

Communications.

To the Rate-Payers of the Parish of Chatham.

GENTLEMEN,—In the last "Gleaner" there appeared a communication over the signature of Mr James Patterson, (one of the Overseers of Poor for 1857) in which he states, that in justice to himself and brother officers, he feels bound to contradict my denial of charges made against me by these Overseers in a previous communication.

In the first place, he says I violated a breach of promise. What this promise was, I would like to know from Mr Jas. Patterson, if he can tell.

It is very true indeed what he says about it requiring two parties at least to make a bargain, and that one story is very good until another is told. This will especially apply, where the first story told is a false one, as I can prove the one told by these men to be.

One argument used against me by these persons was a statement furnished by me in conversation with them, which was: that either in the fall of 1856 or the spring of 1857, this family got from Halifax, 2 barrels of Meal, or Flour, and some other things, all of which came by Capt. Watt, who can be referred to. This I told to Mr B. Stapledon before the first session of these Overseers appeared in print, and I told the same to Mr Jas. Patterson before his article made its appearance. But in what way have they brought it before the Public? By omitting the word either, and substituting the word "and" for "or," they have made it appear to those not acquainted with the facts of the case, that this family received supplies from Halifax at two different times, and that I was a party to what they style imposition on the Public. It could not have been this family who practised imposition, as, from the time they received these supplies (about which these very charitable Overseers made such a great outcry) till the Overseers for 1858 went into office, they have not had any assistance from the Parish. When they did apply for assistance they were refused it, for reasons known to the Overseers for 1857.

Mr Jas. Patterson has also treated the Public to a small portion of a private conversation which I had with him in regard to Poor Rates, &c. At the time, I had no idea that Mr J. Patterson was collecting materials for his communication against me, or that I would ever see this conversation mutilated, and such portions as suited his views put into print. This is of a piece with the rest of the actions of him and his brother officers in this affair. As Mr Patterson doubtless came prepared to take notes of all that passed between us, perhaps he can favour us with the whole substance of the conversation. This would be more manly than what he has done, giving only a small portion, and that portion to suit himself. I am not ashamed of anything that I said at the time, though I can assure Mr Patterson that if I thought that he intended doing as he has done, our conversation would have been much shorter.

In regard to what he states about my ridiculing the Scriptures, surely none but a very narrow mind could form such an idea from what I said. Nothing was further from my thoughts than this, when I recommended the Overseers to apply a small portion of Scripture to their own acts.

Nearly the remaining half of his article Mr Patterson devotes to calling attention to the fact of his having been requested to fill the office of Overseer for part of 1856, which he says he did with "great reluctance." How grateful should the public feel towards him for overcoming this great reluctance, and accepting the office. How doubly grateful should they feel, when "after a great deal of consideration," he consented to fill the office for 1857. He dwells, too, with a great deal of complacency on the idea that he could have been in office for 1858, if he would only have allowed his name to be put in nomination, which he "feels satisfied would not have been rejected." Very likely, the public at that time were not aware of Mr P.'s poor grinding propensities. Mr Patterson next proceeds to state that he believes he has acted too long for his own good—he might well have added, for the good of the poor also. Following this belief of his, we have the question of "what next," to which he answers "brow beat for doing my duty." Now, if doing his duty be slandering, abusing, and vilifying the poor, and those who take up their defence, then Mr James Patterson and his brother officers have done their duty very well indeed. The straight-forward course he speaks of pursuing, has been one of falsehood, in all relating to this question, and the plumb that is in his one hand and the square that is in the other has not been able to keep him in a straight course previous to this, though perhaps in future he may be able to keep in the correct path, and "overcome all difficulties in the shapes of bars and shoals that he may have to contend with."

He concludes by asking for a fair and impartial hearing from his fellow rate-payers. There can be no doubt but he will get this, and with it the opinion of every honest man in the community, who can value at his worth, a person who will distort and misrepresent circumstances to suit himself, though it be at the expense of another's character.

Trusting I shall not be obliged again to trouble you in this matter, I am, Gentlemen, Your Fellow Rate-Payer,

JOHN BURKE.

Chatham, March 18, 1858.

To the Editor of the Gleaner.

SIR,—As you are aware the Gleaner has been read in our family for upwards of thirty years, I hope you will not think me to bold in asking you to give these few lines a corner in your next paper.

No doubt as I said before, you are aware I get the Gleaner, my neighbour gets the Colonial Times, and we exchange, so you see we are pretty well posted up with all the news that is going on in the City. I see among other matters the old Overseers and the man that prints the Times appears to be rather at loggerheads. I do not pretend to know much about the matter, only it appears to me rather strange after the men doing the best they could for us, that after two or three years services there would be some snarley creature to bite them, if it were otherwise I should say we were getting into a more salubrious climate, that is just the way in general people get paid for their services. I have noticed the like ever since my arrival in the country, over thirty years. My neighbour and I have perplexed our brains no little to find out the meaning of some words that appeared in the Times quite outlandish to us, I said I thought they were Gaelic, he said French: be that as it may, I hope he will take the hint and send the papers he puts these big words into among his patrons in the city where the folks has a got so much learning, as for us poor country folk, we don't understand such language, for we were never used to it until the Times began to be printed.

I can tell you folks in the Town, something you do not know; I went up to see Mr Brown last Fall, one of our Napan Farmers, and there I saw these poor folk that were sent in there by the Overseers. I had a good deal of conversation with them, and as that poor man who is blind seemed to be speaker, and very intelligent, we had a great crack, and among other things, I asked how he liked to live in the Country; he said he had no fault in life to live where he was, only one thing, he could not get a glass of grog or a fig of tobacco. I told him that the first time I could see any of the Overseers I would see what could be done and try and get him some. A few days after that I had to go to Chatham to do my little marketing, and as my business was with everybody that I could get to buy what I was selling that day. Among other places I called at was in a respectable Mechanic's Shop, in front of the place where they say the Times is printed, and who did I see there but my old friend, that I saw at Mr Brown's. He told me he was trying to raise a few coppers to get some tobacco. They seemed willing to give him, but rather afraid, as they said he would buy grog. As I have told you my business was with everybody that I thought would buy from me, the next place I went was into another respectable Mechanic's shop, direct in rear of the Times Office, and while doing my business there, who should come along but my old friend, on the same errand. In these two places he told all that was there that he had no fault in life to live in the country, but could not get a glass of grog once in a while, nor any tobacco, as for old Hughie, as he is known, got his dinner at my place when on his way to Black River, from Brown's, he told me he had no fault in life to stop at Brown's when he was sick, as he was when he went there, but so soon as he got better, off for Black River, where he said he could get plenty to eat, and he would be d—d if he would stop in a place where he could not get grog when he had health to earn it.

Now Sir, after all I have told you I hope that there will be no animal as bold as to try and tare me to pieces, should such appear, he will find me as tough a bit of grissel as ever he chanced to meet, and if I find him out, and he ever appears in Napan near my place, I will hunt the dogs on him, and such a bow wow as never appeared in Napan.

A NAPAN LAIRD.

Napan, March 11, 1858.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

SIR,—In the Gleaner of the 27th ultimo I observed a Communication over the important signature of "Freeholder," purporting to date from Buatoche, which I believe to have been intended for me, and were it not for one or two sentences it contains I should have treated it in the way all such scandalous productions should be treated. What motives this veracious Buatoche Seion could have in publishing such palpable and barefaced falsehoods I am at a loss to know; but one thing I do know that such a report as the one he alludes to never appeared in public print, and I feel confident no such one ever was in existence, and such being the case the remarks contained in the communication of Freeholder must be intended to misrepresent the report furnished by me as Secretary of the meeting, his assertion that I misstated the name of a member of the Government as such as seconder to one of the resolutions for party purposes I declare to be entirely without foundation. Suffice it to say that the gentleman who thus took part in the meeting is Albert Smith, Esq., of Buatoche, as to that gentleman's occupation I cannot say what it may or may not be, nor can I see what it has to do with the question at issue. I would advise your Buatoche Correspondent when he again attempts to drag people's names before the public to be more particular as to the accuracy of the statements he intends to publish. Trusting you will insert this in your next issue, I am yours, in haste.

JOHN KEAN.

Richibucto, March 6, 1858.

Mr Pierce.

In your Editorial remarks in reference to the erection of Market Houses in the towns of Chatham and Newcastle, I observe your opinion is, that nine-tenths of the farmers are in favor of the Bill now before the House. This statement is no doubt correct, if you mean the farmers who live at no great distance from these towns, but if it refers to the farmers of the County, I can assure you it is not correct, but on the contrary, in the out parishes, nine-tenths of the farmers are opposed to the scheme.

The plan may do very well for the town of Chatham, and if so—build a market house by all means, and if the people of Newcastle think themselves large enough for such an "Institution," let them also erect one, but in common honesty, do not ask the County to pay for them. What benefit can accrue to Ludlow, Blissfield, Blackville, Hardwicke, Alnwick, and even the greater part of Nelson and Northesk, very little, if any, and to tax those Parishes for the erection of the building, is preposterous in the extreme. The farmers from these Parishes pay quite tax enough, in the expense incurred in bringing their produce to market, without the additional tax by way of assessment. The "City Fathers" in Chatham and Newcastle have already shown a marked determination to get certain things done for these towns at the expense of the County. Witness the "Police Force for Chatham;" the "Public Wharf in Newcastle," &c., and it certainly is no wonder if the out Parishes should take the alarm at any further attempt, from whatever source to impose an unnecessary tax upon them. There may be a good reason why the County should be assessed for these Market Houses, but certainly, strong powers of vision must be necessary to see it, and I hesitate not to say, that if they are erected by a County assessment, a wrong is done to the people generally.

It is to be hoped the Legislature will see the injustice of passing such a Bill, the sole object of which is, to "benefit the few at the expense of the many."

VERITAS.

March 15, 1858.

Legislative News.

(By Telegraph to the Chatham Reading Room.)

Fredericton, March 13.

After the reading of the Journals the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole, and passed a bill to amend the act relating to highways. Mr Chandler, Chairman of the Northumberland contested Committee, submitted a report signed by all the Members, the report affirms that the several changes preferred by the petitioning Candidate are not sustained, and is favourable to the sitting Member, Mr Williston. Mr Gilbert introduced a bill, to amend the act relating to the sale of Spirituous Liquors. At 12 o'clock the Attorney General moved that the House go again into consideration of the School Bill, motion opposed by Mr Gray who presented a bill to afford relief to wives and children who have been deserted by their Husbands and Parents. The bill to incorporate the Victoria suspension Bridge Company was committed. It was opposed by most of the Members for the City and County of St. John, supported by Tilley and Gilbert. Progress reported. House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

March 15.

Progress reported on Chandler's bill, to abolish imprisonment for debt: feeling of House in favour of bill. Provincial Secretary laid before the House report of Board of Health for City and County of St. John. Williston's disqualification bill passed with sundry amendments. School bill was taken up in the afternoon. The first section passed without opposition. Salary of Superintendent fixed at £300, assistant or clerk £150. To the second section Mr Allan moved an amendment, which he finally withdrew, section then passed. The third section relative to changing the number of Inspectors, was opposed by McMillan, McPhelim and others, supported by Wilmot and Gilmour, progress reported.

There is a disposition in the House, to get through with business as rapidly as possible, Mr Mitchell suggested that Committees should meet either in the evening or at 8 o'clock in the mornings. Hon. Postmaster General applied for leave of absence for a few days. House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

March 16.

A long discussion took place on the motion to add a suspending clause to the Disqualification Bill, the motion was strenuously opposed by Mr Mitchell but finally prevailed. Progress was reported on a bill to amend the bill relating to Municipalities. A resolution submitted by Mr C. Perley to impose a tax on Wilderness Land for the purpose of making and improving Roads passed without discussion. The consideration of the School Bill was resumed in the afternoon, Mr Botsford proposed an amendment to the Third Section to the effect that the same number of Inspectors, 14 should be continued as at present, only 4 Members voted. Salary fixed at £250. Mr Gray moved an amendment to the 4th section, to the effect that the City of St. John should be divided into 4 instead of 2 parishes, motion lost, only 4 Members voting for it. Section then passed entire, when progress was reported. Attorney General gave notice that on Saturday he should move the House into a Committee of the whole in consideration of an address on the subject of an Inter-Colonial Rail-

way. The Allan bill was again introduced under a new title. House adjourned a few minutes before 6 o'clock.

March 17.

House was occupied with unimportant business this morning. W. E. Perley gave notice of intention to move an address, with a view of ascertaining the number of Pensioners now existing in the several counties of the Province. The House went into Committee on the subject of the correspondence relative to Inter-Colonial Railways. Mr DesBrisay moved a resolution, which was treated as expressing want of confidence in the Government. Progress reported. The Bill to amend the act relating to the opening of Canterbury Street, St. John, passed in Committee, with some amendments. At half-past 12 o'clock Mr End moved that House adjourn until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock. The reason he urged for adjournment, was, that several members were obliged to be absent on the Railway Committee, and another very important reason was, that this was the anniversary of the Patron Saint of Ireland. Mr Brown remarked that Saint Patrick was a Scotchman, Mr McPhelim said he was a Frenchman. The motion was debated for 20 minutes, and the adjournment was carried by the following division. Yeas, Mitchell, End, Gray, Wilmot, Chandler, McPhelim, McIntosh, DesBrisay, Read, Williston, Botsford, McLellan, Lewis, McMillan, McPherson, Allan, Scotell, Vail, Gilbert, Hannington, Kerr, Montgomery, 22. Nays—Tilley, Brown, Smith, Watters, Fisher, McAdam, Gilmour, Tibbits, McLeod, Steadman, Tapley, Connell, C. Perley, W. E. Perley, Ferris, Cudlip, Wright, 17.

March 18.

After the reading of the Journals, the House went into committee on a bill introduced by Mr Chandler providing for Preservation of Peace among the labourers of St. Andrew's and Woodstock Railway. Mr Tibbits moved a Resolution that the Offices of Receiver-General and Provincial Treasurer should be consolidated; resolution gave rise to much discussion as to the measure that should be adopted for the better carrying out of Responsible Government. Progress reported. Mr Gray's Bill to amend Election Law passed with certain amendments. Several more separate School Petitions were presented. Cudlip's Resolution to appoint Committees of both Houses to investigate affairs of the Central Bank was before the House and gave rise to much discussion; amendments were proposed that investigation should be extended to all the Banks, the discussion lasted till 5 o'clock, when both amendment and resolution were negatived. Motion was then made to take up the School Bill, and much confusion and unsuccessful attempts to adjourn, the House decided against the motion, with the understanding, that the School Bill will be taken up at 11 o'clock to-morrow. House then went into Committee on Mr Gray's Bill to afford relief to Wives (not Widows, as erroneously copied by some of the papers) and Children, deserted by their Husbands and Parents. Progress reported. Purification Bill passed the upper House. House adjourned at 5½ o'clock.

March 19.

Several Bills were under consideration in the House in the morning. The Bill to divide the Parish of Studholm, in King's County, into two Parishes, passed in Committee; also a like Bill for the division for the Parish of Upham. Mr Mitchell, in accordance with the report of a select committee, submitted the following resolution as a rule of the House:—that no Bill of a private or personal nature be received or entered by this House, unless it shall be certified that the sum of £7 10s. has been paid into the hands of the Receiver-General towards defraying the printing and other contingent expenses of the House, which resolution, after some discussion was adopted by the House. At half-past 11 o'clock the consideration of the School Bill was resumed, and five sections passed without opposition; the sixth section created considerable discussion; Mr Allan urged that the Trustees should be paid for their services, this was not concurred in by the House. The consideration of the School Bill was resumed in the afternoon, Mr McPhelim presented an amendment to the effect that the Trustees should be paid for their services, amendment lost by a large majority. Several other amendments were presented and lost, and the sixth section was carried entire. Progress was then reported. A discussion then took place on Mr DesBrisay's resolution relative to the course pursued by the Government on the subject of a Railway to connect New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; the Attorney General moved an amendment, the principles of which were not discussed. Progress was then reported. At 6 o'clock Mr Gilbert moved that the House adjourn, to meet again this evening at 7 o'clock, seconded by Mr Wright: motion was carried. Hon. Mr Smith moved a reconsideration, seconded by Mr Wilmot; reconsideration carried. House adjourned at 6½ o'clock.

Holloway's Pills produce a most surprising change in cases of general debility. The broken down invalid, whose flaccid muscles and relaxed nervous system have scarcely sufficient vitality to sustain his emaciated form in an erect position, is soon renovated and braced by the invigorating effect of this priceless remedy, and his whole frame is re-animated and filled with energy. His spirits resume their buoyancy, and he feels like a new man. Such is the experience of thousands. Longevity depends in a great measure upon the regular and healthy action of the organs of digestion and excretion, and upon these organs Holloway's Pills operate irresistibly.