

Selections.

NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAY.

The following article is from the *London Mining Journal* :—

"SIR. During a hurried tour, in the course of last summer, to the United States and British American Provinces, I was struck with the wonderful difference between their railways and those with which I was familiar in this country. In general, the works are not only ill-conducted, but there appears to be a want of engineering skill, or at least, a great disregard of many things which are considered essentials in England. Decidedly the best railway works which I saw anywhere were in the Province of Nova Scotia, where railways are still in their infancy.

"I landed at the little town of Windsor, on the Basin of Minas, from which I made the journey by coach to a place called Sackville, at the head of Bedford Basin, and about ten miles from Halifax, the capital of the province. At various points along the road I saw the works in operation; and on my arrival at Sackville, a delay of an hour gave me an opportunity of inspecting the railway which is finished in that place. Across the river which here falls into the Basin, I found a box-girder malleable iron bridge, that would have done credit to any country. It is supported on massive stone pillars, of great height, and, whether for beauty of design or solidity of construction, I have seldom seen anything superior. I was the more surprised at this, because I had been told that the engineer, Mr. Forman, was a young man and a native of the province. The railroad from this place to Halifax follows the windings of the shore, presenting many beautiful points of view; but what interested me most was the skillful manner in which the engineering difficulties had been mastered. It was a real disappointment to me, on my arrival at Halifax, to find that Mr. Forman was absent, and we did not return before my embarkation; but I confess it was with no little pride I learned that, although a native of Nova Scotia, he had been regularly educated and drilled in the old country, and in a school which has sent out some of the best practical railway engineers. Since my return to this country, I have had occasion to visit the neighborhood of Glasgow, where Mr. Forman was for many years employed in the construction and working of railways, and where he had established a character which amply justified the Government of Nova Scotia in placing their interests in his hands.

"The railroads of Nova Scotia are being constructed entirely at the risk and expense of the province, under the superintendance of a board of commissioners, of which Mr. Howe is the chief. The funds are provided by the sale in England of bonds guaranteed by the province, which are now at a considerable premium; and there can be no doubt that the railways, when completed, will greatly increase the prosperity of this valuable colony."

FRANCE.

The Emperor continues to show himself very constantly in public, riding, driving, and even walking through all parts of the city. One day last week he rode slowly through the Faubourg St. Anne amidst crowds of the working classes, looking at the different improvements and buildings going forward, and stopped to converse with the people employed on them. Not very long ago, during one of those perambulations, he dismounted from his horse and went aboard a steam tug he saw at work in the canal, the machinery of which he caused to be explained to him, and after steaming a considerable distance, landed at one of the quays amidst the assembled bystanders. The other day his Majesty might be seen crossing the Place de la Concorde on foot from the Tuileries, and strolling leisurely through the Champs-Elysees, to visit another of his palaces, the Elysen Bourbon. In the portions of the garden of the Tuileries railed off from public observation, family groups may sometimes be seen of no small interest to strangers and sight-seekers. Passing in that direction at a somewhat early hour, I witnessed the Imperial circle taking the morning air with a freedom which they seemed greatly to enjoy.—The Emperor, in a stout pea-jacket, was amusing himself with, and helping to amuse, his infant heir, who sat smiling in a superb coach, drawn by a couple of goats, magnificently caparisoned, and whose possible caprices were duly restrained by two dapper little grooms or pages, with gold-laced hats, standing at the heads of the animals. The Empress herself looked down from a window upon the group, chatting and laughing with her Imperial spouse. High health, mercurial, and perfect ease and security, characterised

the happy looking party. Louis Napoleon grows stout on his prosperity, and gives the lie, by his hale and hearty appearance, to all the vain prognostications of those enemies who are for ever killing him by the course of nature. Her Majesty, too, shows signs of a recruited health; and as to the future hope of France, even the tongue of envy cannot refuse to his plump cheeks and twinkling pair of orbs, the designation so dear to matrimony of "an uncommonly fine child."—*Corresp. London Guardian, Dec. 29.*

OUR SEPTUAGENARIAN PREMIER.—The *Court Journal* says:—"The cabinet has now dispersed for the Christmas holidays, after having held an unusual number of councils. It may give our readers some idea of the energy of our septuagenarian Prime Minister to be informed that, in addition to the usual multitudinous duties imposed on the Premier, Lord Palmerston has organised a legislative committee of the government, and over the three meetings of this committee the Prime Minister has found time to preside in person. The Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State of the Home Department, and the law officers of the crown, are the leading members of this committee; the first minister of the crown was, however, not content to be informed of the results of their labours, but determined to be master of the whole subject by being personally present at their deliberations. The astonishing vigour manifested by Lord Palmerston, after having lived over the allotted space allowed for the life of man, must be attributed to his very temperate habits and the constant exercise he takes, both on horseback and on foot. His lordship seldom uses a carriage, and his diet is of the simplest kind, and wine is taken but in very moderate quantity."

"A PALACE IN WALKS FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES" is by no means a bad suggestion. The period is approaching when the heir apparent to the throne must be provided with an establishment befitting his exalted rank, and the Welsh subjects of her Majesty would hail with satisfaction an arrangement which would give to their special relationship to "the eldest son of England" substance and reality. The subject was thus broached by Mr. Amphlett, a more than octogenarian, and, we believe, the "patriarch of the English press," at a recent festive gathering at Shrewsbury, over which he was called upon to preside:—

"The Prince of Wales was the next nearest and dearest interest of the state after the Queen. As the prince approached his majority, he would become the "observed of all observers,"—the glass of fashion and the mould of form." He had a noble future if he availed himself of it. The Queen had a palace at Holyrood, in Scotland, and one at Balmoral; another at the Isle of Wight; besides Windsor and Buckingham Palaces. The late Prince of Wales, by erecting a splendid pavilion at Brighton, created that place as one of the most fashionable and prosperous towns on the east coast. What had royalty done for Wales? Nothing; as yet it is a terra incognita in its territorial value, and comparatively so in its beautiful scenery. It has unknown treasures in the mines and minerals of its mountains—its wide spreading valleys—its numerous happy dingles and dells for cottages—the deep ravines of its stupendous hills, for park scenery, timber, and game. Royalty and railroads may redeem it from neglect, and render it one of the most profitable investments of capital. The enormous accumulations of the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, during a long minority, may enable the crown prince of the principality to make Aberystwith the Brighton of the west, and give a palace to central Wales. That unique and beautiful demesne, Hafod, in the vicinity of the wild scenery of the Devil's Bridge, and near Aberystwith, which has been so often in the market, would make one of the happiest palatial residences in the kingdom on a small scale; and would tend to transform Wales into a British Switzerland.

A NEW PHASE OF SPIRITUALISM.—Mr. Hume, the wondrous medium and ruler of the spirits, has contributed *soirees* both at the Tuileries and in the saloons of the Faubourg St. Germain. He has arrived from Florence with some new effects, more marvellous than any which have been hitherto produced even by himself. The wonderful production of the spirit hands, not only visible to the eye, but tangible to the touch, has filled us with awe, the fact of such appearance being now established beyond a doubt. The spirit called answers through the medium, on whose request the hands of the spirit become visible. One of our greatest English poets, being in communication with

the medium, asked for the summons of Dante. The presence of the latter was immediately made manifest by the written answers returned to the questions of the inquirer, and Mr. — then asked the medium to request the great Italian to make himself visible! Presently there arose, as if from the ground beneath the table, two long, thin, yellow hands, unmistakable as to their Italian origin, undeniable as to their having belonged to a student and a gentleman. While the assembly were yet gazing in breathless awe, and may be something of terror likewise, the hands floated away, or were rather borne, as it were, across the room, and rose to the marble console opposite, upon which stood an orange tree in blossom. The hands slowly and softly, without noise, but visible to all, plucked from the stem a sprig of the orange flowers with its leaves and buds, and, returning to the table, paused above the head of Mrs. B—, the poet's wife, herself an exquisite and beautiful poet likewise, and placing the sprig upon her raven hair, disappeared gradually from sight, seeming once more to sink to the floor, while the audience remained speechless and awe-struck, and but little inclined to renew the experiment that same night, at all events. The sprig of orange blossom is religiously preserved by Mrs. B—, whose honor and truth are unimpeachable; while the witnesses gathered around the table at the time of the apparition testify to its occurrence, as well as to the utter unconsciousness of the medium, who neither spoke nor moved during the whole time the circumstance was taking place.—*Paris Cor. of the Court Journal.*

News Department.

Extracts from Papers by the Steamer America

ENGLAND.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has presented an address to Bishop Bloomfield on his retirement, in which they say—

"For more than thirty years your lordship has been one of the most constant and energetic supporters of the missions of the Church, and the Society cannot but attribute much of its own rapid growth and development within that period to your lordship's exertions and influence.

"More especially does the Society desire to record its conviction that to your lordship, acting in concert with the late Archbishop of Canterbury, it is, under God, mainly owing that Episcopal Government and supervision have been provided for many of the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown.

"These are services which cannot easily be forgotten—services which will mark the era of your lordship's Episcopate, as one ever memorable for the expansion and organisation of the Church in the colonies."

The Bishop has made the following reply:—

Fullham Palace, Dec. 4.

"My dear Mr. Hawkins—I have been much affected and gratified by the kind assurance of sympathy and approval contained in the resolutions, of which you have sent me a copy, agreed on the 21st ult. by the committee of the society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts.

"I am sensible that the committee have overrated the services which I have been able to render to the society, but they do no more than justice to the warm interest which I have always felt in the society's objects, and operations, and to the earnest desire which has prompted me to promote its success to the best of my ability.

"It would have been strange indeed if, as a prelate of the Church of England, and especially a Bishop of London, I had not taken the deepest interest in a society to which the United States of America, and the provinces bordering upon them, are indebted for the existence among them of a Protestant Episcopal Church; and whose liberal contributions to the Colonial Bishops' fund have enabled our Church to send forth her missions to the fulness of apostolical order and discipline, to so many distant parts of the world connected to Great Britain either by dominion or by commercial intercourse. That interest I must still continue to take in the society's work; and my earnest prayers for its prosperity will still be offered up to the Divine Head of the Church. And I beg to assure the committee that such assistance as it may be in my power to render they may at all times command.

"The state of my health will preclude me from giving that personal attention to the society's business which it has always been a great pleasure to me to give; and the reduction of my income to one third