

## Gleaner's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856.

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.

### CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

### PARISH MEETING:

THE Annual Meeting for the appointment of Officers for the Parish of Chatham, took place at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday last. M. Cranney, Esq., was called to the Chair. It was very numerously attended, and taking into consideration the large number of persons present, was conducted in as orderly a manner as any reasonable person could expect from such a mixed assemblage. In a short time we shall present our readers with a list of the persons appointed to fill the various offices, and it will then be seen if the selections made are judicious or whether the Rate-payers manifested as much wisdom and discretion in the choice of their officers as is necessary to ensure a proper and faithful discharge of the various duties devolving on them. We doubt it.

Ever since this Law was put on the statute book we have objected to it, and repeatedly pointed out its most glaring defects. We have instanced the Chairman being compelled to take the sense of the meeting on the first-named person put in nomination. While this clause remains, there never will be a judicious selection, or the rate-payers have a fair chance of expressing their wishes. We may be told that they can object, and vote against the party named. True—but who likes, or has the moral courage, to stand up and oppose or vote against a neighbour, knowing at the time that it will create ill-feeling between them; and besides, he has every reason to suppose that the matter has been canvassed over and decided on, before the question was moved in the meeting, and a resolution come to that the party proposed should be elected, whether fit or otherwise.

Another defect in the law. There is no provision made for confining the meeting to the Rate-payers, who have paid their taxes. It is a notorious fact, that a large body, if not a majority of the persons who have hitherto attended our meetings, have not paid their taxes, or are not of age, therefore having no vote, and no business to be present. This we have also pointed out. We have been asked—how can it be remedied? We answer as we have done before—very easily. Let every Rate-payer when he has paid his taxes, receive a printed receipt from the Tax Gatherer; let several Constables, or other properly authorized persons, be stationed at the door of the room in which the meeting is to be held, and let no person be allowed to enter who cannot produce his receipt. This is a very simple process, and on trial we have no doubt would prove efficacious. Our Legislators have had practical proof of the defects in the law, and perhaps never more so than on Tuesday last. But will they amend it, and make such alterations as their own good sense dictates, or that are necessary to give the Rate-payers that justice which they have a right to expect? We shall see.

We have been warm advocates for giving to the people a larger share than they have hitherto enjoyed, in all matters affecting their interest; but if our Legislators cannot display wisdom enough when they pass laws, to secure to those who pay their taxes, the power to enable them, and then only, to have a choice in such matters, better, far better, to fall back on the old method, and let the Sessions manage our affairs. But we do not believe the task is so difficult to accomplish as some would wish us to believe. A little common sense, and a resolu-

tion to do what is right without the fear of offending, is all that is necessary to correct the present evil.

The Law provides that all the Accounts of the Parish Officers should be presented to the meeting; but it does not give to the Rate-payers any power to make any alterations therein. It does not enable them to curtail unnecessary expenses incurred; make any officer refund who has unlawfully appropriated any of the public monies to his own use; or retained any portion for services performed, not provided for by law. No—there is no provision of the kind in the law—they have no control over the Officers or their Accounts. Where, then, we ask, is the utility of having those accounts presented to the meeting?

The Law, as it now stands, we consider a gross imposition on the Rate-payers, because it sets out with a view of extending to them certain important rights and privileges, but makes no provision to confine those powers to them; but it is so imperfect that the whole community, young and old, rich and poor, in fact, all who feel disposed to attend, have an equal voice in the matter. While this is the case, we repeat it is a fraud on the Rate-payers, and we have often wondered they have not made an effort to effect a remedy.

We have made some rather strong remarks on this subject, but it is an evil of so gigantic a character, and bringing in its train so many abuses, that we have considered it a duty to say what we have. When the Grand Jury make their presentment, the community will then see a very pretty array of figures the Parish Officers have set up against their pockets. The account of the Commissioners of the Poor is no mean one, amounting to upwards of £800.

### CANADA.

We would call the attention of all persons engaged in the Manufacture of Timber, Deals, &c., to the following extracts from Messrs. Wood, Perry, Poitras & Co.'s Circular, dated Quebec, December 21, 1855.

"We beg to lay before you our annual return relative to the Wood Trade at this Port: at first sight they will not be found to present such an encouraging appearance as we could wish, but we think, that prudence and caution in the several branches of the Trade, may yet go very far towards restoring it in some measure to its former prosperity: our trade, like most others, during the past twelve months, has had to resist the shocks generally produced by a foreign war; tightness of money, lack of enterprise, high rates of freight, scarcity of labour, with all the other drawbacks consequent upon a state of war, have been among the chief characteristics of the past season: our Banks changing their policy from an hitherto almost undue liberality, have dealt out their accommodation with an unusually sparing hand, enterprise both here and in the Mother Country has been, so to speak, at a stand still, and freights such as to preclude the possibility of shipments, beyond cargoes already contracted for in the United Kingdom; under these disadvantages then, we think upon the whole, we have not any serious grounds for complaint, but we may even say rather, that the present general state of the Lumber Trade in this Province, is quite as good as could possibly have been expected under the circumstances, and is such as to afford us good and reasonable grounds for expecting to see a return of prosperity, provided prudence be for the future observed.

"Our manufacturing friends in Canada West must above all things bear in mind, that which we have so often before endeavoured to impress upon them; let them but shape the supply according to the prospects of the demand, and they will secure, not only for themselves, but for all interested a healthy tone throughout; but should they on the other hand, as in some former seasons, seeking, we regret to be obliged to say, in some instances personal aggrandizement, at the expense of prudence, and of those principles which should always regulate the supply with the demand, proceed on and force their operations to a reckless and unnatural extent, regardless alike of themselves and others, disastrous results must inevitably follow; and it must also be remembered, that the demand for the United States market at Sorel, has been very limited, notwithstanding that prices have been at a figure unusually calculated to induce American buyers to operate; but this only shows that they too, although not engaged themselves in the great struggle in the East, suffer also, so to speak, from sympathy with ourselves. In a word, our prosperity is only to be gained by the exercise of prudence and judgment, contenting ourselves with a sufficiency, and not grasping at too much. In the article of White Pine, the stock that was begun upon in the spring amounted to 7,537,104 feet, the total supply which has come forward is 13,574,685 feet making 21,111,789 feet, from which if we subtract the Export per Customs returns of 10,843,226 feet will leave 10,268,564 feet as apparently on hand, while our figures show 9,513,044 feet the

difference of 755,519 feet is scarcely four per cent to be allowed for loss, but we calculate that a further deduction must be made on these figures to allow for the loss in culls and dressing. The stock wintering over last season, and from which the spring and midsummer shipments were chiefly taken, was without exception the finest in quality and average of any stock we ever remember of before, so that this in part accounts for the small percentage there is apparently shewn upon the same: during the spring and midsummer this article shared a common fate with most others, being exceedingly dull and depressed, exporters seemed to be supplied for their limited wants from the stocks they had wintered, and only a few parcels changed hands at low and almost ruinous prices; but towards the middle of August a spirit of speculation seemed to spring up for this article, (owing its origin doubtless to the temptation afforded by the very low rate at which it was then selling), and an extensive mercantile house here made some very large purchases on speculation; this coupled with news received in succeeding mails from the United Kingdom of a rather more cheering character, had the effect of giving a firmer tone to the market, and prices rallied, and were kept up closing firmly quotations. The character of the stock wintering over this year is not by any means equal either in quality or average to that of last year, but we should say, as a whole, only of fair description. The stock of Red Pine as will be seen by the tables, is 3,001,320 feet; being a larger stock wintering than we have had for the past five years, and has all past into second hands; our remarks in reference to the market for White Pine, throughout the summer, apply also to Red; the latter was even proportionately in less request in the beginning of the season than White Pine being almost unsaleable until towards September, when a better feeling became manifest, and the supply was bought up at an advance on former quotations of a half-penny to penny per foot; about 850,000 feet of this wood has been left behind all of superior average and quality, which was intended for this season's supply, and which may therefore be expected earlier than usual next year, say towards the end of June and beginning of July; and last an impression may have gained ground in the manufacturing districts, that the improvement in this article at the close of the season, is a reason why the same should continue throughout another year, we think it right to throw in a word of caution on this head, and remind the manufacturers that the Stock, (including what was intended for this year's supply), is over three and a half million feet, and with the possibility of a small fleet next year, it becomes imperative on those interested to keep down the supply within a very moderate compass, to ensure anything like paying prices for what is taken out this winter.

"Deals.—The excessive stock on hand of both Pine and Spruce, being 1,944,450 Std. Ps. of the former, and 404,264 Std. Ps. of the latter, has caused considerable depression to be felt in the market; the supply has been considerably greater than in 1854, while the export has been scarcely one half; we believe, however, that a smaller stock is held at some of the mills in Upper Canada than at this time last year, and producers intend curtailing their manufacture to a considerable extent."

The following is a comparative statement of the arrivals and tonnage at Quebec, for several years past. It will be seen that there was a great falling off last season.

### LUNATIC ASYLUM, ST. JOHN.

THE following extract of a Letter from Dr. Waddle, Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at St. John, written on the 5th December, appears in a late number of the Pictou Eastern Chronicle. It gives some interesting particulars of the melancholy event which recently occurred in that establishment.

"The melancholy occurrence which has been the cause of so much anxiety, was indeed, a very sad affair. Our feelings have been mingled. We have felt deep grief, and mourned for the loss of two good men, taken away so suddenly, under such painful circumstances—whilst we are grateful, and have rejoiced, that we have been spared, when my life, at least was threatened.

"On reviewing all the circumstances, so far as they may be considered subject to my control I cannot think of anything that I could have done to prevent the calamity. The men were every way two of my best. Both of them were men of experience—the one four years in the Institution, the other fifteen. They both knew the patient's temper and peculiarities quite as well as myself, if not better. What indiscretion they may have given—how they put themselves in his power—or whether they were suddenly surprised—all will probably remain as it now is, a mystery—for we have no confidence in the statement of the unfortunate lunatic who perpetrated the awful deed. He was not by any means, as one of the papers stated in my confidential service. He was employed, under the direction of the attendants, at all sorts of work—sometimes carrying fuel through the house—sometimes working in the garden—at other times on the farm. But being a quiet man, and as we supposed harmless, he was in a ward in the centre building, on the

third flat, and was up and down the stairs in the main building; consequently he would pass by the doors of our rooms. That morning Mrs. W. went to the Hall for somebody to bring coals. She met Johny—asked him, and he went and brought them, and put the scuttle containing them down at the door, but was not in the room, nor was he in the habit of coming into our rooms.

"The Commissioners in the city at the time immediately, and before I had time to send for them, were at my side rendering me their kind counsel, and sustaining me with the most generous sympathies.

"The Institution was never more useful—never more prosperous—never in so good a state to accomplish its benevolent purposes as at this moment; and as its Superintendent there never was a time when, so far as I have the means of judging, I more fully commanded the good will and sympathy of this great community."

### SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

A letter from St. Paul's, dated December 22, furnishes the following information respecting the success of the expedition sent out to discover the remains and ascertain the truth of the death of Sir John Franklin:

"Mr Stewart arrived from Red River last evening, on his way to Canada, bearing despatches for Sir George Simpson, containing information of the discovery of the point where Sir John Franklin and his party perished. It was on the coast opposite Montreal Island. Their bones lie buried in the sand, within an extent of 12 miles. This is the 5th winter since they perished and the drifting sands of that barren region, being in lat. 63 degrees north, have filled in successive layers on the bones of these noble and ill-fated men.

"Mr Stewart describes the region as dreary in the extreme, not a blade of grass, nor a stick of timber meet the eye. No game of any kind could be found.

"He was informed by the Esquimaux, that they, the Esquimaux, reached the spot just in time to see the last man die of hunger, who was leaning against some object, when discovered he was too far gone to be saved.

"Mr Stewart has brought home the remains of a bow, having the name of Sir John Franklin on it, a hammer, kettles, part of a blue flag, and other articles belonging to the unfortunate vessel."

### UNITED STATES.

No appointment of Speaker of the House of Representatives had taken place up to the 27th of December. On that day a ballot was taken, when the result was as follows:

"Banks 103; Richardson 67; Fuller 31. The law makes it necessary there should be 106. It appears that the difficulty of making the selection of this important officer has created a good deal of angry feeling in the House.

The papers inform us that Mr Henry Grimme received a letter from the British Minister, communicating the thanks of the English Government for the enterprising humanity of Mr Grimme in sending out expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin.

The Cincinnati (Ohio) Times says that a few days since, three young men arrayed themselves in crimson horse-blankets and paraded the fashionable promenades in that city, causing the lady-like young gents with the shawls to blush not a little.

### SIR COLIN CAMPBELL.

It will be seen by the following extract from a private letter from Glasgow, dated on the 7th December, that the friends and fellow townsmen of this gallant gentleman, as well as his countrymen under his command, have presented him with substantial tokens of respect, expressive of the sense they entertain of the important service he has rendered in maintaining the honor of the British arms in the Crimea.

"If you glance at the papers I have sent you, you will no doubt deem us enthusiasts about the war. You will see that we have presented Sir Colin Campbell with a sword of honor as a gift from his fellow citizens. It cost £200. To make the subscription as widely diffused as possible and that all classes of the community might join the tribute of respect, the subscription was limited to one shilling each person. The Highlanders have presented him with a splendid gold-mounted snuff horn; and the town council have presented him with the freedom of the city. This is paying honor to whom honor is due."

### THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

LATE papers inform us "that the net receipts of the British and Foreign Society for the past year, were £136,032 sterling, which, added to previous balances, made its whole revenue £196,033. The expenditure in the same time was £140,040, leaving a balance applicable to all purposes of £56,273. The issue of Bibles and Testaments for the year reached 1,450,876; the whole number distributed by the Society since 1805 being 29,389,507 copies.