

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

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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.

NEARLY thirty years have elapsed since our first appearance as a Public Journalist; during that period we have endeavoured to steer our little Barque through the various shoals and quicksands of political and commercial difficulty. Often the future appeared gloomy and uncertain, and not infrequently, have we been on the point of giving up and retiring from public life, but we have held on, and never failed to award our feeble meed of approbation to any measures which we have considered as beneficial to the interests of the community, let them have emanated from whatever party they may. On the other hand, when we have deemed acts inimical to the public good, we have not failed to reprobate them, and point out their impolicy, not fearing or coveting the favor of any individual or body—measures not men have been our criterion. This we have conceived to be the most honorable course for a consistent Journalist to pursue, rather than blindly to attach ourselves to any party. Our aim has been to further moral, social, intellectual, and political advancement. We have ever welcomed the insertion of any article relative to Educational, Commercial, or Agricultural improvement. Each of the Northern Counties of this Province within our range has equally had our regard. We cannot be charged with having had any undue preference for our own, having been always anxious to put our friends in possession of the latest European News, by frequently publishing an extra.

During the long period of our residence, we have witnessed mighty changes, here was the field of our first labours when we had completed our term of apprenticeship (for we did not enter our office at the cabin windows) here have we been enabled to raise a family, and we trust we can number, both far and near among the community, many warm friends, and here are we willing to remain till death shall put a close to our labours; and till that time, we will endeavour to do all in our power to retain the good will of our friends, and to add to their number by increased exertions for the advancement, in every point of view, of the interests of the Province generally, and of these northern Counties in particular.

EDUCATION.

THE characteristics of the present age, and that in which it differs from all proceeding ages, is the great and mighty changes that science and education is producing among the vast masses of the people. That "Knowledge is Power," is a truth so universally acknowledged by all thinking and reflecting minds, that there are but few persons to be found who deny its influence, or would check its progress. And if we look back through the unerring pages of History upon the past, and view it as a criterion whereby to judge of the present, we will find that the freest and happiest Nations were those among whom knowledge and education was most widely diffused.

Let Knowledge and Education be diffused among the vast mass of the people, they who heretofore have been as nought, and moral and political degradation will vanish from among them, as darkness from before the glorious orb of day, for mental enlightenment and moral degradation are as far removed from each other as light is from darkness.

Let the mind of him, who has for the past few months, through the columns of the various European papers, studied the present social and political history of the Old World, reflect upon the changes that are taking place in its various States and Kingdoms; does he not perceive, that Knowledge and Education having been diffused among the people, they are awakening to a sense of the rights they should enjoy by virtue of their manhood, and the tyranny of custom and long usage, those hereditary props and stays of the aristocrats of the Old World are beginning to loose all power and are fading

away from before their enlightened and moral influence. And well do the despots know and feel this power, already have they marked the signs of the coming tempest, and powerful and herculean are their efforts to protect themselves from impending wreck and ruin. It is they, and they only who exclaim against the diffusion of knowledge and popular Education among the people, they say that to educate the mass is to make them dissatisfied with their present condition, and pave the way for revolution and anarchy. In their dread of change they utter the words of truth. Let the people of Europe, those vast masses who are literally the bondsmen of a few, become educated, and they become dissatisfied with their condition, for as they become conscious of their rights as men they will refuse to render homage and pay tribute to men like themselves, whose only superiority lay in their titles and their wealth, which have descended from their ancestors, and have only become theirs by the mere accidents of birth.

The diffusion of Knowledge and the spread of Education among a people will lead them to demand of their Government a free and unfettered Press, and free scope for industry and talent, recognizing those only as fit for the highest offices of the State, who are qualified for the position by their knowledge, their education, or their talents, repudiating all pretensions that wealth or titles could alone advance in support of their possessor. But before such changes are universal or even partially adopted in the Old World, great and powerful will be the struggle which has even now commenced, between those who would keep the people in political and moral bondage, and the people themselves rising in their might and demanding of their oppressors their emancipation from thralldom.

Not too much Knowledge is to be dreaded—but too little, and it behoves all to exert to the utmost whatever power they possess, for the extension and elevation of popular Education. Preceptors who would train up the youth in morality and religion are the persons alone fit for their instruction; let such men have the training of the youth and they will make them good men and good citizens, with a full knowledge of their rights and duties as men and christians. Men so educated would be too enlightened and too patriotic to become the tools of party and governments under their influence taking their tone from the public mind would be firm, enlightened, and honourable.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Bathurst, September 4, 1856.

The Circuit Courts opened in Bathurst on Wednesday 3rd, at 6 o'clock, P. M.—an excess of business at Restigouche causing the delay. There was no criminal business, and two small undefended civil cases constituted the whole nisi prius labours. Court adjourned on this day, Thursday, at noon.

The notorious Bigger after passing through the County about a fortnight ago has again returned it is said. The people, however, are very careless about giving information.

The following is a copy of the Address to the Judge, presented by the Grand Jury:

To His Honour Mr Justice RICHIE,
May it please Your Honour—

The Grand Inquest of this County, empannelled for the present Assizes, cannot separate without offering to your honour their sincere congratulations on your honour's elevation to the Bench of the Supreme Court of this Province.

The administration of Justice in the superior tribunals of New Brunswick has long been the glory and pride of its inhabitants, and the admiration of neighbouring colonies and states.

The elevation of a gentleman of your honour's well known legal attainments and high character, is an earnest to us that the confidence of our people in the administration of justice is to be perpetuated, that our children may also enjoy that quiet blessing which is the grand base of all social security and happiness—just laws administered with purity and impartiality.

We trust that you may long continue to grace the high office to which you have been appointed, and that the pleasure of meeting your honour on this circuit may be often repeated.

On behalf of the Grand Inquest,

JAMES MONNITT, Foreman.

Grand Jury Room, Bathurst, Sept. 3, 1856.

The Judge in Reply thanked the Jury very cordially for the Address with which they had presented to him, and the compliment which they had paid him. He said it was fortunately the case that the Supreme Judicial Bench of this Province had always maintained the highest character, and not only commanded the confidence and respect of its inhabitants, but also of the neighbouring colonies. It was therefore, with great diffidence that he assumed the duties of the high office pertaining to a seat on the Bench, feeling how far he must fall short of the necessary qualifications to take the place of his much to be lamented predecessor, whose vacant seat he was chosen to fill, and whose large legal experience and great talents few might be found to possess. He stated, however, that it was his firm and solemn determination on assuming the high and responsible duties intrusted to him, to preserve unsullied the reputation of the Bench as far as in him lay, and to administer the laws to the best of his ability, to rich and poor alike, with justice and impartiality. He congratulated the jury upon

the absence of crime in this and the adjoining County of Restigouche as evidenced by the blank calendar presented in each, and hoped that this state of things might long continue.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.

OUR Correspondent writing us from Dalhousie, under date of September 4, furnishes the following items of local news:

"The Weather during the past week has been beautiful and all that Farmers could desire for bringing the harvest to maturity. The Bay, (and the water at our very doors) is swarming with Bass, Mackerel and Fall Herrings, but as far as supply for the table is concerned we might as well be perched on the highest ridge of the Rocky Mountains. One has to beg, and pay an extravagant price for as much fresh fish as would make a meal for a family. One shilling is asked for a Ling, fifteen inches in length. Some "Skate" were offered for sale here yesterday, I think for the first time in this part of the Country, having the fear of Ling before my eyes, I did not ask their cost, thinking that nothing less than gold would purchase one. They are a rare and delicious fish. There must be something radically wrong with us, can your Fishery Association enlighten us?"

COUNTY BONAVENTURE.

OUR New Carlisle Correspondent writing us under date of August 27, furnishes the following melancholy account of the crops in that quarter:—

"There is no longer any doubt as to the nature of the blight on the potatoe; it is the old disease and I fear from all I can learn that it prevails throughout the District. The Wheat crop I am told is suffering severely from weevil in the upper townships. In this immediate vicinity the Grain crop will, generally speaking, be light, and the Hay crop is fully one third less than last year."

THE YEOMANRY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

AN American gentleman recently travelling through the Province furnishes the Augusta Maine Farmer with the following highly complimentary and flattering description of our Agricultural Population:

"The Yeomanry of New Brunswick are now composed chiefly of the descendants of loyalists from the United States and emigrants from England, Ireland, and Scotland. They retain many of the characteristics of the English people, are strongly attached to the mother country, and often speak of it as home; even those who have always resided here will talk about going home,—or say, such customs prevail at 'home,' or, we ship such products home. The older agricultural districts have an English air about them. Instead of building their houses close to the roadside, they choose a more retired spot a few rods back where they can surround their dwelling with trees and gardens. They have more taste for rural life than most of our farmers in Maine. In their large farms, wide streets and walks, they move on the 'broad guage' system and a liberal principle seems to be infused in all their transactions, whether they class themselves with the 'Liberals' or other parties.

"Their dwelling houses are mostly covered (the walls) with shingles instead of clapboards and painted white, the prevailing color for farmhouses and cottages. Even many costly and tasteful houses, of modern build, have their walls shingled. In former days the fireplace and chimney were built in the end, the largest stone back of the former composing quite a portion of the outward finish. In neatness and convenience these homes will compare favourably with those of their Western neighbors, but the barns and out buildings are too often in an unfinished, open, or shattered condition.

"The cattle often leave these cold barns in the spring, in thin flesh, after passing a long cold winter in a shivering condition. Some farmers possessed with robust frames, think their stock can withstand cold blasts quite as well as themselves and even think the hardening process applied to young stock will prove beneficial. Were it not for the superior pasturage, on which the herds find tall and rich feed to renew their flesh, many lean kine would be seen throughout the season. In working oxen they are quite behind us, but their horses are superior, well matched, well fed, and well trained to all sorts of labour in which they can be serviceable. Agricultural tools are mostly obtained from the States except ploughs. The narrow Scotch ploughs or similar models, are mostly used. They pulverise the soil finer than our large ploughs, and this deemed indispensable with the old country people. If they do not slice the soil so fast they certainly leave it in finer condition for seed. They deem frequent and thorough pulverising of the soil indispensable for good crops, especially where the soil is inclined to grow hard or heavy.

"Potatoes are often ploughed in very neatly, and as soon as the weeds begin to start, a brush, or very fine, light harrow, is passed over the rows, which destroys such foul seeds as are just germinating. Soon after, the ploughs is passed lightly between the rows. This is often repeated, so as to require but little work with hoes. For grain the land is usually ploughed in beds, especially where it is inclined to be moist and heavy. Large meadows of grass are frequently ridged in beds about one rod wide."

"The farmers here deserve much credit for their neat and substantial fences, built, almost

universally, of large cedar rails, so high that cattle can hardly look over. In their roads and bridges they have well merited the name of being in advance of their neighbors. A liberal allowance is appropriated by government, and the energetic people seem to take pride in expending it to the best advantage. The roads are first laid out wide enough to afford ample room and soil, and then completely graveled, wherever the soil requires it. Instead of filling up swamps and meadows with brush and clay, and gridiron bridges, gravel is hauled for miles, and in some places, where this was scarce, I observed them digging up a forest to get the gravel on which trees were growing. When it is necessary to cross a stream, or deep ravine, it is bridged straight across, instead of descending and ascending, to avoid length. These bridges are substantial, neatly finished, and painted. A stone or rut rarely obstructs the level, hard road.

"There are many progressive farmers in New Brunswick, and, with the natural advantages of the chief agricultural districts, the immense lumber trade, and very light taxation of property, there is comparatively little poverty in the Province. It is admitted that the people here make a good living as easily as elsewhere. If all the industrial branches could be encouraged and executed here, as in the States, the Province would soon be in a flourishing condition. She now depends largely on her supply of manufactured articles from abroad, which, with the amount expended for the importation of flour and corn, or meal, estimated at \$2,000,000 the past year, does not leave an abundance of circulating medium.

"The New Brunswickers are not so fast a people, either in projecting, or expending, as some of their neighbors. Failures in business, or loss of property are quite rare—a hard chance for spendthrifts. Domestic economy is thoroughly practiced. The wheel and loom are not laid aside yet, but continue to produce the substantial 'home-spun' and 'home-made.' The ladies also manufacture straw hats for the family, and not unfrequently wear broad and tasteful ones, themselves. In one instance, I noticed a lady braiding a hat from very fine strips of poplar wood, and it looked about as neat as a Panama hat. The mode of living throughout the Province is very economical and healthful. A hearty and robust family will often make an entire meal on buckwheat pancakes, or on good ripe, raised bread, of which they usually have a supply in loaves of liberal size—they do not fancy our mode of devouring biscuit while hot. The Scotch people often make oat-meal cakes or puddings their chief diet. If some of our semi-invalid people, who spurn coarse fare, and try to coax an appetite with delicacies, could only witness the health and contentment which these Provincials enjoy on their coarse fare, they might be convinced of the error of their ways in this respect.

"The spirit of progress is slowly advancing through the Province. Education has been much neglected, but there is a strong desire among the masses to advance. They admit they are much behind the age in their school system. Their school-houses and fixtures are of rather primitive models. Often, one or two rows of backless seats, or stools, placed in as they can stow best, in a rough house, form the school-room. Teachers are usually employed by the year. Male teachers are much the most numerous. They receive from the government £150 for first, £120 for second, and £90 for third class teachers, wherever the districts will pay the same amount as government.—Females receive £100, £90, and £70. Inspectors from each county visit schools four times a year.

"There are about twenty newspapers published in this Province, which appear to be well supported, and carefully read. Even the uneducated classes seem to be well posted up in government affairs, and the movements of the times.

"On the whole, the Provincials are a courteous class of people. The stranger will not often visit them without gaining an exalted opinion of their frankness and hospitality. They are not given to boasting, or outward display, but have a way of winning the esteem of those who wish to associate with them. A real dignity prevades their English nature, and they scorn low life and meanness.

"But I have not the ability to define their character in full. I will only say to those who have erroneous ideas, and speak contemptuously of the 'Blue Noses,' to go and see for themselves. Perhaps they will realize the truth of a remark made to me by one whom I wished to compensate for a favor received: 'Remember, you are in a Christian land, if you are in the Provinces!'"

A WORD ON RAILROADS.

To the New York Albion we are indebted for the following translation of a lively *jeu d'esprit* which appeared in the columns of the Paris Charivari:

"You may say and do what you please, exclaimed the celebrated Cascaet, the lover of the fanciful and the picturesque, you will never succeed in covering the world with railroads, as you pretend. National genius is against it. All countries are not like England, France, Belgium, and Germany, which have long been gangrened by industrialism, Saint Simonism, philosophism, and numberless other barbarisms.

"Have you, for instance, any faith in Spanish rail-roads? There are some; I say nothing to the contrary; but do you know what goes on there? A friend of mine who is now travelling in Spain has described it to me.