Communications.

POLITICAL FANATICISM.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

Fanaticism of all kinds is a horrible caricature of what it assumes to represent. It is the best livery the evil one ever put on to cloak his evil designs. It springs from the worst passions of human nature, yet speaks in the name of the highest faculties and emotions of the soul. Fraud, malvolence, revenge, are the agents it uses in the service of meckness, virtue, and religion; and it takes the name of the Highest to justify the most inhuman and godless barbarities to his creatures. It is the prolific source of intolerance and crime; and in its mildest manifestations, fairly outstrips all other passions in trampling under foot rea-son, justice and morality. Dethroning reason and making the gratification of each dark impulse a duty, it lowers a man beneath the brutes, even while it pretends to exalt him above the angels. Lord Bacon has well observed, that it is the more detestable from its connection with the good thing whose name it uses, as the ugliness of the monkey appears the more hedious from the slight resemblance it bears to a human being.

Religious fanaticism, all are aware, has had a predominant influence in making history a a predominant influence in making history a disgraceful record of the most shameless crimes and absurd deeds—but for religious fanatics there are many extenuating circumstances to be considered. In the propagation of their opinions, they have manifested a willingness to endure torture, as well as inflict it. The primal source of their bigotry is to be found in their creeds. Believing opposing dogmas to be heresies, which were dragging down to endless perdition all who assented to them, persecution with them became a duty, and tolerance the greatest of crimes. A certain spirit of enlarged benevolence mingled with their absurdities and evil acts. They argued that if certain opinions will call down Divine wrath on their holders, it was the duty of every good man to prevent their propogation. ery good man to prevent their propogation,— What was the torture and death of a few sectaries, in comparison with the ages and ages of wee which their dogmas would bring upon my-riads? What was an hour's temporal suffering to an eternity of pain?

to an eternity of pain?

Political faratics can lay no such flattering unation to their souls. They are of the earth, earthly, look to temporal good, and a temporal good, likewise, in which they shall have the largest share. The being they worship is the Moloch of party—their church, the caucus—their theory of rewards and punishments, official patronags to the faithful, deprivation of office to the heretical—their bible the party newscaper. For these they are ready to spit out their gall and venom, and erect their pyramids of lies. For these they are ready to blacken the character of the virtuous, denounce as high treason all moderation and candour of judgment, represent their opponents as born idious or educated knaves, defile patriotism by confounding it with their political creed, grope among the tombs of departed greatness and prey upon the dead, roar out the catch-words of their party when they cannot comprehend its refined sophisms, and manifest in all they do their claims to be true supporters of Unreason, and propagators of political fraud. For these they are willing to use winning tones to the set of the supporters of Unreason, and propagators of political fraud. For these they are willing to use winning tones to son, and propagators of political fraud. For these they are willing to use winning tones to the dear people whom they are ambitious to cheat, or fulnimate against those who are engaged in exposing their quackery and brainlessness.

They are gifted with a savage energy of purpose which nothing can stay in its mad rush to seek the vilest ends by vilest means. Their trophies are torn from the bleeding body of reason, and their march is over the fallen form of conscience. Consistency, honor, principle, are words which they sometimes swear by, but of the meaning of which they have no practical conception. Terms are wrested from their real signification to serve the purposes of panegyric to worthless partizens, and like ly and discovery of impertinence." They engage in a crusade against common sense and experience, with all the ardour of men born and curse of every thing rea
least such as his readers could appreciate, and as nigh to make the wrath and curse of every thing rea
what common decency required, as his talent what the people, is a fixed fact, no matter whether the people, is a fixed fact, no matter whether difference."

It is people, is a fixed fact, no matter whether difference in the people, is a fixed fact, no matter whether down and pushing the people and people and pushing the people and pushing the people and people and people and peo taphysician might scan for the purpose of extending his idea of space. The dogma that men cannot get along in this world without brains is contradicted by their success, and the mightiest provided by their success. brainless exponents of all that is shallow, ig- and every creature whose depravity made elimorant and evil.

We do not mean to assert that the class of rabid fanatics we have sketched is very large. The extremes of political fanaticism we have indicated, and between that and a due mean there are many degrees of bigotry. The sil-liest form in which it is seen, although one which is productive of immense ill in society, is when it is carried into business. There is nothing more ridiculous than to buy shoes, or coats, or provisions of one man rather than another, because he happens to sympathise with you in his politics; or, for a merchant to xefuse employment to a laborer who declines

to throw in his principles when he sells his To the Editor of the Gleaner, labor. This petty persecution argues a narrow-ness of mind which is contemptible in the extreme. It rarely effects its object, but generally strengthens the opinion it was intended to overthrow by calling into play the passions of the person on whom the meanness is practised

April 23, 1857.

VULCAN.

James A. Pierce, Esq.,

Dear Sir,-I perceive by the last Gleaner that a Requisition, requesting Mr Street to appear again as a Candidate for this County, has been responded to by that gentleman. I must confess that in common with those of my neighbours to whom I have spoken on the subject, I felt much surprised that a sufficient number of signatures should have been obtained to a Resignatures should have been obtained to a Requisition to induce him to comply with its prayer, ramembering that when he had voted against the "Major Robinson Line of Railroad," and neglected other important interests of the County, one signed by 1155 of his constituents failed to move him. The number of names to this last however must have been enormous, seeing that you could not even find room for the sum total. But Sir, I trust that this week your space will permit you to favour us with a few of the names attached, summing up with "and 1300 or 1400 others" (as the up with "and 1300 or 1400 others" (as the case may be) so that we may form some idea how "large a number" of the freeholders of this County require him to represent them, and govern ourselves accordingly.

It seems to us as passing strange that Mr Street, after having been rejected by this County, should again be sent for, knowing as county, should again be sent for, knowing as we do that in Northumberland there are many gentlemen who would make as able, and we think more trustworthy Representatives, and we only hope that there are no motives of self interest prompting some of the more prominent requisitionists.

and cast his vote at the polls with a just appreciation of his privileges as an Elector, and a sense of what is due to himself and his coun-

But Mr Pierce, a few of us have been saying, that if you could be induced yourself, to come out, we would get up a Requisition to you, for we think a great deal of your politics, and we hope that some more influential parties will see it their duty to do so, and thus by having another conditate was would at the least base as ther Candidate, we would at the least, have a better choice.

Trusting that you will continue from time to time, to throw out a few hints to guide us Back Settlers, for we are told all sorts of stories framed to further the ends of the different parties, with whom we come in contact.

> I remain, yours respectfully, A BACK SETTLER.

Miramichi, April 23, 1357.

James A. Pierce, Esq.,-

Sir,—It would appear to one from the course pursued by the Editor of the Colonial Times since the appearanse of Prompter's letter, that their real signification to serve the purposes of panegyric to worthless partizans, and like dreams are to be taken by contradiction alone. They fathom the deepest gulphs of ignorance and bathos, and appear exceptions to the axiom that the human mind can never embrace unmixed absurdities. Ostentatious of those qualities which even men who pay a hypocritical homage to decency studiously conceal, they are continually boasting of "originality in folly and discovery of impertinence." They engge in a crusade against common sense and titled to reflect in the course pursued by the Editor of the Colonial Times pursued by the Editor of the

How much more honourable to himself, and more congenial to the feelings of his patrons would such a course have been, than devoting prains is contradicted by their success, and the mightest power ever ascribed to brass has been more than illustrated in these brazen and brainless exponents of all their is shallow. gible to his service, among whom, Lam surprised to find Mr T. O'K. taking a very prominent part as leader and guiding star of the confraternity.

If Mr T. O'K. wishes to parade his abilities as a public writer, why not sear a little higher by adopting a subject calculated to instruct and edify his readers. I am sorry to say that he exhibits a character of wide contrast to that which his profession requires him to sustain.

Yours respectfully,

READER.

Chatham, April 23, 1856.

Sir,—I am informed that a most wise and learned gentleman, irreproachable, with all the statutes at his fingers ends—a very busy man in reality; but yet, not to forget the inimitable touch of nature in 'Chancer.' He seems busier than he is—has been breathing vengeance and death against a certain person, or persons, whom he imagines to be the writer, or writers of certain communications signed A persons, whom he imagines to be the writer, or writers of certain communications signed A. Freeholder. The cry has been caught up and re-echoed by his faithful "Sancho Panza's," who declare that if they could only meet "this Freeholder, they would pull his ears, wring his nose, horsewhip him, and put into execution sundry other equally charitable intentions.— Now I would beg to say in all humility to this most noble knight, and to those most gentle squires—do not worry yourselves, keep cool I pray—You may meet "Freeholder" when you least expect it—he is not alarmed at all—the only thing that would alarm him would be to only thing that would alarm him would be to learn, that, that most renowned corps the Black-Guards with their invincible commanders, had conspired to annihiliate him, then indeed he would feel that his days were numbered, his sands were run, and it would only remain for him to die as decently as he could. But Sir, let me ask why has the letters of A Freeholder thus excited the ire of those Gentlemen?— Has he attacked the private character of any of them—heaven forbid—but as public men I claim the right to comment fully on their acts, and to express my approbation or disapprobation of their conduct. Sir, in common with the peo-ple of this province, I was disgusted with the their conduct. disgraceful proceedings of the factious opposi-tion in the late House of Assembly. I have no desire to see them re-enacted, and when I heard three of our late representatives declare that if returned, they would pursue the course they had hitherto pursued, my duty was plain, to lay the matter before the people of this County and to ask them if they were willing to confide to these men the protection of their dearest. interest prompting some of the more prominent requisitionists.

It has occurred to us that the friends of Mr S. may not have forgotten him as the redoubtable champion of a very original and profound scheme of "Rural Economy." Sugar and Tea are now very high in price, and likely to be higher, hence the necessity to induce the people to economise by living on potatoes (when they grow) and stira-about. Still Sir, we fear he is not the man for that itself, for we all remember that even when he was propounding his favourite theory, he advocated the payment of the highest salaries to the Government Officials, a burthen which bore heavily on the "Rural" population—professions not easily reconciled we should think.

Another objection we have to him is that he Editor of the Colonial Times, not very respectably connected; however, that may be, we trust that at the coming contest, every man will be allowed to exercise his own judgment, and cast his vote at the polls with a just appreciation of his privileges as an Elector, and a reat many other matters. I have forborne entering rights and interests. I have forborne entering fully into the matter, not wishing to hold them accountable for expressions uttered perhaps in the heat of the moment, and of which I hoped they would afterwards repent. I did not refer to the manner in which they spoke of the Editor of the Head Quarters, and the gentleman that was not named. Nor did I relate the manner in which they spoke of the Editor of the Head Quarters, and the gentleman that was not named. Nor did I relate the manner in which they spoke of the Editor of the Editor of the Conoming the dissolution of the rights and interests. I have forborne entering I shall sound music that will be fatal to the Chivalry of the great Liberal party. I am not actuated by any feeling of personal enmity to those gentlemen, but if they are determined to pursue the course they have hitherto pursued; if my brief and brilliant career is to be written up, and the career of gentlemen of worth and merit who have long and faithfully served this

merit who have long and faithfully served this County, is to be written down, I shall enter into the matter more fully, and shall be content to let the Freeholders of this County decide whether the Liberal candidates are worthy of their support and confidence.

And now Sir, a few words in regard to that most astonishing Editorial in the Colonial Times of the 16th instant. Its brilliancy dazzle all beholders; it will no doubt have a powerful effect upon the minds of the intelligent Freeholders of this County. At the last Election we were informed that a Tory was one who sought to extend the power of the power of the people.

the people.

Now we are told that Mr Johnson is Liberalism personified, and Mr Street is Toryism per-sonified; rather an unhappy illustration of the Great Liberalism of this Province. What form

what form next will it assume?

We are also informed that Responsible Government can never be carried out except by a Liberal Legislature. Now the writer of that Liberal Legislature. Now the writer of that article knows full well that there is no such combination in this province as a Tory party.—

A Liberal conservative party has superseded them. The responsibility of the Executive to the people, is a fixed fact, no matter whether Mr Johnson, Mr Gray, or Mr Street is Attarney. people could exist one hour.

power, feels himself responsible to the people, whereas the Tories only feel accountable to one another-this is rich indeed. could sit down and pen such trash, must either was entrusted to you in confidence.

But how have I been deceived, how has my

Mr Johnson and Mr Street. We are told that the former gentleman has, by his energy and

neral, an office as important and necessary to Affecting to believe me the author of "Theathe well being of a Government, as a fifth trical's, you meanly took advantage of some

wheel to a Coach. In regard to his readiness to resign, we know well that the Liberal party were neither ready or willing to resign on the Prohibitory Liquer Law, which is proved by the fact of Mr Fisher complaining of having been bowed out by the Governor, and their eagerness to be revenged upon him.

We are also treated to that thrice told tale about the Railway. It is a pity the writer in the Colonial Times could not give us something original, but is compelled to borrow from the to resign, we know well that the Liberal party

the Colonial Times could not give us something original, but is compelled to borrow from the Gleaner of 1852. The Editor of which Journal has been denounced as a renegade, "a wily Fox" in a word "the old serpent himself."

If the Editor is the sort of person they describe him to be, his opinions are the very last that ought to be quoted—but drowning men will catch at straws, and we have no doubt it is the same with political parties; but I fear they will find that this straw from the Gleaner will not save them. The story about the requisition is too stale for the people to swallow, many have regretted even attaching their names to it; others among the Liberals themselves, have declared they disapproved of it altogether—this was proved at the Election following, when Mr Street was returned second on the poll; and it will take some writer of on the poll; -and it will take some writer of heavier calibre than the Editor (Pro Tem) of the Colonial Times to remove this incubus from the path of the Great Liberals, to whom an indignant people are now saying,

"Oh! where are the rights, we gave thee in trust.

They are scattered in darkness, they are tumbled in dust."

More anon.

Yours truly, A FREEHOLDER.

Chatham, 22nd April, 1857. Friday Morning.

P. S. The "Colonial Times" of last night has just come to hand, and having heard that a document from a learned man in Town, would appear in the shape of a plaster, beginning in Black, and ending in Red; I made a minute search for it, and the only thing new I have discovered in that extensive Jones. have discovered in that extensive Journal, was a patch signed "Observer." His remarks about cutting and stitching are evidently levelled at a Mechanic of this Town (whom he imagines to be the writter of "A Freeholder,") and are in perfect keeping with the insult of-fered to Mr Lawrence, and worth; of the Gen-tleman that used it. "Observer" has begged the question with some legal tact, but the true application of the insult "let the cobbler stick to his last," is left firm and unmoved.

I would say to "Observer," if you can do nothing better than cut and stitch one insult on to another, in the name of common sense keep

out of print.

Far from desiring to cut you out, or stitch you together—you are not even worth basting.

Pass on, poor simpleton—I would not hurt

A FREEHOLDER.

To Mr Patrick Flannagan, actually and indeed the only third class male teacher in the Town of Chatham, and reputed author of the arti-cle signed "Prompter."

Sir,-I have carefully read the article over our signature in last week's Gleaner; I have decapitated, anatomized, analyzed, and digested it, and I have been driven to the conclusion, that said article is strongly indicative of rank taste; that under the circumstances it was to-tally uncalled for, and that you, the writer, have therein proven, that as far as newspaper writing is concerned, you are totally destitute of honorable feeling and candour.

An article signed "Prompter" — reflecting on the "erratic course" pursued by the Editor of the Colonial Times appeared in the Gleaner. On the Thursday following, another article in a theatrical guise occupied a couple of columns of the first mentioned journal, and which article, though decidedly silly and tasteless, I shall never endorse, even at the beck of the Gleaner, as "pointless, witless, and meaningless." In the next Gleaner appeared an effusion, re-

joicing in the primitive and alphabetical cog-nomen of A. B. C., an effusion, simple, inoffen-sive and evidently intended and well you know it sir, to bring you out in politics, as you had in "Prompter" evinced no disinelination to

be a mean one, authorized the Editor of the But again he says—that a Liberal when in Gleaner to give you my real name — foolishly ower, feels himself responsible to the people, supposing that as I had treated you so honorabry, you would have generosity enough to not The man that expose in the public prints at any rate, what

else he must entertain a very poor opinion of the intelligence of the people of Northumber-land. It is too palpably absurd to impose upon the manner placarded my name before the intelligence of the people of Northumber-land. It is too palpably absurd to impose upon the simplest inhabitant, and we therefore pass it over without further comment.

A contrast is attempted to be drawn between Mr Johnson and Mr Street. We are talk the simplest inhabitant and we therefore pass it over without further comment. inferior mathematician to yourself, as I had the former gentleman has, by his energy and talent, occupied some of the highest Offices of the state, but has always resigned them when the liberties of the people were in danger.

Now the only office that we are aware of that gentleman occupying was that of Solicitor General an office as important and necessary to the solicitor of the solicit beaten you in front, you thought it advisable