

America, given in honour of an event of the first importance in the commercial history of the country, he then said that he thought this toast should have preceded the one drunk next before it, since canals had the priority over railroads in point of birth, and in Canada, he thought, in point of importance. Sufficient attention was not paid in these railroad days to our internal navigation. A few thousand pounds judiciously expended on the rapids of the St. Lawrence would go far to turn the stream of Western traffic through it. Montreal was better situated for a large trade than any other city in the world that he knew of. It was a sea-port 250 miles from salt water; nearer to the West—either by measuring by miles or by length of canal navigation—than any other sea-port on the continent. The only obstacle to securing that trade was the high rate of ocean freights. They must take advantage of their unrivalled facilities for steam navigation, the still water, numerous coal depots, &c., to effect a reduction. When that was done, this would be the best route, not only for Western products, but for cotton of the South-Western States. It might seem absurd, but he hoped in five or ten years to see large quantities of cotton shipped from Montreal. It is now sent by way of Buffalo and the Erie Canal. He looked to a line of ocean steamers as certain to bring about that result. He would not detain them longer at that late hour. The 'Genova' came to them propelled by an instrument adapted from a weapon used by the natives of another British Colony—the antipodes of Canada. When used by them it had two forces—the projectile and the revolving; and when thrown up, and the projectile force had ceased, it screwed its way back to the place whence it started, sometimes to the very great astonishment of the unwary thrower. It was a happy emblem. He hoped when the good steamer got her impulse from the hands of Montreal merchants, and had safely shot across the ocean to Britain, she might safely and speedily screw her way back to us again. (Loud cheers.)"

It may seem to some that it is unimportant to publish these proceedings of a quarter of a century ago, but, in connection with the subject, they, I trust, will be found interesting.

The Messrs. Allans were not present at the above banquet.

The "Genova" was followed by the "Lady Eglinton," the "Sarah Sands," the "Cleopatra," "Ottawa" and "Charity." It is true that, owing to the Crimean War, there was great difficulty of