

## POST OFFICE ABUSES.

The Committee of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, to whom were referred the complaints of the several Printers, in Quebec and Montreal, relative to the illegal exactions of Postage on Newspapers, made a report during the last session to the following effect.

Your Committee have carefully examined the Petition referred to, and taken such information thereon as they could obtain, and on the matters contained in the Instructions of the House, the whole of which will be found in the minutes of Evidence hereunto annexed.

The matters embraced in the references in addition to the Petition of divers Printers and others, complaining of the charges for transmitting Newspapers by Post, are—

1st. The annual receipts and expenditure of the Post Office Department in this Province.

2d. The amount of money remitted by the Department to England.

3d. Costs of transporting the Mail.

4th. Receipts of the different Post Offices.

5th. General management.

6th. Sufficiency or insufficiency of communications by Post in the different districts of the Province.

On the 1st, 2d, and 4th, of these heads, Mr. Stayer, the Deputy Post Master General of British North America, declined giving any information, as well as on the general management of the Post Office concerns.

The total of gross receipts of the Post Office in Canada and Nova Scotia in 1825 and 1826, however, appears by a Return laid before Parliament, and hereunto annexed, to have been—

In 1825. Sterling. In 1826 Sterling.  
Canada, £17,222 6 1, £18,829 2 5  
Nova Scotia, 4,341 13 3, 4,751 10 14

Mr. Stayer asserts that one-half or three-fourths of the amount is military postage.

The Civil Government pays about 1600l. per annum for postage.

With respect to the cost of transmitting the mails your Committee have only been able to ascertain the amount between Quebec and Montreal, which is stated at 1300l. per annum.

It appears that Mr. Stayer declined the offer of Michael Gauvin, at Quebec, with sufficient securities, for the contract, from March, 1829, to April, 1833, although offered at eightpence seven eighths; which would have made a difference in favour of the Post Office, on the existing contract, from April 1829, to April, 1833, of about 600l. for the whole period. Your Committee have however reason to believe that Mr. Stayer was considered by the Postmaster General in England, as not having exceeded his discretion, upon the matter being brought before him by the person who offered to contract at the rate of eightpence seven eighths.

(The Report here goes on to state, the many instances of irregularity and neglect, in the transmission of Mails throughout Lower Canada, and enumerates various populous places, which are deprived of the conveniences attending a regular Post Communication; among others the District of Gaspe has no communication with Quebec, but twice in the winter of 6 or 7 months duration.)

On the Petition of Divers Printers and others relating to the charges for transmitting Newspapers by Mail, your Committee have examined several individuals interested, and they refer to their evidences, and that of the Deputy Postmaster General, in the Minutes annexed.

The sum exacted for weekly papers is four shillings per annum for semi-weekly five shillings. It has risen to this price for weekly papers from one shilling, the price in 1791, at the mere will and pleasure of the Post Office Department.—The amount taken by the Post Office for transmitting the papers is about one-fifth of the price of the papers, including the postage, and the Printers are required to pay it, in some instances, at least, in advance. There is no law to compel the Post Office to carry the Provincial newspapers at less than the common rate of postage; nor any privilege of franking them as in England; hence the Post Office imposes its own terms. These terms are clearly prejudicial to the circulation of intelligence through the newspapers which is so necessary in new countries. They fall heavy on the proprietors of newspapers, for they are bound to pay the Post Office for all their subscribers living at a distance, although the loss and expenses of collection of newspaper subscriptions can hardly be less than 25 per cent.—There is no regular conveyance but by the Post, no regular stages or carriers with whom they or their subscribers can enter into arrangements for the delivery of Newspapers throughout the country.—If the law did not prohibit carrying letters, there is no doubt but that the Newspaper proprietors and their subscribers would find it for their advantage to establish lines, of regular conveyance for themselves.

As to this they remain at the mercy of the Post Office. The total amount paid by them at present, in Lower Canada alone, cannot be much short of £300 per annum, and the circulation of newspapers is much greater in proportion in the Upper Province. Mr. Stayer refused to say whether the amount received from the Printers went into the General Funds of the Post Office or not.

Your committee cannot but regret that there should be any mystery about the receipts, expenditure, and management of the Post Office in the Colony; and that the inhabitants for whose benefit it is instituted should be less exposed to the unfavourable surmises which are frequently

company secrecy as to receipts and expenditure in any public department.

The Post Office is established in the Colonies in virtue of British Statutes. The chief Officers are appointed, and under the directions and controul of the Postmaster General in England. So long as the Post Office is managed so as to be sufficient for the wants of the Colony, there would seem to be no just grounds of complaint that the Supreme authority of the Empire should secure a regular communication throughout the whole of it, by Post; but if the benefit of the Colonies is not also attentively consulted, they will have a right to complain that an exclusive privilege is given to the Post Office which forces them to avail themselves of an insufficient conveyance, while they may suppose the revenue arising from that source is not properly applied for the furthering of the objects for which it is raised.

Your Committee is persuaded, that it is the wish of His Majesty's Government to afford every facility to the regular and expeditious conveyance of letters and intelligence of every description, through the whole Province, which the proper application of the Post Office revenue will permit of. They are also convinced that laudable exertions have been made and are making with this view, by the Deputy Postmaster General. They are, however, of opinion that a representation to His Excellency the Governor in Chief, and through His Excellency to the Colonial minister and the Postmaster General, would tend greatly to accelerate this desirable object, and to obviate every ground of public dissatisfaction which might arise on the subject of this most useful Department of Government.

## UPPER-CANADA.

YORK, JUNE 11.

**Death of Mr. Mudge; private Secretary to His Excellency Sir John Colborne.**—With the most unfeigned sorrow we have to record the melancholy and distressing information of the decease of this gentleman; who was yesterday morning found dead in his bed; having evidently, destroyed himself by discharging a rifle ball into his mouth, and through the brain and skull which were in a dreadfully shattered condition.

An Inquest was immediately held over the body by Dr. Lee the Coroner, before whom Mr. McMahon—principal Clerk in the government office. Mr. Jones—private Tutor in His Excellency's family; the Rev. Mr. Matthews and several other witnesses were examined. From the testimony of the former gentleman it appeared that the deceased had attended to his duties in the government office on Thursday as usual, and that he had not observed any difference in his demeanor. Mr. Jones was on his company on the previous evening, when the unfortunate gentleman appeared to be unusually absent in his mind, and did not converse with his usual familiarity. The deceased dined at the Government House in the evening in company with Colonels Dornford, Wright, and By, Captain Blois and other gentlemen, when the same singularity of demeanor was observed. The deceased returned to his quarters about 9 or 10 o'clock. The Rev. Mr. Matthews who had engaged to meet Mr. Mudge early in the morning of yesterday, to bathe in the Lake, called at his residence between 6 and 7 o'clock, and sent his servant to the room of the deceased, when the servant discovered the unfortunate gentleman, with his head mangled in the dreadful manner above described, with a rifle lying on the left side of the body, and the ramrod of the rifle firmly grasped in the right hand. It was evident that the deceased had held the rifle in his left hand, with its muzzle in his mouth—that he had discharged it by pressing the butt of the ramrod upon the trigger; and that the rifle had recoiled from his hand by the violence of the concussion. It is supposed that the fatal event occurred about midnight as a gun about that time. The deceased had undressed himself, and put out the candle as usual; and when found was lying in the ordinary way with the bed clothing, which was not disturbed; the rifle and ramrod being on the outside upon the counterpane.

The Jury returned a verdict that "the deceased came to his death by shooting himself with a rifle loaded with powder and ball, during a temporary fit of insanity."

In addition to the above we have ascertained that the deceased employed himself during the preceding day in setting up a lithographic press which he remarked would occasion a great saving of labor in the office; and that he wrote several letters on ordinary matters of business after office hours, which were left to be copied as usual, in the clerks office, circumstances which appear to indicate the absence of any intention, at that time, to commit the dreadful act which has been described. Between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon the deceased walked down to the wharf on the arrival of the Steam Packet Canada, to meet his friend Captain Blois on his return from England, and walked with the latter gentleman from the boat to the Government House. The perturbation of mind which was spoken of by Mr. Jones, does not appear to have been observed until a later hour, and at a still later period in the evening, the deceased was seen walking in front of his residence, making use of singular gestures, and being apparently very much agitated.

These are the facts, regarding this sad affair, which have yet come to our knowledge, that can be relied on.—Of course rumor is busy in assigning causes for the deplorable event, but they rest merely upon conjecture.—It has been supposed by many—from the apparent alteration in the spirits of the deceased after the arrival of Captain Blois, that this gentleman might have been the bearer of some information which affected the mind of Mr. M. and led to the mental aberration, under the influence of which the deed was committed. But no facts to justify such a supposition have yet come to the knowledge of the public. In fact no satisfactory clue, whatsoever, to the circumstance which led to the commission of the dreadful act has yet been discovered.

No person was more universally esteemed in the country, than the late Mr. Secretary Mudge:—the gentleness and suavity of his manners and his unassuming demeanor and courteous attention to every one who had occasion to see him on business, or otherwise, rendered him an object of general respect and regard; and we are sure that there are few public officers, and perhaps no one whose death would have created more universal sorrow, or a higher degree of excitement; than that of this unfortunate gentleman.

## ROYAL GAZETTE.

FREDERICTON, JULY 6, 1831.

ALMS HOUSE AND WORK HOUSE.

Commissioner for next week.

D. L. ROBINSON, Esquire.

Saving's Bank.

TRUSTEES NEXT WEEK.

HENRY G. CLOPPER, Esq.

JAMES TAYLOR, Esq.

MR. PETER FISHER.

We are not in possession of later European dates since our last publication, nor have we added much of additional interest to our former stock of news from any other quarter.

The Encenia at King's College, Fredericton, was celebrated, during the last week. On Sunday, June 26th, the Venerable Archdeacon Coster preached the Annual Sermon before the University. The Tuesday and Wednesday were occupied with the Examinations of the College and Collegiate School. A Convocation was held on Thursday, when the Rev. Dr. Jacob pronounced the Annual Oration commemorative of the Founders and Benefactors of the University, and Mr. Henry Smith recited his Essay on the character of King Alfred, for which he received the Douglas Gold Medal. The Silver Medal was awarded to Mr. Francis Stratton, who appeared at the head of the first Class of the School.

**ARRIVAL.**—Brigadier General Wool, of the United States Army, arrived here in the Steam-Boat on Saturday last from St. John, on his way to inspect the Troops at Houlton.

**As we mean to make it an** invariable rule to render the whole of the accounts connected with our establishment, at least once a year; we would beg leave to say to such of our Subscribers as are in arrears since the commencement, that we expect they will be prepared to discharge their respective dues with the person who will soon wait on them for that purpose, or with the different agents for the Gazette. We enter upon the third year of our present occupation on the 1st of next month, and unless the conditions of our office are then complied with, we shall consider ourselves at liberty to proceed as may best suit our own convenience, to enable us to discharge the accumulating demands which are constantly made on us. We feel under peculiar obligations to those of our friends who have promptly afforded us their support, and we humbly look for a continuance of their patronage, which we shall ever be disposed to enjoy.

## FOR THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

When from out the rude chaos the Word of creation Had called into form both the Heavens and Earth, Still something was wanting to effect consummation, When the "morning stars sang," and gave Music its birth."

Yes, and what a delightful and Heavenly consummation it was! Here was the bestowal of that talismanic charm on the Human race, that was to soothe their agitated passions, that was to be to the troubled mind, like oil to the raging waters—a pacifier—a controller. The wisdom and goodness of the Creator appear in high relief upon the contemplation of this gift to man. Who would not live under its dominion? The despotism thereof is liberty, the chains thereof but hold us in a delightful thralldom;—and when it is of a strong natural growth it stands amidst the feelings and the propensities of the soul, holding sweet empire over them all.

But I must turn the current of my thoughts upon the principal object of this communication, which is, the musical entertainment afforded to the public on Saturday last by Mr. Gardiner's pupils, in performing some of their best pieces on the Piano-forte, I speak of myself Sir when I say, that it was a rare entertainment. To those who take any interest in the progress of the "fine arts," it must be truly delightful to witness their rapid advancement in this infant Country, and that too, among the youth of the Land.

On the occasion above mentioned there were, if my memory serves me, eleven performers. The pieces were well chosen, and judiciously adapted to the degree of advancement of each performer. The principal pieces were "the overtures to 'Tancridi' and the 'Caliph of Bagdad.'" The talented young lady who performed the first of these, executed it in a most superior style without Book!! This indeed is an admirable fact! And I doubt whether the like was ever done before, on this side of the Atlantic, or in fact, whether it has been done by any person, not a Professor, in any part of the World. They who are acquainted with the overture will, I think, concur with me. With out any disparagement to Mr. G.'s talents and qualifications as a teacher, I will venture to give it as my opinion that the fair performer of "Tancridi" would confer great credit upon a much better master than her present one. There is no forged adulation here Sir; too much cannot be said in praise of the splendid musical talents, as an instrumental performer, with which the subject of these remarks is endowed.

The *Caliph of Bagdad* ranks next in point of performance. The touch of the young lady who performed this piece, was remarkably fine; and the quick movements throughout, were executed with a correctness and taste, highly creditable to the fair performer. The unison passages, which require such exactness of corresponding motion, were brilliantly struck out. These young ladies, whose single performances I have noticed, played a duetto from *Magnello*, wherein they appeared to exercise the whole power of the instrument.

The next in order, according to my estimation of talent, was the performer of *The King God Bless Him*, with variations. This justly admired, and popular air was very correctly executed; but from some want of attention on the part of Mr. G. at the commencement, it was performed a third too quick to give full effect. The consecutive octaves, ascending and descending, which occurred in the variations, were well touched and correctly timed.

I hasten now to mention the performance of the junior pupil of the whole. How pleasing it was to me, to see and hear an interesting child of 6 or 7 years of age, take her seat at the

Piano-forte, and perform, with surprising correctness, a little *Diverimento*.

This young lady also took the first part of a Duet with her brother, and executed it in a most incredible manner. The fact of a child of 7 years of age performing a piece of harmony where different parts are carried on at the same time, affords a wonderful instance of the improvable nature of our talents in early years. But more of this anon.

The *Rondo* from *Guillaume Tell*, "Rest weary Traveller" with variations, and the duets from *Don Giovanni*, were executed in a style, for which the several young ladies who performed them, deserve much praise. "She never blamed him, never" with variations, was touched off with an execution and taste, which could not be expected from a lad of the performers age. It must indeed have been highly gratifying to his Parents, who were present, to witness the great progress of their son in an art, the practice of which, as a recreation, may in after years withhold him from the Gaming Table, and other haunts of wickedness and immorality.

I have not time now to enter into the merits of all the performances; but taken as a whole, the exhibition of talent and skill was great and pleasing. I must here remark, that in musical matters I have always been an enthusiast, and I am of opinion that many of my speculations on what is called "an ear for music," and its effects on the tone and temperament of the mind of man are quite new, and, it may be, extravagant: whether they are so or not, I expect shortly to enable the public to judge for themselves.

It is to be regretted, Sir, that the pecuniary abilities of Parents in this country, to have their children instructed in the art of Music, bear such a great disproportion to the talents of their offspring. I would have music generally pursued, not as a science, but as an art. It is an innocent and rational mean of enjoyment, which, in social life, can find no rival; and it is also to be regretted, that there are so many parents who could well afford to have their children instructed in the art of Music, who look upon it as a cause of indolence and sloth—as a waste of time—nay—who verily regard the study or pursuit of it, as offering violence to Religion.

AN AMATEUR.

(To be continued.)

## Married.

On the 23th ult. by the Reverend Mr. Coster, Mr. JOHN BARRITT, (Carpenter,) to Miss RACHEL DAVIES, both of this place.

At St. John on Monday evening last, by the Rev. Dr. Burns, Mr. William Cunningham to Miss Ann Townsend.

At the same place, on Monday evening last, by the Rev. Dr. Burns, Mr. Thomas Davies to Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, both of that City.

At the same place, on Thursday evening last, by the Rev. B.G. Gray, Dr. Coredon, Professor of Dental Surgery, Boston, to Miss Harriet Calvert, of that City.

## Died.

On Thursday last, after a long illness, Mr. Francis G. Ward, aged 22 years.

Suddenly, on the 28th ult. of the City of St. John, Mrs. Maria Harriett, wife of Mr. William Flaherty, Merchant, in the 24th year of her age; her memory will be long cherished, and her loss deplored by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.

## CARD.

MR. STREET returns his sincere thanks to the Officers and Men of the Garrison, the Fire Wards, Fire Companies and Fire Club; and to the Inhabitants of Fredericton generally, for their very active and efficient exertions in saving his property from destruction, while it was in the most imminent danger from the extensive Fire which took place in Fredericton, on Monday the 27th June.—Mr. Street being himself from home at the time, feels the more obliged for the able assistance thus rendered to his Family in his absence.

A few copies of the Acts of the Province passed in 1831, may be had at this Office if applied for immediately. 5th July, 1831.

## SHERIFF'S SALES.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

By Virtue of a Writ of Venditioni Exponas to me directed, on Tuesday the 11th day of January next, will be sold by Public Auction at the Court House in Bathurst, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

ALL the right and title of James Lee, to a certain lot of land on which he now resides, situate on little Belldoon brook, about 9 miles above Jacques river in the Parish of Berresford, County of Gloucester.

WM. CARMAN Sheriff.

Bathurst, 20th June, 1831.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of the late Richard Currie (of Queens County) deceased, will render the same duly attested, within six months from the date hereof; And all persons indebted to said estate, are hereby required to make immediate payment.

MARGARET CURRIE.

JOHN CURRIE.

JOSHUA GIDNEY.

Administrators.

## NOTICE TO PENSIONERS.

CONSIDERABLE inconvenience having been experienced from the irregular manner in which Pensioners of Chelsea and Hilmantown Hospitals, have applied for their Pensions, at the Commissariat Offices; NOTICE is hereby given to all concerned, that in future no payments will be made for that service, except in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Commissariat, St. John, 27th June, 1831.

## PAINTING, GILDING, &c.

THE Subscriber, grateful for the encouragement already received, returns his most sincere thanks to his friends and the public in general, and hopes by a strict attention to business to merit a continuance of public patronage. He will execute any of the following branches of his profession on the shortest notice and on most reasonable terms, viz:—

GILDING, BRONZING, VARNISHING, GLAZING,

HOUSE, SIGN, CARRIAGE and ornamental

Chair Painting.

Pictures cleaned and varnished,

ALSO.

Oil Paints and Water Colours for sale, Paints mixt to any shade in large or small quantities.

Wanted an apprentice to the above business.

Orders received for the Saint John Brass Foundry and the work delivered in Fredericton carriage free.

Fredericton, Regent Street }  
June 1st, 1831. }  
JOHN JOHNSTON.

## GREAT BARGAINS.

THE Subscriber wishing to close his Business in a few Months, would inform his Friends and the Public that he is Selling his Stock of

## DRY GOODS,

at Reduced Prices, and will continue until Tuesday the 13th July next.—Then the remaining Stock to be Sold at Public Auction, without reserve.

He would also notify all Persons indebted to him, either by Bond, Note, or Book Account, that payment of the same is called for immediately.

JOHN SMYTH.

St. John, 21st June, 1831.

## A CARD.

Mrs. Miller most respectfully begs leave to acquaint the Ladies of Fredericton and her friends in general, that she has commenced the Millinery and Dress Making business, next door to George Minchin Esq. To enable her to carry it on in a superior style, she has procured a young Lady of the first Abilities in the profession; and she trusts by strict and unremitting attention to business that she will be enabled to give general satisfaction to those Ladies who may be pleased to honor her with their patronage. Fredericton, June 28, 1831.

N. B. Leghorn and Imitation fashions cut and altered to the latest fashions.

## WORKING OXEN.

THE Subscriber has for sale EIGHT YOKE of Working OXEN in good condition, which he will sell low for Cash or on approved Credit. He will always have a stock of the above description of Cattle on hand. GEORGE HARTY.

Fredericton, 28th June, 1831.

## FOR SALE.

BY THE SUBSCRIBER.

HIS FARM, situated two miles below Fredericton, in the Parish of Saint Mary's, York County; it fronts on the River Saint John one hundred and twenty rods; runs four miles back; contains 896 ACRES. He will dispose of it in three equal parts, or in toto; will give possession on the day of Sale, (if required with or without the growing crop); persons wishing to purchase a part or the whole, will by viewing the Premises, be better satisfied by their own observation of the advantages it possesses, than by a lengthy description on paper. CALEB FOWLER

## NOTICE.

GENTEEL Families and the Public, are respectfully informed that a supply of the best Firkin & Fresh Butter, old Cheese, Smoked Hams, Tea, Coffee and Sugars &c. &c. may be had on moderate terms at the Canteen, in the old Barracks.

Entrance from Carlton-Street.

Fredericton 7th June 1831.

## FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

JUST received per late arrivals from Scotland, and for sale at the store of the Subscriber, an assortment of Garden and Flower Seeds. FRANCIS BEVERLY.

## LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office Fredericton June 5th 1831.

A. Miss E. Adams, Sturges Adams, John Appleby, David Armstrong, Wm. Anderson.

B. John Barker, John Bryant, John Burk, John Brenton, Wm. Brown, Michael Brion, Lewis Bradbury, Charles Baihe, Edward Brimkerhoff.

C. John Campbell, Wm. Cragg, Wm. Charters, Thomas Carl, Peter Clements, James Curran, Abigail Cory, Sam. Crooks, George Carters, Thomas Crawford, Sam. Camoran, Miss A. E. Clossie, Wm. Clarke, Pat. Carfil, Pat. Coughlan, Benjamin Coyle.

D. Dan. Dougherty, John Douglas, John Dougherty, Wm. Duker, John Donnelly.

E. Jos. Edgar.

F. John Fraser, John Faries, John Falen, Nathaniel Fletcher, 1 hos. Falvey.

G. Mr. Graham, Alex. Gamble 2, James Good, Jane Graham, Thomas Green, Chas. Gill, Wm. Gardner.

H. Nicholas Honey 2, John P. Hoyt 2, Valentine Harding 2, Wm. Henry, Wm. Hanning, Abigail Hunter, David Hepton, Chas. Hazen, Jas. Hamilton.

J. George Ivey; Wm. Johns, Andrew Jamison, Hugh Jamison, G. Jovett.

K. James Kirk, James Kirkpatrick, Wm. Kenne, Edmond Kennedy.

L. Andrew Love, George Laverty.

M. Thomas Murry, Robt. Michall, Lucia Maines Tho. Moore, Isaac Mills, Alex. Macadam, Peter Maguire, Benjamin Morse, James Marsh, Robert Moodie, Hiram S. Melvine, Sarah Moore, James Morris, Robt. McGee, Robt. M'Clean, John McLean, Dan. McKenley, Christopher M'Cronchie, Dan. McMullen, Mich. M'Callerty, Pat. M'Gruder, Jos. Mc-Mackin.

N. John Nixon, Robt. Nickle.

O. Elenor O'Marro, Ann O'Boyle, Mich. Owens, Pat. O'Neal.

P. James Pender, Frederick Pace, Jonathan Pride, James Palmer.

Q. Patt Quni; John Rea.

R. Mrs. Mehetabel Smith, Edward Seymour, Wm. Starrist, Chapman Smith, Dan. Sweeney.

T. Cathrine Tweedie, John Torvins, Wm. To-vay, James Tweedie, Andrew Taylor, Mary Tibbits, Alex. Tapley.

W. Margaret Wance, Doctor Woodford, John Walsh, John Wills, Emma Williams, Robt. Woods, Wm. Walsh of Prince William.

W. B. PHAIR.