

(FOR THE BEE.)

MR. EDITOR,

Sir,—I take it for granted, that you will agree with me in saying that the Bee must be supported with honey and not with the poison of wasps. I am led to make this remark, by observing a communication in the Bee of the 7th instant, signed *Peter Crerar*, in which, after giving what he is pleased to call, a narrative of facts, he appeals to you, and to every unbiassed and unprejudiced mind in the County. Every arbiter, in order to come to a just conclusion, ought to be in possession of the merits of both sides of the case, and should also keep in view, the saying of the wise man, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him." In that capacity, I trust you will do me the favor to publish my statement of the case, allowing Mr Crerar the full benefit due to his name and his narrative of facts. On the night of the 29th October last, I in company with James Fraser, Esq. of New Glasgow, and Mr Peter Crerar, waited on Mr Hartshorne at Fisher's Grant, he being on his return from Antigonish; we expressed a desire that he would offer as a Candidate at the approaching Election. His answer as far as I recollect, was nearly as Mr Crerar states it. He omits however, stating a circumstance which then took place. Mr Hartshorne's grant became the topic of conversation, and the plan was produced. I could not, from memory, say where the County line passed through it; and that night, no person was mentioned as living on this side of the line, nor did I know of any, nor yet do I know of any, excepting what I understood from Mr Crerar's communication. As I had to attend a muster in Merigomish, at an early hour next day, I left Fisher's Grant before daylight, and had not the pleasure of seeing Mr Hartshorne any more. Connect with this, the whole of the statement as given by Mr Crerar himself, next morning, relative to the deed of the property in town, the remarks made thereon, the delineating the county line on the plan of the grant, the full conviction on his own mind at the time of parting and afterwards. Pass from this to the tender of the oath by Mr Ross to Mr Crichton, which he owns he "thought a singular proposition, but one which I could and would explain." To understand this aright, it is necessary to follow Mr Crerar to where he says, "that as a surveyor, he is not aware of ever being on the ground, and knows nothing of its extent and or improvements, nor knows any individual living on it, excepting Mr McLean, the poet." Mr Crerar's memory, though tolerably good on other occasions, seems to fail him here—whether intentionally or not, is best known to himself. He in company with me, with Paul Foster, and some of the Messrs McKenzies of Barney's River, perhaps about 10 years ago, acting as a surveyor, receiving fees as such, in laying off a road from said River towards Antigonish, passed through the said Grant, saw the only clearing ever known to me on this side the line, examined the County line as we passed it, and lodged that night in the house of a Cameron, in the big clearing. I know not whether Mr Crerar will pretend to say, that, when perusing a plan, or making a line thereon, he is no judge of its extent—whether he will presume to say he is "not positive," when Mr Hartshorne on seeing the line so marked, tells him "there are many names on this side," or whether Mr Crerar could have been ignorant of the existence of a man in whose house he lodged for a night, with whom he enjoyed a sociable intercourse, and of whose hospitality he partook.

Perhaps the circumstance of Mr McLean the poet being with us that night, may refresh his memory on this last subject. Now sir, I can

tell Mr Crerar, that by seeing this, he saw all that ever I had seen, knows all that ever I knew, with regard to the qualification.

Whether that clearing is the property of Mr Hartshorne, or whether he sold it, I know not. When we saw it, the person who occupied it had left it some time previous to our being there.

I now come to what Mr Crerar calls the first meeting of those who professed themselves Mr Hartshorne's friends. Here he gives you the names at length, no doubt from the purest motives; but he did not tell you, that he was the only person who cast a damp on the minds of all present, by stating that he had it from good authority, that Mr Hartshorne when on his way to Halifax, had been persuaded by a certain individual not to offer, and that that individual intended to offer himself, and had been writing to his friends in Barney's River to that effect; and he also insinuated that the discomfiture of that individual was one of his principal reasons for issuing his Card—but added, he could easily resign in favor of Hartshorne, or Blackadar; it was owing to this information that I was first spoken of;—what I then stated, I leave the meeting to say. The accusation against my Son is false. Mr Crerar was well aware there was no necessity for the tender he mentioned. Ross and Crerar have both taken advantage of that report. It is well known to them both, that I contradicted it from the hustings;—to any but themselves it would have been sufficient. Now sir, Mr Ross arrives in the coach, and as usual pays him a visit. I am aware that Pilate and Herod were made friends on a certain occasion, for before they were at enmity among themselves. I would ask Mr Crerar, if it was after Mr Ross's arrival in Pictou, he made him the generous offer of resigning in his favor, or at an earlier period. I am in possession of more information on this head than perhaps he is aware of. Mr Hartshorne's Letter arrived on Thursday evening, and not on Tuesday, according to Mr Crerar's narrative of facts. Neither was it "pronounced ambiguous by all the meeting;" but those who knew the feelings in the country, saw no chance of success, as he declined making his appearance in person. Mr Crerar is fully entitled to the whole credit of his reflection on bringing forward Mr Ross, and causing his friends to issue his Card—of the canvass that ensued in his behalf in McLellan's Mount, Blue Mount, &c.;—and also of the result. Now Mr Editor, in order that you may do justice to your appellant, I beg through you to ask him the following questions: 1st, What could have induced him to issue his Card previous to the first Meeting, to keep the way clear for Mr Hartshorne, and before he had reason to doubt the sincerity of his friends? 2ndly, Why state to the first Meeting that he had reason to believe that Mr Hartshorne would not offer—and that to oppose the person who dissuaded him was one of his motives for issuing his Card? 3dly, Why intrust the interest of Mr Hartshorne, which he held so dear to a person who stated on the hustings, that he was aware that he had no qualification? 4thly, If when in company with Mr Ross, he felt so highly pleased at the certainty of Mr Hartshorne's election, when walking along to see Mr Hartshorne's friends (on whom by the bye Mr Crerar on former occasions did not look as friends), at this time, I ask upon what qualification did they intend to propose him? 5thly, Why propose the very person who, notwithstanding his present zeal and attachment to Mr Hartshorne, was the very first person who called for his qualification—and when the

* By a reference to Mr Crerar's Manuscript, we perceive that this error originated with the Compositor, as the word is written *Thursday*, and not *Tuesday*, as was printed.—Editor.

question was put to him why decline giving the information of the "full conviction then on his mind of Mr H.'s qualification?"

Now, Mr Editor, contrast Mr Crerar's narrative of facts with my statement, and the line of conduct I pursued, which I will give you briefly thus. I did every thing which a friend could have been expected to do for Mr Hartshorne, as long as I had any hope of his success. In making this assertion, I am neither afraid nor ashamed; I can with conscious confidence, appeal to almost every individual with whom I had any conversation concerning the election for the last six months, for the truth of it; these things were not done in a corner; the matter was well known to the public—let them judge; I feel confident in my own mind, they will do one justice.

When the hope of serving Mr Hartshorne thus failed me, I considered it my duty to comply with the earnest solicitations of my friends throughout the country, by offering myself a candidate at the approaching election, and issued my Card *only* on Saturday before the opening of the Poll on Monday.

Mr John Ross who acted as coadjutor to Mr Crerar, has thought proper to make many statements to my prejudice, both in his Address, and in a communication to the Novascotian. How such a sudden revolution in his sentiments expressed on the hustings at Pictou, took place, he himself may be best able to explain; but a person who has proven himself capable of acting a part in his publications, so contrary to his sentiments expressed on the hustings, respecting me, I regard as utterly unworthy of any further notice, and only add that both he and Mr Crerar must, in the estimation of all unbiassed and unprejudiced minds, be considered as attempting to vindicate themselves from charges which they have justly incurred, by aspersing others who acted to the best of their ability, an upright and honorable part throughout the whole of the proceedings connected with the election.

I am sir, yours, &c.

JOHN HOLMES.

Spring Ville, East River, }
Dec'r 12, 1836. }

From the Portland (Me.) Eastern Argus.

THE STEAMER ROYAL TAR.

THREE or four weeks have expired since the Royal Tar was destroyed by fire, and more than thirty of her passengers drowned. Time enough has elapsed since this melancholy catastrophe occurred, for the excitement which it created in the public mind to abate, in a great measure—or, to say the least, sufficiently for a candid examination of the circumstances attending it. We have not yet learned that any steps have been taken towards making the matter a subject of legal investigation—and it seems probable, that like most of the many accidents of a similar character which have preceded it, it will be suffered to go down to oblivion, with a simple expression of pity for the sufferers, and sympathy for their friends. If one half the rumours which have been in circulation in relation to this affair, are true, it richly deserves a judicial investigation; and if they are not true, such investigation is due to her officers, on whom strong suspicions of neglect of duty, now rest. It is our deliberate conviction that in at least ninety nine out of every hundred instances where human life is destroyed by the collapsing of steam boilers, or the burning of boats, that loss is the direct result of gross and inexcusable carelessness and neglect of duty, for which the proprietors or commanders of the boats should be liable, not only in point of property, but with their lives. Proprietors of steamboats have no