

Correspondence.

The Editor of the Woodstock Journal. Amongst the subjects treated of in newspapers there is one class concerning which the public does not look for or expect fair and impartial views—i.e., those connected with party politics; because the newspaper represents generally the perfect view of its side. But on other subjects it is too much to look for impartial views, and correct statements. Our legislators during the last session of parliament very wisely abstained from making a College Bill a party one. On so important a subject as education, party preferences should be laid aside, and all should contribute up to the measure of their capacity to the educational provision of the Province. No country can stand high without a well-regulated educational system, a system founded upon proper common schools and culminating in a well-regulated University. It was well there that the College Bill should be discussed without reference to party. But we find the Sentinel commenting upon it with as much bitterness and obliquity of vision as he would upon a successful vote of confidence. Now without pre-empting to pronounce upon the result of "Judge Wilton's Bill," I may be permitted to express the pleasure I feel that a University has been preserved to us. It is not still all that the friends of education might desire, but it is comforting to think that the materials are left for further education; that the hope of a high-class education is not utterly being destroyed. It is a further comfort to think that the opponents of the College have vastly damaged their power to injure it by the spirit they manifested during the recent session. It is sufficiently evident that one strong motive urging on the opposition to King's College is the desire to secure considerable grants to denominational colleges; which cannot in the ordinary course of events rise higher than the standard of superior schools. In words they deprecate such a result as the establishment of denominational colleges, but their acts belie them; they are the men who are striving and pushing for such a result. Do they see the injury they would inflict on the country? I trust for their own sakes that they are not deceiving but deceived. Hear what the Sentinel says in his (?) leading article of Saturday last: "We are painfully impressed with the fear that the reform has come too late, and that, to-morrow, if applied to, the large majority of the people would express a decided want of confidence in any institution built upon the foundation and of the material of which King's College is composed." And therefore by misrepresentations this—by his own admission—unreasonable want of confidence is a reformed University. Well! Another choice morsel: "For thirty years, at an expense of £3,000 to £5,000 a year, all told, some three or four students have been educated (?) within its walls." Only three or four students during the course of thirty years (such would appear to be the meaning of this lucid passage), and even they received only a doubtful education. Perhaps he means three or four a year. That is nearer the truth. And yet that is short of the truth; for there have at times been as many as 10 or 12 a year, and never less than three or four, besides the results are diminished, the expense has been magnified. He says still: "The result of this thirty years' waiting has been to make the hearts of the people sick; to destroy every feeling of hope that the institution would or could be made useful." The people's hearts are not sick yet, for their feeling as expressed by the majority is that the College should stand. And pray who has hindered the usefulness of the College? who has prevented its reform? Not its results; but those who bemoan them in speeches and in print. A continual tirade of abuse has prevented many, who knew not the real state of the case, from sending their sons to receive the benefit of the Institution. A strong determination to destroy has for many years stifled any attempt to reform. I am sorry to have trespassed on your space so long, and beg leave to subscribe myself Yours truly,

The Journal.

Thursday, April 28, 1859.

SPRING.

What eye does not rejoice at the sunlight? what heart is not gladdened at the return of spring—by the cheerful melody of birds and the music of plashing water? The heart and mind are thawed out as well as the streams and lakes. And there is the same process of a new birth. The storms and showers of March are the throes of the birth of the year; and then comes the brightness of the vernal sunshine, like the smiles of childhood. And the mind has been bound up in "thick ribbed" ice as it were; the whole system has been painfully tightened by the changeless alterations of snow-storms and hard frosts; and when the sun breathes through the clouds, and the rain comes pattering down, there is a general loosening of the system, mental and physical—a painful, irritable feeling, preparatory to the putting on of the summer constitution. This relaxation of the system and feeling of irritability pass away with the storms, and a sensation of unmixt physical delight—a joy of mere existence—seizes the mind, as the eye beholds the graining of the fields and the bursting of the buds, and the air drinks in the harmony of running waters. The beauties and melodies of nature come home to the mind with ten-fold power after their long drupal withdrawal. They have the charm of novelty and freshness. Mrs. Hemans has well expressed this thought in her little poem on Spring, from which we quote a line or two (from memory) very applicable to our Province:

"From the streams and lakes I have loosed the chain, They are flowing on to the silver main; They are floating down the mountain's brows; They are flinging spray on the forest's boughs; They are bursting fresh from their sparry caves; And the earth resounds with the joy of waves."

Now is the time to hold communion with Nature, while she has the gloss of freshness upon her. What more delightful and healthy exercise than to climb along the streams, with rod in hand. With what mirthful disregard scratched hands and torn clothes are viewed? With what a start the eye is recalled from wandering over the long stretch of woods, or a break in the forest, or a steep cliff, by a little tugging at the hook! How great the discomfiture when you find that it was a log, and not a trout, that took off your hook! And then what a ravenous appetite you have! Long before noon you feel persuaded that it must be one o'clock, and you eat accordingly.

Then there is that gathering of May flowers. Every thing smells so sweetly; the dear old woods are so solemn and so grand. The oxygen given forth by the trees makes the blood rush more quickly through the arteries, and deepens the tint on each fair cheek. You feel at peace with everybody; you would smile and shake hands with your most determined enemy; the sun is brighter than you ever remember it to have been; you fancy all the world as fragrant as the floweret whose perfume you inhale. The enjoyment of such feelings of good-will and general benevolence, apart from the store of health laid up, is an ample compensation for the labor of walking and the time spent. It enlarges and purifies the heart, refines and instructs the mind, to thread the mazes of the forest and dine in the umbrageous halls of nature.

But the return to Town should not be rendered unpleasant by the nauseous effluvia of decaying vegetable and animal matter, as is sometimes the case. Woodstock is as free from unpleasant smells as most towns in the Province, and yet Woodstock has in this respect but little of which to boast. Such smells are very unpleasant to those whose senses have been pleased and purified by the fragrance of the woods and the fields, besides being very detrimental to the health of the Town. All refuse matter should at once be removed from the yards and the streets. Happily, for the peculiar situation of our Town the rain becomes an excellent scavenger, carrying down to the river or to the

brook the greater part of the refuse of the streets. Nothing, however, should be allowed to remain.

Would it not be advisable to have rows of trees planted along our sidewalks? These lines of trees form one of the most pleasing features of the small Towns throughout the Union. They not only add greatly to the beauty of the place, but contribute in no small degree to the health of the community. We do not feel the want of them as yet, because of the proximity of the woods; perhaps we may not feel it for years. Now, however, when the Town is in its infancy, is the best, indeed the only period when a commencement can be made. It would be too late to commence when the need is felt. The difficulty of preserving the young trees from injury increases with the increasing population and size of the place. While our town is still young and small it might be possible to prevent their being cut down or otherwise injured, till they have attained some age of development. They might be planted along the sides of the newly opened streets at least. This is the proper season for transplanting. Soon it will be too late: for our Springs are short, and rapidly ripen into Summer.

The Session.

Although the session just past has been the longest since the initiation of the appropriations was yielded to the Government, having lasted sixty-two days, it has not been fertile in legislation. The whole number of Bills which passed both Houses and received His Excellency's sanction was only sixty-three, a smaller number than usual. And of these the number which are general in their nature, and of Provincial importance, is very small. We present a list of them:—

- An Act imposing duties for raising a Revenue.
An Act to alter and amend Chapter 62, Title VIII of the Revised Statutes, "of the protection of sheep and moose.
An Act to establish the University of King's College, (with a suspending clause.)
An Act to provide for defraying certain expenses of the Civil Government of the Province.
An Act to provide for the repair and improvement of roads and bridges, and other public works and services.
An Act relating to the Boundary Line between the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.
An Act to amend the Act for the encouragement of Agriculture, and to provide for the establishment of a Provincial Board.
An Act relating to the Great Roads.
An Act to amend an Act intitled "An Act relating to Highways."
An Act to continue and amend the Act relating to Steam Navigation in this Province.
An Act to repeal an Act intitled "An Act to amend the law for the relief of Insolvent Debtors."
An Act to alter and amend chapter 125, title xxiv, of the Revised Statutes, "Of absconding, concealed or absent debtors."
An Act to regulate the qualifications of Practitioners in medicine and surgery, and to provide a "Medical Council of Health," in the Province of New Brunswick.
An Act to regulate the time of holding the Circuit Courts in the counties of Sunbury, Kent, and St. John.
An Act relating to the law of evidence.
An Act to modify the laws relating to Interest and Usury.
An Act in amendment to chapter 116, title xxx, of the Revised Statutes, "Of Bills, Notes, and Choses in Actions."
An Act to amend chapter 136, title xxvii, of the Revised Statutes, "Of trespasses on lands, private property, and lumber."
An Act relating to the recovery of damages against the Commissioners of the European and North American Railway in certain cases.
An Act relating to Intestate Estates and the practice of Probate Courts.
An Act in amendment of chapter 137, title xxxvii, of the Revised Statutes, "Of the jurisdiction of Justices in civil suits," so far as relates to the duties of constables.
An Act to place certain Provincial buildings under the control of the Board of Works.
An Act to provide for the support of Lunatics committed to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.
An Act to alter and amend an Act intitled "An Act to encourage the destruction of Beavers in this Province."
An Act relating to sick and disabled seamen.

Several of these measures are of a very important nature. We regard the University Act as value for half a session. Gray's Bill is another measure of very great importance, not only intrinsically, but as a commencement towards carrying out in legislation the principles of his Bill as originally introduced. The impeding of the Govt. in courts of law is a principle of justice which, we fully believe, will be

fore many years be yielded by the legislature. Another valuable measure is the Interest and Usury Act. Under the late law all contracts for the loan of money at a higher rate than six per cent. were void, the lender could recover neither interest nor principal in a court of law; and an action for the forfeit of the whole sum, principal and interest, could be brought. This ridiculous and odious statute has been swept from the book. Any rate of interest can now be legally contracted for and received; and although the lender cannot in an action of law recover more than six per cent., he can recover that rate, with the principal. Banks are restricted to six per cent.; and where there is no specific rate agreed upon between parties the legal rate is six.

Concerning the repeal of the Insolvent Debtor's Act opinions will differ. Very few will say that the Act was precisely what they would have desired to see it; and just as few will contend that we should not have an Insolvent Law of some kind. But as to the nature of that Law opinions differ greatly. Our own opinion is that ineffective and faulty as was the Insolvent Act it was not wise to repeal it without replacing it by some other scheme. There is a strong inducement against any legislation upon the subject; and it will be found exceedingly difficult to attain the enactment of an Insolvent Law again. By refusing to sweep this Act away until something else had been provided to take its place, those who wish for an Insolvent Law would have driven the opponents of such a measure into a compromise, and a really good law might have been the result. Some say that they are willing to support a thorough system of Insolvency or Bankruptcy, but will not take a partial measure. This is utter folly; no perfect system can be prepared in one session; a perfect system must be the work of years of experience and consideration—of amending, altering, patching, and re-patching. Legislation upon subjects so complicated and difficult of management must proceed step by step. And it is on this account that we regret the repeal, faulty and imperfect as it was, of the Insolvent Debtor's Act.

When we have named these, and the Agricultural and Medical Acts, we have named all the Acts of special importance. The other public Acts may be very good in their nature, but they are not of a character to attract much attention. Of the numerous important Bills which were brought under the consideration of the House but never reached maturity, we shall speak on a future occasion.

Fire Engine No. 2, and Mr. Perry.

The Engine which is used by Fire Company No. 2 was purchased some two years since from Mr. Perry of Montreal, whose engines obtained the first prizes at the Universal Exhibitions of London and Paris. For some reason the engine has never worked satisfactorily to the Town authorities; and some time ago an offer was made by letter to Mr. Perry to pay his expenses if he would come to Woodstock and put the engine in order to throw the contract distance,—one hundred and forty feet.—The offer was not accepted at the time; but recently Mr. Perry having been on to Halifax, on his return visited Woodstock to ascertain whether there was any sufficient ground for complaint against the engine, and if there was to see what it might be. On Saturday last Companies One and Two, and the Upper Woodstock Company, turned out for a trial. There was a heavy rain falling at the time, and the addition of three engines spouting water over the streets did not add to the comfort of pedestrians. On Monday another trial of the Perry Engine was made. The results of these trials were very satisfactory. The greatest distance reached by the water was 155 feet. Of course the body of the stream did not reach that distance. The Engine was worked by twenty brakemen; and as but few of these were used to the violent physical labor required in the working of an engine, and had but little practice, they were not qualified to make it work so well as experienced firemen would have done. Under these circumstances the result must have been highly gratifying to both Mr. Perry and the Town authorities. The Town Council at a meeting held on Monday evening passed a resolution thanking

Mr. Perry for his visit, and speaking of the Engine in the following terms:—

"That the Council feel it due to Mr. Perry to state that the Engine furnished by him is in every respect according to the terms of his contract, and that the efficiency of the same gives entire satisfaction, and reflects great credit upon the builder. By order of the Town Council, JAMES T. NASH, Clerk."

We may state that this Engine has a five inch cylinder, and fourteen inch stroke, and a three quarter inch nozzle. Its whole cost, including hose cart, &c., was about £200.

Mr. Perry, whose unassuming and agreeable manner made a very favorable impression in Woodstock, left here on Tuesday for St. John. His principal object in visiting these lower Provinces has been to learn what prospect there is for an increase of his business in these localities. He says that he can see no reason why he should not have an extensive business in New Brunswick; and considering the high name which his engines have attained when put in competition with those of the World, we entirely agree with him.

The St. Croix Herald, which devotes almost as much attention to the affairs of Calais as to those of St. Stephen, gives a description of a new Fire Engine recently procured by the former place, the whole cost of which was \$2300. It is adapted for throwing one, two, or three streams, as may be found necessary. On a trial it threw three one inch streams a distance of 96 feet, one inch and three quarter stream 104, and one inch stream 200 feet.

By an exchange we observe that a Justice of the Peace in Troy N. Y. has sentenced a man to twenty-five days imprisonment for stealing an umbrella. This, so far as we know, is the first case on record. Would it not be well to have him invited to take up his residence in Woodstock during this summer?

At the assizes recently held in Toronto there was not a single case on the calendar. Chief Justice Robinson stated that such a thing had not occurred in Toronto since 1808.

ST. ANDREWS RAILROAD.—We are informed by a prominent citizen of Houlton, that during the past winter, which has been one of unusual dullness, the St. Andrews road has very nearly paid its running expenses, and that about four fifths of its business has been from this side of the Boundary Line. The rate of freight too, on the sixty-five miles of that road, are only sixty cents per ton more than the Oldtown & Milford Railroad, only twelve miles. With the opening of the spring, business on this road will be largely increased. One of the merchants of Houlton informed us that he alone should have fifty tons of freight come over that road within the next month. If the St. Andrews road can now be made to pay with the business of Aroostook, who shall say that the Aroostook Railroad will not pay when built. —[Aroostook Pioneer.]

CONVENTION OF PROGRESSIVE BACHELORS.—The progressive bachelors of Delaware have held a State Convention at Smyrna. There were about sixty delegates present. Resolutions were adopted to the effect that the institution of marriage is of divine origin and of national interest, but that the extravagance of the time is a serious obstacle to an entrance into the marriage relation. Alliance, formed for pecuniary advancement, or with ideas of aristocratic family antiquity, are declared to be destructive of the finer feelings and affections which make the happy home, and ultra fashions and cold formalities, hindrances to the development of real worth. Modern "womon's rights" and "fast young men" are condemned, and a radical reform in the present social system which engenders extravagance and indolence, is proclaimed to be all-important.

The Berlin journals speak of a new matrimonial union, calculated to strengthen the ties which now unite the courts of Postdam and Windsor, namely, the marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandrine, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia, and the Princess Marianne of the Netherlands. From 75 to 100 large whaling ships are expected to arrive at this port during the present season, bringing oil and whalebone to the value of nearly three millions of dollars, and employing in the whaling trade about ten thousand men. —[New Bedford Paper.]