

"The plants are usually spread down to be dew-rotted from the middle of October to the middle of December. A farmer who has a large crop on hand puts them down at different times for his convenience in handling and dressing them. Autumnal rotting is more apt to give the lint a dark and unsightly color than winter rotting. The best ground to expose the plants upon is meadow or grass land, but they are not unfrequently spread over the same field on which they grow. The length of time they ought to remain exposed depends upon the degree of moisture and the temperature of the weather that prevail. In a very wet and warm spell five or six weeks may be long enough. Whether they have been sufficiently rotted or not is determined by experiment. A handful is taken and broken by the hand or applied to the brake, when it can be easily ascertained, by the facility with which the lint can be detached from the stalk, if it be properly rotted. If the plants remain on the ground too long, the fibres lose some of their strength, though a few days longer than necessary, in cold weather, will not do any injury. If they are taken up too soon, that is, before the lint can be easily separated from the woody part of the stalk, it is harsh, and the process of breaking is difficult and troublesome. Snow rotting, that is when the plants, being spread out, remain long enough to rot, (which, however, requires a greater length of time,) bleaches the lint, improves the quality, and makes it nearly as valuable as if it had been water-rotted.

"After the operation of rotting is performed, the plants are again collected together, put in shocks or stacks, or, which is still better, put under a shed or some covering. When it is designed to break and dress them immediately, they are frequently set up against some neighbouring fence. The best period for breaking and dressing is in the months of February and March, and the best sort of weather frosty nights and clear thawing days. The brake cannot be used advantageously in wet or moist weather. It is almost invariably used in this state out of doors and without any cover; and to assist its operation, the laborer often makes a large fire near it, which serves the double purpose of drying the plants and warming himself. It could not be used in damp weather in a house without a kiln or some other means of drying the stalks.

"The brake in general use is the same hand-brake which was originally introduced, and has been always employed here, resembling, though longer than the common flax brake. It is so well known as to render a particular description of it, perhaps, unnecessary. It is a rough contrivance, set upon four legs, about two and a-half feet high. The brake consists of two jaws with slits on each, the lower jaw fixed and immovable, and the upper one movable, so that it may be lifted up by means of a handle inserted into a head or block at the front end of it. The lower jaw has three slats or teeth, made of tough white oak, and the upper two, arranged approaching to about two inches in front, and in such a manner that the slats of the upper jaw play between those of the lower. These slats are about six or seven feet in length, six inches in depth, and about two inches in thickness in their lower edges; they are placed edgewise, rounded a little on their upper edges, which are sharper than those below. The laborer takes his stand by the side of the brake, and, grasping in his left hand as many of the stalks as he can conveniently hold, with his right hand he seizes the handle in the head of the upper jaw, which he lifts, and throwing the handful of stalks between the jaws, repeatedly strikes them by lifting and throwing down the upper jaw. These successive strokes break the woody or reedy part of the stalks into small pieces or shoes, which fall off during the process. He assists their disengagement by striking the handful against a stake, or with a small wooden paddle, until the lint or bark is entirely clean, and completely separated from the woody particles.

"After the above operation is performed, the hemp may be scutched, to soften it, and to strengthen the threads. That process, however, is not thought to be profitable, and is not therefore generally performed by the grower, but is left to the manufacturer, as well as that of beating and hackling it. Scutching is done by the labourer taking in his left hand a handful of the lint, and grasping it firmly, then laying the middle of it upon a semi-circular notch of a perpendicular board of the scutching frame, and striking with the edge of the scutch that part of the lint which hangs down on the board. After giving it repeated strokes, he shakes the handful of lint, replaces it on a notch, and continues to strike and turn all parts of it until it is sufficiently cleansed, and the fibres appear to be even and straight.

"The usual daily task of an able-bodied hand at the brake is eighty pounds weight; but there is a great difference not only in the state of the weather and the condition of the stalks, produced by the greater or less degree in which they have been rotted, but in the dexterity with which the brake is employed. Some hands have been known to break from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds per day. The laborer ties up in one common bundle the work of one day, and in this state it is taken to market and sold. From what has been mentioned, it may be inferred, as the fact is, that the Hemp of some growers is in a much better condition than that of others. When it has been carelessly handled or not sufficiently cleansed, a deduction is made from the price by the purchaser. It is chiefly bought in our villages, and manufactured into cotton, bagging, bales, and other kinds of untarred cordage. The price is not uniform. The extremes have been as low as three and as high as eight dollars for the long hundred, the

customary mode of selling it. The most general price during a term of many years has been from four to five dollars. At five dollars it compensates well the labor of the grower, and is considered more profitable than any thing else the farmer has cultivated.

"The quantity of net Hemp produced to the acre is from six hundred to one thousand weight, varying according to the fertility and preparation of the soil and the state of the season. It is said that the quantity which any field will produce may be anticipated by the average height of the plants throughout the field. Thus if the plants will average eight feet in height, the acre will yield eight hundred weight of Hemp; each foot in height corresponding to a hundred weight of the lint.

"Hemp exhausts the soil slowly, if at all. An old and successful cultivator told me that he had taken thirteen or fourteen successive crops from the same field, and that the last was the best. That was, however, probably owing to a concurrence of favourable circumstances. Nothing cleanses and prepares the earth better for other crops (especially for small grain or grasses,) than Hemp. It eradicates all weeds, and when it is taken off, leaves the field not only clean, but smooth and even."

NOTICE.

YORK COUNTY ALMS HOUSE.

THE Subscriber being at present sole Acting Commissioner of the Poor for the Parish of Fredericton, finds it necessary, in order to avoid as much as possible the frequent interruptions at his Office and residence, to notify all persons having business with him in that capacity, that he will be found at the Office of Joseph Beek, Esquire, on Wednesdays and Saturdays in each week, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock noon.

J. SIMPSON.

Fredericton, 6th April, 1847.

[Head Quarters and Reporter.—2w.]

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

ON Thursday the 29th day of April next, at twelve o'clock, at the Office of Asa Coy, Esquire, Queen Street, Fredericton, for the payment of the debts of the late Henry Smith, of Saint Mary's, in the County of York, Esquire, deceased, in consequence of a deficiency of the personal estate of the deceased for that purpose, pursuant to a Licence obtained from the Court of Chancery, the Lands and Premises following, that is to say:—

1st.—The upper half of lot 83, fronting on King's Street, Fredericton, 33 feet in width, under lease to John M^r Sorley, at a rent of £6 per annum.

2nd.—A piece of Land in rear of the Madras School, Fredericton, 80 feet by 27.

3d.—That tract of Land in the Parish of St. Mary's, adjoining the lower side of the Monckton Grant, and known as the upper half of the Henley Gore. This tract will be sold in lots, agreeably to a plan to be seen at the office of the said Asa Coy.

Terms at Sale.

D. LUDLOW ROBINSON, *Administrator.*

Fredericton, February 23, 1847.

In consequence of the probably unsafe state of the Ice on the River, the sale of the above Property is postponed until Thursday the thirteenth day of May next, at noon, then to take place at the Office of Asa Coy, Esquire.

D. LUDLOW ROBINSON, *Administrator.*

Fredericton, 7th April, 1847.

RAIL ROAD ROOMS,
Saint Andrews, 18th March, 1847.

NOTICE is hereby given, That a General Meeting of the Stockholders in the Saint Andrews and Quebec Rail Road Company, will be held in the Town Hall, in Saint Andrews, on the first Tuesday in May next, for the purpose of electing Directors for the ensuing year, agreeably to the Act of Incorporation.

(4w) GEO. F. CAMPBELL, *Act'g. Sec'y.*

ABSCONDING DEBTOR'S NOTICE.

PUBLIC Notice is hereby given, that a general Meeting of the Creditors of James Quinlin, late of Hopewell, in the County of Albert, Yeoman, an Absconding Debtor, is appointed to be held at the Office of Thomas B. Moore, Esquire, in Hopewell aforesaid, on Thursday the twenty ninth day of April next, at two o'clock in the afternoon; the said Creditors are requested to attend at the time and place mentioned, to examine and see the debts due by the said James Quinlin to each person ascertained.

Given under our hands at Hopewell aforesaid, the seventh day of February, A. D. 1847.

THOS. B. MOORE, } Trustees for all
GEO. CALHOON, } the Creditors of
ELISHA S. ROGERS, } James Quinlin.

Died,

In Fredericton, on Tuesday, the 30th ult., after a brief but painful illness, aged 50 years, Mr. James Willox, Merchant and Saddler; a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and for more than thirty years past, an inhabitant of this City, in which he was universally esteemed; he has left a widow and two children, with an extensive circle of relatives and friends to lament his decease.

All Letters must be Post-paid.

Printed and Published at the Royal Gazette Office, near the Province Buildings, by JOHN SIMPSON, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Wednesday, April 7, 1847.