

Communications.

A CURE FOR TROUBLE!

OR, A SONG FOR HARD TIMES.

Written by a Northumberland Grammar Scholar.

Away—away—despondency,
Away—away—our fears;
There's safety in insolvency,
As Royally appears.

There's pleasure in a "cup of wine,"
There's comfort in "roast beef,"
Then why should we on sorrow dine,
Or banquet on our grief?

There's comfort in a "cup of tea,"
So the old women say;
And sure there is a way that we
Should know as well as they.

Are not the fields as green, as when
We little boys did rove?
And will they not be white again
With what the school boys love?

Have not our heads a covering now,
As in the days of yore?
Is there not "bread for sweating brow"
As well as heretofore?

There is,—then let existence be
By every mortal prized,—
So will our lives pass cheerily
With blessings realised.

R. T.

Chatham, 1st April, 1856.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 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.

GENERAL 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.

SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited 3rd March, £224 5 0
Withdrawn 4th March, 135 6 8

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 SCHOOL HOUSES.

We should like to know if any of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chatham, while passing the Parish School House in the immediate vicinity of St. Andrew's Church, ever stop and contemplate the ruinous state of that building? To all those who may hereafter journey in that direction, we would recommend at least a passing glance—and as they proceed onward, ask themselves this pertinent and home question—is it creditable or right that it should be so? We understand there is a Female keeping school in that locality, but owing to the dilapidated condition of the public building, she has been compelled to use her dwelling as a school room.

We would also ask—do the inhabitants, while passing that wretched, tumble-down fabric, known as the Madras School House in the centre of the town, and situate on one of the principal streets, ever cast their eyes on it, or give the matter a moment's thought? We wonder if any parent of the numerous scholars that attend that school, has ever considered the injurious effects of confining his children from 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning until 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon of each day, in such a wretched hovel—for we cannot designate it by any other title. Mr Smith, we understand, is a first-rate master, and during his short sojourn among us, has given unbounded satisfaction to the public, and to him it is also acting unjustly.

Our Grammar School House is somewhat better, but even this building is any thing but what it should be. None of the establishments in the parish have any outhouses, conveniences, or play-grounds for the use of the children, except the one occupied by Mr Howe, and that in the Catholic Temperance Hall. The fact is—our school houses are a standing disgrace to the community, and if there was no stronger evidence of the inefficiency of the present system for providing for the Education of the rising generation, this alone is sufficient to condemn it.

We have several Female Schools in the town but no public edifice for that purpose; the con-

sequence is—the Teachers are compelled to provide school rooms, either in their dwellings or elsewhere, out of their stipends, which are small enough without being thus improperly burdened.

We would suggest to the Ladies of Chatham, the propriety of assembling together at an early day, to discuss this matter over, and to devise means to provide for such a building.—We would also recommend them to make a personal inspection of the buildings and rooms in which the respective schools are kept. They may obtain by this means, some useful information on a matter that has excited in their minds at times, much uneasiness and considerable anxiety—the cause of the wan cheeks, pallid countenances, and general debility of their children.

We have frequently alluded to this important subject, and more particularly in a Lecture we delivered in our Institute two winters ago. The evils were then admitted by all present, and we were in hopes that something would have been done to remedy them—but up to the present time matters remain unchanged.

Our attention has been again called to the subject, on hastily perusing the Fourth Annual Report of the Parish Schools of the Province, drawn up by the Chief Superintendent, which has been laid before the Legislature, a copy of which we obtained through the attention of Mr Sutton, by the Fredericton mail, which reached here on Wednesday; and on reading the annexed paragraph in a late paper, relative to the great advantages and blessings that have been bestowed on the people of Scotland, through their admiral Parish School System. We would ask for this article an attentive perusal, as it contains matter that deserves serious consideration from all those who have the future well-being of the rising generation at heart.

"By this memorable law it was, in the Scotch phrase, statute and ordained, that every parish in the realm should provide a commodious school house and should pay a moderate stipend to a school master. The effect could not be immediately felt. But, before one generation had passed away, it began to be evident that the common people of Scotland were superior in intelligence to the common people of any other country in Europe. To whatever land the Scotchman might betake himself in America or in India, in trade or in war, the advantage which he derived from his early training raised him above his competitors. If he was taken into a warehouse as a porter, he soon became foreman. If he enlisted in the army, he soon became a sergeant. Scotland, meanwhile, in spite of the barrenness of her climate, made such progress in agriculture, in manufactures, in commerce, in letters, in science, in all that constitutes civilization, as the Old World had never since equalled, and as even the New World has scarcely seen surpassed."

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Bathurst, April 3, 1856.

Winter is very sensibly passing away. The snow diminishing, and pleasant old mother Earth stealing out from under its frosty covering in detached spots every day, for the mercury has been more than once as high as sixty in the open air, at noon. The prevailing epidemic, Scarlet Fever, is still raging with great violence in some of the eastern parishes, upwards of thirty deaths are reported at Caraquet and over twenty at the lower part of New Bandon in one week; the disease is alarmingly fatal in those districts.

In a number of the New Brunswicker a week or two since, appeared an article signed "Vindex," which contains some most ill-temperate and malicious allusions to "Your Correspondent," to whom he ascribed the authorship of a previous communication to the Telegraph, bearing the signature of "Justicia."

I was undecided for some time whether to notice "Vindex" or not; on mature reflection however, I have decided that a few brief comments on his production may do good, and in the temperate way in which I shall treat it—cannot do harm.

I never saw the Communication of "Justicia" until it was pointed out to me in the Telegraph, and I am profoundly ignorant of the author's name and residence. Vindex has therefore committed a great wrong in attempting to revenge on "Your Correspondent" the pain he may have suffered from whatever was disagreeable in that paper. I have my doubts however if Vindex and his assistants would feel one moment's remorse at "hanging the wrong man." I should rejoice to be assured that I wrong them by this opinion, time will show.—But had "Your Correspondent" been the writer, the assertions, implications, and disclosures of Vindex, would be no less false and dishonourable. He would seem to imply that a person who once used strong drink, cannot consistently advocate Temperance, when, on the contrary, it is such persons that are chosen as its best advocates. Also, "Vindex," in common with other enemies of the cause, suspects hypocrisy on the part of the promoters of Temperance. "Judge not lest ye be judged." Hypocrisy is generally a cloak put on for securing some personal advantage. What profit pray can temperance men hope to win by their exertions to disseminate their principles, beyond the satisfaction of doing good? On the contrary, in this place, with sorrow be it said, their reward, if they were to abandon or betray the cause, would be sure and immediate, while

sincerity and faithfulness invokes the bitterest hate and persecution; not much encouragement for Hypocrisy one would say!

There are two charges made by "Vindex" which may possibly apply to "Justicia," but cannot to "Your Correspondent" in any way. The first, that he once favored Infidelity; the other, that he is intolerant in forcing his opinions upon others. With regard to the first, nature and early education forbade it through life. I say nature, because of this, an eminent professor of phrenology that once visited this Province, examined the head of the writer in the presence of many friends, and wrote a table of the indications of character: the second feature on that table was this:—"a firm and overpowering faith in a place of future rewards and punishments." Although this declaration was strange and startling to the subject of it, yet those around who pretended to know him better than he knew himself (and if I mistake not Vindex was one) pronounced the professor's table to be wonderfully correct, indeed "a perfect mirror of the man," and after experience has served to confirm the truth of the declaration. With regard to bigotry and intolerance, the writer might safely challenge "Vindex" or any body else, to name an instance where he used abuse or ungentle language towards those who differed with him in opinion, on the score of difference alone. His opinion had always been that "kindness is the key to unlock the human heart," and he has invariably used it to promote every cause in which he engages. In this he has been said to go to an extreme, and in consequence differs with many of his co-labourers; when he looked upon Temperance in a very different light from that in which he now holds it, he recollects too well that violence would never have changed him, at the same time he would resist every attempt used to promote the promulgation of Temperance by violence.

I would say in conclusion, that it is an unwarrantable liberty of "Vindex" or any one else, to charge whom he pleases, with writing this or that obnoxious paper, and the publisher is equally reprehensible in putting false charges of this nature. This is not the first or second instance which has occurred of the kind within a year or two, and I think it is not impossible some means may be found to justly punish the offenders.

Another Correspondent writing to us says:

"The scarlet fever continues its ravages in Gloucester, and in the neighbouring parish of New Bandon about one hundred children have been carried off by this terrible disease. The snow is rapidly disappearing."

An inquest was held at Shippigan, before Dr. Baldwin, Coroner, on the body of Mrs J. L. Duggay, who cut her throat on Friday, the 4th inst. Verdict—Temporary Insanity.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

LAST week we announced that a motion to surrender the initiation of the Money Grants to the Executive, was carried; and congratulated our readers on the progress we were making towards acquiring Responsible Government. It is certainly doled out to us by miserable instalments—but we are a patient people, and thankful for all favours, even the smallest, that our Representatives may in their condescension bestow on us. Seeing that this measure would deprive the members of the patronage so long enjoyed by them, of appointing Road Commissioners, &c., and confer it on the Government, we were in hopes that some patriotic member would introduce a bill or resolution for the establishment of Municipal Corporations throughout the Province; but as yet nothing has been done towards obtaining so desirable and necessary a measure.

The subjects of general interest that have been before the Legislature the past week are:—A bill introduced by Mr Fisher, for establishing a comprehensive system of University Education; A bill introduced by Mr Connell, to suspend the grant to King's College; and Mr End's bill to Repeal the present Prohibitory Liquor Law.

We are indebted to the Freeman for the following brief Report of the Contingent Committee. By it, it will be seen, that notwithstanding the efforts that have been made to put an end to the extravagance, speculation, and petty frauds that have been perpetrated through the Contingent Bill, the work still progresses.

We should like to know who ordered the stationery, &c., from Lumsden & Co. The Committee must know the whole facts, and if the parties are officers of the Assembly, and old offenders (which we are inclined to think) they should be summarily dismissed, and more conscientious and better men placed in their situations. Until some decisive measure be adopted to put an end to the abuse, the old story will be repeated year after year.

The following is a copy of the Report—it speaks for itself.

"The committee appointed on the 14th day of February last, to take into consideration the contingent expenses of the House of Assembly, beg leave to make their first report.

"The committee having before them the invoices of Lumsdale & Co., of Stationery imported by the clerk of this House, find that there is charged in those invoices, ten Trunks, the aggregate value of which is £14 16s; two Portmanteaus, £6 6s; one Queen's Counsel's best Silk Robe, £9; one electric plated Shade

with standing arms and shade, £9 9; together with 40 lbs. of best transparent Wax Candles, £5; amounting together to the sum of £44 11 sterling.

"Your committee feeling that those items are not required for Contingencies of this House, beg to recommend that the Trunks, Portmanteaus, Queen's Counsel's Robe, Electric Plated Shade, and Wax Candles, be immediately sent to an Auction Room and sold at Public Auction, for the benefit of the Province.

"Your committee beg leave to make a further Report.

Francis McPhelim,
James A. Harding,
William End,
Robert D. Wilton,
George Hayward.

Committee Room, April 3, 1856."

NOVA SCOTIA.

LAST week we stated that the Assembly of this Province had thrown out the Prohibitory Law by a vote 20 to 28. It was strenuously opposed by the Attorney General, who used very strong language. He said—"if the bill passed, the public credit will be ruined, and the progress of the Railway stopped." He concluded his speech as follows:

"We, as a government, are not prepared to make any alteration in our tariff to meet the decrease in our revenue which must result from this measure,—we are not willing to take the responsibility of carrying on our public works if you deprive us of any part of the revenue which we possess; therefore if you pass the bill you strike away the whole foundation upon which we stand, and your present government exists no longer. Now vote as you please."

Mr Johnson introduced the following Resolutions into the Assembly to obtain the opinion of members respecting the necessity of establishing Municipal Corporations in the Province. The following are the Resolutions:

"That Municipal Incorporations are necessary for the just and efficient operation of the system of self-government adopted in this Province, and for securing and promoting the most essential interests of the people.

"And therefore Resolved, That it is incumbent on this House, without delay, to pass an act applicable to and immediately operating throughout the whole Province, by which there shall be confided in the people in each County by means of Municipal Incorporation, the power, the privilege, and the duty of governing the affairs of their own Counties and Townships, and electing the requisite Municipal officers."

Mr McLellan moved as an amendment the accompanying resolution:—

"Whereas much of the local business now required to be done by this Assembly and the Court of Sessions could be more advantageously done by the people at home, therefore:—

"Resolved, That a Municipal Act of Incorporation be passed as soon as convenient on such principles as will enable the inhabitants of Polling Districts who shall think fit, to elect a certain number of persons as Aldermen to meet and do the local business belonging to the district.

"The Chairman from the several Polling Districts in a County to meet at the County Court House and transact the County business.

"So that the full benefit of self-government may be obtained with the least possible expense."

To this Mr Archibald moved the following as an amendment to Mr McLellan's amendment.

"Resolved, That the House recognises the soundness of the policy of applying to the management of the county and township affairs, the principle of Municipal Incorporation; but considering the great diversity of opinion prevailing on the subject in different sections of the Province, and that the expression of public sentiment at the late elections has been, to a large extent, modified by the optional feature of the bills that have already passed:—

"Resolved therefore, That the House would not at present feel justified in passing any bill on this subject which removes from the people of each county the power to accept or reject it."

All these motions were lost—Mr Archibald's by a vote 25 to 26. Mr McLellan's 10 to 41, and the original, by Mr Johnson—24 to 27.

The House have voted £500 to Hon. Joseph Howe, as an acknowledgment of his valuable services in negotiating the Railway Loan in England. 13 members voted against it. It was expected the Legislature would bring its business to a close at the end of the week.

THE SEASON.

THE weather still continues fine. The streets in the town are nearly bare of snow, and in some places quite dry. The ice on the river is rapidly decaying, and scarcely a day passes but we hear of horses breaking through. The roads, we believe, were never in such a wretched condition, and all the mails are consequently far behind their time in arriving. The Southern mail due on Sunday morning, did not reach Chatham until Tuesday morning; and Wednesday's mail came in at 8 o'clock on Thursday night. The Northern mails also lag behind; and the Fredericton mail even more so. The one which left that city on Friday morning,