

FOR THE BRITISH AMERICAN.

Mr. Editor,—

Some weeks since you inserted in your columns the remarkable dream of a Philosopher. At one time I thought it better to leave it without comment, considering that he might say :

"Actions and speech the statute blames with reason,
But surely dreams were never accounted treason."

It was of no use me thought to combat a phantom of the brain, to fight with a shadow, to beat the air. "But as others less acquainted with facts, may suppose that Rosicrucius means to convey to the public the idea, that he "had a dream which was not all a dream;" therefore I will submit to them certain truths which will I think lead them to conclude that the whole is a dream, and that the dream of management of projectors, contractors, &c. is as remote from the conduct in this instance of the sober personages of real life, as our country houses and limited number of plain working folks differ from the splendid palaces, and dense and fashionable population, conjured up by the old gentleman with the silver trumpet. I say then Mr. Editor, it is dreaming to advance, that the bridge was built for the accommodation of a few paramount folks. Most of us are more or less closely allied by blood or marriage: none of us have fortunes: some have a little more than others of this worlds goods, and perhaps like well enough to show it. I see no reason why they should conceal it; but the bridge will enable twenty-five families numbering about two hundred and fifty persons, to travel to and from Prince Town by a route considerably shorter than that which can at present be taken at all times with safety. This is no small accommodation to them, considering that the entrance to Darnley basin, has become so shallow, as with difficulty to afford passage to the smallest schooners,—and that the inhabitants there and for some miles along the coast, as well as those inland betwixt its waters and those of New London, have frequent occasion to cart produce to Prince Town. So much for the benefits it promises to this district. Looking at its effect as to a larger section of the country, the map will convince your readers that it is following out the coast line of road from Cavendish to Prince Town as closely as the localities will admit. As in every public work, some must derive from it more benefit than others; but I maintain that it will be of such use and to so many as to justify the outlay of what has been expended, and of the sum requisite for its completion.

As to the Commissioners benefiting by the public money—as to labour being paid for in negro rum at 10s. or 12s. per gallon, and so forth; these are indeed parts of a dream. The Commissioner sold the abut-

ments one by one, at auction, made public by repeated notices. Three individuals held every one, two abutments; other five individuals held the other five abutments; every one bade for himself, and was responsible for the execution of his own abutment or abutments. Those who have done the work have obtained from the Commissioner the necessary certificates, and every one of them who produced such certificate at the proper office in Charlotte-Town received his share of the money granted by the Legislature. A neighbour of the Commissioner, his own brother, did contract for one abutment, and afterwards finding that the labours of the farm would fully occupy himself and his hired men, he was under the necessity of engaging others to perform the work agreeably to the specification. How these sub-contractors were paid I cannot say, neither I believe can Rosicrucius: this however, is my belief, that the articles given in payment by this contractor to the men who performed the work were charged at the rates customary in this district, and that it did not yield him forty shillings of profit. Certainly in his waking hours, Rosicrucius will not maintain that every man who bids at auction for a public work or any part thereof, shall be held unjust unless he execute it himself, or get it done on precisely the same terms as he himself took it, and pay it in exactly the same payments as he himself receives. Yet this, merely one eleventh of the whole, is the only instance of subcontracting. As to the injurious effect which the work will have on the navigation and commerce of the upper waters, I answer that the bridge has been so planned that there will be left at the deepest part of the channel an opening of twenty-five feet, quite enough to allow the passage of the largest merchantman sailing in our Baltic. Your readers will be of the same opinion when they know that the breadth of many vessels of 100 or 120 tons, does not exceed that measure, that the bridge is building directly in the line of a ford, where the depth of water at full spring tides is from six feet to seven feet and a half, &c. that Baltic and Barissoa united, join the sea by a channel of no greater depth. Thus the width of the opening is four times as great as the depth of water; that vessel must be moulded after a strange fashion which will be stopped in this case by the abutments. As the state of the ice may require loaded sleighs to be drawn along shore, and thus the central opening may be of no use in winter, it is part of the plan to leave at one bank an opening eighteen feet in width. One would think this sufficient space for the largest load of hay or any other commodity with which we are to be supplied from the district above us. As to storms and all that I sometimes dream of, reading poetry or rhyme, or doggerel,

which I have never before seen, and when I awake can occasionally remember a line or two of it. Going to bed after writing the first part of this letter, with my head full of Rosicrucius, the Genius of Prince Town and so forth. I dreamt that I read a piece of stuff about said dream, and am able this morning to pen from recollection the following lines:—

"And longer had they built,
But with a frown
The Genius gave arose,
Clad decently in flowing morning gown.
Straight he was with 'ring look
A mighty silver trumpet took;
And blew a blast so loud and dread,
Were ne'er prophetic sounds so full of woe.
This heard, the builders all
Their tools at once left fall;
And fast away they ran,
Not one of all the clan,
Crowbar, or axe, or shovel minded;
Some went to hide in cellars' darkest nooks,
For consolation some laid hold of pious books.
The wild geese in their flight,
Scared by the awful sound,
Durst not attempt to light,
All Darnley basin round.
They knew from fit to fufum,
That sure as any gun
A storm would down the Baltic come.
Therefore their dusky wings they still were plying,
Though tired, they rather chose to keep on flying.
Than lighting down in that ill fated place,
Risk, midst the coming elemental strife,
The loss of legs and wings perchance of life.
That they thus acted was, I think no wonder;
In fact they must be worse than geese or more than men,
Would tarry to abide
Both horses, oxen, dogs, and sleighs and hay and logs,
Swept on by mighty tide,
Midst furious wind and rain,
And lightning's forked bolts, and rattling reeling thunder."

I am inclined to think that Rosicrucius was originally endowed with a reasonable proportion of good nature; I hope that his intercourse with the existence of another sphere has not entirely eradicated all sympathy with his less favored fellow men, that if inclined to prove the influence he can exercise on the works of man, and the operations of nature, he will select some more public place than Darnley, and some work of greater grandeur than a log bridge—and finally that as the power evinced in creating is at least equal to that requisite for destroying if he visit us at all he will rather build the half yet wanting than pull away what is built.

To conclude, ought we to leave undone what would be useful, because we cannot attain to what is excellent? We may allow our imaginations to revel amidst the comforts and luxuries which seem reserved for those unborn, and we may delight to behold with the mind's eye the splen-