

tain has been threatened, abused, vilified without stint; and any sentiment of pity or sympathy which we might have had for a people in distress has been thoroughly destroyed by their obdurate treatment of the noble and venerated country of which it is our pride to form a portion. So we wash our hands of the affair, and stand coolly watching the combatants, with not much sympathy for either, but wishing, if anything, that the smaller one, who asks but to be left to himself, and shows so much pluck, should come out best.

So much for the New Brunswick view of the matter. Perhaps it is not in all respects a just and enlightened view. Perhaps sufficient allowance is not made to our neighbors of the North in the difficulties of an entirely new and most trying position. No one can expect that the Federal Government should quietly allow the South to go out of the Union without striking one blow to prevent it. We should despise it if it did such a thing. And looking at all the facts, it is not at all extraordinary that the South should at the outset have the best of the contest. While the North was waiting in doubt, half fearing that the South was in earnest in its threats of secession, and half believing them to be but the petulant outbursts of a disappointed minority, the South itself was preparing for the war which it had determined, if necessary, to wage. The commencement of actual hostilities found the North almost utterly unprepared. An army had to be raised and organized, drilled and disciplined. Vast preparations had to be made in a brief time. The North undoubtedly underrated its adversary, and overrated its own preparations; and the consequences we all know. But it cannot be said that the Federal Government has not profited by its dearly bought experience. Immense efforts have been made. Half a million of men have been raised, and a huge number of them have been provided with arms and partially disciplined. The amount of work which has been done to effect this, and to feed, clothe, organize, and move these men is something of which any country may be proud. Again, a large proportion of the officers of the Federal regular army were Southerners. These men took part with their native States. Consequently the North had not the material for officering its army properly. Besides this, Southerners have ever been more military in their tastes than Northerners; and take more readily to military pursuits. The result of the first year's warfare cannot be taken as proving anything as to what the result will be. That the North has more wealth, more bottom, more persistency than the South, we believe. And we believe that other things being equal, the Federal States will in a war prove themselves more than a match for the Confederate States. Nevertheless we do not look for the reconstruction of the Union. The differences between North and South are so great as to amount to a positive antagonism. They have little, very little, in common. Nature intended them for separate nations. The wonder is not that they have separated now, but that they should have so long remained united. The match was from the beginning an ill-assorted one; and the day has come when the only cure for domestic differences and domestic discord is a divorce. The bond which held together the different sections of the Union is too flimsy to preserve its integrity. The central government in times of peace is but a makeshift—a sort of agency by which the several sections deal with each other, and manage the few matters in which they have a common interest. Each State takes charge of its educational interest, the judiciary, public works, and the relations of trade and commerce within its own boundaries. The Federal Government has under its charge the foreign relations, the post office, and the territories, and some matters of secondary importance. The Federal Government is not much respected or regarded, for it has little power, and is formed of such shifting materials as to draw to it little esteem and veneration. Held together by a bond so slight, the antagonistic interests of the various geographical sections meet with little opposition to their tendency to burst them asunder. The North and South have scarcely anything in common; the Atlantic and Pacific States have not much more. The events of eighteen hundred and sixty-one are only the first scenes in a drama the elements of which no living man can predict, but the general course of which is as plain as noonday to those who have eyes to fulfil the Scriptural injunction of using them. The unwieldy confederacy will gradually shake to pieces. Nor do we look upon this as a misfortune to the States themselves. Under separate governments the whole country will more rapidly advance, and liberty and order will bear to each other a much more reasonable and advantageous relation than at present, when liberty is little better than mere licentiousness, and the country exhibits in every department of the Government the spectacle of democracy run mad. There is one other point on which we desire to say a word, and but a word. What effect will separation have upon slavery? A question most difficult to answer—a question which perhaps nothing but time can answer. The South goes out in order to preserve slavery. We desire

nothing so much as that slavery should, as speedily as is consistent with safety, be extinguished. What effect the separation will have whether in promoting or retarding abolition it is impossible to say. We can only hope that the great Disposer of events may in this as before in the history of nations, bring good out of what may to our superficial view appear to be evil; and may overrule the councils of politicians, the tactics of generals, and the onset of contending armies for the relief of the oppressed and the raising up of the humble and down trodden.

THE RAILWAY EXPLORATION.

The exploration for a continuation of the St. Andrews Road to the Canadian frontier, and for a connection with the Grand Trunk at Riviere du Loup, of which we have already spoken, has advanced so far that we are enabled to announce that a satisfactory line has been found throughout the greater portion of the whole distance from the Munquart to the St. Lawrence. The point at which the greatest difficulty was anticipated, and about which serious doubts were at first entertained, was, of course, the crossing the height of land separating the valley of the St. Lawrence from that of the St. John. Of this obstruction Major Robinson thus speaks in his celebrated report:

"The fifth and last obstacle to be overcome and which cannot be avoided by any of the routes, is the mountain range running along the whole course of the River St. Lawrence in a very irregular line, but at an average distance of from it of about twenty miles. It occupies with its spurs and branches a large portion of the space between the Saint Lawrence and the Restigouche rivers. The rocks and strata composing the range are of the same character and kind as the Tobique range. The tops of the mountains are as elevated in the one range as in the other.

"The exploring parties failed in finding a line through this range to join on to the direct line through New Brunswick, but succeeded in carrying on the Eastern or Bay Chaleurs route, owing to the fortunate intervention of the valley of the Metapedia River.

"The line which was tried and failed, was across from the Trois Pistoles River by the head of Green River, and down the Pasady, or some of the streams in that part running into the Restigouche River.

"A favorable line from the Trois Pistoles was ascertained along the Eagle Lake and Torcadi Rivers, as far as the Rimonskil and it is probable that, by ascending this river, and descending the Kedgwick River, this line, route No. 4, could be completed.

"But it is not probable that it could compete in favorable grades with the Metapedia."

This "direct line" of which Major Robinson speaks above is described amongst the other four routes in the commencement of his Report.

"Commencing at the harbor of Whitehaven, near Canso, at the north eastern extremity of County Harbour and valley of the River Saint Mary, thence by or near to Pictou and along the northern shore to Bay Verte.

"From Bay Verte to or near the Bend of Peticodiac, thence across to Boistown, and north-wardly to the Restigouche River, crossing it several miles to the east of the Grand Falls.

"From thence by the most direct and practical course to the Trois Pistoles River and along the right bank of the St. Lawrence to Quebec."

Of course with anything but the New Brunswick portion of this route we have now nothing to do. Since Major Robinson wrote his Report, the 31st August, 1848, Nova Scotia has commenced her Railway lines, and is far advanced with them. So far the question of route is decided. We have to deal only with New Brunswick; and in New Brunswick there are at this day probably but two routes which will be considered.

One is the North-Shore route, as described by Major Robinson, as follows: "From Bay Verte to Shediac, thence by a north westerly course, crossing the Rivers Richibucto and Miramichi above the flow of the tide, so as not to interfere with the navigation. Then by the valley of the North-western Miramichi to Bathurst, on the Bay Chaleurs, along the coast of this Bay to the Restigouche River, and by it and by the Valley of the Metapedia to the St. Lawrence, and by the right bank of the St. Lawrence to Quebec."

The other route would be to take advantage of the roads already built, connecting the St. John and Shediac Road with the St. Andrews and Woodstock road, carrying the latter to the East bank of the River St. John, and continuing it on to the Riviere du Loup.

By the North Shore route Major Robinson finds a gap through the mountain range between us and the St. Lawrence; by the "direct line," he finds none, and of course this applies to the route which we have indicated up the valley of the St. John. We need scarcely say that this obstruction has always been urged strongly against the Western route.

That argument is now removed. We are in-

formed on excellent authority, that Mr. Rubridge, who had charge of the exploration on the part of the Grand Trunk, has completed it, and returned home to report his success.

The route pointed out to us as that found feasible is by the east side of Lake Temiscouata, thence by the Tuladi lakes, and the stream on Trois Pistoles into the valley of that stream, and thence to the St. Lawrence.

That this project of carrying the continuation of the St. Andrews road across the river and forward on its East bank, and the discovery of the line above described, puts a thoroughly new face on the question of the route of the International line, and places the St. Andrews road before the country in an entirely new character, we shall, we think, be able to show in future articles.

A BRIDGE.

It is high time that the public were again waking up on the question of a Bridge across the St. John at or in the vicinity of Woodstock. The movement set on foot some time ago has died out. Notwithstanding the trouble which was taken to obtain statistical and other information as to the districts to be convenience by the proposed Bridge, and to call to it the attention of the public, no practical result was arrived at, partly owing, we believe, to the indifference and apathy or incapacity evinced by our representatives in the Legislature. Now that we have a new representation, and an able and energetic one, we suggest that the matter be again taken up earnestly, and pushed forward to success. The Railroad approaches completion. A new channel of intercourse and trade is opened up. Let us endeavor to promote its success, and at the same time forward the interests of this community and of a large portion of the Province, by having the river spanned with a Bridge, thus uniting in one a county separated by this great natural obstruction.

The Government can well be called upon to turn its attention to this work. On the other side of the river lie almost all the Crown Lands in the Counties of York, Carleton and Victoria. Efforts are being made to promote their settlement. Already, within a few years, large blocks have been surveyed and allocated to actual settlers; and the axe of the pioneer is hewing down the forest to build farms and homesteads for a hardy and industrious population. But the river cuts off these settlements from connection with the older and more settled portions of the country,—from markets, and from the great lines of communication and travel. A Bridge would not only convenience those who have already settled on the East bank, and advance the value of their property twenty-five to fifty per cent, but would also give a further impetus to settlement. Accessibility is one of the first qualifications of land in the eye of the settler; for accessibility means convenience, comfort, profit. Land on the West side of the river is of much more value in the market than land on the East side; because land on the West side is so much more accessible from the lines of travel, the channels of trade, and the markets and centres of commerce. The East side seems, then, to have in some sort a claim upon the Government. But beside this the matter is one of great public importance, bearing not on the interests of one section of the country alone, but affecting a large portion of the Province. Believing this, we shall at an early day return to the subject, and endeavor to set forth the advantages to be derived from the proposed bridge, and its value in the promotion of settlement.

"MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The annual meeting of the Woodstock Mechanics' Institute took place on Monday evening last. The following officers were elected for the year now current:—
W. T. Baird, President; J. R. Tupper and E. P. Fisher, Vice Presidents; Wm. Dibblee, Secretary; James Grover, Treasurer; D. L. Dibblee, Librarian; T. W. Longstaff, R. A. Hay, L. H. Stoddard, John Bedell, Dr. Bell, G. Strickland, Robert Brown, Dr. Smith, D. L. Dibblee, Directors; Dr. Smith, James Edgar, George Strickland, T. W. Longstaff, Wm. Dibblee, Library Committee; Robert Brown, Dr. Smith, J. R. Tupper, Lecture and Hall Committee.

It appears that a site for the proposed new building for an institute has not yet been obtained, but that the Directors are, as they have been any time during the last eighteen months, in negotiation with Mr. Charles Connell for an additional piece of land in rear of the present site.

CARLETON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held, in the Journal Reading Room on Tuesday, the 10th instant. The Treasurer's report showed the Society to be in a prosperous condition. The Secretary submitted a Report, which was ordered to be printed, along with an abstract of the proceedings of the Society, in pamphlet form. A revised constitution was adopted. The officers elected under it were, Henry E. Dibblee, President; John Harper and Anthony Kearney, Vice-Presidents; James Edgar, Secretary; James Grover, Treasurer; and twenty members of the Council. The new constitution provides for a regular meeting of the Council on the last Saturday in each month, at two in the afternoon in winter, four in summer. All the members of the Council are therefore requested to meet in the Journal Reading Room on Saturday the 23th December, at 2 P. M.

WOODSTOCK ATHENÆUM.—The second preparatory meeting of the gentlemen interested in the formation of a Literary Society took place, according to adjournment, in John C. Winslow's office, on Monday evening. Seventeen persons were present. The Mayor occupied the chair, and Mr. S. Watts acted as Secretary. The committee appointed to prepare a constitution, presented a draft, which with some alterations, was adopted. An election of officers for the ensuing year was then held, with the following result:

President—Mayor Fisher.
First Vice President—Rev. H. J. McLardy.
2d do do—James Edgar.
Corresponding Secretary—Dr. Smith.
Treasurer—David Brown.
Recording Secretary—William Dibblee.

Correspondence.

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Journal.
MR. EDITOR,—I have several times thought of addressing you upon the subject of our Common Schools. It is a subject which does not excite, nor receive so much attention as it deserves. It is evident to everyone who considers the matter, to everyone who is at all connected with schools, to everyone who takes an intelligent interest in his children, that there are great and serious defects in our present system. Anyone who carefully examines the system, and its working, will I think, coincide in the conclusion to which I have come, that these defects are radical; that they are not such as can be patched or plastered, but such as cannot be removed except by such a change as will affect the whole system. After considerable observation, and much thought, and the comparison of ours with the school systems of other countries, I am forced to the conclusion that a remedy for the evils of which we have to complain, can only be found in direct taxation of the whole county. That the present system is inefficient is generally admitted; that it is unjust, is held by many. A writer in one of the St. John papers endeavors to show that it is unjust to the poor, who pay their share of the indirect taxation; but I am disposed to think that it presses heavily on the well-disposed, and the intelligent. Were our school trustees, and our people all well-disposed and intelligent any system of education might work well; but I need not tell you, for it is too probable, that there are in every community, ignorant and obstructive members; and Trustees sometimes display as great indifference to their duty as the most wrong headed of the people could desire. No doubt the majority of the "Trustees are intelligent men, who sincerely desire the prosperity of education; they have but little in their power, and are not answerable for the most of the evils arising from the present system. The people are to blame, and the legislature, who knowing the evils, do not apply the only remedy, direct taxation.

It is well known that in some places, schools are crowded together, without much regard to the wants of the people, or the interests of education. Trustees are to blame here. Woodstock may be mentioned as an instance in point. Several of the schools in town are small, and possessed of wretched accommodation. Were there a direct tax for schools, the people would not submit to the burden of having more schools than were needed; and with fewer schools, the probability is, there would be more efficient teachers, and of a higher class.

The county districts, however, suffer the most. I know three or four districts in different parts of the county, within a short distance of one another, and the probability is that such instances could be greatly multiplied, where school is taught only for three or at most six months in the year; and this not because the people are unable to raise the money needful, but because they do not sufficiently appreciate the advantages of education for their children, to make the necessary exertion. There is no remedy for this that I am aware of in the existing law. If a number of careless individuals happen to settle together, so far as the law goes, the shadows of intellectual darkness may rest upon that place perpetually. Now, if knowledge and intelligence are beneficial to a country, and who will deny it? would not a taxation law that would compel these drones to bring honey to the hive of our common country, be a good thing?

It sometimes happens that in those districts chiefly occupied by such persons as those referred to in the preceding paragraph—those who are ignorant themselves and careless of the benefits of education, one or two men of intelligence may settle—men, who knowing somewhat themselves, are not willing that their children should grow up ignorant and brutish. Where-

ever this is the case the whole burden of the same time the petty those cannot appreciate see their excellencies. Two instances of this kind individuals have had to and expense of supporting one has carried it on his able period. Let not you this burden was unfelt, felt at times. But these all hazards to educate th of their ability, and the were well of their count say of a system which t one or two willing men, tributed neither means u benefit with these men who were mean enough to the expense of one or tw men. These are facts, t tried were it needful. T tics, and have been fo not contribute one pen school, knowing that certainly have a school after it was commenced. The law provides that t that contributed by go by the people of the d teacher. This is consi do not know a single County where it is not sons subscribe their na understanding that they sh pay, in order that by t rantee, the government This is dishonest to say fraud upon the Govern their fellow citizens, an not secure the services class teacher, but have trained third-class one of this fraud and false adoption by the Gover a uniform system of tax availed so long as M their duty; and when t apply a remedy. And equitable, because each his means.

I fear that I have air long; but there is one for to before it closes position of teachers, the mercy of a multitude pay part of their salary is, we may surmise; b know. One parent is pretext, another upon er if he is a man of m racter is soon compell pliant and time-serving to adopt such a course elf to his judgment. The value of the school ad by one or two ign duals. Now, were T or two responsibility freed from the evils cannot be without dir I have thus endeavo vice a form as possible apprehend are incre system; and I have i connection with instau my own knowledge, al tiated. They are not operation of our coun a most serious degre ment of the country. I would commend t attention of our legis ter; but one demand every man interested i try. Is there no love dare to incur the odit torsted in order to be ing generations by pl on a satisfactory and he might and would in not? But I venture would introduce and e lature a bill imposing would in a very few classes as a signal b What will our repres I am, Sir

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