

its ten houses, inhabited by its population of fifty souls.

We cannot answer for the exact number of the people; but we know that the number of the houses has been the same through all tradition. Indeed the permanence of everything at Goust is its most striking characteristic; and in the present age of revolution, it may be worth while to try to ascertain the cause. As for the government of the community, we are not prepared to say that it has any definite form at all. At any rate there is no council-chamber, no parliament, no justice-room. Certain voices are listened to with respect and obedience, but age appears to be the sole qualification. At Goust all intellects are alike, the sole difference being made by experience. A man of a hundred years of age is wiser than a lad of fifty or sixty; and indeed till the first-mentioned age is attained, the judgment can hardly be reckoned mature. Centenarians are the rule amongst the old men, not the exceptions; and Dr. Cayet, the chronicler of the place, who writes in 1605, mentions the death in that year of an individual who was born in 1482.

The religion of Goust has neither priest nor temple; but, except when they are shut up by the snow during winter, the inhabitants do not suffer the insularity of their position to deprive them of spiritual comfort.—Laruns is the grand centre of the Christianity of the country; and thither, on great occasions, descend the population of the peaks and precipices of this portion of the Pyrenees. At Laruns they are baptised, married, and buried; for people die some time or other even at Goust. Lovers walk to the distant church to become husband and wife, and infants are carried thither to be made Christians; but the dead who cannot walk, and whom it would be difficult to carry along a descending path cut in the face of an almost perpendicular cliff, require some contrivance. They are made to slide down the precipice, and the mourners follow, having hold of a rope attached to the coffin. When the path at length becomes more practicable for a funeral procession, the cortege is met by a priest, and they take their way, with holy hymns, to the cemetery of Laruns.

But these are not the sole visits of our republicans to the lower world. They carry milk and vegetables even to the Eaux-Chaudes, and may be seen trafficking for luxuries, comforts, or necessities in the most distant corners of the valley of Ossau. There is, indeed, one commodity—luxury, comfort and necessary in one—the search for which brings every young man of Goust into the valley at one time or other. At home there are young girls enough, but all are within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity, and it is necessary to go abroad for a wife. Down, therefore, they plunge—these adventurous bachelors—like angels (Thomas Moore's) coming to woo the daughters of men; and casting the eagle glance of the mountaineer round this Tempe of the Pyrenees, they are not long of singling out their destined bargain. The marriage takes place, as we have said, at Laruns; and then comes the young wife's expedition, undertaken probably for the first time, into the cloud-land which is henceforward to be her home. As she ascends farther and farther from the level earth, and the path becomes narrower and steeper, she clings closer and closer, it may be supposed, to the arm she has selected for her support in the journey of life. The valley beneath is already covered with tumbling clouds, and she is terrified to look back upon the dizzy path by which she has climbed out of the vapour. Forward—forward—is her only hope; her destiny is fixed beyond recall; the metaphors of poetry are to her substantial facts. But how beautiful is the oasis that at length rewards her labour! How deep is the feeling of security with which her late quaking heart is filled! And how strange the next morning is the silence of the desert air, which awakens her with a start and a thrill! But her dream is interrupted by the hungry yet joyous cries of the household for breakfast; and in half an hour the young girl of Ossau is converted into the thrifty, thoughtful, methodical, hard-working matron of Goust.

This incident is fertile in consequences; for the union of the two families does not end here. The adventurous brother of the bride follows her steps, both in affection and curiosity, to see what strange abiding-place the soaring fancy of his sister has chosen. Among the curiosities of the place, his eye rests upon a rich warm cheek and flashing eye, which has the same effect upon him—for love delights in contrasts—which the pale and pensive face of the girl of the valley produced upon the heart of the mountaineer. The one dandel descends as willingly as the other climbed; and by and by the daughter of Goust becomes the wife of Ossau. Thus are knit together by kindred sympathies the two extremes of the region, and sweet thoughts and loving memories fly backwards and forwards, like doves, between heaven and earth. Thus, too, the principle of population is regulated, and human ebb and flow goes far towards keeping the numbers of the oasis at an average which has remained steady for ages.

But when this equilibrium is interrupted by circumstances—when, for instance, there came some additional mouths, which threaten, when they grow larger, to stint the commons of the hamlet—then appears the wisdom of the government of Goust. A boy, perhaps two or three, if it be necessary, are equipped, and sent forth to push their fortune in the valley. And these are no loss to the hamlet: they form its advanced guards, and become *points d'appui* of its traffic. They are not exiles, but agents. They are true colonists, linked to the mother-land by love and reverence, and a constant in-

terchange of good offices. In the greater social aggregations the same necessity is felt, and the same means of relief is at hand; but, less clear-sighted than the centenarians of Goust, or else bewildered by the complications of a numerous society, such communities lose time in arguing and temporising, till the evil becomes intolerable, and the whole fabric of the state is shaken—perhaps shattered. The months continue to increase, while the produce remains stationary. Envy, hate, crime, take the place of love, innocence, and peace.—The food is ravished which can no longer be earned; and the public misery at length revenges itself upon a government whose worst crimes were indecision and imbecility.

But although our hamlet escapes some of the evils, it yet misses, we must own, some of the advantages of a society in a more complicated state. In it individuals are nothing, and the mass everything. There is no opportunity for the innovations of genius, no field for experiment and improvement. The whole body politic must advance at once, or all remain stationary. Originality is reckoned madness; novelty is a crime—an insult. Agriculture and implements, manners and knowledge, are at this day what they were in the time of Henri Quatre; and long before then, the enduring stereotype had been cast. The stream of the world rolls by several thousand feet beneath, washing the base of that eternal rock, but unable to reach the summit with its voice or its spray.

Goust, we have said, is a democracy; and it is so in the strictest sense of the word. Distinctions of rank are unknown, and the only existing superiority is that of age. As a man in the progress of years becomes callous to the ordinary enjoyments of life, there open out to him new vistas of power and utility. Seated before their cottage doors, wrapped in the twilight radiance of the setting sun, the decemvirs of the hamlet receive the homage of their descendants. Their decisions, however, are not despotic, but constitutional; for the government is traditional, and the qualifications of a functionary are nothing more than years and memory. Property remains to this day on its original basis. No family has an inch more land than its neighbours.—There being no inferiority of wealth, there is no pride of purse; and where the condition of all is known to all, there can be no pretension, no ostentation, no hypocrisy. It would seem, indeed, that there is an equality even in the intellect of the inhabitants, the means of its cultivation being so humble and so uniform; and thus the hamlet of Goust presents an almost absolute equilibrium, individual, social, and territorial, and may be looked upon as an expression of the democratic state in its simplest and purest form. Such as it is, it might form a useful study, both as regards its advantages and disadvantages, for the statesmen of late days, if they could only raise their eyes high enough from the crowd that is rushing and struggling on the surface of the earth.

We have only to add, that this hamlet is one of several perched on the pinnacles of the Pyrenees, and almost forgotten by the parent state to which they belong.—Escaping interference through their poverty, insignificance, and remoteness, they have grown up into self-supporting communities, and preserved a traditional independence in the midst of the political changes which have convulsed the rest of the country.

PRICES CURRENT,

JANUARY 6, 1849.

PROVISIONS		Coal, Pictou, chald.	none
Flour, Am superfine seconds	50s	do	18s a 19s
PEI per lb.	24d a 24d	Wood per cord	10s 12s 6
Rye per barrel	14d	SUNDRIES.	
Corn Meal per barrel	14d	Tea, Bohea per chest	1s a 1s6d
Oatmeal per lb	14d a 13d	per lb	2s
Beef, small pieces lb	3d a 4d	Congo per chest	2s 4d
per quarter	2d a 4d	per lb	3s 6d
Mutton per lb	47s 6d	Coffee P Rico, cwt	84s
Veal do	24d a 4d	per lb	1s
Pork per barrel	80s	St Domingo, cwt	80s
per carcass	24d a 34d	per lb	11d
Butter, fresh, per lb	10d a 1s	Sugar	44s a 46s
tub. do	8d a 10d	per cwt	44s a 46s
Cheese, PEI Island lb	4d a 7d	per lb	6d
American	9d a 10d	Refined do	9d
Eggs per doz	101 1s	Molasses, per gal.	1s 7d
Potatoes per bushel	1s4 a 1s6	Raisins, per box	15s
Turnips	10d 1s 2	Tobacco, Fig. PEI	1s a 1s1d
Tallow	8d a 10d	Cavendish, Am.	9d
Lard	6d a 8d	Soap, per box	43d
Pearl Barley	2d	Candles, mould PEI	1s
Ham	5d	dip, PEI	10d
Rice	4d	mould, Am.	10d
per cwt	25s	dip Am.	9d
Turkeys	2s6d a 4s6	Brandy (Martel's) gal	12s6 a 14s
Geese	1s 3d a 2s	Wine, Port	14s a 16s
Fowls	7d a 10d	Sherry	12s
Codfish per quintal	11s a 13s	Gin (Hollands) do	7s6d a 9s6
Salmon each	11s a 13s	Rum, Demerara, high	8s a 9s3d
Herrings per barrel	20s 28	proof, per gal.	8s a 9s3d
Mackerel do	20s 28	Jamaica, high	3s 6d
GRAIN.		proof, per gal.	3s 6d
Oats	1s6d a 1s9	Boards, Pine 100 ft.	2s 6d a 4s
Barley	2s 6d a 3s	Spruce do	2s 6d a 3s
Wheat	40s a 50s	Hemlockdo	6s a 10s
Hay, per ton	40s a 50s	Shingles	
Coal Sydney, chald.	37s 6d	EXCHANGE.	
		On London 60 days	32½ pr. ct
		30 days	35 do
		On Halifax 60 days	20 do
		Sovereigns	30s
		Doubloons	96s
		Dollars	6s a 6s3d

Mutual Insurance.—Notice.

HER Majesty the Queen having been pleased to give the Royal allowance to the act passed at last Session of the Legislature entitled *An Act to Incorporate a Mutual Fire Insurance Company*—Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of the Eleventh Section thereof, a members' Book will be opened at noon on Monday the Second day of October next, at the Office of the Hon. Charles Young, where the Subscribers, or any three of them, shall receive and take the amount of property intended to be Insured by such person or persons as to become Members of the said Company, and also the sum of Fifteen Shillings as a Deposit from each person which Deposit shall be allowed in part payment of the first premium of Insurance, and shall be forfeited if the person shall neglect or refuse to take out a Policy within six Months thereafter.

DANIEL BRENAN,
CHARLES YOUNG,
THOMAS PETHICK,
DENNIS REDDIN,
HENRY PALMER.

Sept. 18, 1848

The Tenants and Settlers on Lots or Townships Nos. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 66, the Property of Charles Worrell, Esquire—

ARE hereby called upon to make immediate payment of all sums of Money due to that Gentleman upon any account whatsoever. Payment to be made in Money, or in Wheat, Oats, Barley, Flour, Oatmeal, Potatoes, Pork, Cattle or Sheep, at the current prices, to Mr. WATSON, at Morell House, or to the undersigned. All Accounts remaining unsettled on the 1st of JANUARY next, will, without further notice, be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection.
THEOPHILUS DESBRISAY.
Charlottetown, October, 9th 1848.

ON SALE, by Captain Swabey.

UPLAND HAY, STRAW and Marsh Hay, SEED OATS, which produced 50 bushels per acre. Also WOOL. Inquire of Mr. JAMES N. HARRIS, Charlottetown. Sept 25.

Axes! Axes! Axes Warranted.

THE Subscriber is prepared to furnish the public with Broad and Narrow AXES, and Edge Tools of all descriptions, of a superior quality, and at reduced prices. Ship Yards supplied at a liberal discount. Call and examine, at the Shop, Head of the Queen's Wharf—West.

ARTEMAS DAVISON.

Decr. 25.

A CARD.

MR. WEATHERBE, of Saint Eleanor's, takes this method to inform those indebted to him, throughout Prince Edward Island, without distinction of persons, that he requests them to come forward and pay their respective debts, as he is in want of the same; otherwise their Notes, Bills of Sale, Bonds, &c. &c. will be placed in the hands of his Attorney, without delay. By calling on business at his house they will meet a qualified person to attend to them. St. Eleanor's, Oct. 30. 5w.

Light House at Cascumpec.

Notice to Mariners.

THE Subscriber notifies that the Light House erected by him at the entrance of Cascumpec Harbour, bearing W. by N. half N. of the channel, will be lighted with a red light on and after the first of June next, 1849. It is 60 feet from the level of the sea.
JOHN LE COST.
Cascumpec, Sept. 15, 1848.

To be let,

A large SHOP in a convenient and public part of the Town. Rent low. Enquire at the Office of this Paper. December 18.

Farm for sale

THE LEASE and IMPROVEMENTS of the Farm now in possession of William Kendal, within five miles of Charlottetown, on Brackley Point Road, containing 175 acres of first rate LAND, nearly 100 acres of which are clear and in a high state of cultivation, with suitable Buildings thereon. For particulars enquire on the premises.
Brackley Point Road, August 14.

Summer-side Hotel.

THE Subscriber begs to inform Travellers, and the Public generally that he has recently opened a House of Entertainment at the Wharf, Green's Shore, Be-deque. The House is spacious and well adapted for the purpose. He therefore hopes to give satisfaction, and merit a share of public patronage.
WILLIAM J. TAYLOR

Removal.

THOMAS DENNIS, TINSMITH, begs respectfully to announce to the public that he has removed his establishment to his new and commodious building on the corner of Prince and Grafton Streets, where he will be happy to receive the orders of his friends and patrons; and hopes, by punctuality, low prices, and good workmanship, to merit a continuance of the patronage with which he has been so kindly favoured since his commencement in business.
Fall kinds of TIN WARE constantly on hand.
N. B.—An honest BOY, of industrious and sober habits, wanted as an apprentice to the above business.