

THE MAGISTRACY.

By a Correspondent of the Halifax "Times."

Messrs Editors.—I have been informed and believe, that at the hustings of one or two of the late Elections in this Province, one of the pledges put to the candidates was—"Will you do all in your power to extend the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court?—And to which pledge an answer in the affirmative has been given. The Candidate thus answering could scarcely have given the subject serious consideration, otherwise he would have come to a very different conclusion. And if the candidate making that promise has been returned as one of the Representatives of the People of this Province, as a humble Novatian I would suggest to him the necessity of weighing the matter well in his mind before he attempts to advocate or vote in the favour of such extension. I have travelled through different parts of this Province, and frequently have I heard and seen the injury and ruin accruing from petty litigation. In many parts magistrates actually make a trade of that office, and subsist principally on its profits. Ought such to be the case?—Most assuredly not. In a neighbouring County, I have actually heard of one constable having in his possession "for Levying," no less than two-hundred Executions. Now only attempt to conceive for a moment Messrs Editors, the vast range and extent of misery arising from such a state of things.

These trifling Executions are really "Blood-suckers" to the poor, and afford but little or no benefit to any other person than the Magistrate and the constable. The last shred of furniture, and in some instances the last mouthful of provisions of the poor man, is taken to pay fees, while the creditor is often obliged to whistle for his money. Nothing has a greater tendency to injure the country and afflict the poor, than such paltry executions. I know more districts than one, in which many a poor fellow is afraid to venture beyond the threshold of his own door, from the torturing dread of the tap of the Bailiff, and of being dragged away from the bosom of his family, merely if possible to extend that sorrow and suffering with which he is already surrounded; and no man can conceive the extent of such sorrow and suffering, but he who has been an eye witness of such an unhappy scene. I refer you to the Bailiff for a description, and unless his heart is too hardened in the service, I feel sure that both he and yourselves would drop a tear for those of your fellow creatures as may have been placed in such a trying situation.

This subject is of vital importance to the Country, and well worthy of consideration by all who take an interest in its welfare. The only difficulty appears to be as to the degree of the change or modification, and the best means of effecting improvement. It appears to me that the most effectual method of preventing Petty Litigation, is the appointing as Magistrates men who are independent in circumstances, and men of integrity, whose object is not to make a trade of the office, but to discharge their important duties with firmness, fidelity, and benevolence. But as more or less of persons of rather a different stamp are (perhaps from necessity,) appointed, I would certainly condemn any extension of Magisterial jurisdiction. Cheap Law! Cheap Law! is a cry very easily aroused, but not readily stilled. But it must not be forgotten, that the sad evils of which this communication complains, are caused chiefly by the ready access afforded to the litigious and quarrelsome. If Magistrates were less ready to grant process—if hasty and ill-tempered suitors found that heavier costs would follow an unjust prosecution, many would stay their hands before they increased their risk. But now a man

quarrels with his neighbor about a peck of flax seed or a bushel of grain, and starts off to a Magistrate, who speedily fills up one of his pile of blank writs, thinking the while that if his unfair charges are exposed, and his suit lost, that a promise to pay a few shillings will heal all. In one of these suits lately, fourteen persons, (magistrates, parties, constable and witnesses,) lost a whole day's attendance—the cause was tried, and after all the plaintiff was doomed to pay instead of receiving, some six or seven dollars. Even now the office of a grading Magistrate is constantly a scene of litigation day after day, and if their jurisdiction is only increased, their offices will be crowded from morning until night. No person, let his situation or conduct in life be what it may, will then be free from the never ending pest of such petty law-suits. Tenants, labourers, every one in short, while law is cheap, will fly off to the Magistrate on the most trifling occasions to persecute the enemy, and to vent their spleen by extracting from his pocket perhaps pounds, shillings and pence. And these victims of cheap law or cheap justice, seldom stop while they have one shilling left, although their families may be made the innocent sufferers;—only let the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court be extended, and then we will find every man at law with his neighbor—then every man's hand will be raised against his neighbor. No fancied grievances will be allowed to sink into oblivion. No petty debt would be either forgiven or forgotten. It operates as a wholesome check on the spirit of litigation, that there should be in law a dearness commensurate with the exigency which requires an appeal to it—a dearness, which, while it does not check individuals in the pursuit of a real right, or impede them in giving satisfaction for an injury inflicted, is much more beneficial to society than a cheapness which places it within the reach of every vindictive and revengeful spirit. The greatest practical curse that can be inflicted on any country is the dispensing law at two cheap a rate.

Amherst, Feb'y. 1837.

B.

PICTOU AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Monday, 13th March, 1837.

At a Meeting, held in the Royal Oak this evening, a Committee previously appointed to draw up a series of Rules, reported in order, the following as the Rules and Regulations of the Society:

I. That the Society be called "*The Pictou Agricultural Society*."

II. That the Society be under the superintendence of a President and Vice President: that a Treasurer and Secretary be appointed, as also a standing Committee of Management, consisting of five Members, whose deliberations are to be conducted under the superintendence of a Chairman, to be chosen by and from among themselves.

III. That in the Election, and removal from office, of all the above Officers, the system of voting by Ballot be adopted.

IV. That the above Officers be appointed annually, except as regards the Committee of Management, three of whose members only shall be annually renewed.

V. That the Society shall meet annually, on the fourth Wednesday of December, to audit the accounts, receive reports, and appoint Officers for the ensuing year.

VI. That the Committee of Management shall meet quarterly at the least, to wit, on the third Wednesdays of March, June, September, and December, respectively, and it shall be their duty to fix the place of the Annual Meeting of the Society, and regularly to notify the same.

VII. That every person resident within the County of Pictou, may become a Member

of the Society, upon paying annually the sum of Ten Shillings, the said sum to be paid in advance, and that each Member subscribe the foregoing and following Rules, in a Book to be kept under the direction of the Committee of Management.

VIII. That if any Member be one year's contribution in arrear, his name shall be struck off the Books, and that no Member be entitled to any of the privileges of the Society while in arrear at all.

IX. That the Committee of Management adopt the most efficient and active measures to improve the Agriculture of the County, by the introduction of Stock, Seed, Implements of Husbandry, Books and Papers on Husbandry, by premiums and by all other practicable ways and means whatsoever; and that in the employment and disposal of the above mentioned improvements, the Committee of Management shall make such regulations as to give a decided advantage to the Members of this Society, wishing to avail themselves of them, over all others whomsoever.

X. That the Committee of Management shall offer no bounties or premiums on Agriculture, in any of its departments, without first submitting the scheme of the same to a general Meeting, and obtaining its approval.

XI. That the Committee of Management shall, at each general Meeting, report to the Society a minute and detailed account of their proceedings, and the general state of the Society, which report shall be entered in the Books of the Secretary, and regularly published for the information and benefit of the public.

XII. That the Committee of Management shall call a special Meeting of the Society, whenever they may deem it necessary or expedient to do so.

Abram Patterson in the Chair. The following Resolutions were then passed by the Meeting:—

1. That the foregoing rules be adopted by the Society, and be forthwith published and circulated through the County, and that all persons taking an interest in its Agriculture, be invited to join the Society, subject to same.

2. That the Society meet on the evening of Wednesday, the 22d March, instant, at seven o'clock, precisely, to elect Office Bearers under the foregoing Rules, to serve until the 4th Wednesday of December next, and that notice of the said Meeting be given in the BEE.

3. That a Book be provided, to be kept by the Secretary when appointed, and that Members subscribe the Rules when entered therein.

4. That no alteration, amendment, or addition be made, of, or to the foregoing Rules, except at least two thirds of the Members present at a Meeting of the Society shall vote for the same.

5. That Messrs. James Dawson, Daniel Hockin, and Martin J. Wilkins, be requested to prepare a memorial to the Legislature, praying aid to the Society, to be submitted to the next general Meeting.

IMPORTED,

In the Brig Squirrel, from New York, and for Sale by the Subscriber.

ROWLAND'S PHILADELPHIA BEST MILL-SAW PLATES, 6 & 6½ ft Do. Do. Circular Saws, of a new and superior construction.

ALSO:

Blacksmiths' BELLOWS, ANVILS & VICES Carron STOVES, 2½ and 3 ft lengths.

IRON, well assorted.

Stove Salt in bags; Pots and Ovens, useful sizes; Large Pots, 20 to 35 gallons each.

GEO. SMITH.

December 20, 1836. c-m