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ST. ANDREWS, N. B. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1848.

[15 at the end of the Year.

From the St. John Courier.

Among the various measures now before the Assembly, there is no one, perhaps, more important in its bearing upon the ultimate destinies of this Province, than that introduced by Mr. Brown, entitled, "A Bill to aid the construction of the St. Andrews and Quebec Rail Road."

This bill, though local in its specific object, involves a principle which is applicable to every part of the country, and may with equal propriety be used for other parts, as well as that particular section in the title of the bill. Ten or twelve years ago, the State of Massachusetts was without a Rail Road, and equally without capital to construct one. Like this Province, it knew that such things were—but had not within itself the means of procuring them. It is now traversed in every direction by the train and the locomotive. The treasures of the West—the commerce of the Lakes—the rich crops of the Ohio—all mingle in one stream, and, aided by the contributions of our own Provinces, of Canada, are rapidly tending to make Massachusetts the Emporium of the business of the Northern part of America. How has this been caused?

—whence did the capital come which brought about the change? It is explained in the bill before us. Conceding that the local advantages of the country were such as to ensure ultimate success, the legislature did not hesitate to pledge the credit of the country for its benefit. It is notorious that on the continent of Europe—in Germany and in Holland—the ordinary rate of interest is only 2½ per cent. Capitalism cannot procure investments yielding more. They are therefore ready enough to lend at four, or still more so at five per cent. if good security can be obtained. The scrip thus promulgated by law, which pledged the State for its redemption at maturity, readily sold at a premium. Money was brought into the country—the Rail Roads were built—business followed—wealth increased—property rose, and the consequences already mentioned were the results and mark—the State has not been called upon to pay one farthing—the profits of the Rail Roads paying off both principal and interest. Now, here it is—so be observed—the State gives no money—it simply guarantees the solvency of that stock at the expiration of a certain period. Can any one doubt that period comes, the State will have quadrupled its resources by means of these improvements, so that even were it then called upon to pay, it must still be a gainer? But can any one acquainted with the practical workings of Rail Roads, for one moment suppose it will ever have to pay? Now if Massachusetts could thus easily procure the means, by this mode—what is to prevent this Province doing the same—guaranteed as doubtless it would be, by the Home Government? Assuming, then, that such would be the case, the question arises—Has the Legislature any right, for any purpose, to pledge the resources of the Province? We answer—it has; not only to pledge them, but to anticipate them, if it be for the undoubted benefit of the Province. It is not only the legitimate object, but it is the bounden duty of the Legislature, to encourage to the utmost the resources of the Country. If by the adoption of such means, the property of the Country, within a specific period, would be worth four times as much as it would be, were not such means adopted—would it be any justification to say—true, true, it has not improved as much as it ought to have done, but it is as good as when we got it.

Supposing a child were to be left to the care of guardians, with a thousand pounds, to be used for his benefit, at their discretion—would they benefit him, most by leaving him in his natural state—his mind unimproved—his tastes uncultivated, his morals unimproved—and giving him his full one thousand pounds on his coming of age; or by spending that one thousand pounds in giving him a good education—elevating the tone and character of his mind—instilling into him moral and honest principles, and bringing out the powers which God had given him? But supposing the guardians were not called upon to advance the £1000, but could procure him all those benefits, by simply pledging that he should pay £1000 twenty years after he became of age,—they being themselves, in the interim, secured by the retention of the money in their own hands—could, there be a question what would be the duty of those guardians then? So with the Legislature—the members are the guardians of the public welfare—they should be in advance of the people—they are elected for their superior intelligence—they should strike out the course the people should follow—they have greater means of information—and in the conflict of the mind how conceptions are elicited.

We do not make these remarks as confined to the particular Rail Road contemplated in Mr. Brown's bill—but as applicable to a system which might with safety be introduced for the whole Province. There are few Countries on which nature has more richly showered her gifts—broad valleys—deep rivers—rich mines—the mountain and the plain—in wild profusion—few countries where, with the advantages and the incitement of modern times, man has done so little. Let us not

then hesitate to follow the example that is set us—if we can do so honestly. There is no wrong in borrowing capital on a security which is undoubted. Interest the Canadian with Rail Roads—bring the Canadian produce to our ports—enhance the value of our lands—create a community of interests between the whole of the North American Colonies, and by increasing their wealth and importance, make them more to be valued at home and their interests more regarded.

THE WEATHER.—The striking difference in the temperature and all the meteorology of this winter in comparison to those of any season in the memory of man, attracts general notice, but has not yet brought out any theory as the cause of the great change. Comets have been, in all ages, objects of surpassing interest to philosophers, and of terror to the people at large; even amongst astronomers apprehensions have been entertained that some of these erratic bodies, in their eccentric orbits, (which incline from ten to eighty nine degrees from our ecliptic) might come in collision with the earth, and produce a more disastrous disruption than the collision which separated the ecliptic and equator. The comet of 1770 is considered to be lost, not having returned since that period, and it is supposed that it has been absorbed by Pallas or Ceres, an account of the immense atmosphere of these asteroids. When the bursting of the planet which once existed between Mars and Jupiter took place, the four asteroids were formed; and Juno and Vesta having retained no atmosphere, the other two are said to owe their existence to the comet of 1770. This may be an error, and if the lost comet may exist with all its accumulations since 1770, it will afford astronomers matter for new speculations and enable them to account for the anomalous change of weather during the present winter.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO!
A Treaty of Peace Negotiated!

The steamship New Orleans, Captain Auld, arrived at New Orleans, on the afternoon of the 12th inst. from Vera Cruz, with advices ten days later than that port. The most important news by this arrival is the report that the terms of peace offered by the Mexican Government had been accepted by General Scott. We copy from the New Orleans Picayune of the 13th inst., the following details of the intelligence by this arrival:

The steamship New Orleans, Captain Edward Auld arrived yesterday afternoon, from Vera Cruz, having sailed the afternoon of Tuesday last, the 8th inst. She brought over sixty officers of the army. Most of them are ordered on the recruiting service. The New Orleans had some thirty other cabin passengers, and about 190 discharged soldiers and quartermasters' men. The ship has made an extraordinary run. Mr. Freaner arrived at Vera Cruz on Sunday last, the 6th inst., bearing despatches from Gen. Scott, for the Government at Washington. He was to have sailed on Monday, the 7th inst., on board the U. S. steamer Iris for Mobile. The New Orleans was detained for two days, to give the first time to get in ahead—why, is scarcely known. The New Orleans, however, overtook the Iris, and passed her before she reached the Belize. The despatches brought Mr. Freaner are of the most importance.

The nature of them was not generally known at Vera Cruz, but from a source in which we have abiding confidence, we learn that the Mexican Congress has sent in terms of peace, which General Scott has taken the responsibility of accepting. One of the articles of this arrangement is, that twelve thousand United States troops shall remain in Mexico, until certain obligations are fulfilled—the remainder of the troops to be withdrawn.

We learn further that the preliminaries of the treaty of peace were signed on the first day of February by the Mexican Government, and that no doubt was entertained that the Mexican Congress, which was to meet in a few days, would ratify the same by a large majority. By the terms of this treaty we understand the United States obtain the boundary of the Rio Grande, New Mexico and upper California. The pecuniary consideration for these concessions is a mere trifle compared with that proposed in the conference at Tacubaya.

Old dates by this arrival are to the evening of the 2d inst., from the city of Mexico, and the information given above comes to us through so many channels and in such authentic form, that we see no reason to question the fact. Orizaba was captured on the 26th ult. One of the purposes of the expedition was to capture General Santa Anna at Tehuacan. The wily Mexican, however, effected his escape through the treachery of one of his countrymen.

Com. Perry returned to Vera Cruz on the 5th inst., from an expedition on the southward.

The expedition which left Vera Cruz on the 24th ult. against the guerillas, does not

appear to have effected much. They had two or three brushes with the enemy but no great harm was done on either side. Padre Jarauta has not been killed, but at last accounts was busily engaged in circulating an address to the Mexican people, calling upon them to awake from their lethargy, and rally around his standard in defence of their just rights.

The Star, published at Mexico, has a letter in relation to the much talked of San Luis proclamation, which, according to this letter, has failed, on account of non-occurrence of the commandant of the troops, whose aid was necessary to carry the proclamation into effect.

POETRY.

HOME.

The world is all before me,
To choose where'er I will;
The blue sky bending o'er me,
Light's valley, plain, and hill;
O many a nook enshanted,
In virgin beauty dressed—
With Eden freshness haunted,
Is waiting in the west.

And many a fountain flowing,
With none to hear its tale,
And only wild flowers showing
Its pathway in the vale.
And many a boundless prairie,
Like some remembered scene
In boyhood's dream of fairy,
Where man has rarely been.

And many a sunny highland,
In gleaming far away,
And many a spicy island,
Where summer loves to stay;
And strange bright birds are courting
The warm and balmy breeze,
Like winged lustres sporting
Amid the balmy trees.

But O, to me far dearer,
And lovelier each than
The homely landscape nearer,
The place where I was born.
And were I, like the swallow,
The wide world doom'd to roam,
My heart, unchanged, would follow
The path that leads to home.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Post Office Department.—Among the important despatches laid upon the table of the House of Assembly on Friday afternoon, were several relating to the Post Office Department, and the alterations proposed to be made in the management thereof.

The principal document is the despatch of the Post Master General to the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury. He speaks of the anxiety which it is generally felt throughout the North American Colonies for a reduction of the present rates of internal postage, and says, "I do not think it advisable longer to withhold the measures so strongly urged by the several Legislatures, especially as the Colonies express a disposition to make up the deficiency of the Post Office Revenue from the general taxation of the provinces."

This despatch is closed by the suggestion that the North American Post Offices should be administered on the following principles, and that no Bills of the Provincial Legislature, which are not conformable with them, should secure the assent of the Imperial Government.

First.—That no grant postage shall be chargeable on letters forwarded between any of the North American Provinces, for the cost of conveyance, through any of these Provinces.

Secondly.—That the uniform Imperial Colonial rate of twopence the half ounce shall remain in operation, as regards letters transmitted in the British Mails between the United Kingdom and the North American Provinces, and that the same uniform rate shall be extended to the correspondence of those countries with which we have previous conventions, in case such countries should establish Packets of their own, and her Majesty's Government should demand in their favour a concession of such a privilege.

Of course, in the event of an uniform internal rate of less amount than twopence the half ounce, for Provincial letters, the benefit should be given to the correspondence of the United Kingdom and the Foreign countries alluded to.

This rate should be collected according to the British scale.

Thirdly.—That the prepayment, or payment on delivery of postage, shall still remain optional with respect to the correspondence transmitted, between each of the Provinces, respectively, but that each province shall keep, as now, the amount it collects, in order to avoid complicated accounts, and heavy expenses for exchanging offices for the purpose of ascertaining the actual Revenue to

which each is entitled for the unpaid letters which it transmits to either of the other provinces, and for the paid letters received from those Provinces for delivery. With respect to the correspondence transmitted between the North American Colonies, and the United Kingdom, and that forwarded through the United Kingdom, a similar optional payment shall still remain whenever it is practicable, but the existing modes of account shall be retained both with respect to the British Packet postage, and the uniform internal Colonial rate of two pence."—[Novascotian.]

The Truro Election Committee have reported in favour of the petitioner, Alexander L. Archibald, Esq., who has taken his seat in the place of Mr. Fanning, the sitting member. This change adds to the Liberal ranks. Mr. F. had a majority of three votes at the close of the poll; but the committee found eight bad votes on his side, and won that of his opponent.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.—The brilliant star which has, for years, lit up the Legislative Hall of the United States, has passed away. He has been gathered to his father's grave, and the hope of the Republic is dimmed; but has left behind him a name and fame world wide. For the past few years, his health has been feeble, and sorrowing people have long anticipated the painful event which has now thrown the Republic into the depths of grief, long and humbly has he been a leader in the councils of his native country; and to his opinions have the greatest nations of the Earth looked forward, in the preservation of peace, while the voices of his talented, but noisy brethren have been passing the burden from whence no traveller returns, and we can only, as in duty bound, say what he was. The memory of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS will be honored alike with that of Washington. The Press terms with praise He died at Washington on Wednesday last.

A MELANCHOLY STORY.
A singular instance of maternal affection, and melancholy misery occurred in the city of Limerick, Ireland, within a short time, which is thus related in the Limerick Examiner:

A widow, who unfortunately for them was the mother of six children, found refuge in a dilapidated dwelling in one of the lanes. The youngest of them fell ill and died. The whole family were in a state of the utmost destitution, and the disease rapidly mastered the young offspring's energies. A coffin was begged, perhaps, without the mother's assistance, to some graveyard near. But she had lived at a distance of many miles from this city, and in the burial ground of her native place her friends were interred. The distance was far, and as few would consent to carry a coffin containing a stranger so far, she necessarily, the poor mother resolved to bury it herself. She actually did so. She had it placed on her back, and slowly and wearily she bore it away, reached the graves of her kindred, scratched a trench, we have heard, with her hands, and thus consigned to the earth where she wished they should rest, the remains of her offspring. She returned to her orphaned children, a second sick child quickly, like the other; like the other was placed in a charity coffin, and conveyed in the same way, by the unfortunate mother, to the same place of burial, and buried in like manner by her own hands. She returned again. A third child took sick, died speedily also, was placed in a coffin prepared from the charity, borne away by the sorrowing mother, and interred near to the other two by the hapless poor creature's almost exhausted hands. She returned a third time. A fourth child was ill; tell a victim as quickly as each of the others, was confined by charity, and carried off and laid by the mother beside her three other children. She came back to her wretched apartment. A fifth child was seized by the malady, a fifth coffin was procured, a fifth weary journey made alone by the mother, there, at all events, no longer to feel the pangs of disease, or the slow wasting progress of a universal hunger.

The First Newspaper Editor.—Our histories do not reach back so far in the age of the world as might be wished but the first Newspaper Editor, of whom we have any account, was a Mr. Celsus, who edited a very interesting paper, in the time of Cicero. The Roman orator, having been appointed Governor of Cilicia, engaged this friend to make up, and send him by every mail, a full and particular account of every interesting occurrence that took place in Rome during his absence. In performing this service he employed several reporters who furnished him the proceedings of the Senate, the edicts, the trial and decisions of the Courts, the fashionable intelligence and general news, while he wrote the leading articles and the politics. Had the art of printing been in use; Newspapers would have been common over the Roman Empire, the world of that period.

A Poet. Nothing is certain, is a common aphorism; but if nothing is certain, how can it be certain, that nothing is certain?

DEVELOPMENT.

A child is a bud not yet opened, with all its faculties unfolded but yet unblown. When the bud unfolds every one of the petals unfolds—not one remains behind; Maternal Love is the sunshine that calls these blossoms forth. The faculties awake in the smiles of a mother's eye, and the young plant is watered by tears of tenderest affection;—beholding all the seeds of future being. The principles which, when developed, makes the child the heir of eternal life. God himself by the influence of the Holy Spirit, in answer to a mother's prayers calls them forth, and the mother is the instrument by which that great work shall be accomplished.

The first exertions of a child are attended with some pain, yet have enough of pleasure to induce a repetition, gradually increasing in frequency and power; and when their first efforts—blind as it were—are once over, the little hand begins to play its more perfect part. From the first movement of this hand—from the first grasp that avails itself of a plaything, low infancy is the moment! not only employing itself in everything connected with the habits and comforts of its life, but astonishing the world perhaps with some masterpieces of art, or seizing, ere they escape, the fleeting inspirations of genius, and handing them down to the admiration of posterity. The first exercise of this little hand, directed as it is by that mighty will, should claim the mother's attention; she will, by watching it, perceive the natural impulses of a being just conscious of existence, and it remains for her to educate that will—to turn it from mere animal desires to experience and reason.

Religion.—Hold fast therefore by this sheet anchor of happiness—religion. You will often want it in the times of most danger, the storms and tempests of life. Cherish true religion as precisely as you will fly with abhorrence and contempt from superstition and enthusiasm. The first is the perfection and glory of human nature; the two last the depravation and disgrace of it. Remember the essence of Religion is a heart void of offence towards God, and towards man; not subtle, speculative opinions, but an active vital principle of faith.—[Earl of Clarendon.]

The way it happened.—Alexander the Great was fond of eggs roasted in hot ashes. As soon as his cooks heard that he was coming home to dinner or supper, they called aloud to their under officers—"All eggs under the great!" which being repeated every day at noon and evening, made strangers think it was the Prince's real name, and they therefore, gave him no other; and posterity has ever since been under the same delusive error.

Life.—What a varying thing is the stream of life! How it sparkles and glitters! How it bounds along its pebbly bed, sometimes in sunshine, all things, as if its essence were mercurial and bright, sometimes flowing solemnly on, as if it were derived from Lethe itself. Now it runs like a liquid diamond along the meadows; now it plunges in fume and fury over the rocks; now it is clear and limpid, as youth and innocence can make it; now it is heavy and turbid, with varying streams of thought and memory that are ever flowing into it, each bringing its store of dullness and pollution, as it tends towards the end. Its voice, too, varies as it goes; now it sings lightly as it dances on; now it roars amidst the objects that oppose its way; and now it has no tone but the low murmur of exhausted energy. Such is the stream of life! yet perhaps few of us would wish to change, our portion of it for the calm regularity of a canal—even if one could be constructed without locks and flood-gates upon it to hold in the pent-up waters of the heart till they are ready to burst through the banks.

Triumph of Science. A splendid triumph of science, said Mr. Muggins to his wife, a Mr. Harford had given a boy a new tip, which he took from his cheek.—That's nothing, Pa. I saw a doctor take two from our Patty's cheek the other day, and the operation did not seem to be painful either.

Chap. Hat.—An honest rustic went into the shop of a quaker to buy a hat, for which he demanded 25s. the countryman offered to give 20s. As I live, said the quaker, I cannot afford to give it thee that price. As you live! truly, then live more moderately, and sell hats cheaper. Friend, said the quaker, thou shalt have the hat for nothing; I have sold him for twenty years, and my trick was not discovered till now.

Improved Spring. A gentleman coming into a barber's shop to be shaved, was tormented by the fellows' fustian and garrulity. In what manner would your honour be shaved, was repeatedly asked. If possible, replied the gentleman, in silence.

The way to good manners is never too late.