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SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1842.

[17s. 6d. sent by Mail.]

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### DUTY ON FLOUR.

To the Editor of the Standard.

Sir.— Having noticed in the St. John Courier of the 22d ult. a communication, written, no doubt, by one of the parties concerned with the flour mills at St. John, and with a design to make the public believe, that the duty on flour did not operate as a protection or profit to the mill owners, but rather tended as a protection against the variation of price in the market. In answer to this, I will only quote the price of flour published by the owners of the city mills, in the Courier of the 22d January 1842, which says superfine flour 37s 6d per bbl.; and from a New York price current of same date, superfine flour 38s. showing a difference of 7s 6d per bbl. Now it is well known that flour can be imported from New York and landed in St. John for 1s. per bbl. add 4d. for insurance, making 1s. 4d. per bbl. cost 31s. 4d. showing a clear profit of 6s. 3d. to the importer, provided the article came in duty free. By looking over the price current of the city mills from their first operation and the New York price of the same date, it will be seen, that there has been about this difference in price; the mill owners varying their prices in some cases much higher, when the quantity of foreign flour was small in the market, and in all cases adding to their prices the full amount of duty and freight. Now I would ask is not this a protection to the mill owners, and are not those parties making fortunes at the expense of the public? The argument adduced by them with respect to the number of hands employed in grinding wheat, falls to the ground when we consider, the great number of vessels and men that might be profitably engaged in transporting plaster, grindstones, coals, and other articles to the States, and return with flour in exchange, thus furnishing us with bread, for articles which a kind Providence has furnished us, and in abundance in this Province. I would enquire is this flour duty equally paid by the people of this Province, the answer is not it falls almost wholly on the City of St. John, and the Town plat of Saint Andrews, and operates greatly to the injury of the former and to the ruin of the latter, with respect to the County of Charlotte, embracing a sea board and water communication including islands, bays, rivers and creeks, of nearly 300 miles, with a population of 18,000 inhabitants, nine tenths of which are purchasers of flour.

The question may be asked where do they purchase it, and what quantity do they consume in the year. The reply would be, they almost wholly purchase it on the American side, and flour being a leading necessary article they supply themselves at the same time with tea, molasses, tobacco, shoes, boots, clothing, &c. &c. As to the quantity of flour consumed, I will reckon not less than 2 barrels to a person; this would amount to 36,000 barrels, and at 30s. per barrel, would amount to £54,000; the other articles mentioned would probably amount to as much more, making the trade diverted from this County in one year £108,000. Again it may be asked, why do not the inhabitants purchase flour in St. Andrews? the answer is, we have to pay five shillings and ten pence duty and one shilling freight, which is 6s. 10d. per bbl. more than it costs on the American side. Well, says the purchaser, the town plat of St. Andrews is only one mile square, and I live two miles out of town, where there is no Custom House; you must keep your flour and other articles, I will go to Yankee town and lay out my money, as all my neighbours do. But, says the Saint Andrews merchant, you may fall in with some of the Customs officers—no danger of that, says the purchaser, I have a good boat, and it is folly to say that 8 or 10 officers can guard a coast of 300 miles; if there were 500 of them they could not prevent the people from obtaining their bread where they can purchase it so much cheaper. I am sorry to say, Mr. Editor, that this state of things extends to the Islands, and generally throughout this part of the Province. The flour duty has had the effect of building up the towns on the borders of a foreign country—has been the cause of diverting the earnings of our lumbermen, merchants, &c. &c. from the Province—caused a continual drain of specie from our banks, and has been of no real benefit to any party except the mill owners and our neighbours in the State of Maine.

Should the amount of the flour duty be required for the support of the Government; let the amount be levied on other articles which would bear more equally on the Province at large. But I am confident the additional import of other dutiable goods, would more than compensate for the loss of the flour duty.

Yours, &c.

JUSTICE,

Feb'y 24, 1842.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

February 16.

On motion of Mr. Brown.—Whereas the Select Committee, to whom was referred the

Petition of Albert G. Foster, of Saint David, in the County of Charlotte, in their Report, of the 10th instant, recommend that the Sheriff or Officer to whom Execution shall be directed, may be instructed to relieve the Petitioner, on receiving satisfactory security for the payment of the Debt and Costs in five years from the first day of June next, by equal annual instalments.—Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary instructions for carrying into effect, the recommendations of the Select Committee.—Ordered, That Messrs Brown, Boyd and J. M. Wilton, be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency with the Address.

February 17.

A Bill to provide for the appointment of Inspectors of Flour and Meal in the Towns of Saint Andrews, Saint Stephen and Saint George, in the County of Charlotte, passed the House.

On motion of Mr. Partelow.—Whereas the practice that has obtained in this Colony of charging Postages on Printed Newspapers, Journals of the Legislature and other printed Papers, operates oppressively upon the People of this Province, and prevents that free circulation of useful knowledge among its inhabitants, which in the opinion of the House it is desirable to disseminate.—Resolved, That an humble Address be prepared to be presented to the Queen's Most Gracious Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be pleased to adopt such measures in the Post Office Department, as will ensure the conveyance of all such printed Papers through the different Post Offices within this Province free from any such charge.—Ordered, That Mr. Partelow and Mr. Ead, be a Committee to prepare the Address.

February 18.

A Bill to authorize the appointment of Commissioners to examine into the state and condition of the several Banks in this Province, passed the House.

The Committee to whom were referred several Petitions claiming remuneration for teaching Schools, report they have rejected the Petition of George M'Kay, and Samuel M'Farlane; the Trustees should apply to the Session; also the Petition of George D. Morrison, not being recommended by the Trustees.

To Amy G. Campbell, a licenced Teacher, the sum of £2 6 8 for having taught a School in Saint Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, for five months, ending in September 1841.

Extracts from the Report of the Committee for Trade.

Mr. Woodward, from the Committee of Trade, submitted their Report, and having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table where it was again read, and is as follows:—The Committee to whom were referred all matters which might in any way affect the Trade of the Province, have had under their consideration the several Petitions referred to them, and beg leave to Report.—That the Petition of Thomas Rapkin and others, Bakers, of Saint John, praying that a protection duty may be laid on all Foreign Biscuit imported; and also the Petition of Daniel Leavitt and others, of the City of Saint John, praying that no duty may be levied on Biscuit, as praying for in the Petition of the Bakers, have been under their consideration; and if the principle of protection which is already granted to different Manufacturers be admitted as proper and beneficial, your Committee think the Bakers entitled to it, as well as others, and submit to the House that a small duty might be laid on the article without much prejudice to other interests. And three other Petitions from the Counties of York, Charlotte and Saint John, praying that measures may be taken by the Legislature to obtain the repeal of the existing duty on Foreign Wheat Flour. These Petitions being so numerous, signed that from York having 290 names, from Charlotte 651, and from Saint John, 2,084, have had the best attention of the Committee, and they recommend that an Address be presented to the Home Government, praying that the duty on Foreign Wheat Flour imported into this Province may be repealed.

Your Committee would recommend in lieu of the existing Parliamentary Duties, that a Provincial Duty of 2s. 6d. per Barrel, should be imposed on all Foreign Flours, which they conceive would produce a greater amount of Revenue than that collected under the present system; and they would consequently suggest that a clause should be inserted in the Revenue Bill, to be passed the present Session, imposing said Duty, not to take effect however, until it be officially announced that the Imperial Duties have been repealed by Parliament.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I. WOODWARD, Chairman.  
D. HANINGTON,  
JAMES BOYD,  
W. F. W. OWEN,  
JOHN M. WILSON,  
ALEX. RANKIN,  
JAMES TAYLOR.

Ordered, That the Report be accepted.  
Committee Room, 17th February, 1842.  
A Bill relating to the appointment of Fire-

wards and the better extinguishment of Fires in a part of the Parish of Saint Stephen, in the County of Charlotte, therein mentioned, passed the House.

POLYGAMY AMONG THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS—AMUSING STORY OF A YOUNG CHIEF WHO MARRIED FOUR WIVES AT ONCE.

Polygamy is common among all the tribes, for which Mr. Carlin assigns what he seems to consider very sufficient reasons; namely, that as a man of distinction can obtain no laborers and slaves, save his squaws, to enrich him, or enable him to obtain his proper dignity, a great many wives are consequently required. Mr. Carlin tells a very amusing story of a young Pomeah chief who distinguished himself in a singular manner, by taking to him four wives in one day! This extraordinary and unprecedented freak of his was just the thing to make him the greatest sort of medicine in the eyes of his people; and probably he may date much of his success and greatness through life to this bold and original step, which suddenly raised him into notice and importance.

The old chief, Shoo-de-ga-cha, considering his son to have arrived to the age of maturity, fitted him out for house-keeping, by giving him a handsome wigwam to live in, and nine horses, with many other valuable presents; when the boy, whose name was Hongs-kay-de, (the great chief) soon laid his plans for the proud and pleasant epoch in his life, and consummated them in the following ingenious and amusing manner:

The women of this tribe are beautiful and modest, and amongst the respectable families virtue is as highly cherished and as inapproachable, as in any society whatever; yet at the same time a chief may have a dozen wives if he pleases, and so may a white man; and if either wishes to marry the most beautiful and modest girl in the tribe, she is valued only equal, perhaps, to two horses, a gun with powder and ball for a year, five or six pounds of beads, a couple of gallons of whiskey, and a handful of awls.

Wishing to connect himself with, and consequently to secure the commencement of some of the most influential men in the tribe, he had held an interview with one of the most distinguished; and easily (being the son of a chief) made an arrangement for the hand of his daughter, which he was to receive on a certain day, and at a certain hour, for which he was to give two horses, a gun, and several pounds of tobacco. This was enjoined on the father as a profound secret, and as a condition of the espousal. In like manner, he soon made similar arrangements with three other leading men of the tribe, each of whom had a young and beautiful daughter, of marriageable age. To each of the fathers he had promised two horses, and other presents similar to those stipulated for in the first instance, and all under the same injunctions of secrecy, until the hour approached, when he had announced to the whole tribe that he was to be married.

At the time appointed, they all assembled, and were in ignorance of the fair hand that was to be placed in his son's possession. He had got some of his young friends who were prepared to assist him, to lead up the eight horses. He took two of them by the halters, and the other presents agreed upon in the other hand, and advancing to the first of the parents, whose daughter was standing by the side of him, saying to him, "you promised me the hand of your daughter on this day, for which I was to give you two horses."

The father, assented with a "ugh!" receiving the presents, and giving his child; when some confusion ensued from the simultaneous remonstrances, which were suddenly made by the other three parents who had brought their daughters forward, and were shocked at this disappointment, as well as by the mutual declarations they were making of similar contracts; that each one had entered into with him! As soon as they could be pacified, and silence was restored, he exultingly replied, "you have all acknowledged in public your promises with me, which I shall expect you to fulfil. I am here to perform all the engagements which I have made, and I expect you all to do the same." No more was said. He led up the two horses for each, and delivered the other presents; leaving off to his wigwam his four brides—taking two in each hand, and commenced at once upon his new mode of life; reserving only one of his horses for his own daily use.

I visited the wigwam of this young installed medicine-man several times, and saw his four modest little wives seated around the fire, each all seemed to harmonize very well; and for aught I could discover, were entering very happily on the duties and pleasures of married life. I selected one of them for my portrait, and painted it. Mong-shon-shaw, (the bending willow,) in a very pretty dress of deer skins, and covered with a young buffalo's robe, (which was handsomely ornamented) and wore with much grace and pleasing effect.

The ages of these young brides were probably all between twelve and fifteen years, the season of life in which most of the girls in this wild country contract marriage.

More Trouble with the Mother Country.

There has been something of a misunderstanding between one of our merchant ships and a British vessel in the harbor of Vera Cruz. The statement published in our paper a few days since, stating that the ship Henry, while at Vera Cruz, was visited from an English vessel of war, who claimed several of the crew of the Henry as being British sailors is incorrect. The true account is as follows: "It seems the hands on board the Henry, in getting in their chains, found some difficulty, on account of accidentally dragging up a kedge anchor. A boat from the British vessel came volunteering assistance and then demanded the anchor, which was refused. The mate told the English lieutenant he should have the anchor if he could name and prove any mark upon it. The lieutenant named the letter R. but no such mark was upon the anchor. The conduct of the English officers is represented as having been insolent and overbearing in the extreme. So much so that three several challenges were sent by Americans to the lieutenant, with a message stating that unless one or other was accepted, the offender should be burnt in effigy upon the pier. The Henry left the next morning, and her officers now in New Orleans express the deepest exasperation regarding the affair.—Boston Times.

Great Locomotive Engine Power.—On February 11th, a six wheeled engine, built by Baldwin, of Philadelphia, weighing thirteen and a half tons, drew over the Reading Railroad, from Reading to the Columbia Railroad bridge, 54 miles, a train of 117 loaded burden cars, weighing in all 590 tons of 2240 lbs. in 3 hours and 22 minutes, or at the rate of 19 miles per hour. The freight amounted to 375 tons, which with the weight of the cars 215 tons, made the gross weight, not including the engines or tender, 600 tons. Total quantity of wood consumed, 26-10 loads; of water evaporated, 3,110 gallons. Wide length of train 1402 feet. The above train is unprecedented in length and weight, hauled by any one engine, in Europe or America; exceeding by 118 tons the great performance of the 'Hichens and Harrison' engine, by the same builder, on the same road, in February last.—Ibid.

A Grading Fact.—The Rev. Mr. McColl, recently appointed Missionary for the Emigrants proceeding to Canada next year from Oban, Kilmore, Kiltbridge, &c. &c. by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been visiting many parts of the province for the purpose of securing suitable locations for 500 families, whose properties average from £200 to £2,000 per family; who have always borne the highest character for industry, prudence, probity and frugality; and who cannot but be a most valuable addition to the population of Canada.—Kingston Herald.

Theory of the Wind.—Wind has been explained in the following manner: Heated air has a tendency to rise, and cold air rushes in to supply its place. Thus the heated air of the equatorial regions rises and gives place to a current sent from the polar regions; which is a process that serves to equalize the temperature of the world. But the polar countries lying near to the axis of the sphere, the air from those regions has not received so much motion as that about the equator, or greatest distance from the axis; wherefore, it arrives at the equator, where the motion of the earth is greater. If it had no motion before, an east wind would be the consequence, and the force of that wind would be as the difference between the motion of the earth where the air came from and that where it arrived; but then it has a motion to the south; for it is rushing into a vacuum left by the air which rises; so that the wind will not be from the east, but north-east; and the number of degrees north of the east from which it will blow will depend upon the comparative force of the current of air from the north to the difference between the earth's motion at the equator and at the polar region, from whence the air comes. As there must be a corresponding efflux from the equator higher up, according to this theory the wind should everywhere be northeast or southwest, but it blows in very different directions at different times and places; and this probably depends on the variation in temperature at different times and places.—Foster's Researches about Atmospheric Phenomena.

The knotty questions which Lord Ashburton will strive to settle are—  
1. The North Eastern Boundary Question—Maine and part of New England.  
2. Canada Burnings and Revolution—Western New York, &c.  
3. African Seizures—Commercial Sea-ports.  
4. State Debts—The Republication States.  
5. The Northwest Territory—Western States.  
6. Creole Case—Southern States.—Bangor Courier.

Wellington on Education.—The following characteristic anecdote was related of the Duke of Wellington, by the Bishop of Exeter, at an annual meeting of the Exeter Diocesan

Board of Education: "About thirty years since, on the noble Duke's return from India, he found the whole country running mad on the question of Education, the plan of Lancaster having just been promulgated here. Dining one day, soon after his arrival in England, at the table of a noble friend, education and the plan of Lancaster, became the topic of conversation. The Duke listened awhile, and having heard the arguments pro and con, at length addressed the company in a most emphatic manner, saying, 'take care what you are about, for unless the education you give is based upon religion, you are only making so many more clever devils.'—Dorset Mercantile Journal.

We thought it would come to this. The Plymouth Rock says—  
"We have been favoured by a young lady with the reading of a copy of a letter from 'Boz,' in reply to a request made by some three or four Plymouth ladies, for a lock of Dickens's hair. He declines a compliance with that request, because it would afford a precedent, which if followed, would shortly result in total baldness. Boz couched his letter in very pretty terms and his reply was a very proper one.

Anecdote.—The Philadelphia Chronicle calls the hero of the following story a Yankee, but we will wager a sixpence that he was born in Pennsylvania. But no matter, it is a good joke.

"What do you charge for board?" asked a tall Green Mountain boy, as he walked up to the bar of a second rate hotel; New York.—"What do you ask a week for board and lodging?" "Five dollars!" that's too much; but I suppose you'll allow me for the times I am absent from dinner and supper? "Certainly—thirty-seven and a half cents each." Here the conversation ended, and the Yankee took up his quarters for two weeks. During this time, he lodged and breakfasted at the hotel, but did not take either dinner or supper, saying his business detained him in another portion of the town. At the expiration of two weeks, he again walked up to the bar, and said, "I suppose we settle that account—I'm going in a few minutes." The landlord handed him his bill—"Two weeks' board at 85—\$10," said the Yankee, "this is wrong—you've not deducted the times I was absent from dinner and supper—14 days, 2 meals per day—28 meals at 37 1/2 cents each—\$10.50. If you've not got the fifty cents change that's due me, I'll take a drink and the balance in reg'rs."

Hurray for the Women.—A paper published in Iowa, tells a capital temperance story. A farmer belonging somewhere in Iowa, bought a keg of whiskey and brought it home. Well knowing that his better half would occasionally take a "drop or so" if it came in her way, and now and then would have a drop at all events, he endeavored to conceal the keg from her by suspending it in the barn, somewhere near the ridge-pole. The eagle-eyed, or rather "hawk-eyed" wife got a sight of it, however, and resolved upon obtaining a taste. It was impossible for her to reach it. At length she hit upon the following expedient which worked like a charm. Taking down her husband's rifle, she put in a charge with a good ball, and taking deliberate aim at the keg, tapped it with the ball and brought down the whiskey at the first shot! Having a tub previously prepared, she was thus enabled to catch all, without losing a single drop, and left her poor husband to weep over and wonder at the loss of his whiskey.

A Self-Lighting Lamp.—Those who have frequent occasion to rise early, will be glad to learn that a lamp has been constructed that will prevent the trouble of groping, and fumbling for matches wherewith to produce a light. This lamp—a very neat little article—is so constructed that, being hung up in a sleeping room, and having a small ribbon, or cord extended from the lamp to the bed, or near it, no other exertion is required than to pull the cord gently, and the lamp is instantly lighted. A specimen may be seen at this office.—Picton Mec. & Fir.

"You make a cloak of your religion," said one hypocrite to another.

"Say nothing," said the other, "for you make not one cloak of your religion; but also a whole suit of under clothes, with a long pair of fisherman's boots."

A Yankee has invented a plaster so strong that draws prizes in lotteries, likewise the most beautiful landscape views, also the wagon to church, peradventure cider from the barrel.

Old Lime Plaster on Wheat.—A writer in the Farmer's Gazette says he sowed two pieces of spring wheat after bringing and rolling the seed in slack lime. On one of these fields he sowed or spread a number of loads of old plaster from the walls of old houses, and threw it in with the seed. Both fields were equally free from smut, which that year was generally running to wheat; but the wheat of the field where no lime was used, (except for rolling the seed,) was badly shrunk, while that which grew on the field well sprinkled with old plaster, was good, sound & plump wheat.