

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1856.

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COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Restigouche, February 25, 1856.

Last mail brought us the intelligence of a peace congress to be held in Paris, and of a congress of war in Fredericton. The first is of too much magnitude for our little minds to grapple with, and so we leave it to the powers that be to decide, hoping at the same time that through the influence of our "big brother" Nap, as Roebuck styles him, Britain may suffer no humiliation in the terms agreed upon.

The second demands our more immediate attention and consideration. The conundrum may here be asked—Why is the present Government like the Prohibitive Liquor Law?—Because it has not had a fair trial. Such is the opinion of myself and many others in this County. A good opposition, none can deny, is good for the Country, but a factious one must ever prove its bane. Faction tore our sister Nova Scotia to pieces; it will do the same in our own Province if not guarded against. Let us avoid it by all means. An opposition based on principles of Government, is wholesome for the people; but when grounded on the simple terms of *in and out* it becomes a curse instead of a benefit.

I cannot help thinking that the uncertain position in which the members of the Government find themselves at present, arises, not from any disunion among themselves, but from a defection among the miscalled liberals; the result of personal interest, or what is still more mean and unprincipled, a fear that they may by adhesion find themselves on the weaker or losing side. Such maneuvering is deserving of the utmost contempt and should meet its reward in the merited scorn of both parties.—The animus of Grey is of course to be found in the fact of his being an outsider; his amendment to the Railway paragraph in reply to the address is the miserable fulcrum upon which he means to place the lever which will turn the ins out and himself in. His haste will defeat itself, like the "overvaulting ambition" spoken of by the immortal bard; and will have the good effect of shewing the Government at the commencement of the campaign who and what they can depend upon. The struggle is over by this time, and I have no doubt the next mail will bring us the glad tidings that Government has been sustained by a good working majority. The picture which the opposition is going upon is, *Office with Salary*, large as life in the foreground.

Of Local news there is quite a dearth, people will not oblige me, get killed by accidents of the most fearful character, nor will they die in possession of all their faculties at the wonderfully advanced age of upwards of one hundred years. Storms and gales of wind are insignificant in their effects beyond the freezing point—the proboscis. Even the "rheumatis" of the old woman up the river has not been spasmodically violent of late, and nothing particular has happened to her son "Benjy" in the State of Maine. Therefore my Calendar is blank.

15-16ths of the Restigouchians are anti-prohibitory. The County members know it, and will act accordingly.

Soirees are all the go, and pocket comforters for warming the inside of the neck, fashionable. I love dearly to see social gatherings, whatever the occasion may be, and also the gathering of money therefrom for any laudable purpose, but really I begin to fear that the "institution" is being carried too far, and that the object is too often secondary to that of personal vanity on the part of the getters up of these re-unions. To be the first in making the *coup*—to shine as the acting or active party or parties, seems now to be the grand desire, and instead of harmony and sociability, we have little clique against little clique—none wishing to play second fiddle before the public, and the matter ends in social disunion. A great deal of this is peculiar to small communities, but a great deal more is to be attributed to the manner in which the ladies and gentlemen taking a lead conduct themselves. Good

managers of either sex, could to appearance, swamp their own identity as leaders, that all would feel as participants in an affair of the kind, and the matter after all be properly arranged, and regulated to general satisfaction.—But what prevents this is, that the managers always seem to work for praise; losing sight of the success of the undertaking in devotion to their own egotism.

You are aware of the vexed question of such long standing, namely "who was the author of Junius's letters?" Now do in pity for posterity spare the world another case of the same kind, by securing, and transmitting to some trust worthy person the real name of your New Carlisle friend "Mercator." Spare the descendants of the present inhabitants of that flourishing town (say a century hence) the invidious task of struggling by mendacity, and otherwise, to secure the posthumous honor of the authorship of his letters to their respective progenitors. "Luminous" Voluminous" Mercator, at a penny a line thy brains would be a mint of gold. If you think that Mercator's material for quotation consists of one volume of Shakespeare, and Pope's Poems, which must be nearly exhausted, I can let him have "Salamagundy" or Lopez de Vega's work on "Olla Podrida."

Joking apart, Bonaventure is indebted to Mercator, an indebtedness which might be vastly increased by his turning attention to things of more public importance than the trite and threadbare sort of essays upon which he employs his pen. I am aware of transactions done publicly, and in high places, which could not have escaped Mercator's observation; but which it would seem he had winked at. Verb. Sap.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Bathurst, 26th February, 1856.

I abstain from making any reference to the proceedings at the Anti-Prohibitory Law Meeting held here some two or three weeks ago, although the occasion seemed to demand it, and the opportunity was a very favourable one of retorting with effect upon a critic of my correspondence who had all his own way at that Meeting.

But when I reflected that all that was of public interest emanating there, was sufficiently disseminated by the Official reports through the Public Press, and that any incident of a private, or individual nature would just be as well confined to the locality, I suppressed all desire to allude to the wrong done me by misrepresenting my "Correspondence."

A writer in the New Brunswick, however, is determined that we shall not cry "peace, peace, when there is no peace," and there describes that part of my last correspondence to the Gleaner, which treats of the Temperance movement just as the critic at the public meeting did—nearly directly at variance with facts.

"To sporting he narrowed his mind, And applied to the North what was meant for mankind."

ENG. SAT.

Surely the article speaks for itself. It is capable of but one interpretation by any one of common understanding. It is not quite as obscure as Bulwer's Nicaragua memorandum, nor susceptible of as much controversy. It would be perfectly absurd to think for one moment that the features of a picture, the perspective of which the writer described as embracing *all the British Colonies and England too*, were to be illustrated within such narrow bounds as Bathurst affords, or twenty Bathursts. More particularly as Society is constituted at present here, no illustration or argument could be based upon it at all, for it is divided and ruled by party motives. That, and half or perhaps more, in ordinary matters, are not moved by their own will, but decide for parties either on one side or the other. Why, if our chief merchant and employer were to write over to-morrow that he was a great advocate for the Temperance Reform, and he wished all in his employment to promote and adopt it, we should see in less than a month, scores, perhaps hundreds who now affect to despise Temperance, with white collars round their necks, devoted "Sons." How, therefore, could reliance be placed on the circumstances and opinions of people here to help any great social question.

I spoke of the tenacity with which the people of the old country cling to the habits of using strong drinks wherever they go—here are a few of my proofs:—

"If the English were to be driven out of India to-morrow, the only record they would leave behind to show that they had ever been here, would be found in the universal drunkenness of the native population."

ARCHDEACON JEFFRIES.

"The intoxicating liquors, introduced by Europeans, and the habit "of drinking taught the savages, reduced their numbers in tenfold greater degree than the sword or fire arms of the invaders."

PRESCOOT THE HISTORIAN.

"It grieves me to the heart to find that so many to whom I administered the pledge in Ireland, and for whom I prayed for grace to keep them steadfast, returned on their arrival in this country, to their old habits, and thus brought reproach on their native country, and poverty and shame on themselves and families."

FATHER MATTHEW AT NEW YORK.

I might multiply proofs, but these should suffice for the present, as for the classes that compose the temperance ranks, ample proofs may be found in the newspapers every week at the present time.

I trust when the individual who misrepresented my correspondence discovers his error, he will have the fairness to acknowledge it.—But if it was designedly misrepresented to serve any sinister purpose, then I could only say it was unfair, and is not likely to produce any permanent good, but I shall disregard it.

Roads are badly drifted here; scarlet fever abating; weather moderate; mails beginning to arrive more regularly. We yet want the Telegraph vastly, and in my next, I shall describe to you the efforts made to obtain it, which ought to have been successful.

CANADA.

The Legislature of this Province met for the Despatch of Business, at Toronto, on the 15th February. The Speech of His Excellency, Sir Edmund Head, on the occasion, does not contain anything of special importance. We give a few paragraphs below.

"In referring to the labors of your last session, I cannot help congratulating you on having settled the disputed question of the Clergy Reserves. You will find, I believe, a large balance of funds arising from this source available for distribution among the municipalities; but I think it likely that your assistance as Legislators may be required to give full effect to the fair and equal allotment of these sums.

"In Lower Canada, the Act for the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure promises in like manner, to close a long pending controversy, by an equitable adjustment of existing claims. No time has been lost by me in acting on the powers conferred by this law, and I trust that you will be satisfied with the progress which has been made.

"The subject of a change in the Constitution of the Legislative Council, by rendering it elective, will again be brought before you.

"I have spoken of our increasing prosperity; no mark of its existence can be stronger than that afforded by our extensive lines of Railway. Nor is that progress confined to one section of the Province, Eastward to St Thomas, and Westward to Guelph and Hamilton, those lines, at once the sign and cause of progress, are already completed.

"I may congratulate you on the fact that, since your last meeting, nearly 250 miles have been got into working order, whilst it is hoped that 250 more will be finished before next year.

"Your zeal in the cause of education is known and appreciated by all the world. It is important to consider whether we cannot combine the reform of the juvenile offenders with the punishment of their crimes. At the very best, it is incumbent upon us to take care that such punishment does not itself afford fresh opportunity for debasing the criminal and instructing him in vice.

"With regard to the Militia Act, the ready loyalty of the inhabitants, both in Upper and Lower Canada, has enabled me to authorize the formation of numerous troops and companies of volunteers, whose conduct and discipline will undoubtedly do credit to the Province. I have, moreover, with the assistance of the Adjutant-General, done my best to carry out your wishes by organizing the Seditary Militia.

"The Government, in pursuance of the wishes of the Legislature, has taken on itself to conclude a fresh arrangement calculated to secure a line of Ocean Steamers from the St. Lawrence to England during the approaching season."

The Government of Canada like that of this Province, has been put on its trial. The following amendments to the Address in answer to the Speech, were laid before the House on the 20th February.

"Moved by Mr Dorion, and seconded by the Hon. Mr Merritt—1st. That the following words be added to the first paragraph:—'But this House would be wanting in its duty if it failed to express its deep regret at learning that His Excellency has not been advised to recommend to the consideration of this House any measure relating to the important subject of general education, especially on the Eastern section of the Province, which are now in a very depressed state; nor to the subject of those international improvements which are absolutely requisite to give additional facilities for the transit of the produce of the West to the ocean; and this House feels bound to declare that the absence of all reference to those subjects will be considered by the people of this Province as an abandonment, by his Excellency's advisers, of what they consider measures of paramount importance.'

Moved by Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Holton, that the following words be struck from the 3rd paragraph:—'This House concurs in the satisfaction expressed by his Excellency at the settlement of the disputed question of the Clergy Reserves,' and the following substituted: 'It would have afforded this House sincere gratification had we been enabled to congratulate His Excellency on the final and equitable settlement of the long disputed question of the Clergy Reserves, but it is our duty to state that the Act of last Session has not effected the avowed object for which it was framed, but on the contrary has permanently endowed certain favored churches with large sums of the public money.'

"Moved by Mr Charles Davoust, seconded by Mr Wilson:—

"3rd. That all after the word 'that' be struck out from the 4th paragraph, and the following substituted:—

"That the House regards with concern the delay in the proceedings adopted by virtue of the law passed during the last session relative to the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure, and the heavy expenses thereby accruing, and entertain serious doubts as to the ultimate result of that legislation in closing a long but just and necessary agitation."

"Moved by the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, seconded by Mr Papin:—

"4th. That all after the word 'that,' in the 6th paragraph be struck out, and the following words be substituted:—

"That while this house is prepared to consider any wise measure for the better prevention of crime and the speedy apprehension of offenders, it will regard with deep regret and alarm the introduction of any measure to divest the local authorities of their duties, and to create a national police force under the control of the Provincial Government."

The first resolution was disposed of, there being for its adoption 37, against it 63. The debate on the second resolution was going on at the latest date.

REPORT

OF THE ALNWICK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1855-6.

Your Society's Annual Meeting having brought the labours of the present Board to a close, now beg to submit a Report of the proceedings of the Society for the past year.

The first quarterly meeting held at Tabusintac, it was resolved to send £30 to James Purdie, Esq., P. E. Island, to purchase a stock of Sheep and Swine for the use of the Society.—Which sum having been sent, your Society received four Swine, and nine Lambs, which were sold as Auction, with restrictions that the Swine should be kept in the Parish two years and the Sheep three years.

At a special meeting of the Board held on Second of June, it was resolved to send £40 to Miramichi, to purchase Seed Oats, to be sold to members of the Society, which Seed Oats altho' showing by the seedman's account a considerable loss to the Society, still the Board are of opinion that it has been a great benefit to several members, who otherwise had no prospect of getting seed for their land.

On the 3rd October, your Society held its Ploughing Match and Cattle Show, which was by far the largest we ever had in the Parish.—There were 17 Ploughs competed for 12 Prizes, and ploughed to a gauge of 4½ inches by 8, and was considered by the Judges to have been much superior to any former years ploughing since the formation of the Society. There was also a very fine display of young Horses from 1 to 3 years old, a fair show of neat Cattle, but the Sheep, Pigs, &c., were almost a failure.

On the 2nd Janry., your Society's exhibition of Grains, Domestic Manufactures, &c., was held. There was a great number of competitors for the several prizes and it was at times a difficult matter for the Judges to decide who had the best samples. The best Red Wheat, weighed 71 lbs. per bushel, Second best, 70½, Third best, 70 2-16; the three best samples White Wheat, weighed, 71½, to 70 lbs. Altogether the exhibition on that day showed a vast improvement in the different articles of Domestic Manufactures from anything formerly exhibited in the Parish, and it is the conviction of the Board that this Society is doing a large amount of good in this section of the Province.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN McLEOD, Secretary.

PRIZES AWARDED AT THE PLOUGHING MATCH AND CATTLE SHOW.

1st Class Ploughmen.	
1st Prize Joseph Simpson,	£1 7 6
2nd best, Donald McLeod,	1 5 0
3rd best, William McKenzie,	1 2 6
4th best, Angus Campbell,	1 0 0
5th best, John Grattan,	0 17 6
6th best, Wm. Johnston,	0 15 0
2nd Class Ploughmen.	
1st Prize, James Morrison,	£1 7 6
2nd best, James Hierlehy,	1 5 0
3rd best, James Johnston, Jr.,	1 2 6
4th best, J. W. Hierlehy,	1 0 0
5th best, James Devereux,	0 17 6
6th best, John Johnston,	0 15 0

CATTLE SHOW.	
Best Bull, R. McLeod,	£1 0 0
Second best, John Symest,	0 15 0
Best Heifer, 1 year old, John Campbell,	0 15 0
Second best, Roderick McLeod,	0 10 0
Third best, William Simpson,	0 5 0
Best Heifer, 2 year old, David Wishart,	0 15 0
Second best, Roderick McLeod,	0 10 0
Third best, Wm. Johnston, Jr.,	0 5 0
Best 3 year old Horse, James Johnston,	0 15 0
Second best, Roderick McLeod,	0 12 6
Best 2 year old Colt, Roderick McLeod,	0 15 0
Second best, Donald Savoy,	0 12 6
Third best, William McWilliam,	0 10 0
Best 1 year old Colt, Samuel Blake,	0 15 0
Second best, Wm. Simpson,	0 12 6
Third best, James Johnston,	0 10 0
Best Ram, 1 year old, James Johnston,	0 10 0
Best Ewe, 2 years old, do.,	0 10 0
Best Ewe, 1 year old, do.,	0 10 0
Best Sow, Roderick McLeod,	0 7 6
Second best, James Robertson,	0 5 0

PRIZES AWARDED AT THE EXHIBITION OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, GRAINS, &c.

Best Homespun Cloth, all wool, Wm. Simpson,	£0 12 6
Second best, do., Wm. Simpson,	0 10 0
Third best, James Johnston,	0 7 6