

to that benevolent exalted society whose great object was the good of Africa.

In support of the correctness of his Honourable Friend, he felt it a most pleasing duty to declare that all his applications to the Right Honourable Earl at the head of the Colonial Department had been promptly answered, and that every favor having for its object the means of promoting the advantage of this Colony, and the welfare of that interesting class of our fellow-creatures (the Captured Negroes) has been granted. The Illustrious Patron of the African Institution, had lately expressed his feelings for us; from several of the zealous members of that Society, he was bound to acknowledge the spirit of warm assurances of interest—the benevolent Wilberforce—Messrs. Clarkson, Allen, Macaulay, Harrison, and others, had not only exerted all their influence, but they had suggested new plans; they had encouraged, promoted all that was good, all that can lead to virtue; they are now employed in the same manner. He should with pleasure communicate the letters he had lately received from those eminent characters.

His Excellency ended his speech by some appropriate remarks on the high character of the Honourable President of the meeting; the great benefits the Colony had derived from his upright and manly character; his distinguished zeal and abilities; the manner he filled up his high important office; the courtesy, agreeable and dignified style of his eloquence—He could read in their countenances their unanimous assent, and would with their leave propose the health of the Honourable Edward Fitzgerald.

The toast was drunk with great and universal applause, with three times three.

[The Vice-President and several other Gentlemen afterwards addressed the company in neat speeches: A great number of convivial toasts and songs followed, and the enjoyment of the evening was continued with the most cordial hilarity till 11 o'clock, when His Excellency the Governor retired, accompanied by the Chief Justice, the Officers of His Excellency's Staff, &c. &c.]

From the London Literary Gazette.

NATURAL HISTORY OF ALGERIA.

(From Panam's Narrative.)

After taking a historical and geographical view of this country, M. Panam passes to its various productions:

A happy combination of warmth and humidity gives a great degree both of vigour and magnificence to the vegetable productions of Barbary. Although the lower class subsist principally on barley, yet wheat and Indian corn are extremely abundant. There is also a species of chick-peas, which is roasted in a pan, and thus forms an important article of consumption amongst the people. The prickly pear abounds all over this country, and what it wants in picturesque beauty, is made up by its utility; for, while the tree forms an impenetrable hedge, the fruit is excessively nutritive and wholesome. Vines grow to a prodigious height, and passing naturally from one tree to another, form beautiful arbours: their size is equally remarkable, being sometimes as large as the root as a tolerably proportioned olive-tree. The latter is also a very favourite production of northern Africa: and besides the immense quantity of trees, wild and cultivated, the Algerine territory produces a small thorny tree, which bears a fruit equal in size and flavour to the large olive of Spain. Their pomegranates are at least three times larger than those of Italy, and the pumpkins grow to an enormous magnitude. In addition to all these fruits common to Europe, the oranges and figs of this country are of the most exquisite flavour; the chestnut-tree does not grow to a very large size in Barbary, but the nut, though small, is very sweet. The oaks are in some places, particularly on the sea coast, of an immense size, and extremely lofty; of these the *quercus ballota* of naturalists also abounds, its acorn being very nourishing to several animals, and not unlike the wild chestnut. This important tree, so well known in Spain, would also be a great acquisition to Italy, into which it has not hitherto been introduced. Amongst different species of the cypress, there is one seen in the vicinity of Algiers, remarkable for its unusual loftiness and pyramidal form; the almond and mulberry tree are also found in great plenty. The *indigofera glauca* yields a valuable dye; and there is a highly esteemed medicinal plant found in this part of Africa, vulgarly called *cineraria*, which is considered by the natives as a sovereign

remedy in several diseases. Another herb, the *xenna*, furnishes the inhabitants with the celebrated juice with which their nails are tinged. Amongst botanical plants is the *scilla maritima*, the *bulbosa radicata*, and dwarf palm, yields an exceedingly small date, also the *saccharum colendricum*, and *agrostis pungens*. In the more arid vallies are to be found the *reseda odorata*, *crica arborea*, and superb *cactus*, all of which afford excellent pasture for lambs, while they perfume the air with grateful odours; also the laurel rose, which cheers and vivifies the country, when all other flowers are dried up by autumnal heat. The hills are covered with thyme and rosemary, which at once purify the atmosphere, and supply in many places the deficiencies of fuel. The traveller's sight is also continually regaled with extensive tracts thickly planted with roses of every hue, for the distillation of the famous essence or otto of roses so well known in Europe. This fine climate has at all times been highly favourable to the culture of sugar cane; that of *Soliman* being considered the largest and most prolific of any in the world. Indeed this plant is thought by many to be indigenous to Barbary; from whence, together with Sicily, it was originally supplied to the West India islands. But the most celebrated tree in Africa is the *lorus*, equally renowned by poets and naturalists.

The Palm is also one of the greatest blessings to this favoured land. We rather think that M. Panam compiles too much in this part of his work, describing the horses, mules, asses, camels, &c. of Barbary; these, with their habits, are sufficiently known to every reader.

Of the reptile and insect tribes, though not much more novel, there is a curious account, from the close of which we copy a part.

The natives frequently amuse themselves by a curious kind of warfare, which is created by shutting up a scorpion and a rat together in a close cage, when a terrible contest ensues. I have seen this continue sometimes for above an hour; it generally ends by the death of the scorpion; but in a little time after the rat begins to swell, and, in violent convulsions, soon shares the fate of his vanquished enemy. It is also a favourite diversion with the Moors, to surround one of these reptiles with a circle of straw, to which fire is applied; after making several attempts to pass the flames, it turns on itself, and thus becomes its own executioner.

The most destructive part of the insect tribe, and which is justly considered as the greatest scourge in Africa, remains to be noticed: this is the locust: it is much larger than the horse-fly of Italy; some have the wings marked with brown spots, while the body is of a bright yellow. They are dry and vigorous, like other insects inhabiting the desert. What is called the red skipper of this tribe, does by far the most injury to vegetation. They generally begin to appear early in May, spreading themselves over the plains and vallies to deposit their eggs; which, in another month, send forth the young, when they immediately associate in prodigious numbers, often forming a compact phalanx, which covers several acres of ground. In this order they continue a direct course, and with amazing rapidity consume every particle of fruit, vegetables, and corn, that may lie in their way; thus destroying all the hopes of the husbandman and farmer. On these occasions the whole population of the district through which the insect army passes, is occupied in devising the best means of getting rid of such unprofitable visitors: for this purpose ditches are dug and filled with water; at other times, recourse is had to large bonfires, but all is to no purpose with these devastators, whose chiefs seem to direct them with the precision of regular troops, constantly stimulating them to the *pas de charge*, and from their unceasing progress, appear as if they were continually repeating *en avant*.

Without ever stopping, or turning aside, they rush with impetuosity into the flames, until they are fairly extinguished by their numbers. They also fill the ditches: and when these obstacles are removed, the rear advances over their bodies, rendering it impossible for any part of those before to retreat, if ever so well inclined: they are thus left no alternative between death and victory: the living passing with perfect indifference over the suffocated bodies of

* This very singular fact is finely alluded to by Lord Byron, in his *Caesar*—Ed.

their companions, the journey is pursued without any intermission.

Two or three days after the first passage, other bodies, equally large, and prompted by the same destructive interperity, follow in their steps, devouring the bark and branches of those very trees which their predecessors had already stripped of leaves and fruit. "For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt."—Exod. x. 15.

Having continued this predatory warfare for nearly a month, and laid waste the whole country, they reach their natural growth: this is the signal for their undergoing a partial metamorphosis, by changing their coat; an operation which is effected by fixing themselves on bushes or rocks, and it does not require more than ten minutes before they are enabled to appear in their new dress: lying for a short interval after this in a state of languor, the heat of the sun soon gives fresh vigour to their wings, by removing the humidity, and they are once more restored to their original activity. Taking a higher flight, their numbers darken the air, while the sound of their wings is heard for several miles. The unchangeable steadiness with which this singular tribe act in concert during their irruption, seems to imply a regular direction, rather than its being the mere effect of instinct.

Whenever a country is condemned to the above terrible visitation, nothing can exceed the alarm created amongst the inhabitants, and with good reason, for woe to the district over which they pass! All is destroyed in little more than the space of an hour: they do not suffer even a leaf or blade of grass to remain, destroying every appearance of vegetation. During their short stay, they have all the inquietude and instability of hunger: wild as the country they inhabit, it is impossible for any one to get near them. Often, while following their dilatory course, they push on too far, and are precipitated into the sea; at other times, a sudden north wind destroys them by millions, when the country is immediately covered for many miles by their putrid bodies, which is frequently the source of pestilential diseases. They have also, upon more than one occasion, when highly favoured by the weather, found their way to the coast of France, Spain, and Italy.

If the Moors were less indolent, or less blinded by superstition, much might be done towards the total destruction of these voracious insects, when their eggs are first laid; but, in addition to their favourite doctrine of predestination, which accelerates many a serious calamity, the Arabs and negroes firmly believe in the existence of a bird called the *samarog*; which destroys the locust, as storks do serpents and other reptiles: with this fabulous notion, the boys who happen to take up one in their hand, cry out *samarog*: and on its trembling, or making any effort to escape, they immediately fancy it must be produced from heating the name of their implacable enemy pronounced.

It is also related that the Arabs go to Korazan, the country of the *samarog*, and bring a pitcher of water back to their own dwellings: it attracts the bird, who is thus induced to come and make war on the locust.

Whenever any district is attacked, as already observed, the whole population unites in every possible effort to dislodge the enemy: but seeing the inutilty of these efforts, they not only cease any longer to torment themselves at the disappointment, but very wisely endeavour to turn their misfortune into a source of some advantage; this is effected by beating the bushes and trees, on which the locusts settle, and on their falling off, putting them into sacks prepared for the purpose; they are then boiled, and after being dried on the terrace, are considered as very good eating. I have tasted some that were fried in a pan, and broiled; they are by no means unpalatable, and something like sprats, though not very wholesome: the natives seem to swallow them with a particular zest. This insect is, I believe, the *acridis* of the ancients; and, according to some historians, ministered to the wants of the Anchorites in the Thebaid.

A liberal Price will be given for a Copy of the LAWS of this PROVINCE, from 1786 to 1805.—Enquire at this Office.

FREDERICTON, (N.B.)

22D SEPTEMBER, 1818.

(Papers to the Gazette.)

His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR has been pleased to appoint JAMES ALEXANDER HARVEY, Esquire, to be Marshal in the Court of Admiralty, in the room of JOHN CHALONER, Esquire, resigned.

A Proposal for erecting a National Monument to the memory of Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES and Saxe-Cobourg, having been transmitted to His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR by the Secretary of the Committee appointed for that purpose, in order that all Persons in this Province who wish to join in a national expression of respect and affection for her exalted virtue by contributing to this undertaking may have an opportunity afforded them for doing so.—A Meeting is requested to be held at the Province Hall on Monday next, at one o'clock, and it is hoped will be fully attended.

The Proposal was not received here in time for this day's Paper, but will appear in our next. It will also be communicated at the Meeting on Monday. The Subscription is limited not to exceed One Guinea for each Subscriber.

The following is a copy of the manifest of the brig *James*, from Liverpool, and *Mariner*, from Port-Glasgow, their arrivals at Miramichi were inserted in our last:—

Brig *James*—50 firkins butter, 9 puns rum, 100 barrels pork, 8720 bushels salt, 20 cwt barley, 20 cwt oatmeal, 20 qrs split peas, 12 boxes candles, 2 boxes soap, 1 trunk 1 box saddle, 5 crates tinware, and 24 cwt wro't iron.

Brig *Mariner*—2 bales, 3 hhds, 4 trunks, 5 boxes British merchandise, 224 cwt sugar, 23 puns rum, 1 cask hams, 1 cask beef, 100 barrels pork, 1279 barrels flour, 248 barrels bean meal, 15 barrels oatmeal, 330 sacks oats, 20 sacks barley, 53 pieces stove metal, 8 crates stove pipes, 2 bundles shovels, 250 stones hay, and 24 tons coals.

IN BALLAST. ARRIVED.
5th Sept. Brig *Peggy*, 371 tons, London.
7th Sept. Brig *Aurora*, 212 do, Liverpool.
Snow *Commerce*, 195 do, Halifax.

ACCIDENT.—John M'Kay, (a native of North Britain,) one of the hired-men on board the Steam Boat, fell overboard at the lower end of Ox Island, yesterday afternoon, and was drowned: the Boat was immediately stopped, and every exertion made to save him, but to no effect. It is the opinion of those on board that he was struck by the paddles of the Boat while in the water, as he immediately sunk.

* Several Advertisements omitted this week, will be inserted in our next.

SAINT JOHN, SEPTEMBER 19.

ARRIVED.
Monday, ships *Freelove*, Murray, Greenock, 34 days—A. Johnston—ballast.
Diana, Cameron, Liverpool, 37 days—W. Black—salt, coals, and dry goods.
Brig *Clear-Air*, Adams, Demerara, 37 days—H. Johnston & Co.—rum, sugar, molasses, and hides.
Wednesday, sch'r *Eliza*, Watson, Barbados, 33 days—E. Barlow & Sons—sugar.
Thursday, ship *Nestor*, Thom, Dundee, last from St. Kilda, 29 days—W. Black—ballast.
Friday, brig *Richardson*, Dickenson, Liverpool, 34 days—Robertson & Simpson—ballast.
Mary-Ann, Stennick, Barbados—N. McVeber—sugar, &c.

CLEARED.
Brig *Robert*, Baxter, Barbados—Jumbar—C. Calverley.
Regulator, New-York—coals—Fowler & Ketchum.
Alexander, Hogg, Aberdeen, via Halifax—Robertson & Simpson.
Am. sch'r *Minerva*, Watts, Boston—rum, &c.—T. Millidge.
Am. sloop *President*, York, New-York—rum and plaster—Merritt & Van Horne.

The following vessels have arrived:—
FROM ST. JOHN.
At *Graveland*—Oscar, Ebsworthy.
At *Liverpool*—John & Mary, Nelson.
At *London*—Herald, Snowden, and Willington, Anderson.
At *Plymouth*—William & Amelia, Jones.
At *Cove of Cork*—Browns, Brown.
At *New-York*—Sch'r *Chart*, Dougall, 7 days.
FROM MIRAMICHI.
At *Grangemouth*—George, Consett, and Neve, Jackson.
At *Dundee*—Pilot, Cummings.
At *Whitehaven*—Vigilant, Fortiras.
At *Clyde*—Providence Success, Bowes.
FROM PICTOU.
At *Falmouth*—Elizabeth, Hayden.
At *Leith*—Sprightly, Johnston.
FROM FREDERICTON.
At *Kirkcaldy*—Pillar, Smith.

Public Auction, To-morrow, At 11 o'clock, at the Market-House, SUNDRY GOODS, &c.

AS FOLLOWS:—

SILK Trimmings, Thread Lace, Ribbons, Colored Silk Velvets, Vining Cards, Silk Shawls, White, Black, and Coloured Silk Stockings, Irish Poplin for Dresses, Black Lace Veils, Black Feathers, Ladies' Boots and Shoes, Brown Holland and 2 Pieces Yellow Mores, &c.

ALSO,
3 Barrels Onions, 4 Barrels Ship Bread, 1 Barrel Beans, 1 Box Spermaceti Candles, 4 Boxes Tallow do. and 3 Boxes Soap.
ROBT. SMITH, Auctioneer.
Fredericton, 22d Sept. 1818.