

Communications.

SLANDER.

The expansive nature of scandal is told by the poet thus:

The flying rumours gathered as they rolled;
Scarce any tale was sooner heard than told,
And all who told it added something new,
And all who heard it made enlargement, too;
On every ear it spread—on every tongue it grew.

The Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, and the Lady Huntingdon community, are two of the most moral and consistent bodies of Christians we know of in England. Both sects strictly adhere, in this respect, to the golden rule of 'doing to others as they wish to be done by.' No tales of slander are current among them, and if any of their members are known to propagate a wilful falsehood, or malicious slander, they forthwith expel the culprit from their community.

A widow lady, and particular friend of ours, who is no more, was a great enemy to scandal and tale bearing: and, being in easy circumstances, her circle of acquaintances was somewhat extensive. A certain spinster, notorious for her scandalising propensity, calling one morning to see the widow, entertained her with a long account of some mysterious tale, prejudicial to the character of a Lady friend, residing in the same street. Her story concluded, she particularly charged the hitherto patient listener, to observe the strictest secrecy, as she could assure her she was the only friend to whom she had breathed a word on the subject. Whereupon the old Lady rang the bell, which was answered by a faithful old servant, who was requested by her mistress to put on her bonnet, and step over to Mrs D. C. with her compliments, and request her to come over and speak to her, having something particular to communicate. This acted like an electric shock on the viper, who starting up and wistfully eyeing the widow, enquired what she wanted with Mrs D. C. Oh! merely that she may hear what you have to say about her, coolly replied the worthy dame. Oh! not for the world! For God's sake call Margaret back vociferated her guest. Margaret was accordingly recalled, but the spinster had the mortification to listen to the following reprimand:—You are perfectly aware Miss H., that I am, and always have been, an enemy to scandal and talebearing. My house never has been a haunt for scandal-mongers, and I beg that you never again presume to entertain me with any tales, prejudicial to the character of any of my friends or acquaintances. If what you have just stated is correct, why should you dread confronting Mrs D. C. If false, which I have no doubt it is—and I should be weak and wicked enough to repeat it, as coming from you—you would no doubt deny it all, and declare that I am the author of this scandal. Those who live in glass houses Madam, should be careful not to throw stones at their neighbours—and you and I have faults enough of our own to amend without troubling ourselves to expose those of our friends. Such conduct ill becomes one like yourself who has received the greatest kindness and attention from Mrs D. C. and all her family. The reader can easily imagine that our friend was some time ere she received a friendly visit from the crest fallen slanderess.

Another instance, wherein a party, notorious for a bad memory or a fruitful imagination, was held up to public scorn recurs to us. We were, on some particular occasion, invited to a large dinner party, given by a gentleman of wealth and high standing in a country town. After the cloth was removed, and the colloquial powers of each guest were fairly brought into play, a somewhat remarkable anecdote was related by a gentleman, who vouched for its correctness, on the faith of the respectability of his informant. Our host was a plain, matter of fact man, of high moral character, and one who had little respect for those who were wanting in that wholesome ingredient towards themselves. And being aware there was a screw loose somewhere, he coolly observed to the narrator, that, as he appeared so confident of the veracity of his informant, perhaps he would have no objection to name him. By all means was the ready response, I had it last week from Mr D. D! ejaculated our host, one of the most notorious liars in Christendom! If he came before me in my capacity of a Magistrate, to give me evidence, I would not believe him on his oath. I am this plain my good Sir, because I happen to know that you have been imposed upon, the whole being a concoction of his own. If you knew the character of that man, as well as I do, you would never in future, repeat any thing he tells you, for he is just as likely to assert that you told him. Such persons have always treacherous or convenient memories, and if detected in a falsehood, will either tell a dozen more to gloss the one over, or lay all the blame on some innocent person. A few months after this, one of the guests convicted the same individual of a wicked and malicious falsehood tending to injure the character of an innocent and highly respectable party.

The celebrated Mr Jay, of Bath, an eminent Divine, and one who is universally respected, has such an abhorrence of slander, that he will hold no intercourse with persons whom he knows to be guilty of that practice.

Two remarkable and awful examples of the detestation in which all slanderers should be held, appeared in the London Journals some four or five years since. The first was a mechanic in one of the manufacturing Towns, who having spread some evil report against a

neighbour, when taxed with it, stoutly denied the fact, and finally called God to witness his innocence, and hoped he might be struck dead if he ever said such a thing—the words had scarcely passed his lips, when he fell a lifeless corpse. The second was a woman, we think at Liverpool, who was likewise struck dead under precisely similar circumstances. Another case which we remember was that of a soldier at Chatham, Kent, who paid the same awful penalty for his sinful appeal to his maker. This took place in 1836. These are sad examples of the truthfulness of Solomon's denunciation. "He that speaketh lies shall perish."

Lying like intemperance steals imperceptibly on its victims. The habitual drunkard has an insatiable craving for the destroyer of his soul and body. The liar must add lie to lie to cover his infamy. And he finally becomes so utterly depraved—so lost to every sense of shame, that he will unblushingly assert or deny any thing that suits his fancy.

"He that first sins, like him that treads on ice, Slides cautiously down the slippery path of vice:

He slides on cautious, till his fears got o'er,
He slides on swiftly and looks back no more."
POPE.

Falsehood even in joke, is often attended with serious results, as the following tragedy proves. A sailor during the last war between England and France was betrothed to a respectable and good looking young woman residing in Limehouse, London. He was absent two years on the West India station, and having accumulated a little money, he made up his mind to leave his ship and lose a considerable amount of wages still due, in order to be united with her without further delay. Having reached London he proceeded towards the residence of his intended. Calling at a public-house which he formerly frequented, the Landlord being a friend of the young woman, and enquired after her, the landlord told him by way of joke that she was married. This had such an effect upon the sailor that he left the house instantly, wandered about he knew not whither, was picked up by a press-gang, taken on board a tender, and hung himself the same night. This coming to the knowledge of the girl she died of a broken heart, and from that day, the landlord, who was really a kindhearted man, never enjoyed a moment's peace of mind during the short-period he survived them.

MERCATOR.

(To be continued.)

"They who delight to gad abroad, for the most part have smoky, nasty or donkish houses, or at least, ill rule and no content at home, so when men range abroad and play the spies and scouts, and pry into other mens actions, it is a sign that they have a foul house at home, and ill rule in their own conscience."

PLUTARCH.

Such, Mr Editor is evidently the sad condition of the writer of a pamphlet entitled "*Pro Bono Publico*" to whom the words of the Poet may be justly applied:

"You vent your spleen as monkeys when they pass
Scratch at the mirror monkey in the glass,
While both are one."

And which is now widely circulated among the peaceful and well disposed inhabitants of this district. We would certainly not condescend to answer the Poet according to his folly, were it not, that not content with endeavouring to tarnish the well earned reputation of our "Ex-Member," and of other honest men residing amongst us, as well as the low insinuation thrown out against some unprotected Ladies at Point St. Peter's, (in which however he has most signally failed.) He exhibits the depravity of his own mind by attacking the moral character of one of the most honorable, upright and virtuous ladies in the District—one whose equal is seldom met with, and who in every respect is an example of kindness, generosity, nay of every one of those virtues which so nobly adorn "the prudent wife." His slanderous insinuations have excited the just indignation of her numerous acquaintances by whom she is held in the highest esteem, so that we would strongly advise the Slanderer, who is well known, being avagrant to keep at a distance from this locality, or he may return, in even a more deplorable plight than he came.

Mr Editor, we are no party men. We never countenanced the Pamphlet of 1824. We believe in the respectability of Messrs. Robins Establishment. We also wish our present M. P. all happiness and success, above all, we desire to see peace (the great secret and spring of prosperity) reigning amongst us, but we feel we have a duty to discharge towards our neighbours and friends in the District, which is to warn them, that although we are in the midst of winter, there is a mad dog, suffering from hydrophobia, loose among them, which they will do well to keep away from their kitchen, or counting-houses, or he will certainly bite them in their turn. We take this opportunity of thanking the "Friend of Truth" for his pointed and manly remarks published in your Journal of the 26th ult., it is indeed a blessing that while there are many friends of falsehood and calumny in this locality, there are also a few friends of virtue and truth.

A BRAVE WHALER.

Gaspe Basin, February 9, 1856.

COUNTY KENT.

Richibucto, February 19, 1856.

James A. Pierce, Esq., Editor Gleaner.

A number of your constant readers wish answers to the following queries:

Is it true that Thomas Wetmore Bliss, Esq., Barrister at Law, &c., is the paid legal advocate of a large mercantile firm in this County.

If so he is incompetent to discharge the responsible office of Justice of the Peace for this County.

Is it true that Thomas Wetmore Bliss, Esq., Barrister at Law, &c., has sworn by his God, in public meetings, held in this County, to put down all parties dealing in Spirituous Liquors, &c., and never rest until "he roots the evil from the land." Is this the man to take a calm and temperate view of a case relative to the Prohibitory law as Justice of the Peace for this County.

Is it true that Thomas Wetmore Bliss, Esq., Barrister at Law, is not a freeholder, and owns no stake in this County, and a mere stranger of only a few months residence among us—Is this the man who should hold the responsible office of Justice of the Peace for this County.

Is it true that Thomas Wetmore Bliss, Esq., Barrister at Law, is connected with an Orange Lodge, and delivered an Orange Oration prior to leaving Oromocto.

Surely such as the above would not entitle him to hold the office as Justice of the Peace for this County.

Perhaps the Hon. David Wark will yet have to atone to an insulted community for the late outrage he has committed by his appointments.

I am yours, &c.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Legislative News.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

After the delivery of the speech, and the withdrawal of His Excellency, 300 copies of the speech were ordered to be printed.

Hon. Mr Saunderson then rose to move the address, which he briefly observed embraced all important interests of the province in the most clear and emphatic language. He then proceeded to read it, after which he moved its adoption; the motion being seconded by Hon. Col. Minchin.

Hon. Mr Hazen said he hoped the address would not be pressed at present. Several hon. members were absent; and with regard to the paragraph on the College he was not sure that he would not oppose it, believing as he did that any project to support the College must be hopeless.

Hon. Mr Steeves had no objection that the discussion on the address should stand over till Saturday or Monday.

Hon. Mr Saunders concurred. He was willing to give any reasonable time which might be required.

Hon. Mr Odell recommended delay for the purpose of having both the speech and response printed, and also for giving them both a careful consideration. He would not at present intimate the course which he might hereafter pursue in the case of the College.

Hon. Mr Hazen would not say whether he would or would not bring any motion on the subject; but he must say that there was something singular in the present position of certain matters connected with the College. He understood that the Atty. General still held the office of Registrar, and that in the last year there had not been a single meeting of the College Council.

Hon. Mr Wark expressed himself favorable to the required delay, and the discussion was ultimately fixed for Monday.

Hon. Mr Rice this day took his seat in the Legislative Council.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

PROPOSED ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN ANSWER TO THE SPEECH.

May it Please Your Excellency,

1. We, the Commons of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for the Speech delivered at the opening of this Session of the Legislature.

2. We unite with Your Excellency in the expression of gratitude to the Almighty for the many blessings which we have enjoyed as a people during the past year.

3. We are gratified to learn that our Agriculturists have been favoured with abundant Crops; that the Fisheries have not been unsuccessful, and that, notwithstanding the general depression of Trade, our Commercial interests have received no permanent injury; and we are grateful to Providence for the exemption from a recurrence of that disease which so seriously afflicted some portion of the Province during the preceding year.

4. Anticipating the great advantage which must result to the Province in all its interests from the introduction of Railways;—when the papers referred to by Your Excellency are laid before us, the subject shall receive that grave consideration its importance demands.

5. We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Accounts of the expenditure of the part, and the Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the current year, to be laid before us.

6. While we regret that the Expenditure of the last year has exceeded the Revenue, we are gratified to learn that the Income did not fall short of the Estimate.

7. We shall carefully consider the mode of granting the Supplies for the Public Service, with a view to its improvement.

8. The state of the unfunded debt, and the effect upon the financial affairs of the Province consequent on the sudden withdrawal of the deposits in the Savings Banks, shall receive our serious consideration.

9. Sensible of the connection existing between a sound financial system and the power of constructing Public Works for internal improvement, we shall, in the consideration of any scheme for the construction of such Works, bear in mind the necessity of making provision for the prompt payment of all demands on the Treasury.

10. We agree with Your Excellency that the progress of every community is largely dependent upon the encouragement afforded to Science, Literature, and the Arts.

11. We hope that means may be devised to remedy the defects in our Collegiate System and improve our Educational Institutions, so that the advantages of a good Academic as well as Common School Education, may be afforded on liberal terms to the youth of the Province, without distinction of class or creed.

12. We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Report of the Commissioner of Public Works to be laid before us, and we trust that we shall have reason to believe that the establishment of the Board of Works will secure greater efficiency and economy in this important branch of the Public Service.

13. We have not forgotten the intense interest we and the whole People of New Brunswick felt at the close of the last Session, in the efforts of the Allied Armies before Sebastopol, their noble gallantry and patient endurance.

14. The fall of Sebastopol excited throughout the Province a feeling of universal joy and exultation, a living evidence of the unabated loyalty of the People of New Brunswick; and it is a source of pride to us that in the Armies of the East, one of the most distinguished Officers is a native of British North America.

15. We shall enter upon our deliberations with the earnest prayer that they may be promotive of the real and lasting interests of the Province.

From the St. John Courier.

Feb. 14.

Immediately after the members of the Assembly returned to their Hall, Mr Street moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the destruction of Bears and Wolves. Mr End also moved for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the Prohibitory Liquor Law. On the question whether leave should be granted, there were several nays. The division was then called for. Objection were made to this, as it is always usual to allow a bill to be introduced, and have the discussion afterwards. There were cries of "question," however, and the motion to allow the bill to be introduced, was sustained by a large majority—22 to 8. Next the names were called for, and the ayes were found to be Messrs. End, Gray, Johnson, Tilley, Botsford, Kerr, Street, Smith, McPherson, McLean, Landry, Harding, McNaughton, Montgomery, Cutler, Wilnot, Fisher, Connell, Gilbert, Boyd, Hatheway, Sutton. Nays—Messrs Tibbets, Steadman, Lunt, Ferris, Brown, McPhelim, Gilmor, McAdams. It will be seen that Mr Tilley and other prohibitionists voted for the reception of the bill, on the ground that this was not the time to discuss it.

Mr Kerr moved a resolution to appoint a Committee of Selection, as in Nova-Scotia, whose duty it should be to recommend the names of members to serve on the several Committees. This suggestion was received with favor, but was not adopted. Further action, however, may be taken upon it. Mr Kerr pressed it in a gentlemanly way, and it certainly seems worthy of consideration, as it would prevent a great deal of difficulty.

The Address in answer to the Governor's Speech was moved by Mr McNaughton, and seconded by Mr Tibbits. It evidently took some of the opposition members aback, when Mr McN. made this motion, as they have imagined, because he was not put into the Executive, that he would oppose it. No one who knew this gentleman, and had observed his straightforwardness last session, had any apprehension that personal pique, even if he felt it, would make him blast his political character by desertion from his party. Well would it be for the Province, if all who profess liberalism, were so decided in their allegiance to their principles as Mr McN. has thus far shown himself. Mr End heartily approved of the Address, only expressing his regret that the name of General Williams had not been contained in it.—On motion of Mr Harding, the discussion upon it is made the order of the day for Monday.

Other individual motions were made—one respecting the printing, by Mr McPhelim, who on several occasions got unusually violent, both in his gesticulations and language. Mr End pleasantly remarked, that he thought we should have a quiet session, as we had such a stormy beginning—gentlemen were blowing off the extra steam. This brought a rejoinder from Mr McPhelim, who was not very easily pacified.

It is now pretty well understood that several of the supporters of the Government, have gone into opposition. Mr McPhelim is, in fact, the only one who has publicly intimated this feeling—his non appointment to the Executive, is believed to be the grievance. Any one who saw and heard him to-day would come to the conclusion that the harmony of the Executive would not have been very much improved by his connection with it. It is deeply to be regretted that in two other cases, from some disappointments, which are conjectured, but not understood, there will be a defection from the liberal ranks. We shall know in a few days what course they intend to take. It is yet hoped that these men, who have earned public confidence formerly by their support of liberal measures, will pause before they irrevocably commit themselves to the old party.

The confusion in the House to-day was anything but respectable. The session has certain-