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Miscellaneous.

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Under these circumstances the vessel should have been laid up for repair some months ago. The breakdown which has since taken place was long expected if they persisted her in keeping her employed. The employment of a sailing vessel to take the *Merlin's* place has caused considerable derangement in the trade, particularly at the present time when the excited state of the flour and grain markets renders systematic communication on which the trade had been relying, a matter of much consequence. If efficient steamboats be employed, I think the arrangements are good in other respects.

J. MACGREGOR.

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W. L. ANTHONY, Esq., Merchant,—

I consider the mail service between this and Halifax to be inefficiently performed on account of the several occasions on which sailing vessels have been employed to carry the mails. The steamer *Merlin* has been reported during the last six months, to be unfit for service owing to the defective condition of her boilers; and had there been an efficient carrying out of the service, this vessel would have been laid up for repairs some months ago. The boilers of this vessel, having at length become wholly unfit, and her employment no longer possible, she was laid up at Halifax, to go to England, it is said, under canvass.

The substitution of sailing vessels for steam communication causes an evil of a very aggravated form, in the disappointment occasioned to commercial operations. Were people not led to believe in regularity of communication, under ordinary circumstances, expecting the mails to be conveyed by steam, they would have opportunities of making different arrangements. I consider it would, of the two evils, be better to have no steam communication whatever, than to have it so irregularly, as has been the case with this colony. I have little doubt, that if the subsidy paid by the British government for this service, now so indifferently carried out, were paid to the colony instead, the direct communication between St. John's and Halifax might be kept up with great satisfaction to all.

Public rumour asserts, and I believe it, that the present contractor is utterly indifferent to the annoyances the trade may suffer, or how much inconvenience may arise from the want of suitable conveyances for our mails and passengers to and from Halifax, because this colony did not, as was expected, a few years since, vote an additional sum of money from its own resources, for the service, besides the one paid by the Home Government.

W. L. ANTHONY.

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WILLIAM BOYD, Esq., Merchant,—

I participate in the general dissatisfaction which exists in the community regarding the mail packet service. The *Merlin* was spoken of during the whole of the past season as unfit for employment. Very serious mercantile inconvenience has resulted from the late breakdown