

utter disregard to sanitary or any other wholesome regulations which might be expected from mushroom adventurers, whose only object is to plunder all whom necessity compels to their shops. The unpleasant consequences resulting from this state of things having at length attracted the attention of the authorities, an order designed to remedy it was issued; but to this the motley crowd of speculative foreigners refused obedience, considering any such interference an infringement of their individual and collective rights. For once, however, the local powers resolved to act with energy, and the recalcitrant traders received the option of shutting up or complying with the order given. They closed *en masse*, and for twenty-four hours Kadikoi seemed as dreary as London during the memorable eab strike. At the end of that time, however, seeing that they were likely to gain nothing but loss by their stubbornness, they complied with the sanitary requirements exacted, and opened shop again—confessedly beaten.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, OCTOBER 8, 1855.

There is scarcely anything so dispiriting in a commercial community, or indeed in any other community, as the non-arrival of the mail packet on its regular and accustomed day. Personal loss is inflicted on every one, whether in business or out of business, by the irregularity. The merchant is impatient for his invoices, or advices respecting his last venture—for remittances he expects, or flittingly about others he wants to send, in order to keep his credit good; the news-gatherer frets himself for the want of his papers, so that he may keep his mind well stored with knowledge respecting the transactions in the busy world at large; and how many hundreds are there who do not care a straw for what the big bustling world may do or say, provided they hear at regular intervals from that small particular share of the world whose happiness is inseparably connected with their own—how anxiously does the father or mother look for the arrival of the packet which may bring the long-expected and much desired epistle from the absent son or daughter,—how fitfully does the lover cast his deploring look at the signal-staff which ought to have announced to him, long ago, the arrival of the parcel of delicious nonsense from his sweetheart in "foreign parts;" but there is another class who suffer, perhaps, greater mental torture from irregularity in mail communication—who had been for the previous month counting the days, almost the hours, that must elapse ere the return of "quarter day," the poor pensioners, who had long since spent their last shilling, and had commenced to practise the interesting experiment, usually designated "eating the calf in the cow's belly." Even the Postmaster General—who never has a holiday—who has not, perhaps, taken a pleasant walk for the last twelve months, except on Sunday, if he is not too religious for that—who, like the doctors, can hardly be sure of getting one good night's sleep, without being disturbed by *open or dispatch* some confounded mail or other—even he feels crusty and cross whenever the packet happens to stay away a few hours beyond its regular time. One would think he ought to be glad to get an idle "spell," and wish that adverse winds or tides would keep the confounded packet and its troublesome mail-bags out of his sight; but no, he must be there, as if he were a piece of portable furniture in the office—walks to and fro—looks into the empty boxes—means and frets for having nothing to do, and puts on a melancholy countenance whenever you ask him if the mail may be expected to-day.

Such have been the feelings which agitated our little metropolis from Tuesday down to Friday night. The first day was that on which the *Lady le Marchant* ought to have arrived from Shediac with the United States and Provincial Mails—to leave for Pictou immediately, and bring over the Halifax Mail on the following day. The *Lady* did not deign to honor our harbor with her presence at the expected time. On enquiring at the Post Office, we learned that she was not expected until Wednesday—the Government having allowed her one day to clean and repair. Wednesday passed, and still no steamer; Thursday, no steamer yet. What became of her? what had happened? had she got aground? had she been wrecked? were the enquiries which passed from lip to lip. Schooners arrived from Boston, laden with merchandise—the letters and invoices were in the mail bags. Friday morning—Friday noon—Friday afternoon—still no *Lady le Marchant*; no Mail to Pictou—no Mail from Pictou; the agent from the Commissariat Department, with his bags of dollars, was there, with other intended passengers, waiting for a conveyance to the Island. "Quarter-day" had come and passed; pensioners from various parts of the Island traversed the seemingly deserted streets, chewing the cud of disappointment; the Post Office functionaries looked as melancholy as a churchyard; they could give no encouraging response to the oft-repeated enquiry—"what detains the Packet?"

On Friday evening, however, at half-past seven o'clock, all doubts were solved, and anxieties allayed, by the arrival of the steamer. After repairing at Richibuctou, she proceeded to leave that place on Tuesday at one o'clock, but could not get over the bar of the harbor, owing to a very low tide; having accomplished that, she was next detained off Shediac by a dense fog for about nine hours. Hence her delay. She left Charlottetown harbor an hour and a half after her arrival, and returned from Pictou on Saturday.

We do not wish to be considered as unreasonable grumblers. We have no desire to disparage the *Lady le Marchant*; she is said to be a good sea boat, and can do her work admirably, when put to it; but we must say, that her punctuality is very much impaired by her having to make Richibuctou her head quarters. We pay a large sum of money for the carrying of our mails, and we ought to have them carried without delay and disappointment to the public. It appears to us that this can never be the case, until Charlottetown be made the head quarters of the mail packet. Any steamer can be repaired here quite as well as at Richibuctou, perhaps more speedily; and if not here, certainly at Pictou, where there is a good Foundry, where we have to send for the Mails, and which is the nearest post town to us. The trade with Richibuctou is of no account,—the Mails between this Island, New Brunswick, Canada and the United States, can be very well carried by the sailing packet which plies between Bedouque and Shediac. All we want is a steamer to run between Charlottetown and Pictou. Why should we be troubled and worried because Richibuctou cannot give a better harbor, or Shediac get a perpetual exemption from the laws?

There are some persons who seem to think harshly of the Government for not employing the *Rosbud* in the mail service; and the owner of that boat, in the last *Islander*, makes a shy

at the Administration for their want of liberality in not encouraging domestic enterprise. The Government are not in the least at fault in this matter; Mr. Heard can blame nobody but himself for the "absence of paternal regard" for the *Rosbud*. He built a good substantial boat, and then spoiled her by encumbering her with old machinery that had served its day. The Government manifested every disposition to encourage Mr. Heard's enterprise; they agreed to take his boat, provided, on inspection by competent commissioners, she would be found fit for the service. The commissioners were not political partisans, and hostile to Mr. Heard, or envious of his prosperity. If they were remarkable for any feeling, it was that of sincere friendship for Mr. Heard, and a desire to promote his interests. And what report did they give of the *Rosbud*? why, that she had not power enough to cross the strait in anything like boisterous weather. Could she be accepted as a mail packet, in the face of such a communication? Mr. Heard, in his late advertisement, acknowledges that she was slow, and deficient of power—facts that were abundantly proved on many occasions; but still more incontestably demonstrated by the circumstance of the boat being laid up at the commencement of October, when rough weather had hardly set in, and three months before the closing of the navigation. If the owner of the *Rosbud* had not thrown away his money after the "penny-wise and pound-foolish" fashion, he would have no cause to ensure the Government for the "absence of paternal regard for home enterprise," nor unwisely fancy that "determined opposition" had been arrayed against him.

PARTY MANŒUVRES.

It would give us satisfaction as a public journalist if we could bear testimony to the existence of Party in a wholesome and honorable state. Party, we know, is necessary to the very name of freedom and liberal institutions. Without it, generous emulation and honorable rivalry have neither field nor object. In Great Britain the rules of party warfare do not admit of dishonourable stratagem or base intrigue, and the man who employs either—whether peer or commoner—will not only be despised by his opponents, but considered even by those who may be for the moment gainers by his machinations, unworthy of being a co-partner,—whilst those not immediately engaged in political strife will look upon him as a person not to be trusted. Yes, indeed, it would give us satisfaction if the rules of honor and consistency were here, as elsewhere, the standards of political character. But such is not yet the case; we are not altogether hopeless, that some time hence it may be so. The holding up to public contempt all who disregard character in endeavouring to achieve party success, will, some time or other, shame public men into more honorable practices; and what conscience is too feeble to suggest, public opinion may at length command. We are led into these reflections by the necessity that exists of pointing out the vile combinations which are at present in operation—powerless though they are—with the view of ousting the present holders of office. The conduct of some of the opponents of the Government in reference to what is called the Maine Liquor Law, has been noticed on former occasions, but may be again reviewed. No one, we believe, is so blind but he must have witnessed persons in the House of Assembly advocating total abstinence, who, every day, give the most flagrant practical denial to the principle,—men, to whom alcoholic stimulants are as necessary as their daily bread, professing a willingness to forego their cherished potatoes, for no reason, moral or divine, but because they thought—poor deluded men!—that they might thereby effect an organization for the overthrow of the Government at a later period. They failed in this manœuvre; and thanks to Niel Dow and the exclusive and encroaching character of total abstinence advocates generally, their grasping and offensive disposition has now so displayed itself as to destroy its declared object; and we verily believe that the knowledge obtained from the neighbouring States, that all their prohibitory laws have proved ineffectual to prevent the rich man from getting drunk, is a knowledge which will turn the scale in the minds of some who voted nearer home for a similar measure, should common sense be again set aside, and the attempt renewed to smuggle the Maine Liquor Law into our Statute Book.

The next mode of ousting the Government, which appeared to offer the slightest prospect of success, was still more dishonourable; it shewed up several persons, however, in their true characters. We allude to the escheat movement in the House of Assembly last winter. There we had a Proprietary Agent absenting himself from a division when his employer's interests were at stake. We beheld men who formerly regarded co-operation with Mr. Cooper as the vilest contamination, there echoing and applauding his drivelling imbecility, because the disreputable experiment might serve to divide the Liberal party, and ultimately destroy the government. We beheld those parties, renouncing all their previous denunciations against the long-explored and indefensible maxims so untiringly propagated by Mr. Cooper, then coming to his rescue, and with a political profligacy unexampled, uttering the grossest absurdities, to delude and mislead an honest people, in the vain hope of raising a clamour against the very Government which gave that people free institutions, and used its best endeavours to abolish the leasehold tenure by the only honest and practicable means—and thus forever set at rest the futile, impracticable and mischievous agitation for escheat.

We did hope that a free press and a liberal constitution would have exercised their influence over all, as they have done over the generality of the people of this Island, and, by diffusing more liberal and enlightened opinions, have produced a better state of feeling amongst all classes. We must acknowledge, indeed, that some progress has been made in this direction—that public men are, to some extent, becoming ashamed of pursuing dishonourable courses for party ends; but until we can recognise the full triumph of principle, we will not desist from exposing the paltry tricks and dodges of designing knaves. There are some small minds, we know, that can never be weaned from a tortuous line of policy—to whom the old leaven with which they were nourished in their childhood, or adulterated in their riper years, still adheres, notwithstanding that the bread they feed on has long become musty;—they have adopted a new and most ingenious dodge, and that is, the profession of liberal principles, and the apparent desire to amalgamate with any and every one, whose co-operation is likely to put power and influence in their way. They are ready to fall in with the times; and though reared in the hot-bed of misrule, to which they cling with inveterate tena-

city, they try hard to make persons high in authority believe, that it was quite right to have swept away the misrule, and to have established the present system of Government in its stead. We have our eye upon these parties, and we assure them, that, although they may succeed in deceiving a few unsuspecting persons, their hypocrisy shall not prevail with the public at large.

DEFEAT OF THE MAINE LAW PARTY.

The recent State Election in Maine, it would seem, has shown that there is a decided hostility to the continuance in force of prohibitory legislation, as far as relates to the traffic in intoxicating liquors, in that State—the birth-place of the enactment known as the "Maine Law" from one end of the country to the other. The returns from 198 towns show that Morrill, the candidate for Governor, who is opposed to the law, leads Wells, the Maine Law candidate, 5,205. The *Boston Journal* has the following remarks on the subject:—

"It is easy to trace the causes which have led to the defeat of the Maine Law in the State in which it originated, and from which is derived the name under which prohibitory legislation is known from one end of the Union to the other, and even across the wide Atlantic. The first law—the original Maine Law—was undoubtedly the offspring of genuine philanthropy, and of a desire to ameliorate the evils of intemperance. It was a novelty in legislation, and was looked upon by many as worthy of trial, and as promising a relief from evils which are generally acknowledged. But as the arbitrary features of this legislation became developed, and the very stringency of some of its provisions defeated the operation of the law, its friends, instead of modifying these provisions to remove the objections which had been urged against them, sought to retain the law. They failed to see that every added harsh feature multiplied the number of its opponents, and instead of strengthening only weakened the law. They were blind to the fact that their legislation was far ahead of public opinion, which might have tolerated a stringent, but not 'intensified' law. They committed the common mistake of over zealous reformers, of going too far, and thus bringing on themselves what is sure to follow extreme measures, a reaction. Political demagogues helped to bring the law into disfavor, and the injudicious and arbitrary proceedings of the authorities of Portland, in the recent riot, lent an impulse to this reaction. The result is to be found in the returns of the recent election."

"The lesson ought not to be lost upon other States. Legislation to restrain and regulate the traffic in intoxicating liquors is an acknowledged necessity, but such legislation ought to conform to public opinion. The moment a law is enacted which seems to infringe upon the reserved rights of the people, and which, from its stringency and intensity, cannot be enforced, that moment a reaction must, in the natural course of things, take place, and it is too often the case that a reaction turns the march of reform backward towards the opposite extreme."

The *New York Journal of Commerce* makes the following remarks in reference to the defeat of the Maine Law Party:— "The rise and progress of the Maine Liquor Law agitation is well known. It has presented that mingling of good and dangerous features which easily seduces flighty enthusiasts, and has done more injury in consequence of the basis of sound principles on which it appeared to rest, than any unadulterated evil would have been likely to accomplish. Every good citizen is a friend of temperance. Every virtuous man shrinks from the contamination to his family, friends and country, which may be the result of the abuse of alcoholic drink. It is not difficult to imagine a statutory support to Temperance, which would be constitutional, and which might deprive intemperance of a portion of its allurements. Therefore the *prestige* in favor of the Maine Liquor Law was great; and had it been essentially sound and true in principle, it might have bestowed lasting benefit upon the country. But in Maine, as since here, it has been a tool in the hands of demagogues, and the consequences of the reaction which has begun against it, threaten to be disastrous. We therefore trust that those who have been united in opposing the law, will, now that it is virtually dead, see the wisdom of again uniting in these philanthropic and Christian efforts, which have wrought the only triumphs of Temperance the world has ever known."

The *State of Maine* says— "The revolution is full and complete. Last year the republicans had the entire senate, and all but about 40 members of the house. This year the tables are turned. "The result shows an uprising of the people against arbitrary and unjust laws. The principle of prohibition is completely repudiated, the Maine Liquor Law advocates thrust aside forever, and the Know-Nothing organization entirely crushed out."

The *Portland* massacre—the attempts to whitewash the guilty conduct of Neil Dow—the unlawful arming of the police from the state arsenal, and finally the attempts to abolish the state by Wade, Banks, Hale, Fessenden and others, all aided to produce the present result."

The *Boston Atlas*—a highly respectable and influential Journal—makes the following observations on the same subject, and testifies to the identification of the Know-Nothings with the advocates of the Maine Law:—

"The result of this election has disappointed the expectations of all parties, both within and without the State of Maine. The most sanguine of the opponents of the present State administration hardly could have looked for so complete a prostration as is witnessed in the new Legislature. With very nearly one-half of the popular vote of the State, it is doubtful whether they have elected a single Senator, or more than a respectable minority in the House. The party which a year ago had the entire Senate has now hardly chosen a Senator, and they who last year had the control of three-fourths of the House, have now elected probably less than a third. "The chief cause of this defeat we have already spoken of, the identification of a political party with a moral question. The anti-liquor law of the last session was a great mistake in several respects, and its adoption as the shibboleth of a party was equally ill-advised. It has been a powerful weapon in the hands of its enemies, who have wielded it with a success beyond their own expectations."

"Another great cause of the defeat of the Republicans has been, undoubtedly, their identification with the Know-Nothing organization of the State. The secrecy of this order, its outlandish and mysterious, indefensible under a Republican Government, the bigotry and sectarian zeal of some of its members, their intolerance, carried, in some instances, to a criminal excess, have disgusted and filled with abhorrence the minds of the more intelligent, who have been brought into close contact with these exhibitions, until many have felt it to be their first duty to put down the 'Know-Nothings' by any combination and by every means. "Then, again, the men who composed the last Legislature, as well as their acts, have furnished fruitful themes in the canvass for attacks upon the State administration, many of which have had a telling effect. They are alleged to have been men of very moderate abilities and experience; they are said to have enacted several unconstitutional laws, and that a change was required for the credit of the State."—*Boston Atlas*.

We learn from the following despatch from New York, published in the *Boston papers*, that a new temperance organization has been established:—

REAL TEMPERANCE.—A new and important political movement was inaugurated last evening by the temperance people. Five delegates from each ward were chosen to a General Committee. A strong platform of temperance principles was adopted, in which the Maine Law, and all forms of coercive legislation, are condemned. The Maine Law of this State was pronounced a failure by several speakers, and the enactment of a stringent license law urged. The Carson League and Temperance Alliance were severely denounced, and a general ward and city organization advocated.

IMPERIAL RECOGNITION OF COLONIAL TALENT.—We take the following paragraph from a No. of the *London Illustrated News*, received by the last English Mail:—

"The Queen, upon the recommendation of Sir William Molesworth, has appointed Mr. Hincks, a distinguished member of the Canadian Legislature to the Governorship of Barbadoes."

Mr. Hincks was leader of the late Liberal Government of Canada, and is one of those whom the stupid and conceited Tories of this Island have long affected to sneer at and despise. Mr. Hincks's appointment speaks well for the liberal tendencies of the new Secretary of State, and shows that Colonies have a fair chance of competing for distinguished posts beyond their own limited spheres of action.

HARRIS, BOWDITCH & Co.—This is the style of a new Commission Agency, lately opened in Boston, as will be seen by advertisement of the firm in our paper. G. M. Fowle, Esq.—who was on a visit to Charlottetown two or three years ago and who has been for several years connected in business with our much esteemed friend and former fellow townsman, Thomas Sleator, Esq.—is extensively connected with the new firm Harris, Bowditch & Co., and is anxious to open a trade with it is the intention of the new Company to place, this Fall, possible, a Clipper Packet on the line between Charlottetown and Boston, for the accommodation of merchants, traders and the public generally. We need not say that such a thing is very desirable, and we have no doubt would be liberally encouraged. In addition to an extensive business in Boston, Harris, Bowditch & Co., have a house in Wilmington, N. C., engaged in the shipment of Naval Stores.

FIRE.—On Friday night last, about 11 o'clock, the city was startled with the unusual alarm of the fire bells, when a crowd was soon collected about the premises of Mr. Joseph McLellan, in Queen Street, the inside of whose store was all fire. The engine companies, however, aided by the exertions of the citizens generally, soon succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until nearly the whole of Mr. McLellan's goods were destroyed either by the fire or the water used to put out. The merchandise is partly insured. We have been enabled to learn how the fire originated, the premises not being used as a dwelling. It is extremely fortunate that the fire did not occur at a later hour of the night, when the alarm could not be given in time, for had it been an hour or two later it is extremely probable that the valuable block of buildings which adjoin Mr. McLellan's premises would have fallen a prey to the devouring element. There was a good supply of water, and the service rendered was prompt and effectual. The Chief Marshall and the new Police were in attendance, and rendered important service by preventing plundering practices so common and so disgraceful on occasions like that.

There had been in Georgetown harbour on Friday last, and for several days previous, eighty sail of American fishermen.

Our usual files of Colonial and United States papers came to hand on Saturday last, but they contain no news worth reproducing. There has been no further intelligence any kind from Europe.

CHARLOTTETOWN COMMON.

SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE RIGHT OF PERSONS CLAIMING THE COMMON OF CHARLOTTETOWN, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1855.

Your Committee appointed to report upon the nature of claim of persons holding the Common of this City, beg to inform the Mayor and Common Council a Message received from His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Daly, through the Colonial Secretary, conveyed by letter, dated 13th instant, well as Minutes of Council on this important matter, of 26th February, 2nd and 12th March, 1789; these documents are in reply to a note from the Chairman of your Committee, 7th September, addressed to the Hon. Mr. Coles, Colonial Secretary, requesting he would be pleased to inform your Committee by what authority Lieutenant Governor Fanning granted the Common of Charlottetown. It appears from accompanying replies, above alluded to, the Colonial Secretary deemed the enquiry of your Committee of such importance to lay it before His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, who your Committee understood, the incumbents of the Common relied on for protection. The Colonial Secretary states, "His Excellency directed me to acquaint you, for the information of the City Authorities, that there is nothing on record as to the Despatches relative to the matter."

Your Committee trust the following explanations are sufficient to show the result why the expected reply from the Colonial Secretary was not advisable to wait for, before handing in their first Report, as it appeared necessary immediate action should be taken, cautioning unwary persons against purchasing land in the Common, as they were aware a certain part thereof was then advertised to be sold at public auction, take place only about three days subsequent to handing in information contained in our first Report.

Your Committee thought the facts there enumerated sufficiently strong to prove to the City or any other authority that the occupants of the Common have held possession thereof only by the sufferance of the Colonial Governments; that grants, under plea of which they claim the Common, grants of Pasture Lots in the Royalty, and that it is not Lieutenant Governor Fanning and his Council parties, largely in the spoliation; under these circumstances, it seems to be a matter of wonder the thing has been kept quiet, that the matter has been hushed up from the public possession, they conceived it became their duty to report the same to the Corporation.

We beg to observe, it was from the evasive wording of a deceptive document, which the trespassers on the Common call a grant thereof, your Committee were induced to put a question thereon to the Colonial Secretary; they thought extraordinary, if, in the administration of Lieutenant Governor Patterson, the authority of an act of Parliament was deemed necessary, to enable the Executive to lease the Common for ten years, that afterwards, during Lieutenant Governor Fanning's time, the consent of the first estate of the realm was sufficient to enable him to dispose of it for ever, and appears the very ground work upon which the grantor grants and the grantees fix their claim are false, inasmuch as the Common of Charlottetown.

Your Committee recommend that this Report and the accompanying documents received from the Colonial Secretary be handed to John Lawson, Esquire, Recorder, and that he be requested to deliver in writing his opinion to the Common, the important matter your Committee have been deputed to gather information on.

BENJAMIN DAVIES, Chairman.
DONALD McISAAC,
ARTEMAS G. SIMS.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
P. E. Island, 13th Sept., 1855.

SIR,—Having submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, letter of the 7th instant, asking information respecting the under which the Common of Charlottetown is held, His Excellency directs me to acquaint you, for the information of the City Authorities, that there is nothing on record as to the Despatches relating to that matter; but I am to refer you to extracts from the Minutes of Council, under date of the 26th February, and 2nd and 12th March, 1789, on that subject.