

and being taken up as so many texts by so many men of influence and talent, the first grand step will be taken. The most important of all the necessary steps will be made in this transmission of facts in such wise as to ensure European publicity—and neither farmer nor tradesman in this neighbourhood will be just to himself if he fails to aid the Agricultural Society which will be at the expense of transmitting the necessary number of your copies to Europe. Having thus aroused attention in Europe, we must next prepare to play our own part here. But of that I will speak in my next.

WILLIAM THOMAS HALEY.

Chatham, Miramichi.

NORTHERN RAILWAYS.

Mr. Pierce,

On reading the Head Quarter's paper of the 9th instant, in which Messrs. Grey and Wilmet's speeches on the want of confidence motion are, I see it is there clearly and distinctly avowed by them, that the true reason why Lord Gray withheld the Guarantee of the British Government from the Northern Railway from Halifax to Quebec, was—that they did not approve of the "Valley" line, but were desirous of its being carried through the Northern Counties to Quebec, and therefore would not give the guarantee to the Province.

Thus it appears that great blame and odium was cast on Lord Gray and the British Government, falsely, because they would not extend the offer to embrace the European Line.

Does Mr. Street's Constituents know, that sooner than run the risk of losing his Salary of £600 a year—HE CALLING HIMSELF THE LEADER OF THE LATE GOVERNMENT, deprived Northumberland of the benefits of the Rail Road by the Northern Line, Money being guaranteed to us at 3½ per cent, while Nova Scotia and Canada would have built us 127 miles of that Road at their expense, which, when so built, was to have been the property of this Province.

I think this is not generally known, but those who doubt it may be convinced by perusing the paper alluded to, which paper was the avowed organ of the late Government and its supporters. Yours, &c.

JERRY.

April 17, 1856.

COUNTY KENT.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

SIR,—The letter of a very redoubtable fellow—and withal very pretentious—styling himself "Prohibitionist," appeared in your issue of the 29th ult., pretending to be a reply to the letter of "One of the People" which was published in your paper of the 15th ult. In that letter I briefly defended the parties at whose request the Prohibitory Meeting had been called, from an abusive personal attack made on them in the *Temperance Telegraph* of the 28th February last; and at the same time gave a certain member of the Sons an opportunity of freeing himself from what I considered—but what many did not consider—an unjust imputation thrown upon him by *Forty-Four*. I also, in the same letter, challenged the society for an official expression of opinion as to whether they acquiesced in, or disavowed the sentiments to which *Forty-Four* gave utterance in reference to the majority of the meeting. This was necessary, as a strong spirit of political antagonism has been perceptibly becoming developed between the Sons and the other portion of the community, in order that, if they had indeed no longer any desire to add strength to this antagonistic feeling, they might easily neutralise the bad effect which the appearance of that letter in the *Telegraph* was already beginning to produce. You can therefore judge how far, and in what spirit, my letter has been answered. You can easily see that "Prohibitionist" far from disavowing the ungenerous sentiments uttered by *Forty-Four*, has virtually stamped them with the impress of approbation on behalf of his society. Now, taking it for granted that he is the mouth-piece of the Sons, I will proceed to examine his murky mixture—the ingredients of which are adulation of his Society and censure to the oppositionists, while the combining principle is the usual temperance twaddle with which the country has been periodically inundated. By the bye I must exempt you—Mr. Editor—from his censure; for he is evidently labouring under the erroneous impression that you are the writer of "One of the People."

His introductory article contains, first, a gross misrepresentation inasmuch as the letter there referred to contains no "bitterness against the Sons;" and had he read it intellectually he would not have fallen into such an error. But in the absence of anything real on which to establish an accusation, we must allow him the privilege of assuming that "bitterness" was expressed, otherwise he would have no justifiable apology for the production of his letter. I have heard it related of people dislocating their shoulders by raising objections; but I think he must have hipped himself seriously, when he made such an enormous leap to cross the chasm separating the real from the ideal. In order to give a finely polished edge to his misrepresentations he makes a most ludicrous attempt at witicism. But his extreme awkwardness in the use and application of wit, with a telling effect, shows that his ability in that respect, is not of the highest order. However I will, to lift him over his difficulty, assist him in the application of his simile. He will agree with me in saying, that he has very

aptly, though unknowingly, represented the actual position of his society under the appropriate emblem of a "mischievous viper." How strikingly emblematic is the figure; how remarkably apposite is the simile; and, in retrospect, how pregnantly descriptive of their conduct and bearing towards that portion of the community which does not belong to their order, and against which they have been snarling, growling, and attempting to "bite," until weary, relaxed energy and exhausted nature have left them in prostrate recumbency—harmless and powerless. The idea is so rich and suggestive in its character, that it is difficult to extinguish a burning desire to take up the simile, and unfold a lengthened and luminous description of their conduct. But in perfect good humour I raise to him my hat, and tender him my obeisance for the fertile hint.

In his second paragraph he brands all beyond the pale of the society as drunkards, and plunges them into one common quagmire of intemperance. Charitable imputation this! But, while expressing to him my forgiveness for such uncharitable zeal, justice and duty impel me to protest against the stigma; and I quietly lay it at the door of his society as another of their many misrepresentations—as another of their many attempts to display the effulgence of their purity, by throwing the shades of an evil-invented, and darkening shadow upon the moral reputation of their neighbours.

In his third paragraph he charges me with expressing in my first letter, hostile "feelings towards the Sons." I am not aware of it.—His perception must have been obscured. His imagination must have been drowsy, or his pen must have deceived him when he wrote it. He then assumes an attitude of entreaty, and appeals to the "Anti-Prohibitionists" to reject my "production" as "a base libel!" What is he making all this fuss about? Were he not a "Prohibitionist" I would be warranted in saying that he must have been raving under the influence of "delirium tremens." But, by way of restoring him, I will coolly inform him, that when my sentiments, in relation to the conduct of his society, run parallel with those entertained by anti-prohibitionists in general, they will deem the expression of such opinions as no "base libel," but will value his subtle attempt at conciliation at its proper worth.

His fourth paragraph I pass over, and refer him to *Forty-Four* for a lesson on the use of "coarse and vulgar epithets."

His next paragraph, however, is a precious compound of misrepresentations and inconsistencies, borne aloft on the plaintive strain of the old Temperance Song. It appears that he, as well as all his brethren, feel extremely mortified that they were not allowed the privilege of bringing forward their orators in endless succession—beginning with the blatant harangue of Mr. Bliss and ending in the babyish prattling of a few blubbery boys. But in the tremendous, all-powerfully-convincing and smashing-down speech with which Mr. Smith was prepared to hurl at us, he would have us to believe they had embarked and concentrated their living and precious hopes of having all obstacles to a universal conversion of that vast meeting, uprooted and utterly destroyed by one nervous and gigantic effort. On referring to a late copy of the *Temperance Telegraph*, we find those obstacles, which were to call forth such vast power, and upon whose destruction was suspended the fate of interests of such vital importance and vast magnitude, to consist in some idle rumour about "axe-handles" and "taxes." What a hero! to encounter, single-handed, a formidable phalanx of axe-handles and taxes in bristling array.

In reply to his sixth paragraph, I would simply say—though no apologist for the extreme means used by either party—that I presume the anti-prohibitionists in getting "supporters at the meeting and names to the petition" &c., doubtless copied the principle from the example so admirably set before them by his Society when getting their petitions signed, and when trying to trick the Province out of a sum of money to defray the debt on a "Public Hall and Mechanics' Institute" which is no where in the County.

The next paragraph however, suddenly bursts forth in the old impassioned and pathetic style of Temperance whining; while amid and high above all the din and confusion, can be distinctly heard ringing the wild and frantic chorus of ideal misery until, sudden as the lightning's flash, and startling as the thunder's peal, is all this wailing changed into one long, loud echoing blast of jubilant praise and joy, at the unsurpassed "decorum" of the Prohibitionists at the Prohibitory Meeting. I beg pardon for my levity; yet it is scarcely possible to repress a rising risibility, and to abstain from indulging in a hearty laugh, at the owl-like solemnity that pervaded throughout their ranks at the meeting. The rigid "decorum" which he makes such a merit of is is perfectable unaccountable, unless it be that they had undergone a severe course of training and drilling in good behaviour for, at least, a fortnight previous to the meeting, in order, that should they by any unforeseen event be outvoted, they could fall back upon it and claim it as a meritorious triumph, although defeated in their main object. And they certainly have made the most of it: for they have not ceased to play long and loud upon it and to give it trumpet utterance.—Surely the antes have purchased their triumph with a vengeance! I can't account for their staid deportment in any other rational way; for their speedy resumption of old habits after the meeting, absolutely rejects any other solution.

It is not at all to be admitted that because

the Chairman of the meeting holds the office of High Sheriff of Kent that he is therefore denied the right of expressing any opinion of aversion to an incorporated body such as the Sons of Temperance. If the conduct of the Order has been such as to invite expressions of ridicule and disapprobation, people must not be censured for seeing it and commenting freely upon it. If such be the restraints imposed upon public officers, and if such be the terms upon which the tenure of offices be suspended, I at once, pronounce for a severance of the servile suspending tie which entails the thralldom—he taking the bondage—confering office while I choose the state of untrammelled thought and expression. He "cannot wonder" then that the Sheriff, or any other man of feeling should retort somewhat severely upon the Sons when a leading member of his society—as remarkable for utter ignorance as for vulgar impertinence—would give vent to the following vile sentiment, and say that "he looks upon the man who takes a glass of liquor occasionally as no better than a common street drunkard, and this latter as no better than a thief, a robber, and a murderer!" Thus classing a strictly temperate man in the same category with the man guilty of the darkest crimes; and for no other reason than because he is not a Son of Temperance—SHAME! SHAME!! SHAME!!!

Such is but one of the many uncharitable sentiments which meets with an audible response from the lips of many and which produces an approving echo in the hearts of more.—Such sentiments are a faithful index of their practice—a practice which has driven people beyond the limit of forbearance—a practice which has degraded and undignified the sacred name and principles of Temperance. But when will the vast interests of Temperance be committed to the management of persons ballasted with common sense, guided by the helm of reason, and wafted onwards by the expanding hearts of real—not affected—sympathy for suffering humanity? Then will we see those persons, so largely inflated with arrogance, presumption and vanity, breaking loose from the only particle of gravitation that binds them to the ground, rise and ascend, like an inflated balloon, till they dissolve into a state of ether—a consummation to which they are rapidly drawing near.

Yours, &c.,

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Richibucto, 11th April, 1856.

The Politician.

BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Weekly Times, March 20.
THE APPROACHING PEACE.

Peace is not proclaimed, but we cannot doubt that it is at hand, and our Paris letters assure us that there is every likelihood of the treaty being signed before our sheet has passed through the press. The Plenipotentiaries have met every day for the first four days of this week, and we are informed that they got through a great deal of work at each meeting, anxious that all should be concluded before the expiration of the armistice. The gas companies have received orders to be in readiness to illuminate Paris at a moment's notice, and there has been a stir amongst the chiefs of the police indicative of the approach of some stirring event. As the decisive moment approaches, people become excited and impatient, and there is the same watching now for news of the proclamation of peace that there was six months ago for intelligence of the final assault on Sebastopol. Then our neighbours and Allies were as decidedly warlike as they are at present emphatically pacific. It argues a great change in character of the French people that two campaigns should have given them surfeit of glory. They have grown economical of money, if not of life, and they grudge the cost even of successful war. This is good augury for the future peace of the world, although, at this moment, the people of England would rather not see their Allies so eagerly bent on coming to an accommodation with Russia. It is not that the English have any love for war, or that they do not desire peace in the abstract; but they have no confidence that the present peace will meet their expectations, compensate their sacrifices, or contain an element of durability. It is characteristic of this nation, when it takes any business in hand, to finish it thoroughly. The war took our public men by surprise; and when hostilities commenced we were not prepared. We are now conscious that we are now in a position to show the world what Great Britain is capable of doing. We feel that in another year of war we should dispel any shadow of disaster that hangs over our past efforts, and prove that there is no difficulty which the determined courage of Englishmen cannot conquer. Although Russia has been brought to sue for peace, she is not subdued, and we should like another campaign in order that her power might be effectually crippled, and that Europe might be freed from all Russian aggression. But we have learned that we have Allies—that England is but one of several confederated States, and as we fought without interested motives, we must also consult the opinion of others in making peace.

When the treaty is published, we shall probably find that the British Plenipotentiary has had to give way on many points. The Russians came to the negotiations with many advantages. They were saved, by the officiousness of Austria, the humiliation of making the

first overtures. Austria was well seconded by Prussia and the lesser German Powers, who did not disdain to approach the Czar as supplicants, praying him to grant peace to afflicted Europe. When the Russian acceptance of Austrian propositions was made, it was received, in Paris, with rejoicing as impolitic as unwise. A rage for Peace, a mania infected the whole continent, and its journals were eloquent in praises of the magnanimity of the Czar in according repose to afflicted Europe.—Had he been a universal conqueror, holding the fate of nations in the hollow of his hand, he could not have been bedaubed with more fulsome flatteries. Peace was a foregone conclusion when the conferences were opened at Paris. The French people, or those who assume to speak their opinions, adopted the German expressions of impatience against the English Government, who were supposed to be averse to a hasty peace. The Emperor Napoleon represented the French sentiment, and he had many personal reasons for concluding a peace if he could do so without dishonor. France, although she bore up well under two years of war, began to feel the strain on her finances, and the Emperor feared the effect of drawing it more tightly. No matter that the pressure on France bore no comparison to the exhaustion of Russia; he dreaded the cost of another campaign more than he desired the utter prostration of the enemy. The campaign of 1856 had closed with an achievement most glorious to the allied armies, in which the French had the larger share. In another campaign the English would probably take a leading part, and there were French Imperial reasons why this should be avoided. The Plenipotentiaries of the enemy were compelled to come to Paris to treat for peace, and thus a legitimate gratification was afforded to the pride of France.—As the negotiations proceeded, and a pacific termination of the war became every day more certain, the leanings of Napoleon III. towards peace became stronger. It was but natural that he should desire the proclamation of peace to be contemporaneous with the birth of his expected. He wished the two events to be blended, and that his son should first see the light at a moment so auspicious, when France, weary of war, should rejoice in the anticipations of peace restored, by his firmness and moderation. The condition of the French army must also have had its effect towards inducing the Emperor to hasten the negotiations by smoothing down difficulties. Our correspondents in the Crimea describe our Allies as suffering even more severely than our devoted army in the winter of 1854-5. It is indisputable that great mortality has prevailed in the French camp, and we fear to repeat the enormous total said to have perished through sickness and privation. It is an old remark, that the sword and the bullet are not the most destructive agents in war, and it is stated that the French have lost more men since the capture of the Malakoff, than throughout the operations of the siege of Sebastopol. The Emperor Napoleon must be anxious to withdraw his troops from a site which has proved so fatal to them, and by making peace to put an end to the drain on the strength of his army. There is another power, stronger even than monarchs in the present day, which insists on peace. The moneyed power of Europe is averse to a continuance of the war. The large capitalists wait impatiently for the final termination of hostilities to realise large profits from the rise which must ensue in the price of securities; and the small capitalists, the speculators, and the projectors are eager for the coming excitement. Our own exchange participates in the tremulous agitation that is felt on the Bourses of the Continent, and we fear that the national honour weighs but little with the bulls, whose hopes are fixed on a speedy rise in consols.—Everywhere symptoms are observable of an outbreak of wild speculation. Railroads, banks, and other projects for making men suddenly rich, will be launched on the continental exchanges as soon as the peace favours the liberation of the capital. Shares in schemes, at least doubtful, are sought for at a premium before they are issued, and there is a probability that our railway mania will be surpassed on the Continent in the course of the next year or two. British capital will doubtless receive flattering invitations to travel in search of foreign investments; and even Russia, we are told, looks to us for the means of constructing the railways which will enable her to move her armies rapidly from one extremity of the empire to another in the future war which every good Russian looks forward to for the realisation of the "paramount destiny" of this nation. War is an obstacle to men impatient to be rich, and the men of money cry out for peace on any conditions. They calculate that it will last out their time, and they are content, with Metternich, that the deluge shall come after they have departed.

We have rapidly sketched an outline of the causes which bend European opinion to peace. It is not in the power of England to stem the torrent of selfishness that is overrunning the world, and she is not called upon to fight single-handed the battles of Europe. She has adhered faithfully to her Allies in the war, and it is not her fault if she must yield her consent to a premature peace. Nothing could be gained by discussing the anticipatory reports that are put in circulation respecting the terms agreed upon at the Conference. We may assume certain conditions as indispensable even to a temporary settlement, but the general state of Europe, and even the position of Russia will remain very much the same as they were before the war. It has been truly said that much has been unsettled by the war, and that