The Foreign News.

The Battle at Night.

From the Times of the 9th April.

The accounts of the engagement in the lines before Sebastopol fought in the night of the 22d of March have now reached us, from our own sources of information, from Lord Raglan's despatch, published in a supplementary *Gazette*, and from General Canrobert's report to the French Minister of War. There is still, however, considerable obscurity in the narratives before us; Lord Raglan's despatch and the letter of our own correspondent are in some respects contradictory, although we must give the preference to the non official communication for precision and lucidity, and neither of them entirely corresponds with the circumstances related by the French General. These discrepancies may, however, be explained by the confusion attending a night engagement, scatered over different parts of a labyrinth of siege works. We shall, however, endeavour to extract from these reports a more connected version of the eventful night.

In that part of our correspondent's letter which was written on the 21st of March, and consequently more than 24 hours before this attack, an observation is made, that "the ease with which the Russians get in between the advanced and second parallel on the left attack is a proof of the weakness of our works;" and it is also shown that the number of men we had for duty in the trenches was insufficient, inasmuch as it was sometimes necessary to place them 30 paces apart. These circumstances may in some degree explain the vigor and temporary success of the sortie made by the enemy. But here we remark a singular discrepancy between the report of Lord Raglan and that of our own correspondent. The Field Marshall states that "the night of the 22d was very dark and the wind so high that the firing which took place, and which was very heavy, *could scarcely be heard* in the British camp;" our correspondent notes, on the contrary, from one half-hour to another, the terrific sights and sounds he himself witnessed and heard from Cathcart's-hill, in front of the Fourth Division—the flashes of musketry, the curved flight of the shells, the roar of the heavy guns, and the crescent moon in the clear starlit sky. The men thronged to the front from their tents, although the night was far spent, to watch the progress of the fight, and the greatest excitement prevailed in the camp. Yet this is the night of which Lord Raglan states that it was so dark and windy that the firing of heavy guns could scarcely be heard in the British camp, and that it is difficult to speak with certainty of what occurred. The firing undoubtedly was heard and seen from the British camp, though the sound may possibly not have reached the Field-Marshal's head quarters. But, in any case, it was difficult to report with accuracy what had occurred, because the principal effort of the enemy was manifestly directed against the French part of the approaches, on the right of our own position.

The Russians first fell, with a force of 15 battalions of 1000 men each, moving in two columns, upon the head of the sap which the French are driving forwards on the right of the Mamelon. The attack was made with fierce shouts and extreme fury, and General Canrobert states that the enemy were thrice drivzen back to the 3d Zouaves. The Russians, however, succeeded at last in forcing a passage on the left of the French parallel, which they turned; they then passed along the parallel till they came to the British right, where it is connected with the French works. Detachmen's of the 77th and 97th regiments (British) occupied this position, and, though taken for the moment both in flank and rear, the gallant fellows of the 97th repulsed the attack at the point of bayonet, in which service Captain Vicars, who behaved with distinguished bravery, was unhappily killed. As this combat was going on upon the right, the enemy also succeeded in penetrating to our second parallel on the left, called the Green Hill attack, and they likewise reached our mortar battery on the left front of our right attack. Fortunately, Lieutenant Colonel Tylden, of the Engineers, succeeded in bringing up with great promptitude detachments of those fine regiments, the 7th Fusileers and the 34th, which had been at work hard by, and these troops advanced with so much steadiness and resolution that the Russians were ejected, and fairly pitched over the parapet, with but little firing on our part. The loss of these regiments was about twenty men killed and wounded; but it is feared that Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, of the 34th, whom Lord Raglan only reports as missing, was in fact killed, and Captain Browne, a son of Lord Kilmaine, was mortally wounded. Meanwhile, the French, who had retired on their reserves, rallied with great energy, fell upon the enemy, and drove him back so far towards the Mamelon that they were enabled to level and destroy nearly all the ambuscades or rifle pits. It is to this part of the engagement that General Canrobert's telegraphic despatch more particularly referred, and, although great numbers of lives were sacrificed on both sides, the result of this struggle seems to be that the relative position of both armies is precisely what it was before. This attack, however, was one of unusual magnitude and importance. The Russian Generals had brought eight battallions of fresh troops into the town expressly to make it, and they evidently hoped to destroy the approaches directed against the Malakhoff Tower. In this attempt they utterly failed, and the loss they sustained was undoubtedly very great.

In an ordinary siege, in which the garrison of the town is numerically weaker than the besieging army, the loss of men sustained by the Russians in these repeated sallies would be a serious injury to the defence of the place; but throughout these operations before Sebastopol, the Russians have conducted their defence as if both their men and their stores of war were inexhaustible, which indeed they are, so long as they can be replenished from the depots of the army in the interior of the Crimea. Hence, although we have no doubt that the losses of the enemy in all these contests have been far greater than those of the allies, it is nevertheless thought expedient to continue them for the purpose of harrassing and weakening the assailants. Here, again, the ordinary conditions of a siege are inverted; for it is more common for the besiegers to harrass and exhaust the garrison, than for the garrison to inflict that sort of annoyance on the besiegers. But the Russians go still further; although they have in no instance succeeded in wresting from us or destroying any fortified portion of our works, it is admitted that, on this and several other occasions, they penetrated into them—they ran along the rear of our parallels—surprised the men in the trenches with a superior force—and were only driven out after an obstinate resistance. We cannot recall any instance in which as much has been done by any portion of the allied armies against the Russian lines, probably because our Generals are averse to risk their men in these ineffective contests; but there appears, for the moment, to have resolved itself mainly into the attack and defence of the Mamelon, which is regarded as the key of the position and would enable us, if in our possession, to command a part of the town and harbor. If the siege is to continue with any prospect of success, that position must be taken; and the extreme energy and ingenuity with which the Russians endeavor to ward off our attacks on this point seem to imply a consciousness that the fate of Sebastopol turns on the possession of that hill. The more it is to be regretted that our engineers acted as if they never discovered the importance of it till it was in the hands of the enemy. The engagement of the night of the 22d, 23d of March must, however, again have shown the Russians that, though we may be outnumbered, we are not to be beaten, and their attack, though partially successful at first, ended in a severe repulse. Will General Canrobert, with his own gallant troops, supported, if necessary, by the British forces in front of our attack, follow up this advantage, and secure that important position which he has already attempted to carry by main force and by regular approaches? We hope to learn within a very few days or hours that no more time has been lost, but that the attack has been resumed with equal vigor on our side. Already the fire both of shells and rockets has become far more constant and effective against the town, and a very short time ought to bring the siege operations to a crisis, or to determine the allied Generals to have recourse to other means of carrying on the campaign.

THE VISIT OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

The Emperor and Empress of the French are expected to visit the Queen on Monday. They will chiefly remain at Windsor, attended by a very distinguished court; but will also visit London, a large portion of Buckingham Palace having been newly furnished and superbly decorated for their reception. It is not improbable that the Emperor and Empress will receive an invitation to a banquet at the Guildhall.

THE CRIMEA.

VIENNA, Thursday, April 12.—According to a telegraphic dispatch from the Crimea, dated April 1, the allied armies were quite ready to open their fire on Sebastopol. The Generals probably only awaited the arrival of dispatches from home before beginning the bombardment, which might be expected to take place during the ensuing week. The Generals wishe to spare the town and public buildings.

The Russians still shelled the allied camp and batteries, but the guns of the allies were nearly silent.

The fire of musketry on both sides was active every night.

The weather was fine and dry.

Two fires had occured at Balaklava, a circumstance which excited suspicion of treachery.

The Russians were concentrating themselves towards Baidar.

The garrison of Sebastopol was on short rations, as the authorities preferred storing up their supplies in magazines to issuing full rations.

Advices from Balaklava and Kamiesch of the 6th, *via* Bucharest, state that nothing important had taken place before Sebastopol to that date. Alerts and skirmishes were frequent. Both sides were pushing on their works with great vigor. The general fire had not yet commenced.

MARSEILLES, April 13.—The Hydaspes, which left Constantinple on the 2nd of April, has arrived. 8000 Egyptians left Constantinople on the 2nd for Eupatoria.

BALAKLAVA, March 31.—The Russians have constructed two new batteries, and have converted the ambuscades into an advanced parallel. The allies have also constructed two new batteries. The firing has been slack. It was said positively that the bombardment would commence on the 3rd of April. The weather was not so fine; it was very cold. Of seven Russian Admirals at Sebastopol at the commencement of the seige two now remain.

According to another dispatch from Marseilles, a third stockade had been formed in the harbour of Sebastopol, by sinking vessels in front of the careenage.

VIENNA, Friday Morning, April 13.—Nothing new has taken place at Sebastopol up to the 4th inst, inclusive.

☞ Two loud detonations were heard on Tuesday evening in the Rue des Mauvais Garcons, and a large crowd assembled. Presently it was ascertained that a man having found that his mistress, a young woman, had been carrying on an intrigue with another man, had discharged a pistol right in her face, and had wounded her, through fortunately but slightly, and afterwards discharged a second pistol in his own mouth, inflicting a terrible injury, but not sufficient to cause death. Medical assistance was procured for the young woman, and the man was sent to the hospital in custody.—*Gatignani.*

☞ There have been recently discovered at Calais, the remains of a Roman ship in good preservation, bearing still on its stern the name Julius Cesar, in gold letters. The dimensions of the vessel are considerable, and intimate that this was really the one in which the illustrious captain made his voyage. This discovery appears to settle the long disputed question of the identity of Calais with the Portius Itius of the Romans.

☞ An old miser recently died at Lyons, France, leaving to one of his relations 20,000 francs. He was accustomed to get some roots cooked for himself on Sunday, on which he lived for the rest of the week. His room had not been cleaned for ten years. He had a favorite cat, and the way he took of feeding him economically was to grease him over with a piece of lard once a week, and let him lick himself like a hybernating bear.

☞ A curious case of hydrophobia has lately occurred at St. Pierre lez Calais. A young dog belonging to a poor family, bit a young child who thought nothing of the injury.—Some time after the dog died, and the child feeling all the symptoms of madness, threw itself on its mother, who, seized in her turn, by the terrible malady, attacked her second child. Both mother and child had died.

THE ARISTOCRACY STILL FLOURISHING.—The present English Cabinet embraces 1 duke, 1 marquis, 4 earls, 4 viscounts, 4 barons, 1 duke's brother, 4 honorables, and 5 baronets. The plebeians have seven places left, the highest of which is that of Under Secretary of State.

New Advertisements.

CLAIRVOYANCE.

DR. PRICE,

CLAIRVOYANT PHYSICIAN,

FROM THE CITY OF SYRACUSE,

WILL visit Canada West, and will receive Patients for Clairvoyant examination as follows:—

Ingersoll, at Carroll's Hotel, 5th and 6th June.
Woodstock, at Matson's Hotel, 7th June.
Paris, at O'Neil's Hotel, 8th June.
Brantford, at Kerby House, 9th to 14th June.
Hamilton, City Hotel, June 15th and 16th.

☞ *Examination Hours from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.*

TERMS—For examining and prescribing a cure (if curable) from one to five dollars.

For the reliability of Mr Price's Clairvoyant powers in curing diseases, the sick are referred to circulars, which may be obtained *free* at the office of the *Ingersoll Chronicle*; also of Valentine Hall, Esq., and at Matson's Hotel, Woodstock; of George Babcock, Esq., Brantford, and at the City Hotel, Hamilton.

Dr. Price makes this visit to Canada West at the earnest solicitation of many patients and friends residing there; so that those who are not well enough to visit him at Syracuse may have an opportunity of consulting him in regard to their diseases.

Dr. Price's success in curing Chronic complaints (even after the patients had given up all hope of recovery) should encourage invalids to avail themselves of an examination. While in the clairvoyant trance, Mr Price not only describes to patients their diseases, but he also describes the symptoms they experience.

Call and HEAR *examinations. No charge if the examination is not satisfactory.*

Read the following from the Syracuse press:—

"By an advertisement in another column we observe that DR. PRICE, who has practiced Medical Clairvoyance in this City for several years, purposes to visit some of the Western States, so as to accommodate invalids who are not well enough to visit him at Syracuse. If he proves as successful in curing patients West, as he has in Syracuse, we believe his tour will not be in vain. For notwithstanding our scepticism in regard to marvelous doctrines, we must admit that Dr. Price has established a reputation as being one of the most reliable *Medical Clairvoyants* in the world for the treatment of Chronic Diseases."—*Syracuse Daily Journal.*

May 1st, 1855. 37.4

☞ The Woodstock "Sentinel" will copy the above advertisement the two last weeks in May, and first week in June; the Brantford Weekly "Herald" the two last weeks in May and first week in June; the Paris "Maple Leaf" the two last weeks in May; the Hamilton "Weekly Spectator" the two last weeks in May and first week in June; and the Hamilton "Morning Banner" (daily) on the 10th and 12th of June, and send accounts to this Office *on or before the 5th day of June* for settlement

Great Western Railway!

OPENING OF THE GREAT

RAILWAY SUSPENSION BRIDGE,

AT NIAGARA FALLS.

Trains now run direct across the Bridge without change of Cars.

SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.

ON and after Monday 30th APRIL, Trains will run as follows:—

GOING EAST.

STATIONS.	NIGHT MAIL.	MIXED.	MIXED.	DAY EXP'SS	MIXED.	MORNING EX.	ACCOMMODA'N	MIXED.
WINDSOR depart	P. M. 7.15	P. M. 1.10		A. M. 11.00		A. M. 5.45		
Chatham.....arrive	8.55	3.50		P. M. 12.45		7.20	A. M. 7.00	
LONDON { departure	10.20	5.10	P. M. 5.10	3.05		9.45	9.55	
LONDON { arrive	11.30	6.10		3.18		9.55		
Ingersoll.....	A. M. 12.07	7.00	6.00	4.20	3.55	10.32	7.43	10.30
Woodstock.....	12.50	7.40	6.30	4.40	4.20	10.56	8.10	10.50
PARIS.....	1.22		7.40	5.15	5.15	11.45	9.12	11.35
Dundas.....arrive			9.05			P. M. 1.10	10.30	P. M. 12.45
Hamilton { departure						1.20	10.50	1.00
Hamilton { arrive						2.10	11.00	1.20
St Catharines.....						3.20	P. M. 12.25	P. M. 2.10
N. FALLS.....						(5.50)	1.00	3.20)
	2.55	4.05		6.45	5.55			
	3.00	4.40		6.55	(6.50)			
				7.55				
				8.30)				

GOING WEST

STATIONS.	NIGHT MAIL.	ACCOMMODA'N	DAY EXP'SS	MIXED.	MORNING EX.	MIXED.	MIXED.
N. FALLS depart	P. M. 11.00	P. M. 2.25	A. M. 11.15		A. M. 6.50		A. M. 6.50
St. Catharines.....	11.55	3.00	11.50				9.15
Hamilton { arrive	A. M. 12.45	4.20	P. M. 12.50	A. M. 8.00	8.30		
Hamilton { depart	12.55	4.30	1.10	8.30	8.40		
Dundas.....	2.30	6.10	2.45	10.05	10.05		
Paris.....	3.25	7.05	3.35	10.50	10.50		
Woodstock.....		7.39	3.55	12.0	12.0	P. M. 12.5	
Ingersoll.....	3.40	8.15	4.30			1.40	A. M. 11.15
LONDON { arrive	4.25		4.45				11.50
LONDON { depart	4.35						12.10
Chatham.....	7.15		7.00				P. M. 12.35
WINDSOR arrive	9.05		8.45				2.40
							4.15

GALT BRANCH.

A Train leaves Galt at 8.45 a. m. connecting at Fairchild's Creek with 7 a. m. train from London and 8 a. m., from Hamilton and 6.50 a. m. train from Niagara Falls, returning to Galt 11.00 a. m.

A train leaves Galt at 1 20 p. m. for Hamilton, connecting at Fairchild's Creek with Day Express for the West, and returning from Hamilton at 5 p. m.

Time Tables can be obtained on application to any of the Co.'s Stations.

C. J. BRYDGES,
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

HAMILTON, April, 1855. 37.3

BOOTS & SHOES!

THE subscriber would most respectfully inform the inhabitants of Ingersoll and surrounding country that he has opened a Boot and Shoe Store in Mr. Doty's Building, on the corner of King and Thames Streets, and opposite the Mansion House, where he has on hand a large Stock of BOOTS & SHOES of every description, which will be sold very cheap.

☞ All orders properly attended to

WILLIAM VAATCH.

Ingersoll, May 3, 1855. 37.tf

GRAIN REAPERS!

THE undersigned is manufacturing for the coming Harvest a few Reapers, with and without the Self-Rakers, specimens of which can be seen at his Foundry, as also Thrashing Machines and Agricultural Tools generally.

W. A. RUMSEY.

Ingersoll, May 1, 1855. 37:3m.

☞ The Woodstock "Sentinel" and "Middlesex Prototype" will please copy for three months, and send account as above.

JOSEPH BROWETT

HAS much pleasure in returning his thanks to his numerous friends and public generally for their very liberal support during the past season, and begs to inform them that he has open for inspection, a much larger and more varied assortment of

SPRING AND SUMMER

DRY GOODS,

Groceries., &c.,

Also, a large and fashionable Stock of

READY-MADE CLOTHING AND HATS.

All of which he offers for sale at *the very lowest prices.*

Call and examine the quality and prices before purchasing elsewhere.

JOSEPH BROWETT.

Ingersoll, May 3, 1855. 37.tf.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber having disposed of her business, and being about to leave Ingersoll, would respectfully solicit all persons indebted to her to call and settle their accounts immediately.

MARY A. HUGHES.

Ingersoll, May 3, 1855 37.tf

The Chronicle.

INGERSOLL:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 4, 1855.

☞ Several articles are unavoidably crowded out this week, for want of room.

We would again remind our readers that the Ingersoll Cattle Fair takes place on Thursday next, 10th inst.

Charges Against the Late Administration.

We publish to-day a part of the statements made by the Hon. Francis Hincks to the Committee of the House, who were appointed to enquire into the charges of corruption preferred against members of the late Administration. It turns out much as we had suspected. The document is a masterly *exposé* of the falsity of those monstrous wrongs said to have been perpetrated by the late Inspector General, and which have been so bandied about by the public at large, that many almost believed the Hon. Francis Hincks must be a monster of depravity. The charges taken up by the committee are all met in a spirit of candour and fairness by Mr. Hincks, and entirely denuded of those taints of corruption with which they were said to have been infected. Their foundation appears to have rested mainly upon hearsay, which, by being well retailed among his political opponents, and by adding the usual percentage in such retail, became at last what their fabricators intended,—a means whereby Mr. Hincks has been for the time being driven from office. We hope every man in the County of Oxford will read the document we publish, which will be concluded in the next number of the *Chronicle*, and give it that consideration its importance demands. Public men should be put fairly upon their trial and their deeds canvassed in a spirit of impartiality. If Mr. Hincks can have one act of corruption of a public character brought home to him whilst acting as Executive Councillor, let public indignation denounce the man. On the other hand let us not be led away by every "cock and bull story" such men as George Brown may invent against their political opponents, and sacrifice those men through whose exertions Canada is mainly indebted for her present unexampled prosperity.

Since writing the above we see that the committee have reported, honorably acquitting Mr. Hincks of all the charges brought against him by his immaculate accusers. It now remains to be seen what course they will take to endeavor to make amends for their shameful accusations. The country at large will no doubt appreciate their patriotic intentions at their proper estimate, and we are sadly mistaken if George Brown and his confrere, John Sanfield McDonald, after their tremendous efforts to annihilate Mr. Hincks, politically, will not eventually find themselves on the gallows they so artfully prepared for the discomfiture of one whom they considered stood in the way of their political advancement.

☞ The earnings of the Great Western Railway for the week ending April 27th amounted to over $60,000, being an increase of over $40,000 more than the receipts of the corresponding week of 1854. The receipts since the 1st of February, 1855, amount to $467,520.

☞ We are glad to learn that our worthy Council has an eye to the public health, and intend adopting such sanitary regulations as will tend to keep the village free from disease during the approaching summer. The Council has already appointed three of our townsmen, whose duty it is to inspect the premises of every inhabitant, and order the removal of all filth or other nuisances which are found to exist. Parties neglecting to do so, on a complaint being made, will be severely punished. With such precautions being taken as we speak of, we trust Ingersoll will be enabled to sustain the name of being one of the healthiest, as well as one of the prettiest, places in Canada.

MEDICAL CLAIRVOYANCE.—Our readers will see by an advertisement in another column, that Dr. W. H. Price, the celebrated Clairvoyant Physician of Syracuse, N. Y., is about to visit Ingersoll, where he will remain a few days for the purpose of affording our citizens an opportunity of consulting him and of testing his powers in the examination of diseases. Dr. Price is said to be one of the very best Medical Clairvoyant Physicians in the United States, and has, during five years practice in Syracuse, treated many thousand cases of chronic and other difficulties with the most flattering success. As the charges for examination and prescriptions are very moderate, invalids will do well to avail themselves of such an excellent opportunity.

THE ANGLO AMERICAN MAGAZINE for May contains a splendid lithograph of "Alexander, Czar of all the Russias." The matter, as usual, is of the very best description, and plenty of it. McLear & Co., publishers, Toronto.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—Is the Queen's birthday to be celebrated in Ingersoll this year? we are asked on every hand. It is time we were "up and doing."

☞ The Brantford *Expositor* we are happy to observe, is now published twice-a-week, and comes to hand much improved in its typography, as well as in the tone of its editorials. The state of the press in Brantford is decidedly healthy. We wish our contemporary much success.

☞ The Brant *Herald* says that a man fell, while in a state of intoxication, from the roof of a store house—a height of twenty feet, and came down upon the top of his head The fellow was taken up alive, but his recovery, as was natural to be expected, is rather doubtful.

☞ Mrs. M. A. Hughes, who, we regret to say, is about leaving Ingersoll, intends selling by auction the whole of her household furniture, on Thursday next, 10th inst.

☞ New York city paid $2800 for killing dogs within six months. The price of sausages, however, was unchanged.

☞ On Friday last a very destructive fire occured in Boston, Mass. A large number of wharehouses and wharves were consumed. The space burnt over is about three acres. Several vessels lying at the wharves were seriously damaged. Loss estimated at $476,000, about half of which is covered by insurance.

☞ T. C. Cantab's letter is reluctantly laid over until our next.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

Butter sells in Albany at 1s. 10½d. per pound!

Sebastopol is distant from St. Petersburg 1,372 miles, and from Moscow 950.

A little girl named Biddy Eagan was run over by a gravel train at Brampton, a few days since, and killed.

A stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law has been adopted by the Legislature of Liberia.

A Bill has been introduced into the Legislature to authorize the City of Hamilton to negotiate a loan of $200,000.

Flour has sold at higher prices in New York during the past week than at any time previous for forty years.

Dr. Kreil of Prague, has invented an instrument for the measurement of Earthquakes.

Sir Allan Macnab has introduced a bill into the House of Assembly for establishing a College in Hamilton.

It is stated that Mario, the famous singer, is to join the Sardinian Division in the Crimea.

A four pound loaf costs 1s in Hamilton and Toronto, 1s 2d in Pytown, and 1s 8d in Montreal.

Chloroform, it is said, has been used with success in performing surgical operations in the military hospitals in the East.

Emigrants are arriving at the rate of 1400 a day at the port of New York.

Maine Law meetings are being constantly held throughout England, Scotland, and Wales.

Sir C. Campbell, it is stated in the English journals, stops the grog of all who do not occasionally write home to their parents.

Mayor Smith, of Boston, has issued a proclamation, expressing his determination to enforce the new Liquor Law of Massachusetts.

Ships of war are are to be converted into hospitals at Portsmouth, for the use of the sick and wounded soldiers who return from the Crimea.

Thackery, the novelist, is expected to re-visit America in a few months, and will deliver a course of lectures in the principal cities and towns.

During a severe thunder storm on the 17th ult., the Arcadia High School in Madison Co., Missouri, was struck by lightning, and four boys who were in the building instantly killed.

The Know Nothings are supported by the London *Times*. A journalist offers as a reason that the *Times* wishes to stop the Irish emigration to the United States.

A Prohibitory Liquor Law has passed the State Assembly of California, by a vote of 37 to 16, and it is expected that it will pass the Senate. It will then be submitted to the people.

Electorial Divisions.

We give below a list of the proposed Upper Canadian Electorial Divisions that will be empowered to elect members under the new Council Bill.

Western—The Counties of Essex and Kent.

St. Clair—The County of Lambton and the West Riding of Middlesex.

Malahide—The East and West Ridings of Elgin, the east Riding of Middlesex and the Town of London.

Tecumseth—The Counties of Huron and Perth.

Saugeen—The Counties of Bruce and Grey and the North Riding of Simcoe.

Brock—The North and South Ridings of Wellington and the North Ridings of Waterloo.

Gore—The South Riding of Waterloo and the North Riding of Oxford.

Thames—The South Riding of Oxford and County of Norfolk.

Erie—The East and West Ridings of Brant and the County of Haldimand,

Niagara—The Counties of Lincoln and Welland and the Town of Niagara.

Burlington—The North and South Ridings of Wentworth and the City of Hamilton.

Home—The Counties of Halton and Peel.

Midland—The North Riding of York and the South Riding of Simcoe.

York—The City of Toronto and the Township of York.

Kings—The East and West Ridings of York (except the Township of York) and the South Riding of Ontario.

Queens—The North Riding of Ontario, the County of Victora and the West Riding of Durham.

Newcastle.—The East Riding of Durham and the East and West Ridings of Norththumberland.

Quinte.—The County of Peterborough, the North Riding of Hastings and the County of Lennox.

Rideau—The South Riding of Hastings and County of Prince Edward.

Cataraque.—The Counties of Addington and Frontenac, and the City of Kingston.

Gananoque.—The South Riding of Leeds and the North and South Ridings of Lanark.

St. Lawrence.—The Counties of Renfrew, and Carleton and the City of Ottawa.

Ottawa—The Town of Brockville and Township of Elizabeth, the South Riding of Greenville, the North Riding of Leeds and greenville and the County of Dundas.

Eastern.—The Counties of Stormont, Prescott, Russel and Glengary.

CHARGES AGAINST THE LATE ADMINISTRATION.

MR. HINCKS' STATEMENT.

To S. SMITH, Esq., M. P. P.,
Chairman, &c.

QUEBEC, 21st April, 1855.

SIR:—Having been informed by the Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly to enquire into charges against any members of the late Administration, that they have concluded the examination of witnesses, and that they are prepared to consider any statements which I may desire to make, I now proceed to comment on the evidence taken before the Committee. I may notice the fact, that although some transactions of mine, and also some of my late colleagues, of a private character, have been made the subject of repeated newspaper attacks, and that although charges of the grossest corruption and oppression have been reiterated during the last two years by my political opponents with a view to destroy me in public estimation, there has not been an instance in which an accuser has come forward to complain of my conduct with respect to any of the transactions into which the Committe has inquired. The consequence has been that the Committee has been obliged to send for witnesses at the suggestion of my leading political opponents, the authors of the attacks; two of whom have been acting the part of prosecutors at the same time that they are sitting as judges. My personal friends have been sent for by these two gentlemen, and examined as to my private conversations, and means have been adopted to extort evidence which witnesses refused to give on the ground that to do so would be a violation of that confidence which is sacred to every man of honorable mind. My private affairs have been inquired into, and investigations have taken place into matters of a strictly private and personal character, and for which there is no precedent. And after all these inquiries, I respectfully submit that not a single case has been established either of corruption or even of irregularity; that no new fact has been elicited of the least importance, and that the whole case of my accusers is simply this, that Members of the Executive Government have no right to engage in transactions perfectly legitimate in themselves, and which any other of Her Majesty's subjects might be concerned in without impropriety. I have stated that no accusers appeared before the Committee, I may add that no specific charges have been made against me or any of my late colleagues. The examination of witnesses, protracted during a period of many months, not having produced any result, Mr. Brown, a member of the Committee, my leading political opponent, and the individual who, more than any one else, is responsible for the attacks which have been made upon me, has, within a few days, embodied in the shape of answers to questions his various accusations against me. Although the the Committee ruled that Mr. Brown's answers could not be admitted in evidence, yet as they had been placed on the minutes of the Committee, I propose to comment on them in connection with the various charges into which the Committee have investigated.

Charge No. 1.—This in substance is as follows: That 1008 shares of Grand Trunk Stock of £25 each, carrying with them an equal amount of Bonds, or in all £50,400, were allotted to me, that £10,080, the required deposit, was paid by Sir S. M. Peto, Bart, and that this stock was intended for my personal benefit, and was given me in compensation of services rendered to the Contractors for the Railway. When the allotment of 1008 shares was made to me, a similar number was allotted to A. M. Ross, Esquire, Chief Engineer of the Company, so that £100,800 of Stock is in the same position. It must, I think, be apparent to every one that no parties would be so much interested in sifting such an accusation as this, as the Shareholders of the company, who are represented in the direction by gentlemen of the highest standing both in England and in this country. There is precisely the same ground for suspicion in the case of the Chief Engineer as in my own. Mr. Brown professes to suspect that a gross fraud has been committed, but on whom? Clearly on the Grand Trunk Railway Company, by the connivance of the Chief Engineer and one of the Directors. Is there, then, I ask, any accusation on the part of the Directors of the Company? Does a single individual among them share the suspicions of Mr. Brown? Is there, in fact, even a semblance of ground for suspicion? Assuming that the Contractors have resolved on paying the Director and Engineer for service rendered them at the expense of the Company, is it at all probable that they would carry out such an intention by asking for an allotment of stock in their name, with the certainty that the transactions must be known to the various officers of the Company? I assert that without evidence of any kind to explain the transaction, the suspicions entertained by Mr. Brown would be unjustifiable. But what is the evidence? Captain Rhodes, a member of the Legislative Assembly, and J. B. Forsyth, Esq, a merchant of high standing in Quebec, state that they were both in London at that time, and urged strongly on Messrs. Peto and Co. that there should be an allotment of Stock for Canada. It is shown by the evidence of Thomas Baring, Esq., and George C. Glynn, Esq, Directors of the Company, that they understood that the Stock allotted to Mr. A. M. Ross and myself was intended for distribution. The evidence of Mr. A. M. Ross is to the same effect. Mr. Brown labors to show that such reservation was unnecessary, and has put questions to witnesses to draw from them that Canadians had neither demanded stock nor complained of not getting it. Mr. Forsyth's answer to one of these questions ought to be conclusive; he says, when asked if any Canadians felt aggrieved at not getting stock: "no; but had the stock been at a premium, I do not know any Canadian who would not have been so." There is evidence before the Committee to show that a very few Canadian gentlemen who happened accidently to be in London, at the time of the allotment, obtained 1032 shares amounting to £51,600, and that with the exception of the 2016 shares placed for distribution in the name of Mr. A. M. Ross and myself, there was no mode whatever by which the applicants for the charter residing in Canada, could get a single share of the stock offered to the public in London. I respectfully refer the committee to the act of incorporation of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada, 16 Vic. cap. 37, to the act of incorporation of the Grand Junction Company, 16 Vic. cap. 43, and also the Quebec and Trois Pistoles, cap. 38.

By these several Acts, sundry individuals in Canada were incorporated for the construction of three lines of railway which were afterwards amalgamated in the Grand Trunk Railway Company. I here give the names of the parties resident in Canada:—Hon. Peter McGill, of the city of Montreal, Hon Geo. Pemberton, of the city of Quebec, Thomas G. Ridout and John Geo. Bowes, of the city of Toronto, Esqrs., William Price, of the city of Quebec, Esq., John Shutter Smith, of the Town of Port Hope; Esq., Henry Lemesurier, of the city of Quebec, Esq., Andrew Jeffrey, of the Town of Cobourg, Esq., James Bell Forsyth, of the city of Quebec, Esq., William Hamilton Ponton, of the Town of Belleville, Esq, Wm. Rhodes, of the city of Quebec, Esq., David Roblin, of the city of Kingston, Esq., William Matthie, of the Town of Brockville, Esq., George Beswick, of the city of Quebec, Esq. Chauncy H. Peck, of the Town of Prescott, Esq., Thomas Ryan, of the city of Montreal, Esq., John Counter, of the city of Kingston, Esq., Roderick McDonald, of the Town of Cornwall, Esq., George E. Cartier, of the City of Montreal, Esq, Henry Chapman, of the city of Montreal, Esq., Alex. Tillcock Galt, of the Town of Sherbrooke, Esq, Luther H. Holton, and David L. McPherson, of the city of Montreal, Esqrs., the Hon. Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, Hon. W. Walker, Sir Henry John Caldwell, Bart, of the city of Quebec, Jean Thomas Taschereau, Francois Rene Auger, and Francois Baby, of the city of Quebec, Esqurs, Wm Patton, of St. Thomas, Esq., Pierre Amable Dionne, of the city of Quebec, Esq., Elisee Dionne, of Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Esq., Eugene Chinic, and Edward Ryan, of the city of Quebec, Esq., Charles Hilaire Tetu, of Riviere Ouelle, in the District of Kamouraska, Esq., W. H. Tilstone, Edward Burstall and John Burroughs, of the city Quebec, Esq., Wm. F. Meudell, of the city of Toronto, Esq, Edmund Murney, Peter Robertson, Geo. Benjamin, Henry Bull and James Ross, of Belleville, Esq., James Sanson, the Elder, of Orillia, Esq., Kenneth Cameron, of Thorah, Esq, John Langton, Geo. Barker Hall and Thomas Short, of Peterboro', Esquires. I shall now give the names of the Canadian Directors of the three Companies above referred to, and which had been organized under their respective Acts of Incorporation, prior to the departure of the Hon. Sir Ross for England in November, 1852: Hon. Peter McGill, Hon. Geo, Pemberton, Henery LeMesrier, James Bell Forsyth, William Rhodes, Thomas G. Ridout, William Hamilton Ponton, William Matthie, John G. Bowes, William F. Mendell, Edmund Murry, Geo. Benjamin, Henry Bull, James Ross, Peter Robertson, James Sanson, the Elder, Kenneth Saweron, John Langton, George Barker Hall, Thomas Short Esqs., Hon. Wm. Walker, Hon. Narcisse Fortunat Belleau, Sir Henry John Caldwell, Bart., Edward Burristall, Esquire, William H. Tilstone, Esquire. Wm. Patton Esquire.—The above were Directors on the part of the Shareholders, while the Government Directors were Hon. Francis Hincks, Hon. James Morris, Hon. Malcom Cameron, Hon. John Ross, Geo. E. Cartier, Geo. Crawford, Thomas Ryan, A. T. Galt and Luther H. Holton, Esq., Hon. E. P. Tache, Hon. R. E. Caron, Hon. L. T. Drummond, Hon. Jean Chabot, Francois Lemieux, C. F. Fournier, Joseph Charles Tache and Jean Charles Chapais, Esquires.

Now without taking into consideration the claims of the large class of individuals who had petitioned for the several charters, and who had obtained them from the Legislature, there are names enough in the list of Directors alone to justify a greater reservation of shares than was actually made. Of the Directors named above, five only exclusive of the Hon. Mr. Ross and Mr. Galt, were in London when the allotment took place, viz: Hon. Geo. Pemberton, J. B. Forsyth, Wm. Rhodes, Edward Burstall, Esquires, and W. H. Tilstone, Esq., all connected with the city of Quebec. These five gentlemen obtained 552 shares, amounting to £27,600, and all of them, I believe, increased their interest purchases chiefly at a premium. I am satisfied in my own mind that had the Grand Trunk Stock continued at a premium, there would have been great discontent in every part of Canada, if no reservation of Stock had been made; it is a fact within my own knowledge that some of the Directors of the Company in Canada have had to acquire Stock in purchasing the St. Lawrence and Atlantic converted Stock in order to qualify themselves as Directors. It seems almost superfluous to dwell on this point. The absolute necessity that existed for a reservation must be apparent to every one, even without the evidence that a special demand was made for it by Capt. Rhodes and Mr. Forsyth, two of the Canadian Directors. Sir S. M. Peto, acting with that liberality for which he is distinguished, secured the reservation by paying the required deposit, and has been rewarded by a charge of corruption which has been treated with profound contempt by every one who is acquainted with his unblemished character.

Mr Brown has endeavored to show that there was no necessity for any further reservation of Stock for Canada, inasmuch as there was a special reservation of £837,600 for Canada under the Prospectus. I submit an extract from the prospectus showing the mode by which it was proposed to raise the Capital of the Company:

EXTRACT.

The Capital is made as follows:.....	£9,500,000
Amount already raised in Shares and spent in Works of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic and Quebec and Richmond Railway.....	683,400
Amount already raised in Bonds.....	733,000
	1,416,400
Reserved in Shares and Debentures for the Shareholders in the St. Lawrence and Atlantic and Quebec and Richmond Railway, on the amalgamation, and for the Bond holders of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway Company.....	837,600
Leaving	£

This Amount will be created and apportioned as follows:—Stock in 144,920 shares of £25 each:..... Debentures of £100 each payable in 25 years