PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Correspondence.

For the Transcript.

Annapolis Royal, Jan., 1861.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—Will you have the kindness to publish the enclosed letter in your paper and let me have fifty-five copies of that number. I want to send a copy to each member of the House of Assembly. It will save me a great deal of trouble in writing and be a satisfaction to those who wish to read what I write, for you know that I am not the best writer in the world.

I am anxious to let each member of the House know, the evils I have to complain of and perhaps some of them may be induced to look into the matter, and if they once begin to think of it in earnest. I am sure they will come to the conclusion that there should be something done about it.

If this plan fails I have one more to try, and if I do not succeed in getting something done then, I shall endeavor to get a seat in the House, for I am sure if I was *there* I could do *something* about it.

And remain with due regard,

Your humble servant,

W. T. Waterman.

Annapolis Royal, Jan., 1861.

Sir,—I beg leave to call your attention to the post-road from Liverpool to Annapolis, through Brookfield, Caledonia, and Kempt. A great part of the road is very bad. So bad that I almost feel ashamed for strangers to travel it. And strangers often have to go over it because it is the shortest road from the South shore, to Canada, New Brunswick, and the United States. If the road was bad for the want of money to mend it, I would not complain. But this is not the case, for there has been money enough laid out on it, to make two *good* roads. But there has been no method. There are many things to complain of in a general way; but there are three in particular that I wish to call your attention to, and beg you to take into serious consideration, and to use your influence as a Legislator to have them removed.

In the first place, the road has not been properly located. In many places the road-makers have left the straight line and taken the road over steep, high, rocky hills, making the line longer than there is any occasion for, and more difficult to travel.

In the second place, it is not made of the proper material, nor properly drained. Some road-makers do not seem to know the difference between mud and gravel, or between up-hill and down. I have seen them haul mud on a wagon thirty rods to put on the road, when there was plenty of gravel in plain sight that could have been shoveled in without the use of a team of any kind. And I have seen them make water courses across the road where water could not run unless it ran uphill.

And in the third place, when the road is properly made it is soon destroyed by carrying heavy loads on narrow tired wheels. It would be impossible to make a road of gravel stand the usage that that line gets. I have seen lumbermen drive six mill logs on one waggon with tires not more than two-and-a-half inches wide. There is a great deal of teaming on the road. For the last six months I have been keeping an account of teams that I pass on the road; and I have counted 2944, and as I am not more than one third of the time on the road, I calculate that there is 17,664 carriages of different kinds passing over the line in a year. This evil is a growing one, for if you enter a carriage-makers shop, you will find them generally making the new wheels with narrower follows than the old ones. And if you ask the cause they will tell you that it is the fashion now to have them narrow.

In my opinion, the proper cure for the first, is to have the road put on the scale of great roads. For the second, I would have a supervisor appointed for the whole line. And the only remedy for the third, is to get a Provincial act, to regulate the width of tires according to the weight they bear; the same as is done in England.

I petitioned the House on the subject last year, but there was but little attention paid to the petition, although it was signed by many of the most intelligent persons, both in in this town, and in the town of Liverpool. Therefore, in place of petitioning this year, I have taken the liberty to address this letter to you in hope that you will take some thought about it, and take such steps as you may think proper to abate the evil, and oblige,

Your humble servant,

W. T. Waterman.

The Digby *Acadian*, of the 17th inst., contains the following:—"John Donegan, Esq., of this town has invented an instrument for ascertaining distances. Any school-boy that understands figures at all, can, with this instrument, tell how far an object is from him. It is so constructed as to work either right or left handed, and will tell the exact distance of any object, whether one hundred yards or four miles. This instrument will be very useful for riflemen and artillerymen: and we will venture to say that ere long, it will be indispensible among them. It is handsomely constructed. Mr. Donegan is about applying for a patient. We have seen by some of our exchanges that there is an instrument invented in England attached to the muzzle of the rifles for this purpose; but it is not accurate. There is no mistake in this instrument."

The Widow of Mr. Bowlby.—The proprietors of the *Times* have, we understand, behaved with the most considerate and large-handed generosity towards the bereaved widow of their martyred correspondent. A handsome pension has been settled on Mrs. Bowlby by the magnates of Printing-house Square; and in addition to this, it is to be hoped that she will receive not less than ten thousand pounds out of the indemnity exacted from the Chinese.—*Illustrated News.*

The Boston *Journal* states that 6,000 stands of arms have been sent south from Watertown Arsenal.

THE TRANSCRIPT.

LIVERPOOL, N. S., JANUARY 31, 1861

Common Schools.

A system of education which will secure to the poorest child in the land a good and sound training is the great want of this Province at the present day. Beside this all other public questions sink into utter insignificance. Some will tell us that railroads, or canals, or the magnetic telegraph, are our greatest necessity. But time is money, and education teaches us the best use of time. A people thoroughly educated will not be wanting in either the ability or the means for adopting all the latest improvements in science and the arts. The basis of all systems of education is the common school, and the only principle on which to establish common schools is that of *direct taxation*. We have often in our feeble way called the attention of the public to this matter. Once a year for the last few years has the learned Superintendant of Education for this Province eloquently enforced this principle in every school district in the Province. We have now great pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to an address lately issued by him to the people of Nova Scotia, "on the support of common schools." It is written in his usual clear and forcible style. We shall allow him to speak for himself. After a few preliminary remarks he says:—

"If then, a sound and an efficient system of common school education constitute the basis of all national intelligence, industry and morality, surely it is high time that we bestir ourselves, and, calmly yet earnestly, enquire what, in present circumstances, can and ought to be done. To me, it appears plain and palpable that, whilst many things may and ought to be done for the removing of claimant defects and putting us on a career of high and ennobling progression, there is one thing lying at the bottom of the whole, without which all other remedial measures will prove of comparatively little avail,—I refer to the method of supporting these schools by compulsory assessment, giving effect to the principle '*that the property of all should be taxed for the education of all.*' This, in my opinion, forms the grand specific for the removal of many of the ills under which we are at present laboring, as well as for the diffusion of a more healthful spirit throughout our educational system; and, in this respect, I believe, I have the sympathy of a large majority of my fellow-provincials. At all events, I am perfectly satisfied that the time has now arrived, in the history of Nova Scotia, for putting this point to the test, and ascertaining the amount of support you are prepared to give it. For this end, I have felt it my duty to forward to the different localities forms of petitions to the Legislature, in its behalf. Should these petitions receive the signatures of the greater proportion of the intelligence and influence of the province, I have little doubt that the Legislature will give the subject their immediate and careful consideration. If, on the other hand, they do not, I shall, at least, have the satisfaction of feeling that I have rid my conscience of no ordinary load of responsibility, and shall crave the liberty, in time to come, of trying the continuance of our present educational defects and blemishes, not at the door of the Legislature, but at your own.

That there may be no misapprehension or dubiety as to the way of carrying out the above mentioned principle, I may state, that whilst I would not hesitate for a moment to assume the obligation of raising the whole sum required for the maintenance of our Common Schools by direct taxation, being persuaded that such a course would operate most beneficially for the accomplishment of the grand object contemplated—the universal education of the young—yet I scarcely think that the Province is ripe for its adoption at the outset. In so far as the erection of commodious school-houses is concerned, I would have no hesitation in going the full length. After a careful revision of the School Districts, an enactment, in my opinion, ought to be passed, requiring the erection of a suitable school house in every legalized District, and, after a certain prescribed period, enjoining the withholding of the public funds until such a school house is provided. For this purpose, three or four plans of school houses, with specifications and general cost, ought to be put into circulation, and the inhabitants of each District formally summoned to make the selection, and, whatever be the expense of the one chosen by a clear majority—provided it possess the requisite dimensions for the population,—immediate steps should be taken for raising the requisite sum by compulsory assessment. In reference, however, to the support of the teachers, I would recommend that a modified form of assessment be adopted:—for example that a third, as heretofore, be paid out of the general revenue of the Province, that another third be raised by a compulsory County tax, and the other by the rateable inhabitants of the district, leaving it to their option to raise the necessary sum or a greater, if need be, for a higher style of education, either by voluntary subscription or direct taxation, provided always that when the former fails, the latter shall be immediately resorted to. This would be a recognition on the part of the Province, the County, and the District, of the benefits they respectively derive from an efficient system of a Common School Education. The Province, in a collective capacity, would thereby express its appreciation of the boon. The County would do so more directly; whilst its assessment would also furnish an opportunity to the strong to help the weak, the older and more wealthy settlements to aid the younger and less able. The part assigned the District would also exert a salutary influence. It would enable the inhabitants thereof to contribute to the cause of education according to their ability and estimate of its value, whilst, at the same time, it would give them the power of stimulating the teacher, and remunerating him according to his acceptability and efficiency."

In support of these views he lays down several principles or as he styles them *reasons*, ten in number, all of which he fully explains at length. As our space is limited, we shall merely give a synopsis of these reasons with a few remarks on those which appear to us to be the most important.

1st.—"That direct taxation is the most effectual way of awakening in the minds of all an interest in the cause of education, or in other words, what we pay for we are very likely to be interested in."

2d.—"Direct taxation for the support of our common schools will aid largely in securing the adequate amount of education; in other words, it will vastly increase the quantity."

3d.—"This method of supporting schools will also enhance their quality."

4th.—"Again, this method of supporting the common schools of the land, is the cheapest as well as the most efficient."

"In confirmation of this view of the case, Dr. Ryerson, chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, thus writes:—"I will select the example of one district rather better than an average specimen; and the same mode of reasoning will apply to every district in Upper Canada and with the same results. In one District there were reported 200 schools in operation in 1848; the average time of keeping open the schools was eight months; the average salaries of teachers was £45 7s 1d., the total amount of the money available for the teachers salaries, including the Legislative Grant, Council Assessment and Material Bills was £7,401 18s. 4 1-2d; the whole number of pupils between the ages of five and sixteen years on the school Register 9147; the total number of children between those ages resident in the District, 20,000; cost per pupil for eight months, about sixteen shillings. Here it will be observed that more than one-half of the children of school age in the District were not attending any school. Now, suppose the schools be kept open the whole year instead of two-thirds of it; suppose the male and female teachers to be equal in number, and the salaries of the former to average £60, and those of the latter £40; suppose the 20,000 children to be in the schools instead of 9147 of them. The whole sum required for the salaries of Teachers would be £10,000,—the cost per pupil would be less than 10s.—less than 5s. per inhabitant—which would be reduced still farther by deducting the amount of the Legislative School Grant."

5th.—"The principle for which we are contending will also operate beneficially in the matter of local supervision."

6th.—"The Teachers too would share largely in the benefits accruing from the adoption of this principle."

7th.—"This mode of supporting education will tend to diffuse a spirit of unity and mutual affection among the inhabitants of the District."

8th.—"This principle is in consonance with the purest equity, and the strictest justice.—As the property of all is benefited by the education of all, so ought the property of all to be taxed according to its value, for the accomplishment of this object."

9th.—"This method of supporting schools is not only consonant with the law of equity but with the true principles and ends of civil government."

10th.—"The principle involved in the assessment method of supporting education, is in perfect accordance with the teachings of revelation."

It will be perceived in the outset, that the Superintendant of Education does not propose to adopt the system of direct taxation in this Province in its entirety, except as far as the erection of school houses is concerned. This cautious mode of dealing with a subject on which there is unfortunately a good deal of difference of opinion will commend itself to all right thinking men and go far to allay much of the opposition which it might otherwise encounter. It also shows that while the learned Superintendant is enthusiastically confident on the subject, he is far from being bigotted or dogmatical. Besides these ten reasons in support of the principles of assessment, several of the objections which are urged against this measure are stated and their fallacy shewn.

The concluding appeal of this ably written document, is as follows:—

"And now, in conclusion, I commend the whole matter to your most serious consideration. If I have satisfactorily made out and substantiated the various points submitted, you cannot fail to perceive how deeply and extensively the carrying into effect even a modified system of taxation, will affect the whole of our educational condition. Though strictly speaking, the matter appertains only to the exterior departments of education, it influences every other—quantity, quality and cheapness, the parent and the child, the teacher and the taught, the employer and the employed, the individual recipient, the state and the church; and, therefore, by moving in this matter, you are using the most powerful means for touching the mainspring of our educational machine and remodelling the whole of this branch of the public service,—lying as it does at the foundation of all others. And in what way can you lend your aid in conferring a greater boon on the land of your nativity or adoption? In what way can you more extensively promote the highest, the best interest of your fellow men? In what field of christian enterprize can you dedicate your time and your energies, with greater prospect of success, with a nobler recompense of reward before you? On the ground of our common patriotism, philanthropy and christianity, I implore your sympathy, co-operation and support. Ponder the subject on its own merits. Be nobly ambitious and soar into a higher region than that of a selfish, isolated, groveling, worldly aggrandizement—than that even of a political or ecclesiastical partizanship; and look at in the light and glory of the human mind, of revelation, and of eternity."

Reported for the Transcript.

Liverpool and Queen's County Branch Bible Society.

The forty-seventh annual meeting of the above Society was held according to advertisement, on Thursday evening last, the 24th inst. In the absence of the venerable president, Jas. Barss, Esq., the treasurer, Jno. Campbell, Esq., was called to take the chair.

After prayer by the Rev. G. Johnston, and a few remarks by the chairman, the Rev. John Howell, secretary, read the report which contained a brief review of the history of the Society and showed that its earliest officers whose names were mentioned, and many of its members and supporters had all passed away from this theatre of life and action. Calling aloud for diligence on the part of those who have succeeded them in their important and interesting work, to labor with diligence while it is called to-day. After referring to many pleasing facts connected with its past history, it stated that the Society had received on account of the Gorham bequest, during the past year, from the Parent Society in London, 652 Bibles—500 Testaments, and 10 Psalters. Total, 1162 copies of the Scriptures for gratuitous distribution in the County.

In answer to an advertisement issued by the Society, requesting information respecting destitutes in this county, twenty-six applications had been received and responded to by the Committee by grants amounting to 497 copies of the Scriptures; and the Committee are still open to receive fresh applications. It stated the fact that no subscriptions for the Parent Society have been taken up since 1859, and reminded the members that consequently two years subscriptions were falling due, which the Committee trusted would not be forgotten by them, when shortly the Lady collectors might call for them with a call.

From the report we gather that the support given to, and the success of, the Parent Society in England were very encouraging, having circulated more than 35,000,000 copies of the Scriptures. But that in order to provide a copy of the Scriptures for one in every *five* of the earth's population nearly one hundred times as many copies were immediately required, while at the present ratio only about 2,000,000 copies per annum were being issued from the world from all societies.

The first resolution providing for the reception and adoption of the report, and the appointment of officers for the coming year, with thanks to those who stood by the Society during the past period of its history, and providing that for the future the Society shall be called "The Liverpool and Queen's County Branch Bible Society," was moved by Mr. G. S. Parker and seconded by John W. Scott, Esq., sheriff of the county, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. D. O. Parker moved, and J. N. Freeman, Esq., seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

That the Bible is indispensable for the conversion of the heathen, and the final salvation of all men.

The Rev. G. Johnston moved, and Mr. T. R. Pattillo seconded, the next resolution, viz:

That it is the duty of all Christians to pray earnestly for the universal dissemination of the Bible, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to give efficacy to all Gospel missions.

Which was carried.

The Secretary moved the last resolution:

That in view of the solemn obligations under which the Redeemer has placed his Church to preach the Gospel to every creature, we pledge ourselves to act with greater self-denial and liberality in extending the blessings of the common salvation.

Which being seconded by Mr. Wm. Johnston was adopted by the meeting.

A collection was then taken up and the meeting closed by singing the Doxology, and Benediction by the Rev. Mr. Parker.

The Tea Meeting at Mill Village doubtless kept many from attending who otherwise would have been present. But notwithstanding the attendance was considered an improvement on that of former meetings of the Society. The addresses given were very good, and all present appeared interested and gratified with the meeting.

The following were the officers appointed by the first resolution:

President—James Barss, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—All Evangelical ministers in the county, taking up a collection for, or personally subscribing to its funds.

Treasurer—John Campbell, Esq.

Secretary—The Rev. James Howell.

Depositary—Mr. Wm. Johnston.

Committee—The above officers, with Messrs W. S. Jacobs, Charles Bill, M. McClearn, T. R. Pattillo, J. N. Freeman, Jon. Crowell, Jno. Shirreffs, and Drs. Forbes and Farish.

Lady collectors—Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Spongle, Mrs. Pattillo, Mrs. McClearn, Mrs. J. N. Freeman, and Miss Ellen Parker.

Wreck of the Lonan.

The brigt. Comet, Capt. John Rees, of this port, 22 days from Demarara, arrived at Halifax on the 22d inst., having on board the captain and crew taken from the wreck of the Scotch barque *Lonan*, of Arbouth, from New York on the 6th, bound to Plymouth, Eng., with a load of grain, in bulk. The Comet has since reached Liverpool but we have heard of no further particulars than we find in the Halifax *Journal*.

The barque encountered heavy gales, and on the 6th day out the cargo shifted bulk, she sprang aleak also, and the pumps soon became choked with grain, this rendered futile all attempts to keep her afloat. At this moment luckily the Comet fell in with them. It was then blowing fresh, and a heavy sea running, those on board the brigantine were unable to lower their boat, and the boats of the barque were used to convey the crew and their effects to the Comet. The Captain saved his personal effects, instruments, papers, &c., and the crew the most of their clothing. The Lonan was abandoned in lat. 40 20; she went down in three hours after.

The *Journal* also states that on board the Comet, Capt. Leslie and crew received every attention from Captain Rees from the time they were taken on board until they were landed in Halifax, which was ten days, during which time they experienced very heavy weather.

Captain Inness, of the barque *Alma*, of this port, at Halifax, also reports, on the 17th, ult., Fayal N. E. about twenty miles, fell in with a long-boat containing Capt. Johnston and crew, (19 in number,) of the barque Grampton, of and for Glasgow, from Savannah, which had been abandoned on the 16th, waterlogged. Took the crew on board and landed them at Fayal on the 18th.

We are much pleased to record here, these humane acts on the part of our seamen. No storm is so violent that they will not lay by a wreck to save their fellowmen.

The Hon. Alfred Whitman, member of the Legislative Council of this Province, died in Annapolis on Tuesday of last week.

Coal is advertised from the McGregor pit, Fraser mine, Sydney, at $2.75 per chaldron for large, and $1.50 for small.

THE NEWS.

BY THE NIAGARA AT HALIFAX.

The weather in England has been very cold—colder than has been experienced in that country since 1814. The navigation of portions of the Thames and other rivers is impeded, and many of the Steamboat Companies have been compelled to suspend business.

The Niagara brought a large amount. Wilmer & Smith of the 12th inst., says about 80,000 sovereigns were taken from Bank, yesterday of which 50,000 are for Canada, and the balance for New York.

A meeting of the Jews from all parts of the world has been held in London to concert measures for the restoration of the child Mortara.

Wheat and Flour being in very limited demand at prices the turn in favor of buyers, while Indian Corn has been offered at a decline of 6d. per quarter.

The Cotton-market open with a strong and upward tendency.

It is stated that the Government of Great Britain has sent a strong protest to France against the occupation of Syria.

The Bullion in the Bank of England had decreased one hundred and forty-five thousand pounds.

A War Office Committee has been appointed to investigate into the results of experiments upon iron-plates. Capt. Dalrymple Hay, R. N., and two Military officers have been named as members.

Large amounts of gold continue to be transmitted to the United States.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint S. Creelman, Esq., to be a member of the Legislative Council of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Miss Nightingale's health has greatly improved during her quiet retreat in one of the healthiest suburbs of London.

It is rumored that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will be initiated this year in Freemasonry.

The Queen, on the recommendation of the Premier, Viscount Palmerston, has been pleased to bestow of her royal bounty the sum of £50 on Sheldon Chadwick, the poet.

There is a report of the elevation of Lord Elgin to a Marquisate.

The elevation of Mr. S. Herbet to the peerage as Baron Herbert of Lea, in the county of Wilts, has been Gazetted.

The proprietors of the *Times* have, it is stated, settled a handsome pension on Mrs. Bowlby, the widow of their late special correspondent in China.

The correspondent of the London *Times* has been ordered to quit Rome.

Intelligence from New Zealand announces that a desperate engagement was fought at Mahoelalu on the 6th of November, resulting in the complete defeat of the natives and the death of their head chief.

The report of Nana Sahib's continued existence is strongly maintained to be true by one Calcutta newspaper, while another declares that Nana Sahib is undoubtedly dead.

A code of regulations for the government of the Volunteer forces is in course of preparation by the authorities. The Volunteers now mustered 140,000 men, of which number 20,000 have joined since the 1st of August last.

Another batch of 100-pounder Armstrong guns for the naval service, manufactured at the Royal Arsenal, on the improved system recently introduced, have been proved at the Government practice range with complete success.

Two new screw steam-vessels—the Alligator, 22, and the Dartmouth, 33—are to be laid down at Woolwich. Arrangements are now being made for the launch of the Bristol, 51, and the Repulse, 91, is in forward state.

Six new gunboats have been ordered to be built at Harlar. The keels of two of them are already laid, and a portion of their frame in position. The remaining four will be laid down immediately the blocks have been prepared for them.

Captain Alfred P. Ryder has been appointed to the command of her Majesty's ship Hero, vice Captain George H. Seymour, C. B. It is understand thr Sir F Leopold M'Clintock was offered the ship in the first instance, but that he respectfully declined it.

The St. George, 91, screw, Capt, Hon F. Egerton, will sail from Spithead, it is expected on Monday, the 14th, for Plymouth Sound, where sis Royal Highness Prince Alfred will join her, prior to her sailing for the North American and West India station.

Excavations are being made at Mount Wise Redoubts, Devenport, for constructing the foundations for platforms for heavy pivot guns, three of which are to be mounted, one at each angle.

There are at present being built in the Dockyards 45 vessels of war, carrying from one to 91 guns respectively, and each of from 80 to 1250 horse power.

The Triton, paddle-wheel steam-vessel, Lieutenant Commander Robert H. Burton, arrived at Spithead on the 7th from the Coast of Africa. The Triton was commissioned at Woolwich on the 17th of October, 1857, since which time she has captured six vessels, one of which had 900 slaves on board: the remaining five were empty; but one of them had specie on board to the amount of £2000.

The *Digby Packet*, which left Digby for St. John on 24th inst., with 21 passengers on board, had a narrow escape from shipwreck. She struck on the "Shag Rocks" about 12 o'clock at night, in a thick snow storm. Towards morning the wind abated, and the vessel floated off, and was enabled to reach St. John. The *Digby Packet* had previously been thrown on shore by drift ice in Digby harbor. In consequence of this disaster we have not received our usual American and St. John papers by the Northern mail, which arrived this morning.

Messrs Morton and Cowie, M. P. P's., and Hon. Mr. Cutler left this town on Monday morning for Halifax, and later in the day Messrs Hatfield, Coffin and Robinson, M. P. P's., were travelling to the east.

We hope that the petitions forwarded by the Superintendant of Education, will be numerously and influentially signed. Education is the greatest want of the age!

The Miramichi *Gleaner* says—no less than twelve persons are talked of as coming forward as candidates to represent Northumberland at the next general election.

By Telegraph.

OPENING OF THE

Provincial Parliament.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Resignation and Election of Speaker.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS, &c.

Halifax, Jan. 31, 3, P. M.

At half-past 2 o'clock this afternoon the Legislature of this Province was opened by His Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Mulgrave.—After the Speech was delivered the House returned to its own chamber, and Charles Campbell and Robert Donkin, recently elected members, were sworn in.

Stewart Campbell, the speaker, then asked permission to resign owing to circumstances of personal and private nature—resignation accepted, and A. C. McDonald, elected unanimously.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The year which has just closed will be ever honorably distinguished by the visit to this continent of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. In no part of Her Majesty's dominions was the reception of the heir apparent more tasteful and appropriate, or more loyal and enthusiastic, than in this Province; and it affords me infinite pleasure to be able to assure you that His Royal Highness returned to England most favorably impressed with the scenes through which he passed, with the unanimity that characterized, and the order which controlled our public displays; and above all with the attachment to the throne, and veneration for the virtue which adorn it, so universally diffused among the population of Nova Scotia.

It will, I am sure, be gratifying to you, to learn that this year we shall again be honored by a visit from another member of the Royal family, as Her Majesty's ship St. George, in which His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, is serving as a midshipman, has been ordered to join the North American squadron, and will visit Halifax next summer.

The Legislature during last Session having placed at my disposal the means necessary for the formation and organization of Volunteer corps, I have not failed to use my best endeavors to encourage the loyal spirit which has been evinced by the inhabitants of this colony, who, at considerable pecuniary sacrifice and inconvenience, have voluntarily enrolled themselves for the defence of their country. It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that the movement although still in its infancy is progressing most favorably. In the rural districts twenty-one companies have already been formed—duly qualified instructors have been appointed to superintend their training, and by this means I trust that they will shortly equal in efficiency those metropolitan corps whose appearance and discipline during the late visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, reflected so much credit on the colony and elicited the praise of all who saw them.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The public accounts of the past and the estimates for the current year shall be laid before you without delay.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me great satisfaction to be able to inform you that the revenues of the past year are far in excess of those collected in any preceding year of our provincial history. They have been amply sufficient to meet all the obligations of the government at home and abroad, to cover services not likely to recur, and to justify the conviction that in providing liberally for internal improvements, the resources of Nova Scotia have not been miscalculated or her credit over-strained.

You will learn with satisfaction that while our railways have been worked without serious accident or loss of life, a judicious economy in the management of them has restored confidence in their productive power. The extension of the railway system is anxiously looked for by the population that lie beyond their present terminus, and it will be for you to judge when you have time to examine the state of the revenue whether you can with due regard to the public credit resume operations in the Spring.

Much inconvenience has been felt by the stoppage of the trains at Richmond, and a heavy tax is paid for the transportation of passengers, country produce, and merchandise, to and from the centre of the city. A survey has been conducted with a view to provide greater facilities; and when the plans and estimates are submitted, you will be able to decide whether the country can afford to its industry the further measure of relief.

Shortly after the close of the last session, the attention of the government was called to the unsatisfactory condition of the Provincial Hospital for the Insane. A rigid enquiry was instituted into its management, which was found to be veay extravagant, the financial administration was promptly administered to the Board of Works, and you will be pleased to learn that while harmony has been restored in the internal economy of the institution, a large saving has been effected in the annual expenditure.

Your attention will be called to a measure for connecting the island of Cape Breton with the main land, by a steam ferry across the Strait of Canso, and for connecting by steam, Hantsport, Cornwallis, and Cumberland, with

OF NOVA SCOTIA