

and counterfeit death. This curious effect soon afterwards took place, and the snake to all appearance lay dead. Those who were standing by thought that this was actually the case, but the snake fancier insisted that it only feigned sleep, and stated, that while those present continued to look at it, so long it would remain motionless. On removing to a distance of between twenty and thirty yards, the snake was observed to glide speedily into the nearest hedge. One one occasion, and upon one only, the same person saw a snake in the act of casting its skin. He said, to use his own words, that 'it reminded him of a laboring man drawing his round or smock-frock over his head.'—He further added, that the head of the reptile was about midway in the old skin, and it extricated itself from the worn-out garment by passing the body through what he called the vent-hole of the old skin. The snake appeared in a very languid and exhausted state, and the new skin was in colour and appearance perfect.—*Edward Jesse.*

## The Politician.

### COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Halifax Nova Scotian.  
THE MONTREAL CELEBRATION.

A late Canadian paper says "Fifteen States of the Union were represented at the Montreal Celebration." And how many, we ask, of the British American Provinces—the sister Provinces as they are often familiarly called, but who, in this instance, appear to have been looked upon as strangers and aliens? We have looked through all the papers, but we cannot find that a single individual was present to represent the Governments and people of either Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, or Prince Edward's Island. We are aware that invitations were sent to members of our own Government, and to the Railway Commissioners, but then these invitations were so timed that it was impossible any of those functionaries could attend—and we presume the same course was pursued towards the other Provinces. We are not disposed to find fault with managers of the Montreal Celebration, but it was certainly hardly in keeping with that good feeling and brotherhood which should exist between British subjects—who have, or ought to have, so many interests in common,—that so much pains was taken to ensure the presence of the representatives of "fifteen States of the Union," none of them very remarkable for their attachment to the British Government, while the fast friends of Canada and British connexion were scarcely thought of at all. It is all right and proper for the Canadians to cultivate a friendly feeling with their neighbours across the frontier, and by every means in their power increase the facilities for carrying on an active and remunerative trade between the two countries. But at the same time the Canadians should not virtually ignore the existence of the million of people who occupy the maritime Provinces—their natural allies in peace and in war, and the occupants of a territory by which alone Canada can have access to the sea, in winter, in the event of a war with the United States. The Montrealers have reason to be proud of their banquet, which the Americans admit to have been the greatest ever given on this continent, and the Canadians may point with pride to the Grand Trunk as the longest line of Railway in the world, but they should not forget that, long as it is, it will not be complete until it touches the tide waters of the Atlantic in our own peerless harbour, and an unbroken line of Railroad from Lake Superior to Halifax unites Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia together.—We do not believe that our Canadian friends, although the subject scarcely appears to have been mentioned at the banquet, are oblivious to the many advantages which would assuredly arise from an inter-Colonial railway. On the contrary, we have lately noticed strong and decided indications of interest in favor of this great national undertaking, in the speeches of Cabinet Ministers and aspirants for Legislative honors, and we are convinced that the Canadians, equally with the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, are prepared to embrace any rational scheme, to carry out this noble work, which may be presented for their acceptance. We regret that the subject was not discussed at the Montreal Celebration in the style in which we feel assured it would have been if the Lower Provinces had been fairly represented. A splendid opportunity of leading public opinion, on a point of national interest has been lost, but we trust the time is not far distant when we will have to record a movement in favor of a Railway union of the Provinces preparatory to that still greater and more important measure which will cement the now weak and disjointed British North American Colonies and make us a powerful and united people.

Holloway's Pills a certain cure for Asmeric Complaints.—The astonishing effect these wonderful Pills produce in the above class of diseases, would appear incredible if the truth were not confirmed by so many living witnesses; scarcely a day passes without some one making favourable mention of these extraordinary Pills, and their wonderful efficacy in all complaints. Indeed, there cannot be any doubt but that they will restore to health after every other means have failed, and will be found a certain antidote for most of the disorders affecting the human system.

## Communications.

### THE MISSION OF THE DEW-DROP.

At evening's pensive, quiet hour,  
When all is hush'd and still,  
Save the cheerful warble of the bird,  
And rippling of the rill;

When Sol has veil'd his glowing beams,  
And Luna's chastened light,  
Reflected on the flowing stream,  
Renders it clear and bright;

When glistening in their high abode,  
Gemming their lofty sphere,  
Seeming to speak their Maker's praise,  
The twinkling stars appear;

When "Nature's Jewel" folds its cup,  
And bows its tiny head,  
When man has rested from his toil,  
And life's chief cares have fled;

Then comes the little Dew-drop forth,  
Its mission to fulfil;  
To gladden and revive the flower,  
And keep it fragrant still—

To moisten and improve the soil,  
That it may yield its seed,  
And furnish food for man and beast,  
In every hour of need.

And though it is at morning's dawn,  
Exhal'd by solar power,  
Its influence remains to bless,  
Enriching soil, and flower.

And have we not a mission too?  
To weep with those who weep?  
To joy when those around us joy,  
And thus God's precepts keep.

To ease the sorrows—cheer the heart,  
When other friends grow cold;  
And scatter blessings round our path,  
Like plenteous showers of gold!

That when in life's eventful scenes,  
We bear no more a part,  
Our names may live, deeply enshrined,  
In many a grateful heart.

THERESE.

Chatham.

### LOCAL BANK.

To the Editor of the Gleaner—

Sir,—As you made favourable mention of my remarks on the necessity and usefulness of establishing a County Bank, I am induced further to trouble you, as I feel persuaded such would be a safer and more profitable employment for the spare means of our Merchants, Farmers, and Mechanics than any other investment. Suppose the sum of £15,000 in specie be subscribed, so as to obtain a Legislative Charter to enable a Bank to issue its paper to double that amount; it is well known that the rate of Banker's discount is upwards of 6-1-3 per cent, being a considerable portion over compound interest; as for example—a Note of three months date nets only £97 10s, the balance, viz., £2 10s being deducted, which is the interest on the whole original sum of £100. It is well known that money doubles itself at 6 per cent per annum in about 16 years and a half. If we allow the extra 1-3 of interest charged, together with the extra profit from Bills of Exchange and other sources, to meet the working expenses of the establishment, and if we consider that double the amount of notes are in circulation to the specie required to be in the vaults, that specie is really affording the Shareholders a profit of 12 per cent., which handsome profit amounting to £3,600 per annum, goes out of the county, and which may be likened to our paying for an article to be imported which we can raise ourselves.

As a resident for several years past, I have been an observant watcher of the extension of Bank influence and Bank patronage; the community are gradually and imperceptibly getting themselves enveloped in a net, which will hold them in political thralldom, and will considerably tell in the future at the hustings. Oh, Sir, I wish I could arouse our Merchants, Farmers, and Mechanics, to bestir themselves vigorously in the matter. Mercantile pressure could be removed, the honest tradesman relieved, the cash system of payments would become universal, and business put on a healthy appearance. In a word we would be what we are not at present—an independent and prosperous community. Who will make a move? who will bell the cat? Yours,

Chatham, December 24, 1856.

### A MARKET HOUSE.

Mr Editor,

Can you inform me if there is any prospect of a Market House being erected in the town of Chatham, and whether the Sessions will at the approaching January Term, form a code of Regulations for the government of it, and appoint some competent individual to attend to the duty of seeing that they are duly enforced.

A NAPAN FARMER.

December 24, 1856.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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 First Qr. 3rd, 7h52m A.M.—HIGH WATER.			
28 S.	1st Sunday after Christmas	6h 38' 6h 57'	
29 M.	Royal Society estab. 1660	7 16' 7 34'	
30 Tu		7 55' 8 15'	
31 W		8 34' 8 52'	
1 Th	JANUARY, Circumcision	9 14' 9 32'	
2 F.	General Wolf born 1727	9 57' 10 21'	
3 S.		10 51' 11 20'	

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, 2h30m—Bathurst, 2h45m—Dalhousie, 2h50m from the above.

### END OF THE VOLUME.

THIS number terminates the 28th Volume of the GLEANER. We also published three Volumes of the Mercury, which was commenced in 1826. By this it will be seen that we have been THIRTY-ONE years labouring as a Public Journalist. During this long period we have had numerous difficulties to encounter; experienced many toilsome nights and harassing days, and witnessed many important changes in the community—politically, commercially, and in the domestic circle. Yes—we have seen many strange mutations—all the various changes so beautifully expressed by Shakspeare in his Seven Ages, but more fully as he says,

"That Man in his time plays many parts."

We have, through good and evil report; in spite of the frowns of disappointed politicians; the opposition of enemies created from various causes, held on the even tenor of our way; ready to extend the hand of friendship or good-fellowship when the strife was ended, and bury all animosities and bitter feelings, or continue the conflict and keep up the feud, just as it suited the wishes of our antagonists. Thus have we performed our part in the great drama of Life.

We may not have come up to the standard of some men's desires, or done all that may have been required of us; but one thing we do know, that we have endeavoured, conscientiously, to discharge our duty to the best of our humble ability. Our public life is before the world, and by it we are content to be judged. Amid numerous discouragements and drawbacks, we have many things to be thankful for, and trust we are so.

It was our intention to have retired from the establishment at the close of the present volume, and place the paper in the hands of our sons. This we have failed in accomplishing. We shall therefore have to remain at our post some time longer. It is highly probable that before the year rolls round, a change will take place, of which due notice will be furnished to our readers.

We close the volume with thanks for many kindnesses experienced, and for the amount of patronage we have obtained. During our future career—be it of long or short duration—we shall still endeavour to merit a continuance of their good wishes and support.

### OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN.

WE clip with much satisfaction from a late United States Journal, the following Portrait of Queen Victoria, drawn by Mr Stephens, an American lady, on the subject of her Majesty's contemplated visit to Canada.

There are many in these Colonies whose hearts would be made glad by the assurance of such a mark of attention; and should she visit the neighbouring Republic, which in all probability she would do if she crossed the Atlantic, her reception there would likewise be warm and enthusiastic, and every way gratifying to her feelings, despite the opinions and writings of demagogues and coxwainers.

"We hope she'll come from the bottom of our hearts! Not that we haven't seen her, or that there is anything very wonderful in her appearance—though at the time of her marriage sculptors did insist that she was as near the Venus de Medicis as a live woman ever was known to be—not that she is in blood and law the sovereign of a great nation—but because she is greater and a better thing, a true Woman. Wise without an effort to display her wisdom; modest in the midst of power—a faithful wife, and a fond, wise mother! This is why we wish to see Victoria in Yankee Land; for, with our weakness regarding royalty, she may render womanliness, modesty and faithfulness the fashion; and virtues are something, even if a caprice excites them. The truth is—Victoria is in every respect a gentlewoman, and that is a character which may be studied with great effect in our age. Depend upon it, however, we shall see no Elizabeth in barbaric splendor flirting with her statesmen one minute, or cuffing their ears the next; nor will she come like the beautiful Queen of Scots, bewitching men to their ruin. Nor like Catherine de Medicis with her hands red with slaughter—but she will come to us a good woman, whose example the purest girl in our country may follow and become the better for it.

"Our strong minded women may not find in her a great statesman or jurist, but she knows how to submit to superior wisdom; and though firm in justice, is never obstinate except when she wishes to be merciful.—Our fashionables will be mistaken, if they expect to meet a royal flirt, ready to exhaust herself in a German cotillon or join in the indelicacy of a polka; for all these things have been excluded from her drawing rooms—but they will find a faithful wife, acquainted intimately with her own children, which should count for something in these days of neglected nurses and easy divorces. In short Victoria is thoroughly respectable—a thing that cannot be said of all queens—and we for one, would give the brightest rose in the vase before us to see a crowned woman on this side of the Atlantic, whose heart never swerved to the seductions of the court she rules, and whom power has never tempted into arrogance; a sovereign who has no adverse party, and a lady who, in this slanderous age, has never hid a word of blame cast on her womanliness."

### BOUNTY TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

THE Maine Farmer thus notifies some of the important benefits that have resulted from the monies granted by the Canadian Legislature for the encouragement of Agriculture Societies throughout that Province. Much good has resulted from the labour of those societies in our Province, but it is grievous to think that in many districts their usefulness has been marred through the cupidity and selfishness of designing men.

"It may startle some of our 'down east' yankees, when we tell them that Canada appropriates and devotes fifty-two thousand dollars every year for the support and encouragement of Agricultural Societies. Will the universal yankee nation think of that? A British Province devoting fifty thousand dollars per year to encourage its agricultural societies! 'And what good will it do?' asks Squire Narrow-soul. You will find out ere long what good it will do. She begins to feed you already; look at the wheat, and the flour she sends among you the amount of which is daily increasing; and this encouragement and stimulus thus given to her farmers will soon put her ahead of us all, unless we bestir ourselves, and take good care we do not become lubbers in the race. As apropos to this subject, and to prove that our view of the case is a correct one, we will beg leave to quote some statistics, comparing the increase of the productions of Canada with those of the United States, made by a writer, not long ago, in the rural New Yorker:—

"As a grain growing section, Canada can lay full claim to the honor of being one of the principal granaries of the world. We obtain from the census the following figures relative to the culture of wheat, corn and oats:—

"In the year 1851 the wheat crop in Upper Canada was 12,682,550 bushels. In the last years the growth of wheat in the whole of the United States increased 48 per cent., and that of Canada in the same period increased 400 per cent. In Indian corn the increase in the States for ten years was 66 per cent., and in Canada 163 per cent. Of oats the increase in the same length of time has been in Upper