

let us beware that we be not transported into revenge while we are levelling the loathsome pile, lest, when we erect the edifice of freedom, we but vary the style of architecture not change the materials. Let us not wantonly offend even the prejudices of our weaker brethren, nor by ill-timed and vehement declarations of opinion excite in them malignant feelings towards us. The energies of mind are wasted in these intemperate effusions. These materials of projectile force, which, now carelessly scattered, explode with an offensive and usefule noise, directed by wisdom and union might heave rocks from their base, or, perhaps, (dismissing the metaphor,) might produce the desired effect without the convulsion.—S. T. Coleridge.

THE STAR.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1834.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—“Demonstrator” has been received.

Notices

The CATHOLIC CHAPEL COMMITTEE, of CARBONEAR acknowledge the receipt of £50 from the Very Revd. C. DALTON, V. G., as a DONATION to aid them in building a NEW CHAPEL in that TOWN. Carbonear, April 16, 1834.

The MEMBERS of the FISHERMEN and SHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION of CARBONEAR gratefully acknowledge the receipt of £5; from the Very Revd. C. DALTON V. G., as a DONATION to that Institution. Carbonear, April 16, 1834.

In our previous columns will be seen a copy of the Fire Companies Bill for this town. The Bill was sent to the Commercial Society by Mr Pack, with a request that it should be laid before the Public, and their opinion of its merits ascertained. A document approving of the general features of the Bill, lies at the Shop of Messrs M'CARTHY and Co. for signatures.

(From the *Newfoundlander*.)

Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, }
21st March, 1834. }

At a Meeting of the COMMERCIAL SOCIETY of this Town, especially convened, this day, for the purpose of taking into consideration two bills now in course of passing through the House, viz.: “A Bill for the Regulation of the Police of Conception Bay:” and “A Bill to increase the number of the Members of the House of Assembly,” received from PETER BROWN Esq. M. C. P., for the opinion of this Society,—

Resolved, 1st.—That this Society acknowledge the necessity of a more efficient Police Magistracy for this town; and that the Bill introduced into the House of Assembly, by Mr Brown, for the Regulation of such an Establishment, has in its general principle, the concurrence of this Society, provided that duly qualified and efficient persons be appointed by Government to fill the various situations proposed by the Bill.

That if the blank in the second section of the Bill to regulate the Police of Conception Bay be filled up with the words “Forty Pounds,” it would, we conceive, meet the views of all concerned.

That it is the opinion of the Society, that the blank in the fourth section should be filled up with the words “Five Pounds;” and, also, that the words “Any amount,” in the 7th line of the fourth section, should be expunged, and in place thereof “Ten Pounds” be inserted.

Resolved, 2dly.—That this Society is of opinion that “The Bill to increase the number of Members of the House of Assembly,” is at present an unnecessary measure; besides they consider it is chiefly calculated to give to St. John's a preponderating power in the House over the Out-ports of this Island, nor are they aware that a contrary opinion exists in this town nor in the whole District of Conception Bay.

That the best thanks of the Society be presented to Mr Brown, for his attention to their interests: and that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to him forthwith.

By Order,
JOHN MUNN

Secretary to the Commercial Society.

We read the above with considerable surprise, not only at the circumstance of Mr Brown's sending to Harbor Grace, for the opinion of a private Society, of Bills deeply affecting every individual in the District; but at the presumption displayed by the Society in its communication in answer.

We think that the act of sending to Harbor Grace, only, for instructions, a copy of any general bill, would seem to appear as though Mr Brown imagined he was elected to a seat in the Assembly, to represent the interests of that individual town in particular, though it contains but a small portion of his constituents. Such conduct to say the least of it is very unbecoming.

Private opinions on a public Bill should weigh as nothing with a representative of the people; and, therefore, the very act of asking such opinions, to guide his public conduct, is, in itself, highly reprehensible. Mr Brown's motives, we doubt not, were good; he need not have asked the opinion of any one on the subject; he might have acted upon his own judgment; but as he did ask for advice, it should have been for that of his constituents generally, not for that of a select portion of them only.

We said that, in the communication (in the shape of a series of resolutions) to Mr Brown, by the Harbor Grace Commercial Society, was displayed great presumption; our reasons for saying so are these:—The Commercial Society of Harbor Grace is a body of some twenty or thirty persons, connected with, or engaged in, mercantile pursuits, self-constituted for the purposes (as the name implies) of commerce. The Society is recognized by no charter; and is responsible to no one for its acts; yet this body of twenty or thirty (as the case may be) has taken upon itself to represent and communicate, not only the opinions of the inhabitants of Harbor Grace, but of those also

of the thousands of Electors of Conception Bay; and that too without the semblance of a public meeting to warrant such a proceeding.

We do not think it the province of a Commercial Society to act as a body, independently of the people, on any subject of general politics; if it do, it assumes a position dangerous to liberty; and the people will look, even on its best acts, with an eye of suspicion, calculated alike to breed dissension and destroy that confidence which is so necessary to bind society together. As an organ, through which to convey information to the public, a better, in the present state of things, could not be found; and we highly applaud those members who use it as such; but beyond being an organ of communication a Commercial Society should not move one step:—thus far should it go and no farther—unless it be in expressing individual opinions, which the members of it of course have a right to do, in common with the rest of the community.

With respect to the opinions of the commercial society of Harbor Grace on the Police Bill we shall say nothing, that bill being now no more; but in reference to those on the Representatives' Bill we shall venture to make a few remarks.

The Society certainly were very cautious in wording its resolution on that head;—after stating its disapprobation of the bill the resolution goes on to say, “nor are they aware that a contrary opinion exists in this town nor in the whole district of Conception Bay.” Now, had the resolution ended at the word immediately before the “nor” all would have been well; but no, that would have been too modest—too little akin to the general procedure of the society; the society must, forsooth, endeavour to persuade the public, that it sways the destinies of thousands; that its resolutions are the result of extensive information; and that its opinions are infallible. We may, by way of sharpening the perceptive organs of the society, just hint that there are, in Conception Bay, such towns as Brigus, Port-de-Grave and Carbonear, and for its information, we must acquaint the society, that in the last named place (with a trifling population of some 4000), the people so far from disapproving the bill, heartily wish it to pass.—So much for the Commercial Society's opinion beyond its own immediate vicinity.—And why, it may be asked, do the people of Carbonear wish for an increase of Representatives? We answer because they are disgusted with the present state of parties in the Assembly, and feel assured that, without some addition be made to the members little good for the out-ports will ever be done.—This is the reasoning of the people here; and in our next number we shall endeavour to show that such reasoning is, at all events, founded on probability.

Vessels arrived from the Ice since our last.

CARBONEAR:—Dart, Penny, 3300; Tyro, Pike, 1700.

HARBOR GRACE:—William, Power, 1800.