

be remarked that there was no account of the death of Eve. 'Nor of Adam either,' said one of the company. 'I beg your pardon, replied a religious lady, 'If you read your bible carefully, you will find it stated that Adam was gathered to his forefathers.'

About the year 1500, a Chinese merchant opened a mine of precious stones. As soon as it was known the Emperor caused it to be shut with this observation: 'Useless labour causes sterility; a mine of precious stones does not produce corn.'

To the Editor of the British American.

MR. EDITOR,

The Road Commissioners require more caustic than my friend Aliter seems disposed to allow them, I shall now and then endeavour to give them a broad hint; in the first place I should strongly recommend the measure of keeping all place-men out of the House of Assembly, such as your preventive land officers, officers of *impost* as it is fashionably called, we will call them excise officers, all commissioners of the roads and small debt magistrates, and most certainly all contractors. We are too poor to hold out great comparative temptations, read the names and characters of the majority of the present House of Assembly, and look at their situations under Government—the danger is not with the Government but with the Assembly; if I being a member of that House happen to make a *faux pas* as a public officer, it is not impossible that I should seek the protection and countenance of a brother similarly situated. We are all reformists, now let us look to the House of Commons of England, at present containing six hundred and fifty-eight members, most of them rich, compare it with our House of Assembly of eighteen members, most of them poor, and then let us draw our conclusions as to the danger of temptation. Any remark would be an insult to common sense,—my strictures shall regard minute subjects rather than general observations. I have already said and shall continue to say, that the workmanship of several of the contracts lately made, requires very close inspection, and no small degree of investigation, that is to say, as to the relative situation of the commissioner and contractor, "kissing goes by favour," but that is not always virtuous kissing. I have heard of some of this kind of kissing not 100 miles from St. Peter's Bay, and some at no great distance from the west side of Richmond Bay, and some more kissing on the road leading from Hillsboro Ferry towards George-Town. There are certain occurrences on that last mentioned line of road rather paradoxical, and not entirely legitimate; the job at M'Kenzie's Creek must be enquired after, and the tipping up Bridge at Acorn's Creek should be thought of before any horse or foot passenger pops through it, which will very shortly be the case unless some means shall

be used to prevent it. I should like to ask Mr. Jones, not only as a commissioner but as a mechanic, whether he passed that Bridge? and whether he received any caution about it? and I shall proceed on that road no farther at present,—but *prenez patience*, we shall have more of it soon. I take it for granted that when a commissioner is required to proceed upon a contract he should give fair and reasonable public notice of it, that it should be open to public competition, and the lowest bidder should be deemed the contractor, providing he finds proper security. I think the commissioner should inspect the work as it progresses. I hope the commissioners are bound to send to their correspondent faithful and particular accounts of all offers made for each contract, but I have heard very awkward stories in that respect. I have heard it said they should be sworn to do their duty, but I am not very fond of oaths of office. I observe that by the 13th clause of the Road Act, 5 Geo. 4, the Governor is empowered to grant to each commissioner, "a sum of money yearly, not exceeding £10," and I further see that by the statute of last session c. 27, 1401. is allowed for the commissioners salaries; now 12 times 10l. according to Cocker is only 120l. I should like to learn the name of the lady or gentleman, who drew the plan and specification of Cronebane Bridge; which I believe is, or is to be when it is finished, on Lot 35, and what was the artists mode of measuring it, by which we have such a deuce of a jump to take at or near its centre? Who is to be paid for this ascertainment? We must economize Mr. Editor, and that promptly—our Civil List here must soon be paid and paid in solid stuff, and then *smash bubbles*, and a union with Nova Scotia stares us in the face. The light, the power of truth and honesty will break in upon us. Away with jobs and jobbers, and sycophants, we must be industrious and punctual, or we must starve. In my next I shall paint some more man-traps in the shape of Bridges on the Tryon Road.

Your's &c.

RUB.

September 19, 1832.

FROM BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER,  
July, 22.

*Matherell*.—A Tory Lord, anxious for the honour of becoming M. P. in the Reform House, favoured on an elector, to beg and request the waiver of his support at the ensuing election; the reply was, "Odd, my Lord, I'm no very sure if I have a vote yet;" to which his Lordship, with the utmost suavity of manner and impressiveness of speech, replied, "Oh, Sir, I can assure you that under the new bill you will have a vote." "Then the devil thank you for't, my Lord, for if ye could have hinder'd it ye would hae done it. Reformers ken wha hae been their friends, my Lord, and will support them," was the indignant but honest reply of the 10l. voter.

OFFICE.

"So long as allowances are made for official men, so long as the drafts on credit in consideration of difficulties unknown are answered, there will be dishonesty in the Government for the dishonesty is favored by the indulgence extended to those who excuse their lapses by alleging the necessity of yielding to hidden influences. Let the strict law of opinion be put on official men, and they must either act up to the high line of duty, or by their resignations make known that there is something passing behind the scenes which renders it impossible for an honest man to hold office together with the world's respect. The remedy of the evil will follow soon upon its exposure. Were the public a more rigorous interpreter of the conduct of statesmen [as it is its policy and duty to be] compromises behind the curtain would not be made; nay, they would not be asked. The indulgence granted to those who yield to solicitations to abandon good purposes is an argument for the corrupter, and takes from the assailed a reply which would deliver him from importunity.—The people will think me a knave if I abandon the objects I have proposed. Indulgence to any degree of apostasy is unkindness to honest men, who are thence subjected to importunate and vexatious attempts on their principles, and it comforts and assists the rogues."

MR. HUME.

"Mr. Hume has again been singing the praises of the King, and giving reasons for it. True, he dissolved the Parliament, and recalled Lord Grey, but he also refused to create Peers, and compelled the resignation of the Minister, whom he recalled when he could not help it. Since the great discovery it has appeared that the King was also adverse to the dissolution of Parliament, for which Mr. Hume now praises him, and brought to consent to it with extreme difficulty. For the sake of morality we wish esteemed public men would evince a stricter regard to truth, which should not be sacrificed even to charity."

A FEW RATIONAL QUESTIONS.

To the Editor of The Bell's New Weekly Messenger.

SIR—If any one of your numerous readers will have the goodness to answer the following questions, he will confer a great favor on the public.

Have the Kings of England any personal and distinct interests, separate and apart from those of the great bulk and entire mass of the people?

Why do not the Kings of England associate with any other than their own creatures—the higher classes, as they are called, of his subjects.

Is it at all necessary to the personal comforts and conveniences of the King, to be constantly beset by a number of toad-eating attendants? and if the King reigns in the hearts of his people, why is a numerous host of armed troopers required for his protection?

Why are all the places of trust and profit in the Government, in Church and