

## Communications.

### A FEW WORDS TO THE CATHOLICS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

Sir,—I trust you will allow me the privilege of making a few remarks to the Catholics of this County, in the columns of your valuable paper, in reference to the coming general election. Remarks which shall be calculated to soothe all irritated feelings, and place matters on a just and equitable footing, and with which every good inhabitant will fully agree. It has been agreed to by all, that the Catholic body in this County is in strict justice entitled to one representative in the Assembly of this Province. Our number—our standing—our daily conduct—our intelligence—our submission to the laws of the land—and our desire to see them judiciously and justly enforced, entitle us to this right. A right which seems to be recognised by the Freeholders of this County, of every creed and class in the community. This being the case—with past experience before our eyes, it behoves us to act prudently and wisely in the matter. Heretofore divisions and dissensions have been quite rife amongst us—candidates not possessing the confidence of the people have put themselves forward—pressed matters to an issue which have ever ended in our defeat, and ever shall so long as the same course is pursued. Neither of the gentlemen who offered at last election were ever popular among the Catholics of this County; in fact, leave them to stand on their own merits as public men, and I scarce know where you would find two more unpopular. As private individuals, I do not wish to breathe a word to detract from their merits, all I wish to say is that in coming into public life they do not possess the first necessary to success which I consider to be the SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. In endeavouring to return such men to a seat in the Assembly, the Catholics will find this to be up-hill work; while with a popular individual the task would be comparatively easy. In fact, in the 'coming struggle,' their chances are doubtful in the extreme. If such an individual cannot be brought forward, would it not be prudent to call a meeting in Chatham, at which the people of Nelson, Newcastle and this Parish could attend, in order to select the most popular and suitable person for the office, put him, and him alone forward on the day of nomination, and though even in such case success seems doubtful, yet the satisfaction of having done all that could be done, would be some consolation, and would prove to those who differ from us in religious belief, that there does not exist, nor ever did exist in this County, "A conspiracy to return two Catholics."

No, Mr Editor, the poll books at last election will prove that no desire was manifested by the Catholics to return two members of their body, and the fact was they returned none.—Should matters be pushed by rival candidates to the same issue in this election, on them let the onus lie; and if the Catholic interest cannot be centered in one individual, many of our body have made up their minds to vote for Liberal Protestants and leave their interest for the next four years, as they have been for the last, entirely in their hands.

I have been induced to pen these few lines with a view of showing the Catholics the necessity there exists for timely action in this matter. We have ever, as a body, shown our liberality, by voting for Protestant representatives, and such action cannot be looked upon one-sided. We have risked our lives and properties in support of that profession and might do so again in support of principle, and with such facts before the County, it would not be too much to expect support for our chosen candidate from those whom we ever supported, and whom we shall doubtless support on the present occasion. Our success depends upon ourselves. *Unite for one man.* Pull all together and wait the result.

I remain yours truly,

FAIR PLAY.

Miramichi, May 18, 1854.

### COUNTY BONAVENTURE.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

Dear Sir,—In the Gleaner of the 18th March, I observe an invitation from you to your correspondents on the Canada side of the Bay, touching the working of Municipal Corporations in Canada, you being led to such inquiry, by expressions which fell from Bliss Botsford, Esq., in his place in Parliament, when he is reported to have said, "that Municipal Councils did not work well in Canada, backed by the Hon. John Montgomery."

You were answered by a correspondent signing himself "A Canadian," most fully although somewhat abruptly. Here I thought the matter would have rested. But I see by the Gleaner of the 15th inst., that it has been the means of bringing out a second correspondent, signing himself a "Resident," and what your correspondent Resident was driving at, to me was quite a puzzle, and I doubt not it appeared the same to many of your readers. He starts his communication with an evident

desire to have a fling at a Canadian, or some Pictonian in his mind's eye; charges your correspondent with being totally ignorant of the working of Municipal Corporations in the District of Gaspé, and little regard for the veracity of his statements. He attempts to back up the statements of John Montgomery and Bliss Botsford, Esquires, respecting Municipal Councils, with three fourths of the people of this District, and kindly informs you of our local affairs. New Richmond being the seat of Government, or the place intended for the Councillors to meet. (it having been appointed by accident or design.) Tells you he has seen on more than one occasion the mayor sousing the toskin in vain, for *wise-acres* to meet but impossible to get them together. But catching his breath, recollects of one "meeting in three years," and the surprising amount of business transacted, of "appointing two ferry-men." That all Revenues, collected for several years, were retained by the Secretary Treasurer, for his services as by law entitled; and as to roads, that "he scarcely ever saw an hour's labour performed on them; no supervisor coming that way, as in New Brunswick, to lay off and establish a proper line." (Horrid state of things truly.) Yet he says—"that every one makes his own road, how, when, and where he pleases." Halcyon thought, to be thus privileged, although somewhat contradictory in your Resident correspondent seeing he scarcely ever saw an hour's labour performed on them. But not having visited many schools, he lets you know, "he had a conversation with the Inspector, who informed him they are lamentably behind the age. Acknowledges Government aid towards Schools; but complains of its being too small. Tells you a wonderful traditionary "Story of a Father or Grandfather, being clever men, who never went to School in their lives." Reminds you to notice, that "in Canada West, the results are very different, and has every reason to believe Municipal Laws work admirably," and winds up, the catalogue of curiosities, by informing you, "our wandering friend the Comet made its appearance here on the 28th March; and he appears to know it, as an old acquaintance, for he says "it is seen from the same direction, that it was last autumn." Truly your correspondent is possessed of wonderful optics.

He concludes by signing his name "A Resident," which should in part explain his wonderful production, that he may be here to-day, and away to-morrow, dwelling in any place, a national agent, or anything else; evidently shewing that he knows much more of the movements of celestial bodies, than anything terrestrial, although occurring but a few miles from his whereabouts. Now, what in the name of wonder or common sense, had all this twaddle to do with the principle of Municipal Corporations? Just about as much as the tail of the Comet your Correspondent seemed so familiar with, which he tailed on to the end of his correspondence. And if any additional proof was wanted to show that your Legislative gentlemen stated what was incorrect, or talking of things they knew nothing about, your correspondent "Resident" furnished it, for he tells you, that School Money is received, but complains of its smallness, and draws your attention to the admirable working of Municipal Laws in Canada West; although he totally forgets to inform you, that the name Supervisor is unknown in Canada, being called here grand voyer, which office is invested in the person of John Phair, Esq., for the Second Municipality, County Bonaventure, having regularly discharged the trust so placed in him, when called on, in marking out new Roads, and settling disputes. He forgot to inform you that several meetings of Council have been held each year, for transacting public business, although not in New Richmond, it being at the very lower part of the Municipality, which Municipality extends over 100 miles. He forgot to inform you that School Money in Lower Canada is handed over in gross to the Superintendent of Education to be divided according to population, a sum equal if not quite, to half the Revenue of New Brunswick. He forgot to inform you likewise, that a very large sum of money is yearly placed in the hands of the Commissioners, of Public Works, and that in the adjoining County (Rismouski) a very large sum was laid out the past year; all this with much more he forget to tell you, but in that he should be excused, on the plea that he is but a "Resident." Now, as I know neither of your correspondents, whether from Pictou or Canada, or whether either of them ever saw the sky over the former place, still I trust I may be pardoned in passing those remarks on what I considered a very strange and contradictory correspondence; tending to delude a people seeking information on certain political principles, and would merely add, that I hope neither of your correspondents is the one that startled the community in this District, not over twelve months ago, by a great Post Office grievance, and boldly offered his name to the public should it be desired; it was desired, and the name called for. But where was your correspondent? Ah! where? ran away—leaving the Editor to face an expecting public, as best he could. But for fear of encroaching on your space and patience, I shall close the present letter, and if time per-

mits, give you my views on the working of Municipal Corporations.

Meantime, I am yours.

ANOTHER CANADIAN.  
County Bonaventure, April 25, 1854.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

V. B. PALMER, the American Newspaper Agent, is the only authorised Agent for this paper, in the Cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the same rates as required by us. His receipts will be regarded as payments. His Offices are:—  
BOSTON.—Scollay's Building.  
NEW YORK.—Tribune Building.  
PHILADELPHIA.—N. W. Cor. Third & Chestnut Streets.

### THE APPROACHING ELECTION.

It will be seen by our advertising columns, that there are already eight candidates in the field—the four old members, and four new aspirants.

In preparing for the "coming struggle," we would strongly recommend the Freeholders to repudiate and set their minds strongly against the antiquated practice of canvassing. The Candidates will be made known to them on the day of nomination, very probably before that time, and we trust ere it arrives, no one will be so indiscreet as to pledge himself to support any man except those he may have called into the field by Requisition or otherwise, or such of the old members as he may consider from his or their past consistent conduct in the Legislature, entitled to his support.

In another column will be found a temperately and well-written communication, addressed to the Roman Catholic constituency of the County. If we can judge from what we have heard out of doors, the feeling is very general, and has been entertained for years, that that body is entitled to a member, and if they failed in the last general election in securing *one of their own body*, the fault rested entirely on themselves in bringing forward two candidates instead of one, thereby dividing their interest, which, if brought unitedly to bear on one person, would have been crowned with success.

We do not pretend to know anything about the popularity or unpopularity of the Candidates alluded to by our Correspondent, whether they have or have not the confidence of their fellow countrymen or churchmen, or if they are the best men that can be selected from their body; these matters we do not wish to meddle with, or to give an opinion on; but we feel safe in affirming, that if they will pursue the course pointed out by our Correspondent—bury all local and personal feeling—nominate one man—pledge themselves to give him their united support, he will meet with the general countenance of the Protestant part of the constituency. If they adopt a different line of action—put in nomination rival candidates—as they did at the last general election, we predict for them a similar result—a humiliating defeat.

We are sorry to perceive religious tests brought into political matters—but we must take society as we find it; and as conservatives of the public peace, and being desirous of imparting what we consider to be wholesome advice, we have penned these brief remarks. It is a subject worthy of serious consideration, and we trust some speedy action will be taken to clear up a matter which it appears is unnecessarily engendering some asperity of feeling.

### COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE.

A Correspondent at Campbellton under date of May 8, communicates the following local news:

"The ice is broken up in the several rivers. There is a tremendous rise of water, and much logs and property, it is feared, will be sustained by the overflow of the water and ice. The ice in the harbour is still good,

and passable for man or horse. It is said there are square rigged vessels in the offing, but unable to make the port for the ice. The spring is the most backward seen here for many years: snow is yet from three to four feet deep in the woods, and, but the most elevated parts of the cleared land disencumbering itself from its wintry covering. Fodder is very scarce and many cattle have died, it is said for want along the Restigouche, and Canada side of the river."

### COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

A Correspondent at Bathurst, writing to us on the 14th May, states, that the ice started on that day, and it was expected the river would be clear by the following morning.—In a postscript, 5 p. m., he says—a schooner has just arrived at the bar.

### SOLAR ECLIPSE.

We are indebted to the New Brunswicker for the following paragraph. Our readers will be on the alert to witness the interesting sight:—

"We would remind our readers, that on Friday the 26th of May, instant the great annular eclipse of the Sun will take place. It will be visible throughout the whole of North America, and will be the most extensive and beautiful solar eclipse that has been witnessed in the northern portion of our hemisphere for many years past, or that we shall have an opportunity of observing for many years hence. It will commence between 4 and 5 o'clock, p. m., and will be of nearly two hours' duration."

### CANADA RAILWAYS.

The Herapath Journal, a leading English paper devoted to Railway matters, contains the following interesting information respecting the progress of Canadian Railways:

"A very large emigration of masons, carpenters, quarrymen, engine drivers, engine fitters, and other artisans, is taking place for this railway. Between four and five hundred have already left England, and all the third class accommodation in the Canadian Screw Company's vessels which leave Liverpool this and next month has been secured by the contractors for these men. Great numbers are seeking this employment, tempted partly by the high wages offered, (in many instances double what they receive in England and Scotland,) and partly by the comparative cheapness of provisions in Canada, and the certainty of every industrious man becoming a possessor of land within a very few years. Arrangements have likewise been made for sending out large drafts of 'navvies,' and other laborers, in sailing ships during the spring. Constant employment has been guaranteed by the contractors to steady men for five years. The passage money of those who cannot pay it, as well as of their wives and children, is defrayed for them, on condition of the men being under the stoppage of a shilling a day each until the debt is liquidated. This is a light infliction, inasmuch as the lowest rate of pay for unskilled labor is 4s. a day, and it ranges up to 8s. and 10s. a-day for mechanics and artisans. If the conduct of these latter has been good during twelve months after arrival, each is to receive a bonus of £2, and under similar circumstances each laborer is to receive £1."

### PAY OF JURYMEN.

The following Editorial appeared in a late number of the New Brunswicker. We fully concur in the sentiments expressed by our contemporary, and publish it in the hope that similar action will be taken in this County at the next setting of the Supreme Court:—

"That Jurymen in this Province have never received anything like adequate compensation for their services at Court, is generally admitted. People are called from their workshops, their farms, and their counting rooms, and compelled to spend several weeks in attendance at Court, settling disputes between persons, who, if they will go to law, should be made to pay for their willingness or their folly. The Legislature attempted to amend the law for some years ago, but Jurymen are now nearly as poorly paid as they were under the old law. It is anything but right and just that men who have their business affairs to attend to, should be compelled at a busy season of the year to neglect them without anything like an adequate remuneration.

"We are pleased to learn that at the recent term of the Circuit Court for Charlotte County, held at St. Andrews, the Jury made an appeal to the Judge relative to the injustice of compelling them to gratuitously decide civil causes. Some of them had travelled 80 or 90 miles; and before they could get home several weeks would elapse. The Jurors considered it their duty to attend to the Queen's business, the trial of criminals, at every personal sacrifice; but they remonstrated against the injustice of the law which compelled them to try civil causes.—They accordingly addressed, through their Foreman, the following letter to the Judge:—

"Sir,—I am directed by this Jury to request you to relieve them from any further attendance at this Court of Nisi Prius. They have been here, now, nearly eight days, and their own avocations require their presence at home. I am directed to say, that the Jury conceive it their duty, at every personal sacrifice, to attend to the Queen's business, that is the trial of Criminals, but the Law which compels them to decide, gratuitously, civil causes they think unjust and oppressive. Every one, from your Honor down, is remunerated for his time and trouble, while here, excepting the Jurors—they do not perceive the justice of this exception, and are not willing to submit to it. In the neighbouring country of the United States, in this respect, the value of the services of its Citizens is better appreciated, an example which the Legislature of this Province should have imitated long before this period. With due deference to your Honor, the Jury say that they cannot afford to lose more of their time nor the expense of remaining longer here, and request your Honor to discharge them.

"To the above, His Honor Judge Street replied that he was aware of the hardness of the law but that the Jury must seek for a remedy by application to the Legislature.

"We trust that the other Counties will give ex-