

considerable time between the terminus of the Forth and Clyde canal and Newhaven a distance of 27 miles at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour.

Much importance has been attached to the efforts of Henry Bell, the builder of the "Comet." A grateful country has evinced its appreciation by erecting a noble monument to his memory. This monument is conspicuously placed on a promontory of the River Clyde, where it may be seen by every passenger passing up or down the river. The "Comet" was the first steamboat in Europe engaged in any serviceable purpose; three years before the "Comet" was launched, Canadian enterprise placed the "Accommodation" on the St. Lawrence, and for many years this vessel continued to run regularly, carrying passengers and freight between Montreal and Quebec.

All honor to the memory of John Molson, the master mind who caused to be built and who directed the movements of the first steamboat on Canadian waters! Can we do less than find a place for a second memorial tablet to commemorate an event of no small interest in the annals of our country?

NOTE ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY SANDFORD FLEMING, LL.D., C.M.G., ETC.

(Read 17th December, 1892.)

I am desirous of submitting to the Canadian Institute a matter which may possibly, to some, appear to be of little importance, but which nevertheless affects the daily lives of many of us, and in this point of view may claim public attention.

The system of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of letters came into operation during the last half century. There was not a single postage stamp in use in any part of the world before the year 1840. Now there are thousands of different kinds and they are used by millions daily by all the different nationalities of the world.

Postage stamps were officially established in the British Islands fifty-