

DESERTION OF SEAMEN.  
(From the London Shipping Gazette.)

We have inserted a letter in another column, from a respectable mercantile house at Liverpool, relative to the desertion of seamen from the ships employed in the timber trade from our North American Provinces, to which we request the attention of our readers.

That these desertions have been annually on the increase, is an indisputable fact, and it is equally incontrovertible that many of the shipwrecks which occur on the homeward fall voyages, are exclusively attributable to the vessels being undermanned, in consequence of the desertion of the crews. The letter to which we have alluded, however, very clearly points out the cause which induces the seamen to desert their ships in the ports of our American Provinces. If the wages paid the seamen engaged in the timber trade do not exceed 50s. or 55s. per month, and £15 or £16—and sometimes we know above £20—are paid for the runhome, the disparity is too great for such a class of men to resist the temptation. The mere setting forth of the fact of such a disparity, renders the remedy obvious, and the only remaining question is its practicability. The treatment of this question is not new to us, as we have frequently given it our best consideration, and have held our columns open to every variety of opinion that have been expressed on the subject. But all the remedies which have been proposed must be mere palliatives, admitting that they were adopted, so long as there is such an inequality in the rate of remuneration as is admitted in the letter we have referred to. That the demand for seamen is greatly increased (particularly for the last voyages of the season) by the number of ships which are built in the colonies for sale in the mother country, is unquestionable. Some persons, resting on this fact, have gone the length of advising that shipbuilding should either be altogether prohibited in the colonies, or that the timber employed for the same purpose at home, should be exempted from duty.

In the present position of our American provinces, in relation to the mother country, it would be preposterous to presume that government would for a moment entertain the first of these propositions; and in the existing state of our finances, we apprehend the Chancellor of the Exchequer would start a strong objection to the second. The proposition to impose some restriction on the colonial ship-builders, to compel them to engage the whole or a certain proportion of their crews in the mother country, to navigate their vessels home for sale, is, however, more reasonable, and also more feasible. But we even doubt if any ministry would, under existing circumstances, attempt to enforce such a restriction on the colonies; and the only real effectual corrective for the evil is to improve the condition of the seamen, and bring the rate of wages something nearer an equality.

We see no permanent remedy for the evil complained of but the one we have prescribed. Whilst the price of labour continues relatively so high in the Colonies and the United States, compared with England, few young men will, while they are subjected to the treatment at present practised in a large portion of our mercantile marine, be induced to adopt the life of a sailor, and the more especially, as the identity of language removes the obstacle which is most obnoxious to the seaman's feelings and prejudices. We are doubtful, therefore, if, under such circumstances, desertion can be altogether obviated by any other than preventive means, and the chief of these is—as near an assimilation of wages as possible; and, what will also go a great way, an improvement of the accommodation and general treatment of the seaman on board of his ship.

There is another point which we believe has in numerous instances exercised a very unfavourable influence on the character and conduct of the seaman. We have never been able to reconcile to our mind the justice or expediency of the law which makes the payment contingent upon carrying freight, although plausible reasons have been often adduced, in support of the principle, by very high legal authorities. Nothing, indeed, appears to us to be a greater perversion of equity and justice than the case of a crew of a vessel wrecked (which we shall suppose is near the termination of a long voyage) having no legal claim for wages, although they make the most strenuous exertions to save both ship and cargo, at the hazard of their own lives.

We do not believe that the principle assumed—that if a claim for wages were sustained in cases where the ship and cargo are lost, it would weaken the motive to exertion, would apply in one instance out of fifty, although the hypothesis has been laid down and acted upon by many of the ablest jurists. In such extremities seamen do not pause to weigh motives in the balance with the deliberation and acumen of a special pleader, accustomed to dissent and anatomise all the incentives to human action, and from the nature of his profession, he is brought in contact, and with whom he is familiarized, he is induced to form the most unfavourable opinions, and draw the most unfavourable inferences.

PRESENT POSITION OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.  
(From the Watchman, Wesleyan Methodist.)

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland have rejected Lord Aberdeen's bill by a majority of 87, and have thus declared their decisive resolve to abide by the great principle, that in spiritual matters the Church shall maintain her independence of all dictation on the part of the State. It is a truly noble position which this distinguished body of clergymen have, on conscientious grounds, taken at this critical era of national establishments. Though it is to the taste of neither high Tory politicians, nor of ultra-Liberal opponents of the principle of a State Church, yet, as the *Scottish Guardian* well observes, "the grand problem will now be solved whether a Church will be established, and yet free—allied to the State and yet subjected to none but Christ. This is the real hinge on which the whole question of Church Establishments turns, and this the enemies of Establishments know right well." What effect this example will have in promoting the somewhat analogous object of the Oxford Tract divines to emancipate the Anglican Church from that amount of subjection to the State, to which the English Reformers consented, in compliance with the despotic views of the Tudors, time will show.

On all those accounts and many others, the decision of the General Assembly, of 1840, will occupy a conspicuous place in the history of these eventful times. It is an attempt—whether eventually successful or otherwise—to define the powers of the State in its relations to the Church, and thus settle on a permanent basis one of those questions which the Reformers were either compelled by circumstances or content to leave open to the serious injury of vital and evangelical Christianity. It is a timely attempt to refute by practice, rather than by argument, the sweeping conclusions of those who insist that the connection of the Church with the State is necessarily ruinous to the spiritual interest of the

former. It is impossible not to watch the issue of so eventful a movement with the most intense anxiety.

**SIR JOHN CAMPBELL.**—The following sketch of the present Attorney-General is from the *Dublin Monitor*. We cannot help thinking that our contemporary rather undervalues the abilities of the learned gentleman:—

Some forty years ago, or perhaps more, London was invaded by a number of very clever Scotchmen, under the auspices of Perry, then proprietor and manager, though he scarcely could be called Editor, of the *Morning Chronicle*. Amongst these were Telford, Nimmo, Maculloch, Black, Rennie, Mudie, and the present Attorney-General. They were all men of energy and ability, and most of them succeeded highly in the walks of life which they chose to follow. Telford, from having been a stonemason, rose to the rank of a civil engineer; and he has left a name behind which his works will for many centuries preserve famous. Rennie, who was originally a bricklayer's labourer, also won great reputation and large emolument as a civil engineer; and he, moreover, founded a family. There is now a baronet in his descent, also a civil engineer, but of that order of intellect, which had he to commence life on his own account, would not have enabled him to sweep a crossing satisfactorily. Nimmo's name is well known, and I should hope gratefully remembered in Ireland. He is one of the few benefactors which that unhappy land has to reverence in its speeches, and according to the prevailing creed, remember in its prayers.—Mudie has produced many useful books, but I fear he has not been so fortunate in a worldly sense as his countrymen. Maculloch is an eminent man, and, in truth, he has done with singular perseverance and labour, that which we would by no means easily let perish. John Black is yet, and has been, since the death of Perry, the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*. John Campbell is now Attorney-General, and the husband of Lady Stratheden. He occupies, therefore, a more exalted station than fell to the lot of his countrymen; but, indeed, as far as natural gifts or acquired information are concerned, he was infinitely their inferior. His rise in life, to those who knew him comparatively young and raw from Scotland, is one of those freaks of fortune for which they can in no way account. None of them, in the true sense of the word, were gentlemen—they were all snobs, but Campbell most of all; and such he will continue to his dying day. The King made him "a belted knight," the Queen may make him "marquis, duke, and a' that," but a snob he was born, and a snob, in the Homeric phrase, he will glide over the earth. He had no touch of the original genius which distinguished most of the other adventurers—he had no learning, and little information. He commenced his career in the modern Babylon (as one of the batch to whom we have alluded styles London), as a reporter for Perry's paper. Reporting was in those days a very different thing from what it is now. It is strange that so little is known by members of Parliament respecting a system of proceeding, and a body of men in the which, and with the whom they have so deep an interest. In Campbell's time there were only four or five reporters attached to the morning papers. On the *Morning Chronicle*, at present, there are sixteen or eighteen; and their services are, with the exception of occasionally acting as theatrical critics, exclusively devoted to the two Houses of Parliament. The pay in Campbell's time was three guineas; in his time, moreover, the reporter literally sold himself as a slave to his employers for three guineas. He had not alone to attend in Parliament, but to play the Caliban in every other respect for his Prospero, or more practically speaking, Perry. In the morning he had to report, as best he might, the proceedings in some court of law; in the evening to be present at the debates, and seize an hour to visit the theatre, and pronounce his critical opinion on the last new piece, or the last new actor; and at night he had, when occasion required, to superintend the progress of a fire, and say fine things about the "devouring element."

It was in this school the Attorney-General was reared; and he bears, moreover, the reputation, amongst his contemporaries—Mr. Black and several others yet living, and still attached to the press—of being the worst reporter that ever yet followed the occupation. Moreover, he is remembered by a bad fame at the Eccentric Society, as the worst and most persevering speaker that ever vexed the ears of that pleasant assemblage. He has maintained and justified this at the bar. After leaving the gallery, as it is technically styled, he became a law reporter, and he did himself some good, and raised something of a storm amongst the profession, by attaching to his reports the names of the Attorneys engaged upon either side. He was very painstaking; he was not nice as to the means of acquiring practice, and he has been singularly successful.

Lord Byron once inveighed against Lord Castle-reagh as not being able to speak English; and he took the occasion of having a fling against the foreigners whom we import without even the imposition of an *ad valorem* duty, to be kings, queens, and so forth, and he said that Lord Castle-reagh was the first Prime Minister at least who could not speak English. Now, methinks it is rather more strange to have an Attorney General who cannot speak English, and that we see in the person of Sir John Campbell. The dialect he uses is a most odious one. A vile robe of cockneyism has been drawn over the naked Scotch. In sooth, as you listen to him you cannot fail to marvel exceedingly that such a person could by any casualty or possibility have been promoted in a learned profession. You can only account for it after the celebrated sayings of Mirabeau, the summits of mountains can be attained only by the eagle and the reptile. Campbell is one of the creeping things; and he has certainly made the ascent which will at no distant day—should the present men remain in office—place him in the seat of a Chief Justice.

He is a singularly ill-looking man; his form is clumsy and vulgar, and his face looks like an ill-chiselled lump of Scotch granite. Long experience, and familiarity with all the tricks of a mere lawyer, and the peculiarities of a court of justice, have conferred upon him a tact in the management of a case, which is quite unequalled at the bar. He utterly jockeyed Follett in the cases of Norton v. Melbourne, and Duncombe v. Daniel, by not calling witnesses, and so depriving Follett of his reply, for which he had altogether reserved himself. In Parliament he is of course nothing. He had an opportunity of distinguishing himself the other day upon the privilege question, but Wilde, the Solicitor, extinguished him. He mismanaged the case, moreover, in the court of law grossly, and he altogether misled the house by his previous advice. It will puzzle the constitutional lawyer of future time to determine whether the memory of the Attorney General or of the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, should so far as this great question is concerned be held in greater reprehension.

**SALMON FISHING ANECDOTE.**—A tall, stout young Campbell, from Glenorchy, celebrated for his success as a salmon fisher, left his native glen for the river Awe, which runs from the Loch of that name to Loch Etive, through a narrow ravine at the foot of the mighty Ben Cruachan. The bed of this river is stony, and in many parts the water is rapid and turbulent; but it subsides occasionally into deep pools, which are the favourite resorts of large fish. Our experienced Highlander reached a well-known deep of this description, with a strong eighteen feet rod, and an immense wooden pinn, on which were wound eighty yards of strong line, and had only cast his fly a second time when he struck a fish. The fish ran out his line with such furious rapidity that he was obliged to follow with his utmost speed over rocks and stones, and frequently through the water also, for he soon found that he had no chance whatever of turning his fish until they should reach a broad deep pool, above a mile below him. At this haven he at length arrived, much exhausted with fatigue. Not so the fish, for he was as fresh as ever, and the angler on finding he had room to try his skill and the strength of his tackle, soon recovered his spirits, when, as if in derision of both, the fish, after a violent plunge or two, took to the bottom, and there remained immovable, resisting every effort to rouse him. Suddenly, however, he again ran up the stream, carrying the Highlander after him through the same rugged route, to the imminent danger of life and limb, till he reached the pool where he was first struck. After a short struggle, in which the angler so far succeeded as to turn the fish down the stream, or rather submitted to be himself taken down, and that, as before, in no gentle fashion, they reached the deep pool once more, when, after a few fruitless efforts on the part of the Highlander, the fish took to the bottom, where he lay in the most dogged sullenness, defying all the powers of his enemy to draw him from his retreat. Night was now coming on, and even our hardy angler was exhausted by his long contest; he therefore sat down between two rocks on the banks of the river, in a secure place, and determined to rest there till certain fishermen should arrive, as was their custom at break of day, from whom he might obtain assistance. He fixed his rod in security, on the bank of the river, and contrived that his pinn should give out the line freely, and then placed the line between his teeth, so that if the fish should leave the bottom, the running of the line might awaken him. In this situation he slept soundly, till three in the morning, at which time the fishermen found him. The rod and line were undisturbed, and the fish still at the bottom, but the Highlander was now awake; and with the assistance of the friends in question, he soon succeeded, with their nets, in capturing this doughty fish, which proved to be a fine salmon, weighing seventy-four pounds. The truth of the above anecdote was vouched by several respectable Highlanders at the Inn of Port Sonachan.—*Holland's British Angler's Manual.*

**POPULAR PREACHING.**—A reverend gentleman, who had a good gift of the gab, or as the late James Bell, of geographical and antiquarian celebrity, used to phrase it, "the art of communicating naething," delivered a sermon in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, for some public purpose, which delighted the mob as a tub does the whale. The declaimer took high Calvinistic points of doctrine, to the utmost exclusion of the subject. A bonneted abhorrer of legal preaching, in returning home was overheard eulogizing:—"Man, John, wasna you preachin'!—you's somethin' for a body to come awa wi'—the way that he smashed down his text into so many heads and particulars, just a' to flinders. Nine heads, and twenty particulars in ilka head—and sic mouth-fu's o' grand words!—an every ane o' them fu' o' meaning, if we but kent them—we hae ill improved our opportunities; man, if we could just mind any thing he said, it would do us guid."—*Laird of Logan.*

**THE AMERICAN FRIGATE CHESAPEAKE.**—The ultimate fate of the above vessel, which, under the command of Commodore Laurence, who fell in the heat of the action, after a severe conflict of 13 minutes, struck her colours to the gallant crew of his Britannic Majesty's frigate Shannon, commanded by Captain Brook, may not probably be generally known. The Chesapeake, which once floated disdainfully upon the waters of the Atlantic, is now completely "shivered" as to her "timbers," which latter, together with other portions of her, have been employed in the construction of a corn mill at the village of Wickham, near Portsmouth. The wood is in good condition, and promises to continue so for some time to come. Many strangers visit Wickham-mill to gratify their curiosity.

**PERSEVERANCE.**—*Macklin's Advice to his Son.*—I have often told you that every man must be the maker or marrer of his own fortune. I repeat the doctrine. He who depends upon incessant industry and integrity, depends upon patrons of the noblest, the most exalted kind. They controul all human dealings, and turn even vicissitudes of fortune's tendency to a contrary nature. You have industry at times, but you want perseverance; without it you can do nothing. I bid you bear this motto in your mind constantly.—"Perseverance."

**CLEANING BOTTLES.**—*Caution.*—J. Murray, Esq. has addressed a letter to the editor of the *Midland Counties Herald*, calling attention to the common but dangerous practice of cleaning bottles with shot. From this letter we extract the pith, which is as follows:—"It is not generally known that shot is composed of lead and arsenic, and where there obtains the slightest tendency to acidity, two virulent poisons are held in solution. But apart from the elaboration of acetic acid, the carbonic acid, invariably present, and to which fermented liquors owe their briskness and effervescence, will form two baneful poisons with these metals. I am induced to trouble you with these remarks, having been poisoned, on two former occasions, from this source; and at this moment I have a pint bottle of ale with ten shots adhering to the bottom within. The remedy is an easy one: Let the pyrope, or 'Bohemian garnet,' a very inexpensive substance, say 2d. an ounce, be substituted, and I am quite sure bottles may be much more effectually cleaned than by the destructive method now practised, and by which illness and death may be superinduced."

**TREATMENT OF POTATOES.**—If you examine a potato closely when cut into two or several pieces, you will be able to analyse it into three distinct portions. Beneath the outer skin, there is a fine envelope, varying in thickness according to the kind or quality of the tuber. This nether lining contains more farina in equal quantities than the inner part or heart of the potato. Inside, however, you find most juice, and nature in this way has provided a double protection, against not only undue absorption, but the numerous causes tending to the hindrance of vegetable life. The juices of vegetables subserve all the purposes of the blood in animals, and both are strong or weak, healthy or sickly, in proportion to the quantity and quality of the constantly circulating fluid which sustains life. From this fact it follows that in potato culture everything

is of the greatest consequence which tends to keep the seed in a sound and healthy state. Bad blood, as is well known, leads to bad breeding among the domestic animals, and it is the same with vegetables. The utmost care, therefore, should be taken to preserve, from first to last, the juice of tubers set apart for seed. There are many ways in which potatoes become predisposed to disease; first, from rot before they are raised in the ground, or when housed or pitted; thirdly, from heating, the most dangerous imperfection of the whole, and the most difficult to detect in its earliest stages. Absorption of the juices arises both from this cause, and sprouting or growing when spring comes round, or even before that period under unfavourable circumstances, and in the utter absence of ventilation. What is called rot is not only dangerous, but highly infectious; in fact so much so that half a bushel of diseased tubers will go far to spoil a whole pit.—And there is another serious cause of mischief. At cutting time much seed is heated by being thrown into heaps in the corners of barns and other out-buildings. Every cut potato bleeds, and the juice that oozes out from every pore, is not merely lost, but predisposes, by evaporation, the plant to disease. Potatoes, when cut, ought to be well spread till dry; when this precaution is taken, the solid part of the surface juice is formed into a thin crust, which acts as a kind of skin. In dry, sunny weather, a little damp straw or litter thrown over the carts of seed when sent to the field, is a practice I would strongly recommend. When the sun's rays are powerful, the sets cannot be too speedily covered. The morning is the best time for planting, and the earlier the better; in the afternoon the dung gets parched and the earth hot; and when two evaporating substances are thus brought into the closest contact, what can be expected save failure to a considerable extent, particularly if ashes be the manure chiefly used?—That potatoes require more moisture to bring them freely away than is generally supposed, was proved to me, I may almost say, by accident, in 1836; when so many suffered, my own murphies scarcely realized the fourth of an average crop; and then my eyes were opened to the important fact, that the mischief was mainly owing to slowness of covering on light land, aggravated by a southern exposure in sultry weather. From these causes the juices were entirely evaporated, and the sets, when examined, actually appeared as if they had been half roasted. Most of my neighbours ascribed the heavy failure that followed to white-rot; but they were in error, out and out, as I have since discovered; for, truth to say, the proximate cause of the mischief was drying up of the juices. About the same period of the year following—say 24th April, 1837—the soil was moist and the air soft; and having set a few drills in the afternoon, they remained uncovered till near the evening. Shortly after, rain fell, which thoroughly wetted both dung and seed; the said drills were covered first; the remainder of the dung was spread, and the sets planted; but the rows which got a shower after dinner were eight days sooner up than any of the rest, and flowered earlier by a week at least. From this fact I infer that moisture is indispensable when the weather is hot; to gardeners, and others planting on a small scale, two women with cans could do a good deal of work in a brief space, wherever water is at all accessible. Failure, so far as I can judge, is for the most part confined to dry seasons, particularly when the husbandman happens to plant late under a high temperature.—*Correspondent of Dumfries Courier.*

**Do as you would be done unto.**—The horse of a pious Scotsman living in Massachusetts, happened to stray into the road; a neighbour of the man who owned the horse put him into the pound. Meeting the owner soon after, he told him what he had done: "and if I catch him in the road again," said he, "I'll do it again." "Neighbour," replied the other, "not long since I looked out of my window in the night, and saw your cattle in my meadow, and I drove them out, and shut them up in your meadow—and I'll do it again." Struck with the reply, the man liberated the horse from the pound, and paid the charges himself. "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

**ANSWER YOUR LETTERS.**—There is much good sense in the following extract from the *Philadelphia Gazette*, relating to a subject which comes directly home to the business and bosoms of men. Read, remember and practice the advice herein contained:—"Time that has once passed the corner, can never be overtaken, and anything that can as well be performed to day, as at a future time, is deprived of one of the chances of its accomplishment that can never be restored. An observance of the maxim here inculcated is very important in the answering of letters. The prompt man of business, who makes it a rule to reply on receipt, or as soon after as the nature of its contents will admit, never offends others, and is never borne down with the weight of his correspondence. The procrastinator, on the other hand, is constantly giving umbrage by neglecting other people's business, or by slighting the requirements of friendship, and is besides often obliged to resort to whole paragraphs of lame apology, and sometimes to falsehood, to conceal what his correspondent very soon learns how to place to the proper account. And besides all this, his unanswered letters are constantly haunting him, and operate like a dead weight upon his comfort."

UNITED STATES.

**NEW YORK, July 16.**—**TEMPERANCE AMONG THE CATHOLICS.**—The success of "Father Matthew," in bringing multitudes of the Catholic population of Ireland under the influence of Temperance principles and practice, has encouraged his brethren in this country to attempt a similar reform; and we are happy to say, they are not labouring in vain. In most or all the principal cities, pledges to abstain from "all that can intoxicate," have been given by numbers of the Catholic population, and the good work is still going forward. The following is an extract from a pastoral letter of Bishop Patrick, of Philadelphia, "to the Clergy and Laity" of that diocese, dated June 24th.

"In harmony with these views, several of our zealous Clergy have proposed to establish a Society similar to that which has been established by the zeal of an humble priest in Ireland, with a pledge of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors. The end and object of this association being the extirpation of vice, it is deemed expedient that its members should not confine themselves to the renouncing of any special drink, which may more frequently be the cause of intoxication, but of all that may intoxicate, so as to leave to the weak no occasion of temptation. In the spirit of generous devotedness, thousands, of most temperate habits, have joined the Irish Association, to encourage others by their example, and to afford to all the facility of practising without shame that total abstinence, which to some is absolutely necessary.

"In the same devoted spirit several of our venerable brethren, whose exemplary piety and zeal console and sustain us in our arduous charge, have