

Communications.

SLANDER.

"Whose edge is sharper than the sword, whose tongue
Outvenoms all the worms of Nile, whose breath
Rides on the posting winds, and doth belie
All corners of the world."

Of all the demoralising vices human nature is a prey to, none is more to be dreaded than a lying tongue. We may guard against a thief—a house breaker, but no human ingenuity can devise a means of protection against a falsehood. "Lying is the vice of a slave," for the vile loathsome wretch who propagates falsehood and slander, is the slave of the Prince of Liars—Satan.

The ninth commandment is "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Many persons think that this portion of the Divine Law alludes only to such evidence as is given on oath.—But every falsehood, tending directly or indirectly, to injure our neighbour, is quite as flagrant a breach of the Commandment as though it were uttered in a Court of Justice.

The punishment inflicted on Ananias and Sapphira as recorded in the 5th Chap. of the Acts of the Apostles, ought to be a sufficient warning to us all of the danger of lying—and Scripture abounds with passages condemnatory of that damning propensity.—Solomon tells us—Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his delight. Provs. 12. 22.

A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall perish. Provs. 19. 9.

Yet with all these warnings and denunciations, no vice is more prevalent in our day. With some it appears so natural that it may be said they only speak truth accidentally. Unfortunately this vice is not confined to any particular class, but pervades entire communities. Rich and Poor, young and old, and to enumerate its evil consequences would be a formidable task. Friendships destroyed, divisions spread in families, female virtue assailed, character blighted, oftentimes for life. In short, no man or woman's good name or reputation is safe from the blasting influence of this dangerous propensity.

How careful then ought parents and all who have the charge of youth to be, to instil in the minds of the rising generation, a wholesome abhorrence of lying and slander. A thief in our opinion is a far less dangerous, in fact a more estimable member of Society, than a practiced liar and slanderer. The former in nine cases out of ten, is driven to acts of deprecation through sheer necessity. But the latter has no excuse, no extenuating reason to offer. His or her course of infamy is the offspring of deep seated natural depravity, of inborn baseness. In fact no language can depict the blackness of heart of such a being. And those who are most exposed to the dark practices of these monsters in human shape, are invariably the best and fairest of our race. For 'among the base, merit begets envy, among the noble emulation.' Unfortunately in too many cases, those who would probably scorn to invent any tale of slander against their neighbour, are often equally culpable in listening to and retailing those propagated by others. And many a seed of discord would be nipped in the bud if we had but the manliness and moral courage to confront the traducer or tale bearer with his victim.

It is usual in Turkey, by way of reproach, and to mark the culprit as a dangerous member of society, to blacken the front of those persons whose are notorious for tale bearing or propagating falsehood. If such a custom prevailed with us what a dismal figure would some localities present.

MERCATOR,

New Carlisle, 25th January, 1856.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the Gleaner:—

Sir—in looking over the Report of the committee of the Agriculture Society, (County of Gloucester) and published in the Gleaner of the 19th January, I find my name paraded before the public, as having "sold a number of animals of pure Ayreshire breed" to the said society, at an exorbitant price, and of an inferior description—"Showing unmistakable indications of having been poorly wintered over and cared for;" and failing to meet the expectations entertained. I can only say that I regret very much that the committee should be so far led astray as to set forth in their report to the public what is wholly untrue, as I only sold two animals to the "person" employed by the society to purchase or select stock, being a two year old Bull and a Heifer of the same age; and I distinctly stated to the purchaser at time of sale, that the heifer was but half breed, and the price sought and obtained would have been realized had the animal been knocked in the head and her carcase offered as butcher's meat in the market. And as to the Bull, I could have received the same price or more, from more than one gentleman in the county. The taunt or hint given as to my incapability of feeding or caring for stock, might have been spared,

as I believe my stock would contrast favorably in point of keeping, with any farmer's residing in the County of Gloucester. I feel it but justice to myself to repel the insult thus thrown out, as I have no desire to stand god-father for other people's doings, and if a wrong was done, or an imposition practised, it was not by me.—Meantime I remain respectfully, yours

DAVID RITCHIE.

Flat Lands, 4th February, 1856.

TEMPERANCE.

"Save me from my Friends!!!"

Such Mr Editor will, I conceive be the prayer of every true Temperance man who reads the Communication of "Mercator," in your issue of the 2nd, written "to strengthen his hands," while it casts the greatest libel upon his character.

"Do away with Intemperance, never mind how or by what means, and you regenerate the world." Does not the man know, the great body of Evangelical Christians are identified with the Temperance movement; men whose means and time are expended to advance, not only to advance Temperance, but righteousness, and who repudiate the doctrine "do evil that good may come." Do these wish to carry out the Temperance principles "by any means"? As one of the number, I indignantly deny the assertion. They wish to use just and lawful means; and such they do, when they employ a Prohibitory enactment.

"Experience has taught," as "Mercator" says "the uselessness of Religious persecution," but has it shown the uselessness of inflicting penalties, upon those whose conduct is pernicious to Society?

"Convince a man against his will,
And he's of the same opinion still."

Very true, but the object of all law is not to convince, but to convict; not to change a criminal's sentiments, but to reform his conduct.

In reference to the right of Legislature to prohibit the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors, permit me to subjoin a paragraph from a most valuable essay:

"The right of Government to interdict the sale of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, is therefore the right to prevent the undermining of its own foundation. I have shown, that alcoholic liquors, by their action upon the brain and mind, tend to disrupt all civil relations.—The obedient citizen they transform into a reckless and turbulent violator of Law; they are thus the natural enemies of government and should be so treated—the inspirers of lawlessness, their own fate should be outlawry. It is no impertinent or offensive interference with private, personal concerns, to interpose authority to prevent a man turning himself into a fool, a maniac, or a criminal. The obligations of government and the individual are reciprocal.—Government owes to the individual protection of natural rights; and the individual owes to government obedience to law. If the individual fails in fulfilling his part of the contract, it is the prerogative of Government, to force compliance with it. If the individual indulge in any habit which, in its nature, tends directly to disqualify him for the just discharge of his civil responsibilities, government has the necessary right of interference to the utmost extent of its power. If the effect of alcohol on the brain be to put a man beside himself, and make him incapable of working out the tasks which belong to his manhood, it is the duty of government, to see that he does not alcoholize his brain. If the effect of these liquors be, as science demonstrates, and universal experience verifies, so to poison and prevent the springs of conduct that a thousand forms of evil result; if they so bind men in the spell of passion as to paralyze all self respect, and noble exertion; if they change the man of work and thrift to an idler and a vagabond; if they consume to ashes and cinders the affection of the father and husband, and scatter widowhood and orphanage right and left through the community; if they lift the floodgates of every form of vice and demoralization, peopling the Lunatic Asylum with the insane, the Alms Houses with vagrants and paupers, filling the prisons with criminals, and causing the gallows to bend with its burden of malefactors, surely they fall within the scope of Legislative management; and if Government is not a mockery, its control over them must be absolute and adequate to the demand of the case. Indeed to remove such obstacles as this to private safety and public prosperity is the very thing Government is for.

"If its purpose be any thing else than to furnish nesting places for nourishing demagogues; if it have any other aim than to attend to the collection of money and its disbursement among its own officials; if government be an instrument for accomplishing good beyond itself, if it be an institution endowed with full and responsible power to protect the rights and regulate the relations and promote the welfare of its citizens; if politics be truly the vocation of earnest minded statesmen for public improvement, then does the present question fall within the domain of legislative adjustment." Scientific basis of Prohibition.

Tobacco is doubtless injurious to the system; but before "Mercator" proves that a law against the sale would be the same in principle as the Prohibitory Law, he ought to point to the families it has ruined, the lunatics, the

rioters, the murderers it has made; its effects in disturbing the peace, and security of society.

"The Provincial Temperance men should have ascertained the working of the Law in Maine." So they have, and they find upon the testimony of Judges, and Lawyers, Clergymen, Merchants, and Policemen, (whose words I could quote if space permitted), that while it has not annihilated the liquor traffic, it has produced an untold amount of good. So has it in Connecticut and other States, and they consider these positive proofs from its actual working, as worthy of more attention than the baseless opinions and useless cautions of the pretended friends of Temperance. Because a law does not totally prevent crime, shall it be erased from the Statute Book? Then farewell to our whole criminal code, for there is not a part of it that is not violated. There are, perhaps, places in Maine, where liquor can be obtained with ease; because—as it is in Chatham—there are not men of sufficient courage and determination to enforce the law. But let "Mercator" read Mr End's speech at a late anti-prohibitory meeting in Fredericton, and learn how many crooks and turns he had to follow to get a single glass of brandy, and he will doubt whether it is as easy to procure liquor there as here.

"No British Parliament would dare to pass such a law."

Indeed? So thought multitudes when Wilberforce and his co-adjutors asked for the prohibition of the trade in Slaves. There was such an immense amount of English capital invested; it extended English commerce to such a degree; it benefitted the slave so much to remove him; and there was such strong scriptural authority for slavery, that Parliament would not dare to pass the law. But truth and light prevailed; and though, with all the means that have been used the traffic still goes on: it is outlawed and in a great measure destroyed. If temperance advances for a few years more in Britain as it has for the last two or three years, the parliament that will not give the Maine Law at the call of the people, will be addressed like one of its predecessors, 'get you gone, and give place to honest men.'

Temperance men do not fear the result of prohibitory enactments. Licence laws have been in operation for many years and have failed. Let Prohibition have a fair trial, and when it fails its advocates will abandon it. Till then; our motto shall be "outlawry to the liquor traffic."

Yours &c.

NO NONSENSE.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

News by the Persia at New York received by Telegraph at St. John.

SECOND DESPATCH.

The Persia arrived at New York at 10 A. M. on the 9th. She left Liverpool on Saturday the 26th ult., bringing London papers of Friday, and telegraph news of Saturday.

The chances of a speedy and pacific settlement are on the increase, and Austria's sincerity is as much questioned as on former occasions, but appearances are fair and straight-forward.

The Czar has ordered his army in the Crimea to cease hostilities, without waiting for a formal armistice, although it is rumoured that an armistice will be agreed on for three months.

France and England and Austria continue in accord, although it is foreseen that grave questions must arise during the negotiations. No place of meeting has yet been decided upon. A despatch of to-day of doubtful authority says it will certainly be Paris or London; also, that Baron Brunow will be Russia's plenipotentiary. It will be as late as February 2nd, at least before all the preliminary signatures are appended to the document.

Latest.—The Daily News of Saturday, on undoubted authority, says that the preliminaries will be signed probably before Tuesday—certainly before the meeting of Parliament. An armistice will be concluded immediately after signing the preliminaries, and negotiations, with the view of a final and comprehensive treaty, will be commenced immediately. It further states that it is the determination of the Allied Powers to exercise to the fullest extent the right reserved to them by the Austrian proposals to bring forward additional stipulations to the general interests of Europe.

The London Times intimates that Lord Clarendon will represent Great Britain at the Conference, which will probably be held at Frankfurt after the preliminaries of peace are signed.

The Times Turin correspondent, writing on this question, says:—The official Gazettes of Vienna to Milan are by no means inclined to put faith in peace resulting immediately from the acceptance by Russia of the Austrian propositions.

The same correspondent says that since the ratification of the Austrian Concordat, the Tuscan clergy have assumed great pretensions, and everything seems to indicate a similar convention between Tuscany and Rome.

Conferences had been held at Constantinople to adjust the first and fourth points relative to the Principalities.

The fighting continues on both sides of Se-

bastopol. The Allies had blown up two of the docks.

The Russians had taken up their winter quarters at Simpheropol, and Backschisera and at Kimburn. They had 30,000 men between Petroski and Ofriakoff, and fears were entertained of an attack on the fortress. The garrison had been reinforced. The flotilla was frozen in, but would aid in the defence.

ADDITIONAL.

The Collins steamer Pacific sailed from Liverpool the 23d ult.; she was spoken next day off Waterford.

Steamer Belgique came near foundering at sea, having sprung a leak 700 miles west of the Lizards, and only by the united exertions of the passengers and crew she was kept afloat until reaching Southampton, when it was found she had from four to six feet of water in her hold, and one boiler burnt out.

A despatch from Berlin states that the peace proposals were strongly supported at St. Petersburg by Holland.

Monetary Affairs.—Bullion in Bank of England increased £8000.

Financial.—The Daily News city article says: The funds to-day experience an unfavourable reaction of 1/2 per cent., but after so marked a rise as that lately witnessed, a partial relapse is not surprising. The chief depression influence appears to rest with continued sales on government account. The Bank of England having made large advances to Government, sells stock for the latter, and thus draws notes issued in payment of dividends. Owing to the demand for money against these sales, and to meet to-day's final instalment on the Turkish loan, the money market on stock exchange was rather stringent.

Lenders could easily get 6 per cent. on Government securities. Out doors, however, there was no tightness.

Commercial.—Meantime consols keep up. They had reached 91 but closed at 90 3/8 to 90 5/8. Money slightly easier, but rates unchanged.

Breadstuffs.—Flour, slow sales; western Canal 40s; Ohio 42s. Wheat rather improved demand at 10s 10d, and 11s 3d for red, 11s 9d a 12s. for white. Indian Corn 6d lower; mixed and yellow 38s. 6d; white nominal at 43s.

Provisions quiet with but little change. Lard dull and nominal at 65s.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Railway.—We have learned since our leading article was planned, that the Hon. Attorney General's Report of the result of his mission was yesterday communicated to the Executive. This document will not be published until officially given to the Legislature, consequently we are unable to speak definitely upon it. We can state, however, on the best authority, that it will be most satisfactory—the delegation having been successful beyond expectation. Messrs Jackson & Co have been settled with on such terms, as will give general satisfaction to the Country. We are also able to say that Messrs Baring, Brothers & Co., have engaged to become the agents for New Brunswick, in the sale of the bonds, and negotiation of the loans, upon the same terms in all respects as for Canada and Nova Scotia, provided the financial arrangements made by the Attorney General receive the sanction of the Legislature—the bonds to be redeemable in 30 years, the interest payable semi-annually in London. Notwithstanding the pressure in the money market, the Attorney General received an arrangement to get what amount of money is required for 1856, at 6 per cent. The operations of this year will of course be limited, but a satisfactory arrangement for the coming year is made. We will not here venture to state minutely the details of this arrangement, as we do not wish to mislead our readers. But we are well assured that when these details become known they will give unbounded satisfaction. Nothing new remains but the necessary action on the part of our Executive and Legislature, and in a few months this great measure of internal improvement will be actually commenced. The Province has now before it for the first time in its history, a prospect of permanent advancement, and we fully believe that this prospect will be realised, under the present Administration.

Here is one great result of the change of Government, which was regarded as such a calamity by some parties in this city. Where would our interests have been, had the old Government retained power, and had the present Attorney General not been placed in his present position?—Fredericton Reporter.

UNITED STATES.

Life in St. Louis.—The St. Louis News gives the following picture of life in that city. If not overdrawn, there is certainly room for reform. The News attributes this state of things to the loose manner in which the laws have been executed recently:

No sooner is the shadow of night thrown over St. Louis than blood-thirsty fiends, desperate rogues, coarse rowdies and brutal ruffians creep from their lairs and sally forth to make night hideous with their hellish orgies. Quiet, law loving people may rule the city by day but blackguards, blacklegs, ruffians and bullies sway the sceptre at night. They gather to sacrifice innocent and unsophisticated victims on the altar of the gaming-table; they parade the streets in strong squads, going from saloon to saloon, gulping down liquor that is to madden their brain for the better execution of the deeds of depravity that are to gild up the latter part of the night. Hardly a night passes in which one, if he listened and watched, could not see the glittering dagger flash in the air, hear the