Correspondence.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

For the Mirror.

"IS FARMING PROFITABLE?"

MR. EDITOR,—

In your issue of October 19th you gave your readers an interesting article (editorial) with reference to improvement, particularly to Agriculture; and stating that the columns of the MIRROR are open to this and similar subjects, I offer for insertion some observations on the subject, with the above suggestive heading—a QUESTION very important to those who cultivate the soil as the means of a living.

Before discussing this question I do not know that I could gain the readers attention better than by bringing again to notice a few sentences of the article referred to above, which are so suggestive on this question that many, by reperusing, might derive some further benefit.

"In every department spread before his subtle genius, man has made some improvement, and is still progressing toward a greater perfection." If I have the intended meaning of the next two sentences it is that, "to the noble work of tilling the soil improvements are NECESSARY." "Our forefathers had a rich and virgin soil, unexhausted by production, and fertile in vegetable manures. Now IT IS DIFFERENT!" The soil rich at first is becoming barren. Production and a growing ignorance of the capabilities of land is fast exhausting and reducing the strength of our finest soils.

"How is it in Colchester? Does the farmer both theoretically and practically till his land? Are his exertions successful? Is his industry rewarded and his skill encouraged by bringing it into competition with others?"

To these questions which are exceedingly important, we must unhesitatingly answer No! The question naturally arises: Why is it so? and is there no help for it? There is! But many, and farmers too! CANNOT SEE where the great evil lies; they labor under the serious hallucination that farming is unprofitable, simply because all classes are [illegible] upon the products of the soil. [illegible] that [illegible] is not the life-sustaining principle that [illegible] the value of an article, but the DEMAND, and by which the supply must be governed, or at least [illegible] ought to be. No matter how excellent [illegible] of an article, or how necessary to sup[illegible]lity—if it is supplied in excess of the demand the price is proportionately reduced. So it is with farm produce. But what often amuses and surprises me is to hear old farmers who have deceived themselves contend for the large profits of farming, or how profitable they find it.

I, on the contrary with many who know, contend it is not profitable; but if there is any one of the thirty thousand farmers in Nova Scotia who is so fortunate as to have made the discovery that it is profitable, I would be happy to learn how it was done. For I am so credulous as to believe that there is really not one in this vast number who has been so fortunate. This should be considered a fact until a negative is proved.

The question, "Is farming profitable," is a plain one, but exceedingly important to all farmers everywhere, and should be well considered in a profit and loss-point of view before commencing business or investing capital in a farming speculation. For when once money is spent in the purchase of a farm it is often very difficult to become "as you were," though it is wished "ever so much." Therefore, it is more especially to those who contemplate the cultivation of the soil for its profits as the means of a living that I would address this article.

Habit, when long indulged it is said, becomes a second nature, which, when applied to farming, is equally true, viz: to the old style of fogy farmers, who, when anything new is urged to their notice with reference to farming declare their opposition and tell us they "know all about farming, and don't care anything about books or theories; that all they want is plenty of manure." This is about the extent of calculation [illegible] many subject themselves too; considering [illegible] much trouble to keep a debt and credit account, so as to know whether their business [illegible]s any profit for them or not. This is [illegible] trouble with them; they do not learn their [illegible] before commencing business, or at least the principles by which farming, like all other trades is governed, viz: to know when a profit is being made, else loss is the inevitable result.

This is the great evil indulged when conducting farming, and is the principle cause of nine-tenths of the misery, destitution and want, loss of capital and waste of time, their negligence and disregard of the value of business calculation, study and forethought; which course being persued it is impossible to know just how large the profit (if any) is.

Another evil is that farmers, as a class, seem to indulge the idea that there is no necessity for the initiation of any new principle or theory in the farming department, or that by adopting a new or different course, it could be conducted more successfully or profitably: they will being generally to cultivate or plough as much land as possible, and to continue so doing from year to year without returning anything like a sufficient element to the exhausted soil, in the form of plant food. Then by keeping as large a stock as possible of cattle, horses, &c., thus using all the hay and fodder produced upon the farm with often a little more by buying, thinking this the only way to obtain manure to stimulate the reduced state of the soil. But it is all a mistake! It is one of the dearest ways of getting manure. Of course there is something in the growth of the stock, but what is it in comparison with the labor expended?

But I have been told (by seme who calculate they "know a thing or two") that if farming is unprofitable, and such a losing business as I would make it appear, the farmers could not live by farming; that they would all starve, &c.; so we must enquire a little on this point and see how it is, and if such is not the tendency. But first, patient reader, let me bring again to your notice the following sentences, "Our forefathers had a rich and virgin soil, unexhausted by production and fertile in vegetable manures. Now it is different. Our soil rich at first is becoming barren!"

This is the solution? This is the way the farmers live, by gradually reducing the fertility of the soil or extracting more than they return; thus year by year reducing the fertility of more land, till there are now actually thousands of acres thus treated in this county alone! But few seem to care about this and some do net believe it, but 'tis nevertheless true.

Now it must be remembered that a good farm in its original state of fertility is the farmer's stock in trade, and when the quality of that is being reduced his capital is bidding him good bye; though the result is anything but good or pleasant.

Therefore, it may now be seen how a man may contrive to get a living with capital and labor combined for an indefinate number of years, but generally by economy and self-denial unknown and unpracticed in other persuits. Yes, denial of many of the comforts, necessaries, not to mention luxuries of life; if not [illegible] more fortunate than his fellows the farmer finds himself necessiated to become in debt to the money-lender, which is not at all congenial with profitable farming.

Some *have* stated to me in conversation that where the trouble lies is that "the farmers don't half work their farms." Admitting this is often too true, yet I am ready to prove that this is [illegible] the reason for no profit, but only the exception. Now to illustrate the matter let us see how it is [illegible] industrious yeoman, who works his farm, often sixteen hours per twenty-four! instead of ten, employing his capital and energy thereby. Does he get a fair reward for all his unwearied toil? at least one dollar per day for labor performed, and six per cent on his capital invested, aside from wear and tear of farming utensils, rent of buildings, &c.? Does he get it I repeat? Those who are still doubtful would do well (not to guess) but to calculate by figures.

What the farmers want to know or ought to know is how to make a dollar per day for labor judiciously employed on their farms, without deteriorating the soil, aside from capital invested and other speculation; and the initiation of any theory or principle (no matter how new) that would bring about a better order of things ought to be desired and sought for earnestly by all who cultivate the soil. Farming is honorable, but it is not honored! Is there not some prime reason? Consider well.

There is a remedy for these evils that exist, but it is no use to prescribe for them while farming is considered profitable conducted as it is, or until a better state of things in this matter are really sought for.

Not wishing to occupying farther space in your columns at present I submit these statements, hoping some benefit may be derived from an investigation of this question; and that more justice and a better reward for labor on the farm may be obtained is the sincere and earnest desire of a

RURAL OBSERVER.

Colchester.

A MODEL LOVE LETTER.—My deer Dere Henry, I embrace the prescnt opporchoonity to let you know as how I am had a bad spell of the argur, and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same Blessin. Why don't you rite I sweate line to tell your sufferin Kathrun all about her pretty sweate emry—oh my sweate enry—my turtle duv—my wiging—my deer dear henry—how my poor sole is longing for your sweet voice—think I hear him singing yankey doodel as he kums from his plow now. Oh my deer henry do kum and lets get married. So no more at present but remain your loving KATHRUN AN TILDEN.—to my sweet henry.—P. S. Part Sekkund. Jeems Baslet has rased a noo house, and Sally does live so snug; but she fites him sumtimes when he's a little Anthony over. My sweate henry let us keep house, and if you love me, I won't whip you indeed, nor I won't look at nobody else, so I won't. Daddy sais as how I must git married, because I've let it run on too long already. So no more at present. P. S. Part Thurd.

my pen is bad, my ink is pail,
my lev to you shall never fail,
r henry is my own tru luv,

P. S. Noty arc, my Duc, my Turtle Duv. has the fever. —Mother's ded, and Robert your luvving KATHRUN. more at present from over the Nallyganees, [illegible] my deer henry

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The Mirror
AND
Colchester County Advertiser.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1868.

With what anxious eyes do the people of the Province of Nova Scotia look forward to the future. The doings of those who have been in power seem to have capsized many of the people, while many have been quite off their equilibrium, or, at any rate, are half afraid that black darkness is in store for us. Reasons, in one sense of the word founded on good commonsense, are freely given to show that because of the passing of the Union Act our country suffers, and will suffer. Still, who has created [illegible] judges, or given to us the spirit of prophecy? In every case or scene of life should we [illegible] show ourselves capable of having minds able to deal with every difficulty rationally, and not allow ourselves to be carried away by every wind of doctrine. It may, or it may not be that the union with Canada will make us suffer. The present depression of business, of course, is said by many to be owing to the Act. However, true reflections will enable us, if not looking on affairs with a biassed sight, to see that it is too soon to tell whether or not the Union shall be for our good. As we said in a late issue, we are certainly not worse off than other people; not even half so bad. What possibly can make us think so? Do we, out of pure selfishness, look at ourselves only, and give not a thought to our neighbors in other countries? Have we sinned above all others, and are we now reaping the consequences of our transgressions? It may be so, but why is there also hard times all over the world? The reports from Europe, Asia, Africa, as well as from America, tell the same tale; therefore, why should we repine if we are fellow-sufferers in the [illegible]

The *Mirror* is at times charged with being one sided, with its bearings to this and to that. It may be so; still we cannot well see it. Perhaps its reflections speak only too truly of the face beholding itself in the glass. No doubt it is very hard to write to please every one. We never attempted such a foolish thing; but we say that it is very hard at times to conduct a paper belonging to neither party of politics, with a slight chance of pleasing either. Still we do our best to offend no one.

The columns of the *Mirror* are open to free remarks from any one on any subject belonging to our welfare; but never, no never, shall it be induced to give any advocacy in bringing sudden misery on our people, which would be the sure result of annexation.

Some time ago we noticed the receipt of a letter from Mr. John Stiles of Washington, D. C., which, at the time, we could not, for want of space, do otherwise than acknowledge, throw aside and promise a fuller analization at a future date. We would have been anxious to have allowed Master John to hide himself farther in his robe of utter insignificance from the eyes of those who perhaps knew him in Pictou, as well as from all others; but another letter, "franked" in an official envelope, was left at the *Mirror* office, to which we replied. In due course a letter was handed to us for publication (from John) by a respected neighbor, with the intimation that if refused a copy would be handed over to the *Eastern Chronicle* for publication. Wishing the writer to be better known in Pictou County than he used to be, we gave him an opportunity to show that really a prophet is not known or appreciated in his own country, and a prophet he surely is when he anticipates the refusal of his letter a week ago, and sends a reply (see heading in *Eastern Chronicle*) in less time than a notice of refusal could reach Washington. However, Mr. John, how can you call a note "private" which was handed in to the *Mirror* office breathing sentiments of corruptible treason. Had you yourself, with your Yankee notions, entered the office, although you had your horns exalted, you must have retired because no traitor dare stand in our presence. That your note was private we deny, or else in your forgetfulness you forgot to mark it so, but how can you call your second letter private? a great official document which would have been at once put into the fire only for dirtying the stove No, sir, even the organ of the people among us most opposed to Confederation boldly declares the absurdity of your annexationism

We are not afraid of our columns being opened to any common sense, but we have too much regard for the readers of the *Mirror* to impose on them such detestable ideas. It would make us feel humiliated indeed to offer any argument whatever against your humbug, as they, like Kilkenny cats, destroy the one the other, leaving nothing but the tails in memory of their folly.

Mr. John says it was not necessary to use the name of the gentleman who handed in the communication, but we are quite capable of judging for ourselves, and beg to say that at times matters which are not necessary are often expedient.

Mr. Stiles may be a very nice man, and perhaps if we were acquainted with him we would find much to be admired, still he ought to have enough commonsense as to leave no room in his big philanthropic heart to harbor the thought that it is possible to make Britons slaves. We have too much regard for the great, the good, and the intelligence of the leading people of the United States who mind their own business and fulfilling their duty to their country, redeem the United States from the degradation which men of Mr. Stiles' stamp would soon sink it into. Still we trust that he has received through the press of Nova Scotia enough to make him loathe himself and sit down in the ashes of his faded hopes seeking true repentance. If it is—to use Mr. John's Yankee slang—"profane brag" to say that the stars and stripes can never wave over Truro, we meant just as we said, because all the fraternity of men of his stamp under the canopy of heaven could not induce Nova Scotia to annex with the United States, or tempt the United States to try a game of hide and seek with old John Bull.

TEA-MEETING IN AID OF THE POOR FISHERMEN.

On Tuesday evening the entertainment in aid of the distressed Fishermen came off in Cobequid Hall, and if "grand success" was not such a common word, we would think it very applicable on the present occasion. Certainly too much praise cannot be given to those with whom the idea originated, and to the committee of philanthropic ladies whose endeavors have met with such high approval, and if satisfaction can be taken as payment for having accomplished a noble work, they must have it abundantly, to which is added the admiration of Truro. Being taught to render unto Cæsar that which is Cæsar's, we do most heartily tender in the columns of the *Mirror* the thanks of the people to those whose activity gave such a pleasant time to all of us, and provided also something whereby the poor Fishermen may have a good time also one of these cold days.

The tables were tastefully loaded with tempting good things, and were liberally patronized, while at intervals the Band filled the room and the hearts of the crowd with fairy-like music, making people so proud of the Truro Brass Band (we don't mean the performers). Such was the success, and such a quantity of provision remained unsold, that the entertainment was repeated on Wednesday evening, with like results. Whatever may be said against the Truro people one thing is certain—none can blame them for being stingy when a good cause occurs claiming their sympathy; and it was very pleasing to observe the glow of happiness which pervaded every face, as reflected from serene hearts in the knowledge of doing a work of love. No wonder that such a vast amount of courting was accomplished, and with such an audacity [illegible] to be visible to every inquiring mind. Still [illegible] grace and good will, only when a number of Arabs took such a fancy for a white hat that they almost sent an old friend home bareheaded.

The handsome sum of £45 5s. was realized.

The Committee desire to return thanks to the ladies of Truro, who kindly assisted in the matter, and also to Mr John Black for his unceasing labor in its management.

☞ An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at three o'clock, at the International Hotel, on the body of Mr. Hopkins, the proprietor of the establishment, who was found dead in his bed about one o'clock yesterday morning. It appears that the deceased had been troubled with asthma for some years, and [illegible] On Sunday evening he was suffering from an attack, and retired to his room about nine o'clock, and when one of the parties engaged about the Hotel entered his room yesterday morning they found him dead.—A bottle of chloroform was found alongside the bed on a table, and it is supposed that he died from taking an overdose of it. Dr. Wickwire was called immediately, but his services were not required as it was found that the unfortunate man was [illegible] The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts [illegible] Express.

LARGE YIELD OF GOLD.

One of the richest yields of gold ever obtained from a quartz mine, was brought into town on Tuesday from a new mine at Mount Uniacke. A lot of fifteen tons of quartz, from a lead six feet thick, opened last fall, yielded the large amount of 235 ounces, or nearly sixteen ounces per ton. When it is considered that a three-inch lead, yielding three ounces to the ton, is considered a good investment, the enormous value of such a property as this, must be apparent. The quartz from which the gold was obtained, was the product of three men's labor from Christmas until Saturday last, 25th inst., and together with between $200 and $300 worth of specimens picked out of the rock while mining, gives a net yield of $230 per day for each man employed. The fortunate owners of this valuable property are said to be Mr. Samuel Kelly, P. S. Hamilton, Esq., and four or five other gentlemen, whose names we have not learned.—*Hx. Citizen.*

SOUND ADVICE.—The New York *Tribune* has a means of keeping business men afloat in these depressed and uncertain times, which concludes with the following excellent advice: "Be sure of one thing, whatever you have to sell, there are many people ready to buy of you rather than another. When buyers are reluctant sellers must be active. It is neither cheap nor sensible to sit still behind your counter and wait for the bustle of business to revive. When business is dull, that is the very time to advertise. In the first place, that is when you most need to advertise; and in the second, that is when people devote most time to reading newspapers, and when your advertisement consequently is most generally seen."

Out of two hundred white voters registered in one of the counties of Virginia, only four could write their names. In one of the wards in Richmond only half the white voters could sign their names.

There has been a great flood in the Sacramento Valley, in California, and the city of Marysville was overflowed. The whole valley was submerged, and travel in all directions suspended.

☞ A public meeting is to be held in Pictou to assist in raising funds for the aid of the distressed fishermen.

☞ A horse belonging to Mr. Sydney Crowe of this town dropped down dead at the depot a few days ago.

HALIFAX, 24th Jan., 1868.

GENTLEMEN:

I have this day received yours of the 23rd enclosing the handsome sum of $45.30, a collection made at the closing Prayer Meeting of the united congregations of Truro in behalf of the Deaf and Dumb Institution.

On behalf of the Directors I beg to return you their warmest thanks for this acceptable donation, which is a fresh proof that the Deaf Mutes of our land are not forgotten at Truro.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. COCHRAN,
Secretary.

Messrs. Blanchard, Rettie & Nelson.

Opening of the Legislature.

The Legislature of this Province was opened on Thursday last at 2 p. m. by the Lieutenant Governor Major-General Sir Charles Hastings Doyle, attended by his suite. A detachment of the 47th Regt. formed the guard of honor, and the Scottish Volunteers lined the stairs leading to the Chamber. The Lieutenant-Governor having taken his seat upon the throne the Usher of the Black Rod was desired to summon the members of House of Assembly, who having attended, His Excellency commanded them to return and elect their Speaker. After a few minutes' delay the members returned, having elected as Speaker John J. Marshall, Esq. His Excellency approved of their choice, and, after the usual formal remarks from the Speaker, delivered the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

As the Representative of our Gracious Sovereign, in the Government of the Province, I have called you together at a season which experience has proved to be most convenient for the transaction of Public Business; and I beg to assure you of my cordial co-operation with you, in maturing such measures as are calculated to promote the general welfare.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts will be submitted to you, and I regret to inform you that the Financial affairs of the Province are not in a very satisfactory condition, and I fear that the funds at your disposal will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the country.

There is one subject to which I deem it necessary to call your attention, in order that you may make some provision from the Treasury. I refer to the contemplated Industrial Exhibition. Such Exhibitions are calculated to develope and display to advantage the Industrial Resources of a country, and merit as liberal support as the circumstances of the Province will justify.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

While rejoicing that the Husbandman in the past season has had no reason to complain of a deficient harvest, I regret that an almost total failure in the Fishery has produced much and general distress among those engaged in this branch of industry, and I have found it necessary to make considerable advances from the Public Treasury for their relief, an account of which will be submitted for the sanction and approval of the Legislature.

Your attention will be invited to some amendments in the law relating to the subject of Education, and I trust your deliberations may be of such a character as will place the Educational Interests of the country upon a satisfactory basis.

Immediately after the formation of my Administration, it was deemed advisable to appoint a Commission to examine into and report upon the financial affairs of the Province.—The Commissioners are engaged in the discharge of the labor assigned them, and as soon as they have matured their report for your consideration.

The Railroad from Truro to Pictou has been opened for traffic, affording a vast improvement in the communication between the Harbors of Halifax and Pictou, and greatly facilitating our intercourse with the adjacent Provinces.

The Province of Nova Scotia has ever been distinguished for loyalty and unswerving fidelity to the British Monarchy, and it is peculiarly gratifying to me to entertain a firm conviction, that if the people desire any political change, they will seek the attainment of that object through their representatives, in a constitutional manner, and that their sincere and ardent attachment to British Institutions will not fail to manifest itself in all their proceedings.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following is the Address in answer to the Speech, moved by the Hon. S. Chipman in the Legislative Council, and seconded by the Hon. W. C. Whitman.

To His Excellency Major-General CHARLES HASTINGS DOYLE, *Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session of the Legislature, and for the assurances therein given.

We regret to learn that the finances of the country are not in as satisfactory a state as we could wish.

We shall be prepared to give our earnest attention to any measure for improving the laws relating to Education.

Industrial Exhibitions have proved a great advantage to the countries wherein they have been held, and we shall give our best consideration to any legislation which shall tend to make the proposed Exhibition a successful display of the resources and industry of the country.

We deeply regret the failure of the Fisheries and the consequent destitution of a large and valuable portion of the people of Nova Scotia, and we approve of the assistance which Your Excellency extended to them.

The appointment of Commissioners to investigate the financial affairs of the Province meets with our entire approbation.

The opening of the Railway from Truro to Pictou, improving, as it does, the means of communication between the Eastern Counties and the rest of the Province, is a source of congratulation to this country.

The loyalty of Nova Scotia has not been exaggerated by Your Excellency, and in the discussion of constitutional questions we shall be guided by those principles which have a tendency to promote the interests of its people, and to conserve their loyalty to the Throne.

Late European News.

The mail steamship *City of New York*, from Liverpool *via* Queenstown, arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning last.

ENGLAND.

The Government has issued instructions for the special constables who have been sworn in all over the country since the advent of the Fenian panic. The circular states that the defensive measures so taken must have so far a permanent character that they shall be adapted to last through the winter. And it adds that the best organization will be that which will afford the regular police prompt assistance when needed, without calling on the specials to undertake regular duty.

FRANCE.

A report is current in Paris that Prince Napoleon is about to publish a pamphlet on the foreign and domestic policy of France. The