

cit than you have been in the letter I am now reviewing. Be sure and inform them that it is an iron tubular road you now want "to improve the County," or an iron road with a web spread over it, or above it, to prevent the dews of heaven from falling on it, for you say that "it is well known there are lands left for settlements for many miles together on the line of road," and that wont do, therefore it must be some such road as I have described that you want now, to improve the County.

Now, Mr Contractor, what a contumacious, brazen-faced blockhead you must be. By what rule of logic do you mean to reconcile the foregoing statements and inconsistencies? Sir, I never refused to sign a petition in favour of the Matapedia road, and never saw any but those which originated with myself, and I defy any person to say otherwise, and speak the truth; and Sir, I believe that I was the first person that contended that a practicable and good line of road could be got by the Matapedia river, and did so from practical search and observation. I have never passed up or down this river for the last sixteen or seventeen years (if I had an hour to spare) but I was on the look out for the best line that could possibly be found and to devise some plan how to obviate and overcome any or all the difficulties which nature had placed in the way. There is not a pass, there is not a gulch, there is not a brook, or perhaps a hundred square acres of ground on the Matapedia, proper, but what I know or have passed over, and I fear not to say, that the foregoing facts will be borne out by the present Superintendent, as well as many other respectable persons in the country. I have done more, Sir, I furnished a good deal of information on this subject. I induced a gentleman on a tour of pleasure, who now, I believe, holds a high and responsible situation in the Government of the Province, to accompany me on a cruise of four or five days up the Matapedia, for the express purpose of examining the line of road, and the insurmountable obstacles that were said to exist; and after seeing and examining all for himself—he exclaimed "Good God, can it be possible, that in the nineteenth century the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick, on their Northern borders, are but connected by a Dog path, and Her Majesty's mails conveyed by Dogs."—Long before it was known to any in this quarter, that a Grant was about to be passed for opening this road, I received a Letter from this gentleman, acquainting me of the fact, and the movements of the Government in reference to it. I give below an extract from this letter, which is dated at Toronto, on the 17th May, 1857.

The writer says, after accounting for his long delay in writing—"I was in the hope, from time to time, and week to week, that I would have something to write about, which would be a subject of the greatest satisfaction and importance to your part of the country: that hope has at length been realised in the appropriation of £2,500, for making a road by the valley of the Matapedia. * * In reference to the appropriation for the Matapedia road, I may safely say, that it is only an instalment of what is to be done, for you will perceive that it is adopted into the general plan of Government for pushing road improvements to the extremities of the Province. I do not know whether I have any merit in drawing the attention of the Government to the beautiful Restigouche and Bay de Chaleur, but on looking over the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, his remarks about the Matapedia valley, if not mine, are very much like them."

Now Sir, I do think, that I have spent more money, expended more time, done more writing, (privately and publicly) to bring this, my adopted country into that notice to which it is justly entitled, which will prove of vast importance to succeeding generations, and ultimately of more intrinsic value than if you, and your "honest Scotchman" would do, if you pursued your present course, in a century.

But where were you all this time with your "writings?" no doubt, lying by like some dumb dog at ease, and living on the fat of the land. And supposing, Sir, I had refused to sign a petition in favour of this road, you should have been the last person to have found fault, or to be offended, as you consider me only an ass, born in a garret, and brought up in a kitchen, and from the outscourings of the earth: the name of such an individual would be no ornament to any petition, it could bear no weight, and perhaps be the means of defeating the object most dear to your HEART, and which you "always advocated."

You say—"my writings only attack private individuals." If it be character you mean, I would just say in the most quiet way—that I beg leave to deny it, except when goaded on by some Jack-ass driver like yourself, knowing too well the tender gauze covering that many persons in this quarter are enveloped in. I do confidently hope and trust that some of my writings will bring forth fruit when you and I have passed away from the land of Jack-asses; and as to whether my writings are "only calculated to hurt the circulation of the paper they are published in" or not, the publisher must be the best judge of the matter. It may do well enough, now and then, for an Editor to publish such a Letter as yours, if it were for no other purpose than to show his patrons the stupid materials that Editors are sometimes bored with; and were more of them to follow the example set them by the Editor of the Colonial Times, it perhaps would result in some good, as it would give a chance to some Jack-ass like myself, to take a spell at kicking them. This would be better than employing their time committing to the flames such precious arti-

cles, of which your Letter may be taken as a specimen. It is an unfortunate circumstance, that there are other noodies in the world beside yourself, who fancy that an Editor is a kind of pack horse, on whom they have a right to throw their burdens, when their spirits become elevated or their brains overcharged with wisdom; and when so over-burdened, imagine all they have to do is to dirty a piece of paper, send it to an Editor, and he is bound to fix it up for them.

I hear that you have said that your inimitable Letter was mutilated. For shame, to throw all the blame of the blunders in grammar, orthography, punctuation, &c., on the Editor of the Times, and he a schoolmaster, a teacher of all these acquirements. How ungenerous—but who will believe you? I question if any liberties that could be taken with it, either by the Editor or his devil, could injure it—and I have an idea, that if any alteration was made, it must have been for the better.

I have some more thoughts to pen on this subject, and as I have occupied space enough, I shall defer them to next week.

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1857.

TERMS.—New Subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old Subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 15s. 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.

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.

CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

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SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited December 7, 1857, £372 9 5
Withdrawn, including interest,
December 8, 331 14 11

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Full Moon 30th, 5h 11m, P.M. HIGH WATER.

27 S.	Sun. after Chistms., S. John.	1h 21	1h 56
28 M.	Innocent's Day,	2 32	3 9
26 T.	Royal Society estblshd. 1660	3 41	4 15
30 W.		4 45	5 14
31 Th.		5 50	6 15
1 F.	JANUARY, Circumcision.	6 44	7 9
2 S.		7 35	7 58

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, 2h 30m.—Bathurst, 2h 45m.—Dalhousie, 2h 50m from the above.

AFFAIRS IN INDIA.

We refer our readers to a long article copied from the London Weekly Times, for a synopsis of the news from this quarter of the globe. It embraces a record of all the events of importance that have transpired during the fortnight which elapsed since the departure of the previous mail. The news is satisfactory. Since the fall of Delhi the British and their auxiliaries, have been actively employed driving the rebels and their friends from one town to another, and thinning their ranks with fearful slaughter. The position of General Havelock, who relieved our brave countrymen at Lucknow, and who remained at that place at the latest date, is somewhat critical. He was surrounded by a large body of the disaffected, but as he had an abundant supply of provisions, and as his followers know the doom that awaits them, and the large body of females and children who have been so long incarcerated within the walls of the city, hopes are entertained that they will be enabled to hold their position until the large force which Sir Colin Campbell was leading to their relief came up.

It is confidently asserted in all the leading London Journals, that the days of the Directorship of the East India Company, are numbered. India—the Times says—is to be brought immediately under the controul of the Crown and Parliament, with such a machinery of administration as shall be thought conducive to its welfare. The greatest dependency of the

Empire will receive the benefits of direct Parliamentary supervision and direct Ministerial responsibility. Under such a system we cannot doubt that the nation which has conquered and re-conquered India, will soon urge it onward with new force in the path of improvement. The Weekly Dispatch of the 29th November, contains the following paragraphs on the same subject.

"It will be seen from an announcement in another part of the paper, that it is the intention of Government to abolish the Directory of the East India Company, and to assume, in the name of the Queen, and under Parliamentary responsibility, the Government of India. The Times announces this—the Globe confirms it.

"Before the discoveries which the recent mutiny has brought on, those who were watching with anxiety, and often with indignation, the conduct of Indian affairs, would have rejoiced, by any simplification of the Indian Government, to be able to fix some party as answerable for wrong. It was difficult beyond measure to get English politicians to attend to Indian concerns at all, and to induce them to trace a proved crime through the mysteries purposely raised in the way by three Governments, each sworn to keep the others' secrets to the real perpetrator or the active projector. was a task which the boldest reformer or the bitterest antagonist of injustice felt to be impossible. Wherever the attempt was made, it was effectually baffled. The grievance became stale, its assailant was voted 'a bore,' and the unwelcome subject would far more certainly destroy the public character of him who urged it than he could destroy the evil he denounced. To bring any one face to face with the public to account for scandalous transactions, was, therefore, a prudent step. All could not be done, but it would be something to be able to brand the foulest acts on the brows of their authors. The shame would weary and damage them, and force a change from better to better.

"England is aroused now. The women and children of this country have been massacred with an atrocity beyond example, and it would not have been so if the Government had done its duty; and the most palpable overt acts of the culpability are directly traceable to the Royal Government, not to the East India Company. For example, who appointed General Anson? We have now something better before us than a choice of known evils, and a roundabout tedious method of reform. The topics which was once the signal for weariness, is now the alarm to our hearts and intellects. We need not make any such terms as we once must have made, and we will not. The first thing is the investigation of the history of the leading blunders and crimes of the last twenty or thirty years. We must tear aside all secrecy. Perhaps, indeed, the final danger of their order will open the mouths of the directors and their friends. They must be absolved from all oaths of secrecy, if any such now bind them. They must tell all, be answered, and reply. Then we shall judge with knowledge. As the subject is elsewhere well discussed in this journal, we content ourselves with this protest on the announcement to-day. We shall watch the matter throughout, and prepare for battle on it as the fate of an empire should be contested."

THE MORALITY AND HONESTY OF TRADE.

The British papers still report the failure of numerous mercantile firms, some of them of long standing and reputation, and others of recent creation. Many of those concerns have failed for very heavy amounts, and the assets they show, hold out but poor prospects for their creditors.

It appears by the investigations that have taken place of the management of several of the Banks that have given way under the pressure, and the system pursued by some of the mercantile concerns in the same predicament—the expensive style of living indulged in by the partners—the frauds perpetrated—the schemes adopted to raise money to keep themselves afloat, develop a system of business totally at variance with the previous notions universally entertained of the stability, honor, and integrity of British merchants. A very large portion of our English papers are occupied with the details of these frauds and manœuvres, as they are developed before the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, as well as Editorial articles pointing out the ruinous effects of such a system of trade, and the evils that must result to the nation, if such practices are allowed any longer to be indulged in. We give a specimen of these Editorials below, copied from Lloyd's London Weekly of the 29th November. Sufficient is said and reported in this article, and what we have published in previous numbers of the Gleaner, to give our readers an inkling of the fraudulent means frequently resorted to 'to raise the wind.'

"We have already had occasion to comment on the reputation for double-dealing—nay, for downright dishonesty—which during the last

two years English merchants have managed to acquire. But the revelations of the present month have shown their reputation in a new light. Well may it be asked, 'Are the trading classes of England unsound to the core?' and as well may it be asked, 'Are they not also a most accommodating class?' See how Brown and Jones back the credit of Robinson and Company.

"Turn," wrote the city correspondent of the Times on Thursday last, 'to the Bankruptcy reports in the Times of to-day.'

"The first case is that of Mr Banes. He has been one of the acceptors for the Glasgow firms patronised by the Western Bank. His charge for the operation was 1 per cent, and in two years he earned in this way £600 or £700. He also employed other people to accept bills on their account. Two young women, shopkeepers at the west-end, and a Mr Hopperton, of Oxford-street, were among the parties. The women gave their signatures as required, 'probably without knowing the amount,' and Mr Hopperton accepted in blank. The next case is that of Mr Warwick, a London Warehouseman. He was one of the acceptors for Monteith, of Glasgow, for whom the Western bank are said to have discounted bills for £400,000. Then comes that of Mr R. J. Brown, of Newcastle. His business also was carried on by accommodation paper, and he appears to have relied on the Northumberland and Durham district bank. According to the statement of the opposing creditors, he was 'a needy, reckless, and improvident trader, who went on as long as he could get assistance from the banking companies, to whom he was at the time of his stoppage under discount £200,000.' Here is the experience of a single morning in our law courts, and it may be believed that if the general transactions of all the recently suspended banks could be exposed, this would prove but an insignificant glimpse of a system which has been pursued for years to an extent that has eaten into the heart of British commerce."

"We have here a system of chicanery which it is frightful to contemplate, seeing that the law protects it to the injury of honest folk.

"The winter is fast advancing upon us; and the working classes are likely to find little or no work. The credit of large houses, we are told must be propped up, to stay infinite disasters. Great discount houses obtain vast sums from the Bank of England, and need them, because over speculation has made money scarce—because commercial men have been so very accommodating. This accommodating spirit needs a little explanation. Let us set it familiarly before the reader. The firm of Stiff & Company want money to meet their engagements. They have nothing to represent the money they require; but they have an ingenious correspondent in London who will get up a roll of bills for them. He goes to work. He has 'parties' in various good thoroughfares, who are willing to part with their autographs upon stamped paper for a few shillings. Even women will do. All he wants is a name connected with a business. With his pockets full of blank stamped paper he sets forth on his errand, obtains the requisite number of signatures and returns to his dingy offices in the City. Here he goes through the process of drawing—a process that requires no little culture, to do it to perfection. He avoids round sums—he makes the bills payable in eligible quarters and then he shuffles them like a pack of cards, putting some sound bills in, here and there, which in the eyes of the bankers to whom the pack is to be offered, will stand for trumps. He then forwards the pack to Messrs. Stiff & Co.; they take it to their bankers, and the bankers having added the figures upon the bills into a grand total, and deducted their per centage on the transaction, give the balance in hard cash to their clients. Messrs. Stiff & Co. roll home in their carriage, to dwell, over their port and filberts, on the splendour of British commerce, and the honour of British merchants.

"It will be seen that Glasgow firms—patronised by the Western bank—have been indebted to that most accommodating gentleman, Mr Banes; and to that equally obliging person, Mr Warwick, London warehouseman. The latter gentleman appears to have produced paper for Monteith, of Glasgow, to the value of £400,000. But Mr Warwick seeing, no doubt, the highly remunerative character of the game, was good for any sum. Nor should a gentleman, enjoying the very obliging temperament of Mr R. J. Brown, of Newcastle, be forgotten. He carried on business by the accommodating medium—thanks to the trusting disposition of the Northumberland and Durham District bank directors. Brown was no mere dabbler—as may be gathered from the fact that when he 'stopped' he had £200,000 of bills in the hands of banking companies.

"It is pleasant to see the merchant prince rolling home behind his bays. John Bull has been wont to look at the encouraging picture, and exclaim: 'Behold the result of Saxon energy, Saxon industry, Saxon honesty!' Yet, says the Times, 'Are the trading classes of England unsound to the core?' We would avoid the question, for we see the broad-cast misery an affirmative implies. We see banks stopped, their coffers emptied by the craft of rascals.—We note thousands of families that had confided the savings of honest men's hard-worked lives to the care of bank directors, stripped, and sent penniless into the world. We foreshadow tens of thousands of working men without bread for their children: the money that should have paid their wages having passed into the hands of 'accommodating' merchants. We are told, by way of example, that 'terrible distress is likely to be felt throughout the entire district, and among all classes,' by the stoppage of the