legislative Session, to the benefits of energetic protection, and requests that adequate means be placed at the disposal of the Executive, for the maintenance of an efficient Coast-guard, during the ensuing Fishery Season.

Messrs. Marcey and Crampton, according to the American Papers, have, or are about to conclude a Treaty relative to the Reciprocity and Fishery question, keep a sharp look out Gentlemen, Ministers of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland. No concession as regards limits—if you yield one inch, you are traitors to the best interests of your Country—the Treaty! we repeat—'tis our watch-word—the whole Treaty, and nothing but the Treaty!

Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie,
Which we ascribe to Heaven: the fated sky
Gives us free scope; only doth backward pull
Our slow designs, when we ourselves are dull.

SHAKESPEARE.

If further proof be needed of the little interest taken in the Fisheries by the Press and People of Canada, the fact that not a single comment—that we have seen or heard of—has appeared in any Canadian Paper relative to the various articles on the subject published in the Gleaner, is we think conclusive—yet those Articles have been thought worthy of re-print at home, and have been favourably noticed.—Our first Fishery Communication to the Gleaner was also sent to one of the leading Canadian Journals, and was rejected for want of space.

We shall now bid adieu to this subject for the present, unless some new feature presents itself. We have we think done our share, *pro bono*, and if the interests of these Provinces are sacrificed, we shall at least feel that the fault is not ours. We have no personal interest in any branch of the Fisheries, direct or indirect, beyond that which every Colonist has in wishing to promote the prosperity and improvement of an important branch of Colonial industry, the loss or decrease of which will materially affect the well-being, the commerce and industry, alike of these Provinces and the Mother Country.

Fiat Justia, ruat cælum.

The Treaty—the whole Treaty—and nothing but the Treaty!

MERCATOR.

Hope Town, April 15, 1854.

DISTRICT OF GASPE, April 24, 1854.
James A. Pierce, Esq.

Sir,—I see by your Gleaner of the 15th of this month, that a person signing himself “A Resident of the County of Bonaventure,” has made a feeble attempt to reply to the information I gave you concerning the working of the Municipal Law, and I can assure you that he is both warped and prejudiced in his statements and will find himself very much mistaken if he should attempt to get the assertions of the Hon. John Montgomery endorsed by three-

fourths of the people, even in New Richmond, for I fear he could not make out six names in the whole Municipality. He has wantonly and without cause insulted a very respectable body of men, to whom he certainly cannot be compared in any shape whatsoever. He says he has been residing in the District some few years, but the idea he endeavours to give you is altogether incorrect. It is strange he should say that a Council Meeting is a thing never thought of, when there has been a special meeting of the Council this very month. The following statement is what you will find to be correct, notices have regularly been posted up for the different meetings of the Council, as well General as Special. The Councillors for the upper part of the County have always considered it a hardship to attend the Quarterly Meetings, on account of their having been appointed to be held at New Richmond, the eastern extreme end of the Municipality, and although all the Councillors with the exception of the two for New Richmond, have thrice petitioned to have place of meeting in the centre of the Municipality, no satisfaction has yet been obtained, I suppose on account of its being convenient to the residence of our late M. P. P. for Bonaventure. The above is the sole reason the Councillors from the upper Township do not attend the Quarterly Meetings regularly, as they have to travel a distance of seventy-five miles from the west end of the Municipality.

He is also in error in saying that there has been no meeting for four years, there has been if not General Meetings, Special Meetings every year, and much valuable business done; at the time of the meeting alluded to, there was no other business before the Council. Your Correspondent says that the Revenue for New Richmond was regularly collected and paid over to the Secretary Treasurer for several years, neither is this the case, for the Ferry Licenses are not paid in yet, as also several Shop Licenses. It is law and custom in Canada that all the front Roads should be made by the proprietor; respecting the Supervisor or Grand Voyer, he has regularly travelled over the Roads, laid out several Bye Roads, and made his Returns every half year according to Law. Your Correspondent says he has scarcely ever seen an hour's work performed on the Roads, this is also a mistake, there has been a good deal of work done on the Roads last summer, and even in the Township of New Richmond, so much for his regards for veracity. As regards our Schools, if they do not work well it is the fault of the Commissioners, for our School Act is the best extant in the British Provinces, for it does not exempt non residents from being taxed, and every thousand souls are entitled to Thirty-four Pounds a year, Government money, and if the New Richmond Schoolmasters received but four pounds a year each, they must have had eight Teachers in the Township, which is more than there is in the whole County of Restigouche, exclusive of Dalhousie and Campbellton. In conclusion he desires you to take notice that his remarks are confined to the District of Gaspé, he admits that the Municipal Law works admirably in other parts of Canada, why not in Gaspé?—For the very reasons I have assigned to you, which are only small difficulties which will soon be overcome.

It appears that your Correspondent has received all his information from his wandering friend the Comet, or his assertions could not have been so vague and incorrect.

I am with respect yours &c.,

A CANADIAN.

P. S. In many of our School Municipalities, the Teachers receive from £12 to £18 per annum, and the Teacher for Carleton last year received the sum of £25 of Government money, but you must understand that the money in Canada is divided according to the population of each Municipality.

A. C.

CARD.

The Subscribers in soliciting the patronage of the Inhabitants of Chatham, and surrounding Country, beg to inform that they have purchased Mr Michael Ryan's STOCK OF DRY GOODS, and are determined to sell all off, at unprecedented low prices, so as to effect a clearance previous to the arrival of large Spring importations.

THOMAS WALSH & Co.
Glasgow House, Chatham, March 11, 1854.

SHINGLES.

Wanted, One Hundred and Fifty Thousand
Best Pine Shingles.
Liberal prices will be paid by
JOHNSON & MACKIE.

Legislative News.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER.

FREDERICTON, 29th April, 1854.

Dear Pierce,

I did not write last week as the hurry and confusion of business in the House prevented my collecting information in any order.

The House rises on Monday, at 2 o'clock—the business is through, except that parliamentary curiosity the *Contingent Bill*—and the formal passing of the appropriation Bill, as engrossed yesterday. Hon. Mr Grey committed a Militia Bill to authorise the Government to raise by draft or volunteers, not exceeding 1000 men to be drilled and receive pay. Johnson asked if it was a Government measure and was answered that it had been approved of by the Government; a strong opposition was shown. Government members threatened opponents with the displeasure of the Country; opposition increased; Attorney General moved to report progress, to which an amendment moved to postpone for three months—Amendment lost by a majority of one—the division being 18 to 17 (I think) motion to report progress carried and bill effectually lost.

There was a motion in supply to grant £2,000, in addition to the balance of Canadian disputed territory fund, (about £1,700) to complete survey of boundary line. This opposed on the ground, that in one year, the first joint commission had expended £7,500 to run 60 miles, and locate only about 18 miles of the line; the extravagance was enormous and Government did not seek to defend it, but contended that they were bound in good faith, to complete the line through. They acknowledged that they could not check the expenditure. Resolution lost by a large majority and names taken. Government then desired to withdraw the resolution. Majority were willing, Smith, Earle, Johnson and others, refused as the names were taken, and Government had threatened popular displeasure on the opposition. This morning Government again desired to strike Resolution and division from the Journals. Johnson would not consent, and though majority in favor of it, the Government could only put a resolution to expunge on the Journals, which leaves the original Resolution and division as it was.

To-day Johnson brought in a bill to increase the allowance to Parish School Masters 25 per centum. This was opposed as too late in the Session. Johnson explained that there was a bill on the files to repeal the 1 per cent loan duty, and he had prepared a Bill in amendment to make the duty perpetual and set apart for a school fund; the Provincial Secretary had just informed him that he would not commit that bill, and his colleagues (Mr Kerr) and himself had consequently prepared this bill. The bill was read—1st and 2nd time—committed and carried without a division, engrossed passed and taken to the Council, where I understand it has been agreed to but waits till Monday morning to be formally passed, and I trust the Parish Teachers will get the benefit of its provisions this year. The salaries of teachers have always been too small, and as direct taxation won't suit the rural districts, this bill will be some relief and tend greatly to improve the Educational Establishment.

A grant has passed to the Government, for the purpose of Erecting Treasury Offices, &c., in the various reports, and I expect the first expenditure will be made at Miramichi. Portage Island bill lost by a large majority, but Northumberland has been treated more justly in money grants than formerly. £200 to improve the Navigation of the main South West passed in supply; £10 to James Robertson for ferrying mails across Tabusintac in 1852 and 1853; grant of £39 to Parish of Alnwick to reimburse expenses incurred in support, &c., of the Lunatic, frozen on the Bay some years ago, Bonovan, I think was his name, he died at Chatham after the amputation of both legs, &c., &c.

Bill to prevent Saw Dust, &c., being thrown into the River, not passed—Attorney General expressing his opinion that Magistrates in Session had power to make regulations; Johnson moved to report progress, which was agreed to. This bill was not to go into operation till the next Autumn, so as to enable the mill owners to make preparations for consumption of the rubbish. I suppose the sessions will suspend the operation of the regulation made by them for the same reason if applied to by the mill Owners.

The Members are leaving daily, and I expect a thin House on Monday. A long Session well over, though some harm done by lavish and uncalled for grants of public money, some good has also been done in supply, as well as in the more legitimate work of Legislation. Members won't have much time to rest this year, Elections about the end of June, and I fancy some will have to work hard, and in vain, should they seek to return again. All sorts of reports will be circulated, and perhaps some be unjustly left out, but these things may occur in any Country. It is to be hoped however, that the public choice will be right in the main. They ought to know which of the old members they can trust, and should be careful to encourage honesty and consistency while they punish the rascals. Let them call for a public explanation, where they have any doubts rather than condemn any man unheard, or believe, every report which may be got up; these reports are often circulated by the designing for the purpose of deceiving the people, and to prevent the return of the good men, while it may give the seat to dishonest candidates. Let the people believe the Journals and read the debates, rather than the scandal mongers. The best may have much to answer for and there is doubtless much room for improvement.

An Address to Her Majesty on the war, passed unanimously in both Houses; a resolution respecting the Revenue of the Province at the disposal of Government for the protection of the Country in case of need. Much patriotism expressed.