

## Communications.

To the Editor of the Colonial Times,—

DEAR SIR,—When charity and solicitude for your welfare first induced me to assume the name of Prompter, I was well aware that my task was no ordinary one; but if I had only succeeded in correcting your errors, checking the promulgation of your wild theories, and concentrated your vague ideas in the vacuum they should occupy, I would have considered myself well rewarded for my labours; but now that I find you prodigal-like, despising my friendship, perverting my precepts, and exposing me to the fire of your Restigouche reserve, and threatening Mr Pierce with the same invisible enemy, or any outpost belonging to your allies, by which he may be attacked on my account, your readers will, I trust, justify me in leaving you to your fate.

On retiring, however, I may add, that as you have gone to the Devil to discuss his Politics, you have left me no alternative, for there I have no desire to follow you, nor have I the slightest knowledge of his form of Government; though, by-the-bye, from the manner in which you have handled the subject in your Editorial of the 2nd instant, you seem just in your element there, (being far beyond the reach of ordinary Politicians,) I leave you.

One promise you have certainly kept with your readers—and I put it down on the credit side of the Ledger—you have given our local Press a new tone; but that you have imparted to it respectability, it would be a prostitution of language to assert.

But enough—I leave you with your kindred spirits in the regions beyond my ken, to act your will and pleasure.

I remain yours, &c.,

PATRICK FLANAGAN.

Chatham, 3rd April, 1857.

### OBSTRUCTIONS.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—The present state of affairs in this Province cannot fail to arrest the attention of every man who feels interested in its welfare and prosperity; and a question of the utmost importance presents itself, viz:—To whom are we indebted for the present untoward state of things, which we all must deplore? Whether it can be fairly laid at the door of the Government or that of the Opposition?

It will be unnecessary to enter into a defence of the course pursued by the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to the Prohibitory Law; and the course he thought proper to take, met with the unqualified approval of the people, unmistakably expressed through their Representatives during the short session in 1856. Passing from that to the meeting of the House of Assembly on February 12, 1857, we find that Mr Fisher, in a few days after, moved a vote of Want of Confidence in the Government.

We naturally enquire, on what grounds did he justify himself in asking the House to pass such a motion? and on looking over the Debate (*Mr Fisher's Speech included*) we are unable to perceive any justification, with the exception of the non-appointment of the Railroad Commissioners—a tremendous charge truly.

We find, in Nova Scotia, the Honorable Joseph Howe declaring, it is no light thing to displace a Government, and yet here the Opposition, (*modest fellows*) with Mr Fisher at their head, occupies the time of the House some 8 or 9 days, at a cost to the country of £150 per diem, asking to have the Government displaced because they had failed to appoint the Railroad Commissioners. The thing is too ridiculous to need a moment's consideration. It is easy to perceive the motives of the Opposition.

They went to the House determined to oust the Government, right or wrong. They had two objects in view—a desire to be revenged on the Governor for dismissing them from place and power, and an ardent longing to return to Office with its honors and emoluments.

They deemed victory certain. But look at the sad disappointment. They succeeded in gaining over some of the (supposed) Government supporters—among them Messrs. Hatheway and Harding—disappointed aspirants to Office. The latter has gained for himself a notoriety that no one will envy. Sent by the constituency of St. John in June last to support the Government—afterwards accepting from that Government a mission to Canada, ostensibly for one purpose, but in reality for another—pocketing £340 of the public money, we yet find this same gentleman in the ranks of the Opposition, advocating the doctrine that to the "victors belong the spoils," and what is worse—exhibiting to his new friends the letters and instructions which he had received from the Provincial Secretary, betraying the secrets of the Government of which he was the paid servant.

When the Government were sustained, the disappointment and rage of their opponents knew no bounds—then commenced a system of badgering unknown in Parliamentary annals. The Government were assailed at all points, and it is said that the new leader of the Opposition declared that he was determined to pursue a course which would "drive the Government either to resign or to dissolve the House, and to accomplish that purpose he would sit there till next June." In looking at these things, can any unprejudiced man fail to perceive the motives that actuated the Opposition; but further to prove the consistency and patriotism of those same gentlemen, on the last day of the session, the Attorney General stated that

in consequence of the determination announced by the Opposition, that they would oppose the Government in every thing, until they compelled them to resign or dissolve, and believing the Opposition determined to retard the business of the country, the Government had advised His Excellency to prorogue the House, in order to an immediate dissolution. One would have thought that this would have satisfied the Opposition; that they would have been content to let the people decide the matter, but no—they still sighed for Office and for power. The objects they had been fighting for must not be given up without another struggle. Accordingly Mr Smith moved a Resolution unparalleled (under similar circumstances) in the history of any legislative body in the world. "Whereas the members of the Executive Council in this House have declared their inability to carry on the business of the country, therefore resolved—That in the opinion of this House they should immediately resign." If the Opposition had succeeded in passing that unheard-of Resolution, their object would have been attained; power and place would have been at their disposal, and no doubt they would have petitioned the Home Government for His Excellency's recall. But in this they failed—a most disgraceful scene ensued—and to clap the climax—they grossly insulted Her Majesty's Representative by refusing to attend him in the Council Chamber.

Thus ended the last Session; and the people of this County will do well to ponder seriously on the matter, and ask themselves whether it will be wise or prudent to return those men who have been active participants in the scenes just related. No doubt the people will be regaled with the old stereotyped stories about corrupt Governments, Family Compacts, placing the poor man on an equality with the rich, opening the way to Office, &c., &c. These nice stories will be freely used, and we may expect to hear them from the lips of some of our Representatives—one of whom on the floors of the House, insulted the Mechanics of the Province in the person of Mr Lawrence, (a Cabinet Maker) by sneeringly quoting a Latin phrase, the meaning of which is "Let the Cobbler stick to his last." The manly reply of Mr Lawrence to this professional gentleman will be read and admired throughout the length and breadth of the land, while the unmanly spirit that could suggest such a sneer will meet with the contempt it deserves.

I intended to review the proceedings of the political meeting at the Hall of the Sons of Temperance on Thursday last—but from the length of this, I must defer it to a more convenient time. Meantime Mr. Editor, I am &c., &c.,  
A FREEHOLDER.

Chatham, April 7, 1857.

To "Prompter" in last week's Gleaner.

Seeing that you have just entered the public arena, doing which may prove destructive to a man of your political abilities—in order to apprise you of your danger, and likewise to solicit the lenity of the public on your behalf, I make the following appeal to your better feelings and common sense.

On looking over that wonderful article of yours which appears in last week's Gleaner, I must confess that I felt both irritated and alarmed;—irritated to see you who always professed to be, (as far as you knew) a liberal in politics, compromising yourself by madly rushing into print, and meanly retracting your frequently expressed political opinions, by attacking a public journalist, who openly and honestly advocates vote by ballot, extension of the popular suffrage, and all those other liberal measures with which you have been wont to associate the name of the late illustrious Daniel O'Connell, as an individual eminently favourable to them, and which measures you have often pointed out as the only panacea for popular oppression,—alarmed lest the deep thinking and vast research which such a tremendous production must have cost one so unaccustomed to intellectual labour, and especially newspaper writing, as you are, might have the effect of inducing a brain fever, or 'tis dreadful to think of it, lunacy itself.

I am glad to perceive, however, that you have attacked your antagonist professionally only—this is as it should be—but at the same time might he not thus truthfully recriminate.

During the seven months I have followed my profession, have I not, comparatively speaking, done as great an amount of good as you have during the twenty-five years you have followed your profession?

The talent God has given me, be it great or small, I have ever endeavoured to exercise for the benefit of society; not so you—for your talent though brilliant in one respect, I confess, has ever been (like the candle under the bushel, mentioned in Scripture,) obscured, through what cause I will not say—and has produced nothing but this effusion, which, surely, as the wool gathering of a quarter of a century, ought to be good.

'Tis very easy for an individual to find fault with the manner in which an Editor may conduct his journal—a good reviewer generally makes a bad author—I may be able to point out a defect in a piece of workmanship, but that does not prove I could do it better myself.

I do really think Sir, that the gentleman you have thus wantonly assailed, and in a most vindictive spirit, attempted to injure, will compare favourably with your worthy self, as regards practical usefulness to society, from the time he first saw the light, to the present hour.

Even supposing for argument sake, that the journal which has incurred your displeasure, has been imperfect in some respects—and what

journal is perfect—why should you (not even a subscriber to the said journal,) as long as the community were satisfied to tolerate it, anticipate popular opinion, and arrogate to yourself the duty of public accuser—you are self-constituted, and that public which numbers in its ranks other individuals equal to the task you have accomplished, had they chosen to be equally explicit and vindictive, will not endorse all you have said relative to the matter—speak it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ascalon.

I really do think that Prompter will not have the effect of killing the Colonial Times—Come sir, now be candid—was it regard for the good of society, or a personal feeling against the Editor of the Colonial Times, that induced you to write that article—I believe and know it was the latter, and a discerning community will appreciate your motive in so doing.

You would, I perceive, be fain considered an apologist of the existing Government—of that Government, which, when in the beginning of the session—a vote of want of confidence, in the shape of an amendment to the answer to the Speech of the Lieutenant Governor, had been rejected merely by the casting vote of the speaker—meanly refused through love of the loaves and fishes—through a sordid lust for power, to either resign or dissolve, well knowing at the time, that as parties were so evenly balanced, the business of the County could not be proceeded with, thus putting the Province to the expense of I believe, fully Five Thousand Pounds.

You say it is both absurd and impertinent—you call it effrontery, to tell the people of Chatham that they ought to be proud of their three Liberal Representatives—well now, for the life of me, I am rather inclined to believe that the absurdity, effrontery, and impertinence, are all on your side, as manifested by your language. We are proud sir, of our Liberal Representatives; we are proud of the men who having nailed their colours to the mast, have proved that they would rather sink than betray their trust, we are proud sir, of the men who opposed that Government, which evidently and undeniably, is opposed to the extension of popular suffrage vote by ballot, &c., as proven by the fact of their having re-enacted the old Election law, which has for its basis, Ledger influence—when, certainly, there was no necessity for such action, except the dread of an approaching contest. I have not time to talk of that absurd and impracticable Emigration Scheme, initiated by this pet Government of yours—let this pass, the people at the Election will judge it.

Let me now review your postscript. You observe that the only true loyalists of the day, are the descendants of those parties who left the United States on account of the American Revolution. Well now, this is a very pretty compliment to pay the population of this County—very few of whom are, I believe, the descendants of the loyalists. Now sir, candidly speaking, do you not think—have you never avowed the opinion—notwithstanding your eloquent eulogium on the refugees and fathers of the Province, that those very same loyalists left their country for their country's good.

And now sir, I will finish by calmly remarking, that such a thing yet exists as a Family Compact. At any rate, like the dregs of a glass of wine, its effects exist, which amounts to about the same thing, but, this is a long subject—too long for me at present.

As I would not stab you in the dark, by calling at the Gleaner Office, you can ascertain my name. You have thrown down the gauntlet, I have taken it up—come out like a man and sustain your part.

A. B. C.

## News of the Week.

### EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—The Earl of Elgin has accepted the office to the Court of Peking, and will proceed on his arduous mission as soon as he has made himself sufficiently acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government. It would not be easy to name a more unexceptionable man for the office, or even one with so many positive recommendations. It is a service both of difficulty and danger that he has undertaken.

When the Commander-in-Chief, General Pennefather, has made the proper dispositions and is ready for an advance, the British Plenipotentiary will, we suppose, invite the Emperor to a peaceful settlement of affairs. It has been insinuated that we ought not to have taken advantage of an hour of distress to press our claims, but it is the Imperial crisis itself which has brought on the rupture. Commissioner Yeh having notoriously presumed on his security from Imperial control, the Plenipotentiary will have to deal there not only with the Emperor and his Mandarins, but with his insolent Viceroy, and with a rebellion almost everywhere victorious.

It is likely enough, therefore, that circumstances will arise which may require great discretion, temper, and even courage. Should Lord Elgin meet with success his will be a singular lot, and a unique glory in achieving two great works of reconciliation so wide apart, and under such various circumstances.

Of the expeditionary force to China, English papers furnish the following:

"Two hundred men belonging to the Medical Staff Corps at Chatham, are directed to hold themselves in readiness for immediate embarkation for Hospital service in China.

It was reported at Portsmouth on the 12th

that the British Envoy would proceed to China in the Shannon, (steam frigate 51 guns,) Captain Peel. She has already shipped a large supply of powder, shot and shell, and will also carry out a number of supernumary seamen, marines, and boys.

"The Transit, (iron steam troop-ship), will be ready to embark troops in a few days. The Furious, Cormorant, Sidon, Adventure, Assistance, and the gun-boats, are being equipped with all expedition, hands being employed on them from daybreak until dark, to get them to sea."

Lieut. Massey, of the Redan.—We are glad to perceive that the Queen has accorded a pension of £100 a year to this chivalrous young Irishman, and that he has been made a Knight of the Legion of Honour by the Emperor of the French. We are still more rejoiced that the Duke of Cambridge has, unsolicited, nominated him to a captaincy in the new Military Train.

The Marriage of the Princess Royal.—The Cross, a Berlin newspaper, states on authentic information, that the ceremony of betrothal of her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to Prince Frederick William, will take place at London during the month of May, and that the Prince and Princess of Prussia will accompany their popular and respected son to England for the purpose. The marriage (adds the Cross) is definitely fixed for the 21st November or as soon after as possible. The new married couple, it is believed, will remain in England a month or more and there pass the Christmas holidays, after which they will commence their journey to the Prussian dominions, and make their entry in state into Berlin immediately after the new year, by which time the palace now fitting up for their residence will be fully completed and properly aired.

### UNITED STATES.

Defalcations and Forgeries.—A deficit of \$45,000 has been found in the account of Maurius Schoonmaker, Camp-troller of the New York Central Railroad, which he confesses having used, but the officers of the company have succeeded in obtaining security for the whole amount of the declaration, and do not apprehend any loss.

A man named Stephens, lately a clerk in one of the banks of Montreal, has been arrested for the embezzlement of some \$12,000 belonging to the bank, and for the forgery, since he left the bank, of a £400 note, which he got cashed. Other forgeries to the extent of about six or seven thousand dollars are also charged against him.

Walker's condition reported desperate—Fillibusters deserting.—New York, March 28.—Steamer Illinois arrived at 8 o'clock, bringing California dates to the 5th inst., and nearly \$1,200,000 in specie. She connected with the Golden Age. The latter boat passed March 10, off Cape Corientes, steamer Sonora, bound up. Steamer Panama, from San Juan, arrived at Panama with 125 deserters from Walker. They were in a most destitute condition. Their passage up was paid by the Costa Rican Government. One hundred left in the Granada for New Orleans; the remainder came in the Illinois.

Costa Rican papers state that 3000 troops are to be added to the allied forces.

Gen. Caras would march with 1500 men upon Rivas, and 1000 would march against San Juan del Sur. The intention is to surround Walker with 600 troops.

At the latest dates from Bogota the propositions of Mr Morse, our special envoy to Grenada, were under secret consideration. There seemed to be but little chance of an amicable arrangement.

The tone of the Grenadian press and of a majority of Congress, is of the bitterest opposition.

The publication in El Tambo of what purported to be Mr Morse's propositions, had created great excitement on the Isthmus.—The natives are anxious that the government shall refuse the propositions, although they expect that the result will be the military occupation of the Isthmus by the United States.

Some of the deserters from Walker state that his troops had unanimously refused to leave Rivas to fight, but were willing to defend their position.

### WEST INDIES.

BERMUDA, March 25.—The Majestic Line-of-battle ship Indus, 78, Capt. W. H. Stewart, bearing the flag of Rear Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K. C. B., (the newly appointed Naval Commander-in-Chief) made her appearance off these Islands on Sunday morning last, after a fine run across the Atlantic of 26 days. The Indus is from England direct. As soon as the Indus was telegraphed, H. M. Steam-sloop Basilisk was despatched from Grassy Bay to the East End for the purpose of taking the new Flag-ship in tow. This was speedily accomplished, and the Indus reached the lower anchorage at about 2 o'clock in the same afternoon.

Lady Stewart has also arrived in the Indus; and her Ladyship and the gallant Admiral are now residing at Clarence Hill.

Rear Admiral Arthur Farnshaw, C. B., embarked this day on board the Boscawen, (his flag-ship,) and will depart to-morrow for England. The gallant Admiral and his Officers carry with them to their English homes, the hearty good wishes of the inhabitants as well of these Islands, as of the other Colonies embraced in this extensive naval command, for their future prosperity and happiness.