

Communications.

THE POET BURNS.

Dear Pierce.

As many persons have misgivings about the Poet Burns morally, as an ardent admirer of his, and coming from the neighborhood of where he sang and rambled, may I ask you to be kind enough to give the following letter, &c. insertion in your valuable Journal. I clip it from a Scotch paper received by the last steamer.

Your Obedient Servant,

MOSSGIEL.

Chatham, 12th December, 1856.

LETTER OF ROBERT BURNS.

The following paragraph appears in the Ladies' Journal of Saturday last:—

We are requested to correct an error which appeared in this paper of the 18th October, wherein it was stated that the original letter of the poet, of date the 25th June 1796, to his friend Mr Clarke, therein published, was in the possession of Robert Napier, Esq., of Glasgow. This is a mistake. Mr Napier's copy is not the original letter, which belongs to, and is in the possession of, James Hay, Esq., Leith, who has kindly sent it to us for inspection, and about the genuineness of which there cannot be one moment's doubt.

The letter here alluded to, in the possession of Mr Hay, is a relic so interesting in itself, and so favourably characteristic of Burns, whose nature has been so grossly misunderstood by dullards and libellers by gobs, that its publication here will not be unacceptable;

My Dear Clarke,—Still, still the victim of affliction. Were you to see the emaciated figure who holds the pen to you, you would not know your old friend. Whether I shall ever get about again is only known to Him the Great Unknown, whose creature I am. Alas! Clarke, I beg to feel the worst! As to my individual self, I am tranquil. I would despise myself if I were not; but Burns's poor widow and half-a-dozen of his dear little ones, helpless orphans—there I am weak as a woman's tear. Enough of this; 'tis half my disease!

I duly received your last, inclosing the note. It came extremely in time, and I was much obliged to your punctuality. Again I must request you to do me the same kindness. Be so very good as by return of post to inclose me another note;—I trust you can do it without much inconvenience, and it will seriously oblige me. If I must go, I leave a few friends behind me, whom I shall regret while consciousness remains. I know I shall live in their remembrance. Adieu! dear Clarke!—That I shall ever see you again is, I am afraid, highly improbable. R. BURNS.

Dumfries, June 29, 1796.

This affecting letter will be better understood when it is added as, we believe, a fact quite ascertained, that Burns was not asking a loan or a gift, but only the part repayment of a loan he had made to Clarke. It is known that Burns died owing no man anything—a fact which, under the circumstances of his career, throws a stronger and brighter light on his character than volumes of controversy and eulogium. The poet died three weeks after the date of the letter.—*Scotsman.*

A GLORIOUS AMBITION.

Said the Scythian to ambassadors to Alexander, "If your person were as vast as your ambition the world would not contain you." We have now in our midst a conqueror whose ambition is as boundless as Alexander's. The whole world was too narrow a sphere for its exercise, and he has sought the new. We refer to Professor Holloway, whose desire to benefit mankind, unsated by the countless cures his medicines have accomplished, is now actively engaged in revolutionizing the treatment of disease in this country. Conquest and subjugation of the various maladies that afflict the human race. The trophies of his skill are to be found in every region of the earth, for his remedies are omnipotent, and wherever they have penetrated, disease has given way to their hygienic influence. Probably there are not half a dozen newspapers in existence that have not borne voluntary testimony to the wonder-working efficacy of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. It has heretofore been the universal complaint against even the most popular medicines, that they were mere palliatives, relieving pain temporarily, perhaps, but never reaching the "materies morbi," or element of disease in the blood. Holloway's Pills, on the contrary, act specifically upon the primary cure of the mady in the fluids of the body, and from which they spring. In external disease the Ointment is used as an auxiliary to the Pills, and its sanative effects are scarcely less wonderful.

We make these assertions—hold as they may seem—on solid grounds. We have warrant for them in the admissions of the faculty—in the statements of standard medical periodicals on both sides of the Atlantic—in the published acknowledgments of thousands of grateful convalescents—and last, but not least, so far as our private convictions are concerned, in our own personal experience and observation.

To the man whose profound research and practical skill in medical science have resulted in the production of such unequalled curatives, and whose business energy and enterprise have diffused them through every inhabited region between the Equator and the Poles, the homage of the world is due. He has received it.

Wherever he has travelled his journeys have resembled a triumphal progress, and the most haughty of Europe's aristocracy have been proud to assist at his levees. He is now a resident—and we hope he will become a citizen—of a land where the only titles recognized are the titles to respect and gratitude earned by public benefactors. Among that class he has long stood pre-eminent, and it is perhaps not too much to say that his European and American central manufactories, London, and New York, are doing more practical good than all the medical colleges of Europe and America combined."—*New York Sunday Dispatch.*

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

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.

SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited from 1st November, 1855
to 31st October 1856 £5674 14 10
Withdrawn.—Paid Deposits exclusive of interest from 1st Nov.
1855, to the 31st Oct. 1856 £3088 12 6

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Moon Last Qr. 19th, 2421m A.M.—HIGH WATER.	
14 S. 3rd Sunday in Advent	7h 38m 7s 75
15 M.	8 16 8 35
16 Tu	8 53 9 11
17 W. Ember Day	9 29 9 51
18 Th Boston Tea Riot 1773	10 12 10 34
19 F. Ember Day	10 55 11 26
20 S. Ember Day	11 56

The above Tides having been calculated with regard to the moon's horizontal parallax and angular distance from the sun, will be found to be correct, due allowance being made at times for high winds and freshets. For Richibucto, subtract, 2430m—Bathurst, 2415m—Dalhousie, 2450m from the above.

PUBLIC MEETING—GAS.

The inhabitants of Chatham, after having remained in darkness for many years, have at length come to the prudent and sensible resolution to dispel the same, and henceforth walk in the light. A wise determination.

It is pleasing to an individual who has agitated at various periods certain measures calculated to benefit the community in which he lives, to find that his labor has not been entirely thrown away; but that the hints or suggestions he has thrown out at various times, have taken root, and though slow in growth, likely to produce good fruit.

We have at various periods, assisted at times by correspondents, pointed out the advantages our inhabitants would derive by lighting the town with GAS. Towns in the old country, the United States, and the British North American Colonies, that have not the facilities we possess, neither number the same amount of dwellings, shops, and public edifices that exist in Chatham, are lit up, and the stock proved a lucrative and profitable investment. If this has been the case in other places what valid reason is there to suppose that with the same economy and judicious management, the same result will not follow here? We see none.

We are a very peculiar people in Chatham. We do not hear with our own ears; see with our own eyes; or understand through the medium of our own reasoning faculties; and the result is, that if private individuals cannot see the propriety of a measure proposed—if their interest runs counter to its adoption—or if they fancy the country is not prepared for it, and refuse to put their shoulders to the wheel—it is allowed to die quietly. But should they suggest a measure—the advantages, utility and benefits are at once seen and appreciated. It

is loudly talked over in every house, store, and workshop, and has a good chance of being taken up and adopted by the public.

We do not care, neither are we prepared to state, what appliances were brought to bear on the matter in hand, but we were astonished at the sudden burst of popular enthusiasm manifested in its favor, after it had been so often brought before the public and allowed to slumber. We are pleased to perceive the question has at length assumed that prominence in the estimation of the people its merits so well deserve, and that we are at last likely to see our rising town lit with Gas.

In accordance with the Notice published in last Saturday's Gleaner, a Public Meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute in Chatham, on the evening of Tuesday last. It was the most numerous attended meeting we have witnessed in the town for many years, and much enthusiasm was manifested. There was but little speechifying indulged in—but something better was done than TALK. A very large portion of the individuals present came prepared to ACT. In the course of a very short space of time the Stock List amounted to £1,000, and has since been increased to £1,300. One feature in the evening's proceedings pleased us much—it was this—to see so many of the shares taken up by men in the humble walks of life: men who a few years ago would not have attended such a meeting much less thought of attending a thing as taking stock in such an enterprise, even if they possessed the means. One of the objects we had in view in placing the shares at so low a figure was, to give such of our fellow-townsmen a chance to participate in the speculation, and thereby have a voice in its management. We are glad they embraced it.

We have now every confidence that the work will be prosecuted to a successful issue. When once fully under weigh and the inhabitants see and feel the advantages of the measure, with common prudence and judicious management, we feel persuaded it will be a safe as well as a profitable investment.

The Secretary has presented us with the following Report of the proceedings of the evening, which we have much pleasure in publishing.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Chatham, held in the Mechanics' Institute on the 9th inst., called for the purpose of taking steps to have the Town Lit with Gas.

On Motion,—The Hon. JOHN M. JOHNSON was called to the Chair, and Mr WM. M. S. EVANS requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman having explained the object of the Meeting, it was moved by George Kerr, Esq., seconded by John T. Williston, Esq., and Resolved unanimously, As the opinion of this Meeting, that from the extent and population of the Town of Chatham, the time has arrived when the Inhabitants should endeavour to obtain the advantages which other communities have derived, from the introduction and use of Gas Light.

Moved by James A. Pierce, Esq., seconded by John MacDougall, Esq., and

Resolved, unanimously, That in order to carry into effect the object of the foregoing Resolution, a Company should be formed and incorporated by Act of Assembly, with a Capital of not less than £3000, in shares of £5 each, with power to increase it to £6000.

Moved by John M. Johnson, Esq., seconded by James Caie, Esq., and

Resolved, unanimously, That a Subscription List for the Stock of the contemplated Company be at once opened, and that a Deposit of 10 per cent. per share, be paid on the amounts subscribed, on or before the 1st day of January next.

Moved by Wm. J. Fraser, Esq., seconded by John T. Williston, Esq., and

Resolved, unanimously, That a Committee of five persons be appointed to circulate and obtain Subscribers to the Stock List, to receive the Deposits, and to prepare a Bill to incorporate the Company, and to take all necessary steps to have the same passed into a Law; and that John M. Johnson, Jr., Isaac Matheson, Hugh Bain, George H. Russell, and Kenneth B. Forbes, Esquires, be such Committee.

That the Committee call a Meeting of the Subscribers to the Stock List, when the Bill shall be prepared, and submit the same for approval.

On Motion—The Chairman left the Chair, and John T. Williston, Esq., was called there-to, when a vote of Thanks was unanimously passed to the Hon. John M. Johnson, for his able and impartial conduct in presiding over the meeting.

A Stock List was then opened, and £1000 subscribed for in the Room.

W. M. S. EVANS, SECRETARY.

FUTURE BATTLE FIELD OF THE OLD WORLD.

THE War which has so recently terminated, made the inhabitants of Europe, as well as of this Continent, well acquainted with the position and resources of a very extensive country which was formerly but little known to them. Until the war we scarcely heard anything of the Sea of Azof, the Caspian, and the Black Sea; and of the countries bordering thereon we had but a very imperfect knowledge. Now the case is widely different. If we are to place confidence in the predictions of certain writers and politicians, those countries as well as the extensive region lying between the Indus and the Caspian Sea, are fated to become the battle-field of Nations, before many years roll round.

On this subject the Editor of the Philadelphia American makes the following comments:

"That Persia is to be the future battle-field of Europe—the subject of many a diplomatic encounter, and perhaps, of the sterner struggle of arms—it requires no soothsayer to foretell. Let any one spread before him the Map of Asia and trace on the one hand the extension of British Empire from the south-east, and on the other the encroachments of Russia from the north-west. The British are no longer confined by the Indus, the extreme limit of Hindostan on the north-west. They have crossed that ancient river and extended their operations ten degrees beyond it, through Afghanistan, to the confines of Persia, and within six hundred miles of the Caspian. The Russians, crossing the Volga and the Don, already hold nearly the whole western shore of the same sea, and aspire beyond the mountains of Caucasus. These great powers are now separated only by Persia; and it is on Persia that their respective boundaries are to be arranged, and their claims limited. The object of Great Britain plainly is to possess herself, if possible, by some means, at some time, of the southern and eastern shores of the Caspian. She will avail herself of every occurrence likely to favor this design; and in the event of the failure of such opportunities, she will not wait for a pretext. It is not at all improbable that France concurs in the object of England; for France, no less than England, is jealous of the growing strength of the northern giant."

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

THE Legislature of the neighbouring Republic met for business on the first Monday of the present month. On the following day President Pierce delivered his Message. This document is an extremely lengthy one, and judging from the remarks of several leading Journals in New York and Boston, which have come to hand, it has given but little satisfaction. In another page we give a portion of the review of the Message, taken from the Boston Journal of December 3. The Editor congratulates his readers on the fact that it is the last.

The same paper relates the following extraordinary despatch in that establishment in the setting up, printing and circulating this Message:

"The annual message of President Pierce was received at the Journal office at 23 minutes before 2 o'clock, yesterday afternoon. At 23 minutes past 2 o'clock, 46 minutes from the time of receiving it, our six-cylinder press was printing the entire document, occupying five columns of the Journal, at the rate of fifteen thousand copies an hour. The readers of the Journal, throughout New England, were supplied with the message in our regular afternoon edition."

CHICAGO.

A late paper furnishes the following account of the extraordinary rise of the City of Chicago. It appears more like a tale of romance than a reality, but there is every reason to believe that the statistics are correct.

"In 1851 the city of Chicago had but 98 miles of railroad leading into her streets; and the amount of grain exported was only four and three-quarter million bushels. Now the railroad system of Illinois, with which she is connected, extends 2400 miles, and her population has increased from 21,000 to 118,000, and the State of Illinois from 875,000 to 1,500,000.—The export grain trade of Chicago has swelled steadily, year by year, until it equalled 16,750,000 bushels last year, and promises to reach 20,000,000 bushels in 1856. The import trade in lumber has increased in a corresponding ratio, and was equal to 526,000,000 feet in 1855, and gives every indication of reaching 550,000,000 for the year 1856. There were also received at that port in 1855—Butter, 2,473,982 lbs.; Lard, between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 lbs.; dressed hogs, 27,955,000 lbs.; packed beef, 16,032,138 lbs.; wool, 2,158,426 lbs.; coal, 10,920,269 lbs.; and iron, 11,120,000 lbs."