

Communications.

SLANDER.

We shall mention another case exemplifying the utter depravity of some minds.

A widow Lady—who had received the greatest possible kindness at the hands of a gentleman, on whom she had no real claim beyond that which induces a philanthropist to feel for every fellow creature in distress—having fabricated a falsehood, attempted to screen herself by casting the odium on her benefactor's wife, who had also been a warm friend in the hour of need. This was naturally resented by both, and they no longer noticed her. From that hour the slanderess with a fiendish pertinacity and depth of cunning scarcely to be equalled, set to work to create dissension between her benefactors and other friends by the most slanderous and false accusations. Being an adept at falsehood she had poisoned the mind of her benefactor against others also by false representations. But as is usually the case in all such foul plots, she could not do without a confidante, who betrayed her. Had the friends whose minds were poisoned by this adept at falsehood and deceit, possessed those fine feelings which mark the man of sterling worth, they would have confronted the parties, and tested the veracity of the slanderess, ere they condemned those who were perfectly innocent of the charges fabricated against them.

We have before us an old work which chance has thrown in our way, wherein an essay on the female character appears evidently written by one who is no friend to the fair sex, from which we transcribe the following: "That all females addicted to censoriousness and detraction, should lose the use of speech!" But for all females the author ought to have substituted persons, without reference to sex, there being unfortunately no lack of male slanderers.

Who, having arrived at the age of manhood, has not been the victim of some foul base slander? And by whom does it often unfortunately happen that character is vilified—that the finer feelings of humanity are outraged? By open and avowed enemies! Nay! But by pretended friends! By those whom we have served—those who have received unbounded kindness at our hands. It often happens that a calumniator's only motive for slanders envy—and the innocent and unsuspecting victim is not only grossly calumniated, but perhaps subjected to bitter persecution.

However "envy will punish itself," for truth will out, and sooner or later the slanderer pays the penalty of his base villainy. But if no punishment await them during their path through life, theirs must be a thorny pillow when laid on their death bed.

Shakspeare justly said—
"Who steals my purse steals trash, 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

In the eye of the law the receiver of stolen goods is justly considered as guilty as the thief. It has often struck us that according to the moral law, the same principle is applicable to cases of malicious slander. For if we screen the slanderer—if we have not the moral courage to denounce and expose the frauds—and allow a friend or acquaintance to suffer by our silence we are equally culpable. How often does this occur? Persons who pique themselves on their own propriety of conduct—shrink, as it were with horror, from the task of exculpating those whom they know to be wronged. But such are unfortunately the conventional rules of society. They do not possibly add fuel to the fire, but, stoically avoid the troublesome task of contributing even one drop of water, to check or subdue the flames. This is unquestionably a great social evil.

The world is still deceiv'd with ornament,
In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,
But being season'd with a gracious voice,
Obscures the show of evil? In religion,
What damned error but some sober brow
Will bless it, and approve it with a text,
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?
There is no vice so simple, but assumes
Some mark of virtue on his outward part."

So it was in the days of the immortal Bard of Avon. And so, we fear, it will be to the end. The various examples we have cited are strictly founded on fact. And having ourselves been the victim of slander, and been made the unwitting instrument of propagating falsehood—we write feelingly and from experience—and would therefore fain warn the young and inexperienced to shun a slanderer or slanderess as they would a venomous reptile. To beware how they repeat anything prejudicial to the character of others, and thus avoid the possibility of being entangled in a labyrinth which may affect their own fair fame, ere they can extricate themselves from the tortuous windings of baseless and depravity.

If we all adopted the simple rule of boldly confronting those whom we are told have said this or that of us; and thus elicit the truth, many a friendship would remain unbroken, and falsehood and slander be nipped in the bud. No Christian, no right minded man, should allow himself to be made the depository of a pre-arranged secret, injurious to the character of a friend or neighbour. For, in nine cases out of ten, where the strictest secrecy is enjoined, the

person communicating it has some sinister end in view, which is carefully concealed from the unsuspecting hearer.

MERCATOR.

COUNTY BONAVENTURE.

To John R. Hamilton, Esq., Q. C., Mayor of Cox, and Warden of the County of Bonaventure,

Sir,—I believe it is generally understood that public men are public property, and that their acts are open to free discussion. Acting under this impression, may I make bold to ask you a few questions, which, as a householder, and one having interest therein, I consider I have a right to do.

1st. When the present Municipal Law came in force, you, assisted by Messrs. C. Robin & Co. and LeBoutillier, Bns., took a very active part in securing the election of two ignorant men, as Councillors for Cox, men who can neither read or write—common fishermen—what reason can you give for so doing?

2nd. Are all the Councillors qualified? Unless I am misinformed they are not. If so, ought you as Mayor and Q. C. to allow them to set, after taking the part you have in breaking several of the Councillors, of Hamilton for the same reason?

3rd. How came you to have been a party to the election of Mr Robert Smollett as Secretary Treasurer? Is he a fit man? Has he done his duty? Can he do it?

4th. Have you as Mayor, seen that the various decisions of the Council are duly published in French and English, according to law? Are not the greater part, perhaps all your acts illegal, for want of this duty being performed?

5th. Had the Council the power to tax the people for the building of a bridge, to suit the convenience of Messrs. Robins' and LeBoutilliers? As you have undone what was attempted to be done, ought you not as the Mayor and a Lawyer as well, to have prevented the Council from attempting to pass an illegal and unjust Law?

6th. Are you not now compelled to apply to the Government, to have new assessors appointed, because you have acted contrary to Law?

7th. Had not the people of this county reason to expect that the Municipal Council of Cox would be a pattern for all the rest. That the Mayor being a Lawyer and Q. C., the Law would be fairly and correctly acted upon?

8th. Is it not the common talk of the place that the law makers are the law breakers. We are threatened with fines if our Roads are not bridged and kept in order. Do the Councillors show us the example, and obey their own regulations, or those of the Municipal and Road Act?

9th. Have you not stated that Mr Lodge, the Mayor of Metapedia, has followed the Law to the very letter, and that you had all the necessary papers from that Township, in the greatest order. How is it that the clever men of Cox are so far behind with that poor Township?

10th. Ought you not as Mayor to see that your Secretary Treasurer does his duty, and that his Accounts are properly kept. This is a copy of what was posted up in the Court Hall, at the last meeting of the Council:

ACCOUNT.		
Decr. Licence to M. Caldwell, Shop Keeper,	Amount Collected under the 23rd Clause, 6th Sec. of Road Act,	£
Licence to Mr Langler,	2	0 0
Licence to Mr Clarence Hamilton,	2	0 0
January 1856. Received from John Fraser, Esq., Arthur and Langler's Licence,	9	0 0
		£14 0 0

ROBERT SMOLLETT,
Secretary Treasurer of Council.
New Carlisle, 18th Feby., 1856.

Which appears to me a strange document, though perhaps I am ignorant in such matters. No heading, no dates. Is this a new system of Book Keeping. The three first amounts in the account, or whatever you please to call it, are said to be collected under 23rd Clause, 6 Sec.—Can't find it!

11th. I have a copy of a notice posted up, to call a meeting of the Council, to proceed to the examination or revision of the Valuation Roll. This meeting, if I understand the Law, was for a particular purpose, yet you received an irregular petition for a Cross Road, and irregularly proceeded to order its opening. Ought it not to have been left to the next meeting, and then have been referred to the County Superintendent.

12th. Is it possible that resolutions of the Council can be altered to suit the views of somebody. Pray see to this, and don't let us become the laughing stock of the whole county.

13th. Were you not chosen Warden, because as a lawyer, it was thought you were the fittest man to guide the County Council. And at the first and only meeting, did you not attempt to lead them astray, fortunately Port Daniel sent up their Scotch Chieftain to look after you, and a fortunate thing it was for the County.

14th. If your management of the business of this Township Council is a proof of your ability, what are we to expect of you as Warden?

15th. I am no oracle, but I think you would act wisely if you, in a genteel manner, retire and allow Mr McDonald to resume his seat as Mayor, which he filled so many years with credit to himself, and to the full satisfaction of the public. Although, I do think he has been

very remiss of late as a Councillor: perhaps he has his reasons, and has thought it best to give you rope enough to hang yourself!

This is my first attempt at censorship, but I shall keep a sharp look out for the future and take care to keep the public posted up on such matters. Mr McPherson I know will keep a sharp look out in the County Council, and be more than a match for all artful dodges!

Your humble servant,

A HOUSEHOLDER OF COX.

February 20, 1856

COUNTY KENT.

Kingston, Richibucto, 26th February, 1856.

Mr. Editor,
In reply to An Old Subscriber in your last issue, allow me to say—

It is not true that T. W. Bliss, is the paid legal advocate of a large mercantile firm in this County.

It is not true that T. W. Bliss, has sworn by his God, to put down all parties dealing in Spirituous Liquors, &c.

It is true that Mr. Bliss is not a freeholder in the County of Kent.

It is not true that Mr. Bliss is connected with an Orange Lodge, or that he delivered an Orange Oration prior to leaving Orinocto.

It is true that fifty-five inhabitants petitioned against Mr. Bliss's appointment.

It is true that five hundred and thirty-eight petitioners approved of the same.

THOMAS WETMORE BLISS.

COUNTY NORTHUMBERLAND.

Lower Water Street, Chatham, Miramichi,
16th February, 1856.

To the Editor of the Gleaner, and all whom it may concern,

In the Gleaner of this date I perceive in the Grand Jury Presentment, amongst the number of Auctioneers who have not paid their dues for the past year, the name of

ALEXANDER FRASER, 3rd.

Which I consider false, with due respect to the Law of the Province. It is time enough for the authorities of this County to recognise me as an auctioneer when they have a right so to do.

Perhaps they or he who has been the instrument of presenting this matter to the Jury and through their Presentment to the public, will oblige me by showing either that it is correct or false. Meantime, I must in justice to myself, rebut this charge of default, publically as it has been preferred.

Yours very truly,

A. FRASER.

Mr. Editor,

Sir,—As an improvement in the Law of Survey, &c. of Lumber for this Province, I wish you to give publicity to the following Bill, which will be brought (or one similar) before the Legislature at the present Session, so that Lumberers and other inhabitants of the Province generally, may have an opportunity of considering the same and support it by Petition and otherwise.

Yours, &c.,

SPRUCE & CO.

February 1856.

All New Brunswick papers please copy.

A Bill to amend Section Six, of Title Seventeen, Chapter Ninety-Six, of the Revised Statutes, of the Survey and Exportation of Lumber, and to introduce new or additional matter into Section Twelve of said Chapter. Whereas it appears that Saw Logs of ten inches diameter, are answerable for the manufacture of deals, and other sawed Lumber for exportation.

And, whereas, it appears that many Surveyors of Lumber are altogether or almost permanently employed by persons interested in the manufacture of Logs, Timber and Deals, at work, other than surveying, and in many instances the survey is only a part of their daily or monthly occupation.

Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly—That the word Eleven in said Section Six, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof, that the word Ten be substituted. And that in Section Twelve, after the word aforesaid, and before the word be, there be inserted the words (or shall accept of or be found in other employments on daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly terms, with any person or persons interested in the manufacture or exportation of Logs, Timber or Deals or shall survey for wages or fees otherwise than prescribed by this Chapter.)

Mr. Editor,

In the Grand Jury Presentment published in the Gleaner of the 16th inst., I notice a recommendation that three general superintendents or Surveyors of Lumber, be appointed for the County of Northumberland, who are to do the work by hired Deputies? And on enquiry I am informed that there is a Bill before the Legislature for the purpose of empowering the General Sessions to appoint such superintendents annually. Now, Mr. Editor, I consider this an unblushing effort on the part of the mercantile community, to grasp the whole control of the Survey of Lumber into their hands, as having the majority in the Sessions. The superintendents must be their creatures to get and hold the appointment from year to year, and consequently must engage as deputies the labouring servants of the merchants and exporters, as a matter of economy, &c., who at present through their influence in the Sessions, have their Deal carriers mostly all

upon the Surveyors list, under superintendents of their own creating; and they expect now to have the Saw Logs and Timber on the same principle, the only difference being, three general Superintendents in the County, instead of one, in the employ of each, and in both cases altogether under their direction.

Comment is needless. If the Grand Inquest, as they call themselves, had impartially recommended that the Sessions would be more discreet in making appointments on the Surveyors' list, of only a sufficient number of competent, responsible, disinterested persons, they would have showed that they had some little consideration for the interests of the manufacturer and seller, as well as for the buyer and exporter. And had the Bill been for the purpose of imposing a penalty upon Surveyors who would be found in the employ, (other than surveying,) of manufacturers or exporters of Logs, Timber, or Deals, or would survey for wages or fees otherwise than prescribed by the Law, it would look more like an improvement. It is hoped that the Lumbering community and others generally, will appreciate the favor intended them, and meet the aforesaid Bill by petition in the Legislature, and cause it to be treated as it deserves, viz: (kicked, I was about to say) thrown out.

Yours, &c.,

A LUMBERMAN.

February, 1856.

News of the Week.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Outrageous Assault and Probable Murder.— We have gathered the following particulars relative to the atrocious assault upon, and probable murder of Mr John Walsh, the lessee of the tolls of the Suspension Bridge, which took place on Wednesday night. It appears that a robbery had been committed at the toll-house on the proceeding night,—a pair of socks and other small articles, together with about 16s. in money, being taken by the thief, to the discovery of whom no clue could be obtained.— On the next night, (Wednesday) a man, who gave his name as James McCarron, after passing over the bridge, proffered at the toll-house door, the amount of his fare. Walsh after opening the door and allowing him to walk in, took from him a small piece of money and went to a side drawer in order to get some change that was needed. While he was doing this, McCarron quietly closed the door and slipped the bar across it, and when Mr W. turned towards him and handed the change, the ruffian drew a pistol and discharged it at him, without however, inflicting any injury. Walsh then shouted murder, and his cries aroused a young lad his nephew, who at the time this was taking place, was in bed in a back room and who immediately came to his uncle's assistance.— Just as the lad reached the scene of action, however, the light was blown out and another pistol discharged by the assassin, the ball from which grazed Mr Walsh's side and inflicted a slight flesh-wound. The boy then escaping from the back part of the premises, hastened to a neighbor's house near by, where fortunately a wake was being held, and alarmed the inmates, who immediately proceeded to the toll-house, and found the door still fastened. A third pistol had been discharged by McCarron, in the meantime, which inflicted the (probably) fatal wound. The ball went in at Mr Walsh's mouth, and after taking off part of his tongue, lodged in the back part of his head. Breaking in the door, the neighbors found the wounded man and his assailant clenching in a mortal struggle. The grasp of Walsh was so tenacious, that it was with difficulty loosened. Both parties were conveyed to a neighbouring house, where McCarron, after his person had been searched, and some particulars of the attack as stated above, made known by the wounded man, was handed over to the custody of the Portland Police. On the floor of the toll-house were found three pistols newly discharged, and on the person of the prisoner a bullet-mould, a lot of bullets, a quantity of gunpowder, some matches, and a candle. A number of articles were also found at McC's. boarding house, among them a pair of oversocks, which the boy identified as his uncle's property. Presumptive proof was thus had that the prisoner was the robber of the previous night. The preliminary examination took place at the Portland Police Office yesterday afternoon at three o'clock. He was remanded for further examination. The prisoner exhibited a non-chalance of manner which showed him to be no novice in crime. He is said to be the perpetrator of several crimes lately committed in that vicinity. The wounded man is not expected to recover.

We understand that on last Saturday evening, Mr Walsh the victim of the ruffianly attack by McCarron, was still lingering in a very precarious state. It must be a satisfaction (though a melancholy one) to the wife and daughter, as well as to the other friends of Mr Walsh, that there can be no question as to the identity of the perpetrator of the cowardly and premeditated assault, and that it was entirely unprovoked by the conduct of Mr Walsh on the occasion. In this connection we may express the hope that no false sympathy will interfere to thwart the ends of justice, if on the prisoner's being arraigned before the proper legal tribunal, the evidence bears out the horrible cold-blooded and fiendish nature of this transaction.— St. John Courier.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Considerable excitement is stated to prevail at St Johns in consequence of an intention ex-