

Communications.

THE MATAPEDIA ROAD.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

SIR.—Hearing of the great Matapedia Road which is in contemplation of being built, and being in the neighbourhood of Campbellton, I thought I would attend on the day of sale which took place on the 23rd inst., not so much for the purpose of bidding for a portion of the road, as to gratify idle curiosity, and see and be seen like many others on that day, and appear as if I had business on hand, and make a fair pretension. Be that as it may, I was amply punished for my folly, if folly it was; for a more drenching, disagreeable day of rain, it has seldom been my fate to be out in, and being unprovided with top coat or umbrella, I certainly received the full benefit of it; yet wet as the day was, I never saw such a number of people gathered together at a Road sale before. It appeared as if the whole country had turned out. Among the number, to my astonishment I observed the Honorable John Montgomery and Sherman Smith, Esq., and on enquiring of a gentleman present what could be the motive of the Hon. Gentleman, in making his appearance on such a day, and at such a place, I was informed that two rival lines of road past the flat lands, was causing a great stir in the neighbourhood; and the Hon. John Montgomery being friendly to the Messrs. Meagher, and taking a deep interest in the Matapedia Road, and looking forward to it with a statesman-like view as the harbinger of better days, resolved to attend in person on the day of sale, and tender his advice to Joseph Meagher, Esq., brother to the Member elect, before matters were pushed too far, and trouble or blame be attached hereafter to either of his friends. It appears that two gentlemen of the name of Billers, had some hand in locating or counselling some former superintendent, in laying out a considerable sum of money upon one of the most absurd lines of Road my eyes ever beheld, and no person having the smallest idea of road making would ever think of making a road that way, if a better could be found. I heard but one opinion from all who saw it, and that was—that it was a mockery to think of it in preference to the present laid out line which was sold. I am told that the Hon. John Montgomery was highly satisfied with the new laid off line, and considered it the only practicable line to be got, as well as all whom I heard express an opinion on the merits of the two lines with the exception of the two gentlemen already named, who still tenaciously cling to their dogged opinions. But I believe there is a passage of scripture that reads something like the following; that is—"That a fool may be wiser in his own conceit, than seven men that would render a contrary reason." But Sir, I must close, and at present remain, yours,

A SPECTATOR.

Dalhousie, Sept. 25, 1857.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

DEAR SIR.—The long talked of Matapedia Road has at length become a fixed fact. On Wednesday the 23rd inst. there were no less than five miles of the Road sold at a very low rate indeed, considering the nature of the ground and the amount of labour to be performed. Some ten or twelve miles more may be sold this fall yet, to be completed on a given day the ensuing summer. Thanks to the Member elect for the County, whose energy, exertion and enterprise deserve all praise without a shade of flattery, not alone from his Constituents but the Province of Canada at large as well as the Northern section of New Brunswick, for I must inform you, that, although the Government of Canada granted a very handsome sum indeed towards making the said Road, still no orders had arrived for the drawing of one shilling of the money, proving the truth of the old adage "that large bodies move slowly;" however, Mr Meagher bravely came forward and put his own shoulder to the wheel instead of running round crowing of the feats he had done, or "calling on Hercules" to forward the work; no, nothing of this, and after waiting the movements of the Government for a reasonable time, and fearing that the season would slip past without anything being done, he boldly took the initiation of the affair into his own hands, ordering off an exploring party and then to locate the Road and bring it to sale, defraying all expenses out of his own private purse, by which means he has no doubt saved the Government some hundreds, if not thousands of pounds, for you must know that Contractors having till next July or August to fulfil their contracts, and the advantages of a long winter to procure stuff for bridges and wharves, many pounds must be saved. Besides this, he and his brother, Joseph Meagher, Esq., made one or two trips in person to examine the line of Road, and hear complaints or suggestions. You might suppose after all this, that things would move on in the most orderly and amicable manner? If so, you are quite mistaken, for the knowing ones declare things all wrong together:—First and foremost, there is the Superintendent, or as you call him in New Brunswick, Supervisor, although he was educated and reared to manhood in the famous City of Quebec, he has unfortunately spent a number of years in the humble Village of Carleton, earning his bread by honest industry, which entirely disqualifies him for the task: had he come direct from beyond the Rocky Mountains or the top of Ben Lomond, having a crew of men logging along a Theodolite, ta-

king the heights and distances of each of the mountains he passed on the line of Road, or displaying a quadrant and sextant, taking a few lunar observations; stick a jack staff down at each man's door as he passed by; talking learnedly of the acute angles, obtuse angles, inclined planes, ascents and descents, segments of circles, and winding up all by describing how the heavenly bodies would bear on the traveller at such and such points or portions of the road, not forgetting to point out to each good farmer, how to make the four corners of his house a sun-dial. Oh! Sir, in such a case, how the boys would toss their caps in the air, our wise men shake each other lustily by the hand, whilst our matrons would sip their tea in perfect ease and comfort, consoling themselves that their offspring, kindred and friends, would be perfectly safe out of their sight; only to think that a road was to be moulded by the hands of such a great man, that would insure life and limbs forevermore. But Sir, plain John Lefebvre is not the man to parade before the public such scientific nonsense, nor yet the man to lie at rest, with two or three attendants to wait on him, whilst out-runners brought in the description of the adjacent country, as whim or fancy, or lack of judgment might dictate. No, far from this; he toils his way through bush, brake, and briar, examines each pass, scans each difficulty, and draws his own conclusions how to obviate and surmount them. Yet there are persons who think, for the want of those scientific instruments already mentioned, with a staff of engineers, that, the contemplated road must prove a failure, whilst not a few in jealous disappointment, growl and grumble at not being employed in the exploration, and for want of their invaluable services prognosticate all kinds of strange things, with phantom stories to boot, although their chief accomplishments are known to consist in having had the honour to pole along a canoe, or mayhap, to have driven a horse and carriage for Lieut. Henderson, in his railway explorations. Could those good people be persuaded to hold their wind and **** until some of the road was finished, they might be better able to judge, and save themselves hereafter the mortification of being laughed at for their pains. One thing is certain, if the road is made anything like the specification and as at present contemplated, it will be one of the finest roads in Canada. Among the several persons who are annoyed at being passed over without being consulted, is the celebrated mail contractor of the Kempt road, who exultingly boasts that he was the person who pointed out the line of the contemplated railway, to Lieut Henderson—no doubt from some of the highest hills on that famous road; he further broadly and boldly asserts the impracticable nature, and utter impossibility of ever obtaining a road by the River Matapedia, assigning as a reason that he himself explored the whole route, and honestly came to the foregoing conclusions. And so he did; but thereon hangs a tale, which for the benefit of people at a distance, I shall here insert. A long time ago, two gentlemen were obliged to pass through the Kempt Road, and considered it prudent to procure a guide; of course, none so competent as our great mail contractor, whose services were readily obtained for a proper consideration. Away the party went, and no accident occurred until they arrived at the forks of the Matapedia, having followed the road with unerring correctness; but unfortunately for the travellers, their guide then mistook the course of the river, and took down stream, in place of up, and after numberless summersets, tumblings and tossings, with aching limbs and empty stomachs, weary and wobegone, they and their would-be guide, fortunately arrived at a lumber camp, which the two gentlemen after their night's rest and refreshment, were but too happy to dispense with his services as a guide or guardian any further, and engaged a lumberer to conduct them through the remainder of their journey; and it is well known in this quarter that this worthy man has cautiously, ever since, abstained from taking any more land journeys along the Matapedia; preferring a canoe or horse for the once or twice, that he ever passed along the said stream since that eventful period, considering no doubt that he knew all about the stream, and much more than he bargained for. But Sir, the mail contractor of the Kempt road should be excused for his pertinacious propensity in clinging tenaciously to his pet road, no matter should it be the means of sending the country to perdition; he may be a knave, but certainly no fool; for as coming events cast their shadows before them, so must this *honest Scotchman*' clearly see a shadow crossing his path, which disturbs his visions by night, and his peace of mind by day. For just so sure as light flashes, let the Matapedia road be put through in good shape, and the yelp and howl of the canine brute, snarling under the lash of his driver, in conveying her Majesty's Mails, must give way to the snorting, dashing, whistling sound of the iron horse; and all those *dolorous tales of incredible hardships, beautiful and truthful stories* which he is wont to relate to beguile the weary traveller in passing over this alpine road, must cease, and give place to the dancing sister of the afore-named horse, whose breath is lightning, and tongue quick as thought. Aye Sir, and mail carrier, snowshoes and toboggans, dogs and dog-carts swept as useless rubbish, and known only as things of the past. The fact is, Sir, that the Kempt road has proved the upas tree of the Northern Section of New Brunswick, and district of Gaspé. It has

Let me not be misunderstood, or thought to slight or slur scientific gentlemen; but merely to laugh at those who think nothing can be done without them.

hung as a funeral pall before the eyes of all travellers, and proved a blight to the development of the many natural resources which the country abounds in. Let me ask those that have read the celebrated letters of Mr Lanman, and published in the Gleaner, giving an account of his voyage of woe and trouble, in passing through that Kempt road, accompanied by "*that honest Scotchman*," with veils, oils and fly-powders, whilst "*the honest Scotchman*" beguiled the tedious and dreary miles with *tales* about his unoffending neighbours, and a description of his *terrific dogs*, bidding fair to out-rival the famous dogs of St. Bernard; that a glance of their "eye, or a sight of their ivory," was quite sufficient to strike terror into the heart of the boldest robber that would dare to touch her Majesty's Mail bags. But he had no idea that his friend Mr Lanman was going to publish all such nonsense to the world, and candidly give the name of his author, which unfortunately placed "*this as honest a Scotchman as ever crossed the western ocean*," in the capacity of a dog driver. Yet this is a common trait of this honest Scotchman to all travellers of any note.—First, to impress earnestly on their minds, his difficulties along that road; and next, the utter impossibility of getting a road elsewhere.—But this "*honest Scotchman*" knows what is what in brawly, and kens right weel what side of his bread is buttered; and so long as he can get slaves to hire, and dogs to drag mails, leaving a handsome surplus for him to pocket, without any comparative trouble, he cares not if railways, commonways, and telegraphs, with country to boot, followed the carcasses of his dogs worn out in the service. Is it to be wondered at then, that travellers and strangers should laugh in scorn at the bare mention of a railway by this northern section of country, when a common highway could not be found: that each traveller as he passed over that road, must have thanked his stars, and said his matins, for having whole bones at his journey's end; at the same time firmly resolving never again to be caught in the same net, taking good care to admonish all friends of their danger, should business or pleasure ever tempt them to think of a journey by that route. But one would suppose, amongst all the turmoil, bickerings and jealousies, the Member for the County would receive nothing but applause for his exertions—far from that; each has his favourite spot of road to be made betwixt his barn and house, or round his pasture, whilst some of his quannam friends in the lower part of the county, more than hint, that he has acted very foolishly, in a political point of view, in not obtaining money for some favourite Bridges in the lower end of the County, in place of the Matapedia road, all of which is going to tell sorely against him at the ensuing election. But did those good people allow themselves to think with common reasoning faculties, they would have to conclude that the Matapedia road was as much their road, and for their benefit, as the people in the upper Townships; and the man at Gaspé Basin, or in the Northern Section of New Brunswick, should hail it as a boon, that a common highway is offered to the metropolis of Canada, as well as the citizen of Toronto, should he think fit to visit his eastern neighbours on business or pleasure. But perhaps those wise people are not tired or ashamed of their dog path, over hill, dale and mountain, connecting them with their capitol, or that they would prefer going round the world for pleasure, and be beholden to their neighbours over the way for the benefit of their roads; if so, our Member has certainly acted wrong. But he declares boldly that he will stand or fall by the Matapedia road; and if it is to prove his political downfall and death, let him fold his robes around him, and with one dying look, behold the traitors that stabbed him, fighting for his country's good; and whilst his name will be recorded in history, associated with the Matapedia road, and talked of by strangers who knew him not, the names of such craven-hearted traitors to their country's welfare, will be buried with the clods of the valley. But Sir, I have no such opinion of the bulk, or intelligent portion of our friends in the lower end of the County, they surely would not act so suicidal a part to their own interests and country's welfare, as to make that a political stalking horse, or battle ground; if so, then might it stand as a beacon to all future members for the County, to take no enlarged views of statesmanship, and content themselves by bestowing pettifogging patronage, and thrusting a crust into the mouths of the most clamorous and loquacious of their constituents. But you must know, Sir, that this is a great country, and we are a great people, and to explain the merits of people and country, may force me hereafter to address you another letter, but in looking over this, I find I have already trespassed on your space, so I must at present conclude, and remain yours,

A COMMON JACK.

Restigouche, Sept. 24, 1857.

PLOUGHING MATCH AND CATTLE SHOW.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

DEAR SIR.—You would much oblige me by copying the following article, which appeared in the Colonial Times of Thursday last:

"We are happy to learn, that there is quite an excitement among our Farming population occasioned by the near approach of the *Cattle Show and Ploughing Match of the North Agricultural Society*, which are to take place at *South Nelson*, on Thursday the 15th inst. "A fair field and no favour, is the princi-

ple of competition for the Ploughing Match, adopted by the Board this year. Every man who has been a member of the Society one month previous to the 15th October may become a competitor. We have heard it insinuated that this is an unfair arrangement, because our Natives have no chance with Old Country Ploughmen! Shaw! nonsense; we call it nothing short of slander, to assert that because our young men happen to be natives of New Brunswick, they cannot catch Makerel, nor plough the ground as skillfully as Americans or Old Countrymen. Come—we will be prepared to plank a pound, that a majority of the Prizes will be pocketed by Native Ploughmen. Nothing like open competition. We never liked the old fashioned plan of pushing aside the victor of this year from the contest of the next, because if we lop off yearly the growth of the past season, the Tree, instead of becoming taller, will be more likely to droop and decay.

"It is to be hoped that there will be a full display of Horned Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Swine. If there be not, the fault must be not in the scarcity of these animals, but in the inanimate nature of their owners, who will not be persuaded to pocket prizes, although pressed upon their acceptance.

"It has been no unusual thing heretofore, for the Treasurer to carry home in his purse, prizes offered by the Society, for which no competitors offered, and this too with reference both to the Ploughing Match and Cattle Show.

"If the day be fine, we expect to see a large assemblage of spectators, to inspire the hearts, and nerve the arm of the competitors, and give effect to the whole proceedings."

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—*The New Peerages*.—Lord Robert Grosvenor is gazetted Baron Ebury, of Ebury Manor, Middlesex; and the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, as Baron Macaulay, of Rothley, in the county of Leicester.

The submarine cable which connects Europe and Africa, has been successfully laid this week between Cape Tuelada, in Sardinia, and Cape Bon, in Africa; the distance is 145 miles.

A recent despatch from Rome announces the return of the Pope to the Eternal city.

The Shah of Persia has placed his Mahomedan, Christian and Jewish subjects on a footing of perfect equality,—a most righteous and dignified act, on the part of the Persian monarch.

Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the Mutiny.—On Monday the Committee recently appointed at the meeting at the Mansion House, for the purpose of devising means for collecting a fund for the relief of the sufferers by the mutiny in India, assembled in the Egyptian Hall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor read the following communication, which had been addressed by himself to the Governor-General of India:—"My lord,—I have the pleasure to announce to your Excellency that an influential public meeting was held yesterday at the Mansion House, for the purpose of expressing our sincere and heartfelt sympathy with our fellow-countrymen, now suffering so severely from the calamitous events in India. A committee has been formed for the purpose of raising funds, to be placed at your Excellency's disposal, for the immediate relief of the most urgent cases of distress; and I have now the great satisfaction of stating that a sum of 20,000 rupees, as a first instalment, is payable to your Excellency's order at the Agra Bank in Calcutta. The committee will feel greatly obliged by your Excellency's giving such directions as you may deem advisable for the distribution of the funds now sent; and they look with confidence to being able to remit continuous instalments by the ensuing mails." Mr Forrest the secretary, stated that the subscriptions already received amounted to nearly £5,000 and that communication were about to be sent to the various bankers throughout the kingdom, requesting them to take charge of donations. Under the presidency of the Lady Mayoress, several ladies have formed themselves into district committees, for the purpose of collecting funds for the sufferers.

The late General the Earl of Cork is said to have bequeathed the large sum of £3,200 to the different charitable institutions of Cork, and to the poor of the several parishes in that city.

AUSTRIA.—*Opinions on India*.—The *Ost Deutsche Post*, which frequently expresses the sentiments of the Austrian Foreign Office, contains the following article on the Anglo-Indian question:—

"Great and general is the sympathy felt for the English in the East Indies. Wherever inveterate prejudice and national jealousy do not predominate, it is wished that England may speedily triumph. So great, so powerful is the force of public opinion in this matter, that even those who at heart hate the proud British Empire, and wish to see it enervated and exhausted, dare not openly express their thoughts.—They are necessitated to mask their real sentiments under a hypocritical 'turning up of the eyes,' and apparently sympathising phrases. Edifying in this respect are the American and French organs of the Press. Some of the Yankee papers already flatter themselves that India is lost to England for ever, and foresee that Great Britain is destined to become a fourth-rate Power. A Paris paper, being moved by generous indignation, repudiates the idea, and