

porter is to the effect that the "Colonial" has become embarrassed within the last few days by loaning specie to the "International," it being represented by the authorities of the latter, that in a short time they would have cash to meet all demands. On Wednesday the truth of these allegations were called in question by a telegraph from the New York "Metropolitan" refusing to make further advances; it also appears that the account at that bank had been very much overdrawn. The "Colonial" bank then refused further accommodations, and as a consequence the other concern went to the wall. The "Colonial's" amount of paid up capital is given at \$123,000. The amount of notes out is about \$100,000. Four or five thousand dollars were redeemed yesterday. The bank may suspend payment for sixty days without violating the charter. It is hoped, if the negotiations of Messrs. Casey and Lee meet with success, that payment will be resumed under thirty days. Such is the statement made to our reporter. The amount of "International" notes out is variously stated at from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

THEN AND NOW.

The announcement which appears in the public press that the Grand Trunk Railway will be opened from Quebec to Detroit (including the Victoria Bridge) on the 21st Nov., assures us that in this "fast" age, it is not left to the "oldest inhabitant" to excite our curiosity or astonishment by recounting the changes which time has produced. Five short years ago we had no Ocean Steamers, no Grand Trunk Railway, no Victoria Bridge; and going back other five years we had no railway through to New York or Boston, and no telegraph within the Province. "Wise" men looked with pity on the few "enthusiasts" who, realizing our true position, saw in the future of Canada something better than binding up her commerce for five months in the year, or driving night and day through the drifting snow to carry the "news" from Montreal to Toronto in four days.

In the successful accomplishment of any great public object we are too ready to forget what is due to those master minds, who, in the midst of obloquy, opposition and indifference, struggle manfully to carry it out. Nor are we less disposed to forget the benefits we derive from the changes which silently and almost unobserved take place around us. The unthinking mortals who constitute, unfortunately, a large class, regard everything as a matter of course. They see the pier rise stone by stone, just as they see the grass grow, and are equally prepared to see the finished structure as they are to gather in the harvest at the proper season. That any great effort of the mind, or any determined steadiness of purpose, was required to design the undertaking or to carry it through, seldom enters into their thoughts.

Nor is the opposition to great public improvements confined to the "fatalists," who have implicit faith in the doctrine that "what will be, will be." There is a public as well as parliamentary "opposition" ever ready with their "objections" and "amendments." The "lion" is either in the way or he is lurking somewhere near it, and if the project