

[FOR THE BEE]

MR. EDITOR,

SIR,—I observe a communication in the last number of the Bee, signed *John Holmes*, attempting to refute Mr. Crerar's vindication of his conduct towards Mr. Hartshorne relative to the late County Election, in which he is pleased to take notice of a statement made by me before the Hustings, by merely saying that the accusation against his son is false, that it was well known to them both that he contradicted it from the Hustings, and that to say but Messrs. Crerar and Ross this would have been quite sufficient. I must inform Mr. Holmes that it was not "quite sufficient" for me either, although for certain reasons, I did not then reply to Mr. Holmes; but now, in case some others might be as incredulous as Messrs. Crerar and Ross, I shall give them my authority for what he (Mr. H.) is pleased to call the false accusation, and leave it with them to judge whether my statement or his round assertion is most deserving of credit.

On the Monday eight days before the County Election, Mr. Holmes' son called on Messrs. Alexander Fraser and George McLeod, Middle River, with a letter from his father informing them that he had set up for the County, and referring them to his son for particulars, who established the fact, requesting their assistance, and that in return he or they, meaning the East River, would support their nomination on these conditions. The above gentlemen started the canvass right and left, and young Holmes proceeded to Mount Thom, there attended a meeting, giving the same intimation and on similar terms, and from that meeting a deputation was sent to a meeting held on the next evening at the head of the West River, with intimations connected with the same proposals. He then came down to the meeting-house at the foot of the river, on Tuesday, when our congregation was met to form a society for the propagation of the Gospel, sent in for William Matheson, Esq., informed him that his father had set up as above, requesting our support, and that he or they would support Mr. Smith or any other we chose to set up in return; (we were informed at the same time that Mr. Hartshorne had resigned). On Mr. Matheson's coming in and informing us of the message, after a few words the proposal was unanimously acceded to; not, Mr. Editor, that we thought Mr. Holmes a fit and proper person, or by any means the fittest on the East River to represent them, far from that; but if he had been a man of straw, we, for the sake of peace, would have supported him on the same conditions.

I confess that I am not at all surprised that the information given by me was not very agreeable to Mr. Holmes at the time, (although of this I was perfectly ignorant then,) as he of course said the difficulty of vindicating his subsequent conduct with the above accusation, as he terms it. Now, Sir, to convince the public of his fidelity to Mr. Hartshorne, he informs them that he issued his card only on Saturday, before the opening of the poll, but omits telling them that this canvass commenced at least on the Monday previous. Now, Sir, with these facts before the public, I shall leave them to judge of Mr. Holmes' veracity. "Let them judge, I feel confident in my own mind they will do me justice."

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant
DONALD FRASER.

West River, Pictou, Dec. 26, 1836.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A YOUTH from 12 to 14 years of age, to serve an apprenticeship to the BOOKBINDING BUSINESS.
JOHN ROSS.

December, 1836.

T H E B E E .

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 28, 1836.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM.—MEMBERS' PLEDGES.

—Last week we alluded to *Members' pay* in this Province, as being altogether unique in amount, and stated it a fit subject to commence Legislative reform upon; indeed, we cannot see how the people could give them credit for sincerity in any other measure of reform, while this robbery-clause resided to exist on the statute book. We recollect, that a few years ago, when the Act was passed raising *Members' pay* to four dollars per day, it was noticed in all too British newspapers from the Land's End to John O'Groats, as an extraordinary instance of cupidity and avarice on the part of the Members, and of culpable indifference and submission on the part of the people, that they did not to a man resist it. We know of no reason that can be assigned, why the representatives of Nova Scotia should receive a higher compensation for their services, than those of any other British Colony.

SHORT PARLIAMENTS.—We lately quoted a paragraph from a Montreal paper, stating that Nova Scotia was the only Colony under the British Crown, which had seven year Parliaments, and wondering how the good people of this country could tolerate such a *monstrosity*. We believe the statement to be perfectly correct, and this evil having already existed nearly fifty years, we hope the present Parliament will reduce the term of its existence to three or four years. It will thus go a long way towards securing the people's confidence, and of satisfying them that their representatives are a body of conscientious reformers.

ELECTION BY BALLOT.—This is a reform which has been eagerly sought for, both in Britain and her Colonies, but not yet obtained in either. Never having seen this mode of election tried, we cannot speak with much confidence of its practical working: Our opinions are, however, decidedly in favor of it, and therefore we would wish to see it tested by trial. Nothing is more certain than that the present mode of election is deeply influenced by many highly improper causes and motives which in election by ballot could have no existence; but it has always puzzled us to think how this way of election could be carried into effect, so as to guard it effectually from fraud, to which we confess it is peculiarly exposed. That election by ballot, so guarded, would be infinitely more advantageous for the public weal, more constitutional, and more in accordance with the boasted freedom of the British people, no sane man, we think, will venture to deny.

CLERGY RESERVES.—GLEBE & SCHOOL LANDS.—All those extensive tracts of lands reserved in some of the Colonies to the extent of a tenth, and in others of a seventh of the soil, for the above purposes, are destined to become at one time or other the fruitful sources of contention; they have already been so in nearly all the Colonies except Nova Scotia; and, as it is evident the different denominations of Christians with which the Colonies are peopled, will never agree on a scale of division, for their being applied to the support of religion; we agree with the majority of writers on this subject, that they should be appropriated to the support of general education. One Colony (P. E. Island) has already succeeded in obtaining this, and the Legislature of Upper Canada, during the last 15 years, has passed several bills for the same purpose, but were prevented from obtaining the Royal assent by the influence of the High Church party. They have the subject again under consideration at present, and we refer our readers to some articles on the subject in a preceding column, and also to the subjoined draft of a petition, which we believe is intended to be forwarded hence to the Legislature, at its opening; and we would remind our readers that it is in this way, and perseverance in it, that they may, and certainly will, ultimately succeed in obtaining all necessary reforms. (To be continued.)

THE following draft of a Petition, has been handed to us for insertion in the BEE, for the information of whom it may concern:—

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly,

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the County of Pictou Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioners, being part of his Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects of Nova Scotia, feel a deep and zealous interest in any measure, that may ultimately tranquilize the feelings of its inhabitants, and promote their prosperity.

Your Petitioners viewing the immense tracts of land in this Province, which have been reserved under the appellation of School and Glebe Lands, as remaining in an unsettled state, we therefore beg respectfully to draw your attention to them, and request that you will deliberately consider the subject, and if consistent with your wisdom, to dispose of the same, and thereby to create a fund for the support of general education. We are desirous that the whole population may participate in the benefits derivable from that fund. Your petitioners feel a pleasure in appealing to yourselves under the conviction that you are principally reformers, and unite with us in wishing that all abuses with their sources may be abolished; and Your Petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ON Wednesday evening last, the Rev. Mr. Smith read an excellent lecture to "The Literary and Scientific Society" of this place, on the subject of 'Heat.' One could not but be pleased with the simplicity of style and clearness of illustration, adopted by the Rev. Gentleman through the whole lecture. His aim evidently was, more to instruct than to dazzle. On the disputed points respecting the cause of the sensation of heat and the phenomena of combustion, he exhibited the utmost familiarity with the different theories advocated by philosophers.

He referred also to the climate of Nova Scotia, and explained the causes of our cold and protracted winters. Much praise is due to Mr. Smith for the warm interest which he seems to take in the welfare of Societies which have for their object the dissemination of Literature and Science. Till such Institutions become more common, we cannot expect that spirit of intelligence to be extensively diffused, which is now endeavoring to work its way into all classes of society.

Mr. D. S. Morrison will read a Paper this evening on "Instinct."

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Messrs. Brathwaite, Kay & Co. of Fredericton, have erected a Brewery, Flour and Oat Mills, Smithy, and Cooperage, with machinery for turning in Wood and Iron, Carding, Circular Sawing for Joiners' work, cutting Hay and Straw, and bruising Oats: the whole driven by a Steam Engine of the best modern construction.

In noticing this establishment, the Fredericton Royal gazette says,

"We know not which to admire most, the excellent arrangement for the working of this establishment, or the rapidity with which the completion of these works have been effected. Scarcely five months have elapsed since the laying the first stone of the building, and we now see an extensive system of machinery in operation of first rate excellence, and admirably adapted for its purposes—worked by that most wonderful agent as a prime mover, steam. The engine which is here employed is a very superior one of its kind, and the consequent economy will soon be found by the proprietors."

"We conclude by observing, that the Flour and Oat Mill will now give the Agriculturist the power of getting his produce ground at every season of the year."

COUNTY OF GUYSBOROUGH ELECTION.—State of the poll at the close, at Guysborough, on Tuesday, the 12th inst: Des Barres 239, McDonald 128, Marshall 174. At the final close at St Marys: Des Barres 374, McDonald 245, Marshall 174. The people at St Marys were unanimous; Marshall did not get a vote.—*Com.*