

THE BRIDGE.

How the Opposition Clique have Tried to Defeat the Project.

The Little Game that Mr. Cropley Tried Unsuccessfully to Carry Out.—The Responsible Head of the Mischief Makers.

Since the Malignants have once more shown their hands in the Fredericton Bridge matter, and with the spitefulness, which is their chief characteristic, are again plotting how they can defeat this project, it is well that the people of the County of York should have presented to them in brief review the falsehoods, tricks and misrepresentations to which Messrs. Temple and Wetmore and their allies have resorted in order that they might prevent the man whom they fear and hate, from having what credit attaches to the successful carrying out of a great public work, with which his predecessors had dallied for years. THE GLEANER had no desire to go over this ground, and has permitted Messrs. Temple and Wetmore, and their allies, by the Opposition press, to pass unchallenged; but since nothing will satisfy the Malignants but war, they shall have their fill of it. The records of politics in New Brunswick may be searched from beginning to end, and not be found such another display of **Meanness, Villainousness, Lack of Public Spirit,** disregard of truth and flagrant betrayal of public trust as has been shown by the Opposition remnant in Fredericton in connection with this bridge.

Without going back into the history of the project during Mr. Fraser's administration, further than to remind the public that the assent of the Legislature to the construction of the work was secured only after Mr. Blair, then leader of the opposition, had urged upon the leader of the Government not to allow the last Railway Subsidy Act to pass without providing for a highway bridge here; and also to recall the fact that Mr. Colter had submitted to the Legislature a bill to authorize a company to construct a toll bridge, or to receive the subsidy from the Government and then assign their right to a company to build a railway bridge—a franchise which would have been worth a great deal of money to the corporators, if the plot had not been detected and exposed. We come down to the Spring of 1883 when the new Government was formed. The Premier of this Government, Mr. Blair, was committed to the erection of the bridge, and it is well known that the late Dr. Elder, then Provincial Secretary, gave the Electors of York

A Most Public Assurance of his support of the project. These facts of themselves were a sufficient guarantee that the work would be undertaken in due course, and were so understood by the people of this county, who would never have sanctioned Mr. Blair's acceptance of office if they did not believe that he and the Government were sincere in the matter. Immediately after the estimates were submitted in 1883, and in utter disregard of the fact that it was a physical impossibility to prepare plans and specifications for so large a bridge in so short a time, the Opposition press in the city, instigated by Mr. Wetmore and his friends, began to cry out that Mr. Blair had failed to perform his promise. Ignoring their vapors, and not dignifying them with a reply, the Government, early in the summer, directed Mr. A. G. Beckwith to visit certain localities in the United States where long bridges had been built, and to prepare plans and specifications for a bridge here. This was a matter of common report, and was as well known to the Malignants as to the Government. It is important to bear this in mind in view of the course which they adopted when tenders were asked for. In December tenders were asked for, and then the Malignants began

Their Miserable Work. First, they circulated the report all over the Province that the advertisement for tenders was a sham. They said so in their papers; they said so in conversation; they proclaimed it in every school house and public hall in the county. They sent their emissaries to the Board of Works office to ask to see the plans and specifications, and invent falsehoods, to the effect that no information was obtainable by intending contractors. They used every means in their power to prevent persons from tendering, in the vain hope that they might defeat the work in this way. But they failed. Responsible persons offered to build the bridge and the lowest tender was accepted.

When the figures were announced the Malignants changed their tactics. Another step was to be taken, namely, the signing of the contract by sureties; and the Malignants, with **Misdirected Ingenuity,** began tactics which they thought would prevent this. Here they again found willing helpers in the press; and the *Farmer* and *Capital* vied with other in representing the costliness of the proposed work, the insufficiency of the price named in the successful tender, and the utter inability of the contractors to do the work for the money. These tactics failed and good sureties were forthcoming.

It now became necessary to make a new departure, and in this the Malignants received the cordial support of the Opposition press all over the province. They asserted that York County, having the Normal School, and the Parliament Buildings, had no right to ask the Legislature to build a bridge out of the public revenue. They stated that Mr. Wetmore and Temple and never disavowed by these gentlemen. They asked through the government in other parts of the province on other grounds should have been in defeating the administration upon this bridge project; they endeavored to stir up hostility in sections where there was perfect willingness that York should have its rights.

Finding that the temper of the House was against them, they began to throw doubt upon the right of the government to build the bridge; and the first man to do this was E. L. Wetmore, by the grace of George Colter, representative of York County. This gentleman on the 10th day of March 1884 stated to the House of Assembly that the government had not power to construct the bridge. Hitherto everything had moved along smoothly and satisfactorily.

Plans had been prepared; experienced contractors had undertaken the work; the best sureties had been obtained; the price was much lower than had generally been anticipated. Everything promised that the bridge would soon be built; and the Malignants would have the satisfaction of viewing with jaundiced eyes the triumph of their hated adversary. When Mr. Wetmore raised this new point there was joy in the ranks of the Malignants. They had not been able to affect the belief of the public in the sincerity of the government, nor shake the credit of the contractors, and they might not be able to stop the grant in the Legislature; but they felt sure that on this new point they would have the warm co-operation of the Ottawa allies of Mr. Temple. We have already given an outline of the course taken by the Attorney General when this objection was raised; and we repeat here that his expressed determination.

Not to Surrender one Jot or Tittle of the rights heretofore exercised by the Province, unless compelled by process of law, will meet with the hearty approval of every one not blinded by personal spite and party prejudice. Meanwhile the Malignants were working their cards elsewhere. What they could not do in the House, they succeeded in doing in the Legislative Council, and that body proved itself the willing tool of obstructionists, by throwing out the bill to authorize a loan for the bridge. There was joy then in the ranks of the Malignants, but it was short lived, for the House promptly by resolution authorized the Government to borrow the money for the bridge.

And so the session closed, with everything done to secure the prompt completion of the bridge, infuriated by these failures, the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter*, taking their cue from Mr. Wetmore, then began a furious attack upon the Government, and refusing to advise the House against the legality of the projected work. They asserted that the government at Ottawa, had undertaken to direct the Lieutenant Governor to advise his government that the work should not go on. Such an interference with the Local Government, was without precedent, and it could be based only upon an assumption, both in law and in fact, of things yet to be decided. That this interference was instigated by Mr. Temple on the suggestion of Mr. Wetmore, they did not doubt; and that Mr. Blair did what he should have done in refusing to lay it before the House as the only constitutional law user of the Lieutenant Governor he could not do otherwise. The Malignants, however, have no doubts, and there is no doubt that they endeavored to bring pressure from Ottawa to ensure it, but all to no purpose.

What were they to do next? Work was about being begun. There would soon be undeniable evidence that the government was in earnest, and that Messrs. Wetmore and Temple, the *Reporter*, the *Farmer*, and the *Capital* had been playing the part of obstructionists. Their ingenuity was not yet exhausted. The City Council would be asked to intervene. Who would undertake the task of being spokesman for the Malignants in this matter? What man had they of so little reputation that they could afford to sacrifice it in a last effort for the glory of the decaying remnant of a once powerful party? They dared not have for this until they found one, and they picked upon Mr. Cropley, the *Capital* as the best man for the purpose. He has no political standing, and is so erratic that if we fail, and the public find out what we are up to, we can pass it off as saying, "I am only one of Cropley's ideas. We are not responsible." And so Mr. Cropley undertook to secure the intervention of the City Council to prevent work from being done under the contract.

This was a very clever game indeed, and shows the length to which the Malignants were prepared to go. They dared not openly take the responsibility upon themselves of stopping the work, but if the City Council could be induced to make any sort of a protest, they would have an excuse for plunging the Province into litigation and robbing the County of its rights. Mr. Cropley endeavored to secure a protest from the City Council, but he met with such a repulse the moment he began to enquire for his instructions from his employers, that the project collapsed instantly. Then once more it dawned upon the Malignants how powerless they were.

Then the spring freshets came, and work was temporarily suspended. The hired organs began again to sneer at the bridge, and assert that it never would be built, but by and bye the water went down, and the contractors set to work again. Then Mr. Temple went to Ottawa, and on his return one of his organs began again to cry out that the government had no authority to build the bridge. And here the matter rests. What will be the next move of the Malignants, no one knows; but work on the bridge is going on; and unless Messrs. Wetmore and Temple can get the Dominion Government to begin legal proceedings, in due time they will be finished under the present contract, and York County will enjoy a privilege that ought to have been hers long ago, and would have been hers had the men, who represented the county in the Government before 1883, possessed sufficient pluck and public spirit to do so.

Assert the Rights of the Constitution. And it is worth bearing in mind that no section of the Province has disapproved of the grant to build the bridge here expressed; that the opposition to it, bitter, false and malicious as it has been, and now is, originated with and has almost been entirely confined to the opposition clique in Fredericton, and that the only man in the Legislature to lay a straw in the way of the project was Mr. Edward L. Wetmore, M. P. for York County.

Rather than submit to the political disgrace and ignominy which their defeat will entail upon them, Messrs. Wetmore and Temple may yet prevail upon the Ottawa authorities to raise in the Courts a question as to the authority of the Local Government to build the bridge. If they do, it may be retarded. An appeal to the Privy Council after litigation here might be necessary in order to settle a question of this kind. Such proceedings might be long and expensive; but the point involved is too important for the Province to surrender, unless it is absolutely compelled to. The right of the government to build such bridges has never been questioned heretofore, but has been exercised freely; and it would not have been questioned had Mr. Wetmore had not thought it advisable, in order to embarrass Mr. Blair, to attempt to impair the powers of the legislature and sacrifice his career to the rest of the Malignants only re-echo his sentiments. The people of York will bear this in mind; that if any steps are taken by the Dominion Government, whereby the completion of the bridge is prevented or delayed, Mr. Wetmore, whom they elected to represent and protect their interests, cannot escape their judicious censure.

A PLEASANT RIDE.

A Gleaner Reporter's Pleasant Afternoon.

Ontario Tourists on the Road to Marysville.

A trip to Marysville in Foster & Pugh's "Marysville accommodation" is fast becoming a popular pleasure trip. And so it should. Let all who are hard at work in store, office and workshop, and weary with trudging along the dusty streets for recreation, get aboard that attractive coach, as did a GLEANER reporter yesterday afternoon, and take a pleasant and cheerful ride over as fine a road as there is in the whole Province. When once seated in the nicely cushioned and comfortable carriage, the passenger will wonder why he had not been there before, and when he learns how accommodating and friendly the driver, Mr. Elder, is, he will wonder still more. After waiting a few minutes for the ferryman to get turned around we were soon landed on the Gibson side. The driver halted, for a short time, to allow the train, which had just arrived from Woodstock, to run in the station, and then driving up to the Riviere du Loup House, took on board a number of Ontario tourists, who were sensible enough not to leave the Gibson City without first paying a visit to Marysville and its Attractions.

When all were comfortably located on board, the coach was pretty well filled, there being about a dozen passengers. With a crack of the whip we were whirling along the road at a rapid rate. Soon leaving the little village of Gibson behind, as we passed Mr. Macklin's rich looking and level fields, the hay-makers were at work hailing in their hay, and there is nothing presents a finer picture along a stage road than the haymakers in the hay field. "What a beautiful field of grain," remarked one of the lady tourists on board, pointing to a wheat field on Mr. Macklin's farm which for height and thrift cannot be easily excelled in the County. Along the road we passed loads of sleepers and rails which were being hauled from the railway wharf up along the line of the Miramichi Valley Road. As we approached the large residence of Mr. McConnell, our rate of speed was checked by the slight excavation being made in the road for the new railroad crossing. Here the track leaves the southern side of the road next the stream, and passes in the fields some distance from the highway road on the opposite side.

As we passed Mr. McConnell's broad fields the passengers expressed themselves so much delighted with the beautiful scenery. The road and about one hundred yards distant stands the large and handsome farm residence, which is reached from the main road by two entrances, and a curved road which forms nearly a semicircle, and within the enclosure made by the circular road there is a fine collection of young and thrifty trees, which in a very short time will make a beautiful grove. In front of the road and for a long distance are extensive intervals lands which border the Nashwaak, and on the opposite side of the river the land is much higher and covered with forest trees. As we rolled along, the driver said, pointing to an old and dilapidated looking building, "that is the house where old Mr. Alexander Colter used to live, and the birth-place of George Colter, the member for York." The reporter passed a few more beautiful scenes in the cottage, but mayhap some one who is more of a sunnier skies may yet be saved like brother George from being a churchyard Milton or wasting his sweetness on the desert air. A little further on we passed Mrs. Ramsay's neat little cottage on an oval piece of ground, and still a short distance further on we reached the residence of Mr. Clendenen, one of the two contractors of the western section of the Miramichi Valley Railway. Back a short distance in Mr. Clendenen's fields men and teams are busy at work on the new railroad. Passing a few more beautiful scenes we have recently been built we came in full view of

The Mammoth Cotton Factory of which so much has already been said and written, and also the long row of cottages which line the opposite bank. "What a pile of money it must have taken to build that immense building!"—"Was that all built by one man?"—"That is pretty row of cottages," and many other similar remarks were made by the tourists, especially by the ladies. A short distance below Mr. Gibson's residence the railway again crosses the highway road, and the number of men and teams at work at the crossing and in the bluff beside the road, made almost a blockade, but a clearing was soon made for the stage coach. As we passed Mr. Gibson's imposing residence and beautiful grounds they became the subject of warm approval. The stage brought up at the Marysville hotel, and the driver informed us the journey upwards was at an end. It is no wonder that so much has been said and written, not only about the artificial works and structures at Marysville, but also of the striking romantic scenery which presents itself on every side. There are hundreds of things worth seeing about this charming spot, and if you have seen them fifty times before, they will bear inspection fifty times more. The driver had scarcely his horses unhitched before half a dozen tired young ladies who had come up earlier in the day, came strolling down the hill from the church and wanted to return to the city. Mr. Foster immediately suggested that a fresh team be harnessed; and the driver, although his supper was waiting, readily obeyed the summons, and soon we were on our homeward journey at a respectable rate. Our crew of ladies were as jolly as any who ever boarded a pleasure coach. They laughed, sang, and ate sweet crackers of which they had abundance, nor did they forget to pass them round to the other passengers, and especially to the driver, who day after day had labored in his support. "What a lovely crew!"—"That is just what it was awfully cruel." As we increased our speed along the road, we passed men with the shovels and pick-axes, and teams and dumpcarts, as they were returning from their day's work which had just been completed. We arrived at the ferry landing just in time to see the ferryboat steam away from the shore; but it was not long before she was back again and we were safely landed in the city once more.

BUILDING NOTES.

What is Going on Around Town.

Work on the new Presbyterian Church is progressing slowly. The masons have reached the second story in laying the stone walls. J. S. Neil's new residence, when completed be the largest private residence in the city. Work on the outside of the building is nearly finished; the inside on the lower flat is lashed throughout and ready for the masons. The upper stories have already received their first coat of plaster. Nearly all the finishing and job work is being done by machinery on the premises. Hot air, gas and waterpipes, bath rooms, etc., are being fitted in the building.

The new Royal Gazette building on King street is nearing completion. It has yet to be clapboarded and plastered.

E. L. Wetmore's residence at the foot of King street, has undergone several repairs, and is receiving a new coat of apple green paint.

Dr. Currie's office and residence on York Street has undergone a thorough reformation since his purchase of the property last spring. The building and grounds combined now present a fine appearance.

W. G. Gaunce has enlarged his two storey residence on King Street by the addition of a flat roofed, side-building, which is nearly as high as the main building. Mr. Gaunce is also making several other changes about his premises.

Nason Squires is erecting a new house on the lot next below Mr. Gaunce. Mr. Squires will probably have his building completed this season.

E. B. Winslow is having a nicely ornamented veranda built on the front part of his residence on St. John Street.

Several changes and repairs are being made in the interior of the Free Baptist parsonage during Mr. McLeod's absence.

G. W. Howland is building a new residence on Brunswick Street, nearly opposite J. G. McNally's. The house is nearly finished on the outside. Mr. Howland is doing most of the work himself and expects to have it completed before winter.

Mr. Lester is having his residence on Brunswick Street rebuilt. The building has been raised several feet and a new mansard roof placed upon it. A large ell is also being built in connection with the building.

Messrs. Hill & Berry are erecting a building near the wharf at West End, as a storehouse for their goods manufactured at their factory at Pokok.

Difference of Opinion. Denis Costigan is in custody for the unlawful killing of Ida M. Hayes on the streets of St. John on Monday evening last. At the inquest on the body of the victim two witnesses swore to Costigan's condition a short time before the accident. One witness, John Welsh, said:—"Costigan came to my place on Hill street about 8 o'clock last Monday night. I wanted him to go out the road with him, but he refused. Getting into the wagon, Costigan felt over the dash-board and broke it. He was then very drunk. The chief reason why I refused to go out the road was that Costigan was too drunk."

John F. Ashie, on the same point swore:—"I am well acquainted with the prisoner, Denis Costigan. He asked me if I would go out the road and I said 'yes.' When I got to the office I found some business that had to be attended to and I refused to go with him. He then drove off. He had been drinking but did not think he was under the influence of liquor. He was thoroughly able to drive, and I would have gone out for an hour's drive had not business interfered. When I left him in front of my office it was about five minutes past eight."

Union Baptist Seminary. A meeting of the N. B. Baptist Union Educational Society was held in St. John on Thursday last for the purpose of selecting a site for the proposed Seminary. Geo. R. Foster, M. P., presided. Subscriptions from Saint Martins to the amount of \$6,336 were offered as an inducement for the location of the seminary at that place. The roll-call from St. James showed subscriptions to the amount of \$7,750 and a site of four or five acres. After a lengthy discussion by parties representing different sectional interests a committee consisting of Hon. A. F. Randolph, of this city, Mr. Leighton, M. P., P. W. Woodcock, and Benj. S. Palmer of Hamstead were appointed to examine into the suitability of the several proposed locations, the amount that would be raised in each, and the future prospect of support in each, to be reported at a future meeting of the society.

The society adjourned to be called together by the President not later than six weeks hence.

The Halifax Election. A Halifax dispatch of the 31st ultimo, says:—"At a convention of Conservatives of Halifax County here, to-night, John M. Paynter, merchant of this city, residing in Dartmouth, was chosen to oppose Hon. W. S. Fielding, the new Provincial Secretary and Premier, in the election on August 20th."

Home from India. Rev. G. Fred Currie, who has been a missionary resident at Tunj, India, for the last nine years, is in Fredericton on a visit to his friends, and will preach in the Baptist Church to-morrow, both morning and evening. Mr. Currie is a brother of Mrs. A. Lottimer.

New Church at Upper Newcastle. The new Baptist Church at Upper Newcastle, Grand Lake will be dedicated on the last Sunday in this month. Mr. Youmans the contractor, has built the church at a cost of \$1500. The building is 30 by 40, and has a large bell tower 50 ft. in height. The seats which were manufactured at Blair's factory in this city, were shipped to Newcastle this week.

Accident at Pokok. A young man named Vetter, while at work in Hill and Berry's factory at Pokok, had his arm and hand badly mangled by the rotary saw. One of his fingers had to be amputated.

Fredericton Junction. Mr. John Coleman has commenced the erection of a new building which he intends to occupy as a store for general merchandise.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Gordon does not need Assistance from England.

France and China to settle their Differences by Arbitration.—General News.

The Cholera. Special to Gleaner. MARSEILLES, Aug. 2.—The total number of deaths from cholera in Marseilles since the outbreak is 1,248.

ROME, Aug. 2.—Cholera is reported in from 10 to 12 communes, but the epidemic is not spreading.

The *Divette* insists that the Government should publish trust-worthy information to prevent unfounded alarm or exaggerated confidence.

LONDON, Aug. 2.—Another steamer has reached Penzance Roads, with a case of cholera on board.

Indications. (Special to Gleaner.) WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Generally fair weather; variable winds; slight changes in temperature and barometer.

Dismissed from the Service. (Special to Gleaner.) PLYMOUTH, Aug. 2.—The captain of H. M. S. "Defence," who was court martialled on account of the recent collision between that ship and the "Valliant," in Bantey Bay, has been dismissed from the naval service.

What Stanley Thinks. (Special to Gleaner.) LONDON, Aug. 2.—H. M. Stanley expresses the opinion that Gen. Gordon requires no help from England, and ascribes Gordon's despatching messages to billiard-rooms, Stanley is further of the opinion that in order to crush the slave trade the slave dealers will have to be approached from Congo as well as by way of Khartoum.

They Don't Know What To Do. (Special to Gleaner.) CAIRO, August 2.—At a preliminary meeting of the Khartoum committee, Stanley was indulged in. The chiefs are undecided as to what course to take.

An Arbitration Talked of. (Special to Gleaner.) LONDON, Aug. 2.—A dispatch from Foochow to the *Times* says it is reported there that China and France have agreed to accept the arbitration of America for the settlement of their pending difficulties, but that matters remain uncertain.

A Rascally Trio. (Special to Gleaner.) PARIS, Aug. 2.—A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Savary, President of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Lyons & Loire. Deputy Chambers has fled to America on account of frauds, and has also Morand, Secretary of the Board.

More Cardinals. (Special to Gleaner.) ROME, Aug. 2.—The Papal consistory has been officially fixed to meet in September, when probably twelve Cardinals will be created.

A Visit Spoiled. (Special to Gleaner.) BERLIN, Aug. 2.—The Czar of Russia has abandoned his contemplated visit to Copenhagen, in consequence of having been warned by St. Petersburg police that delegates of the Nihilists and Anarchists at Paris and in Switzerland had gone to Denmark and were concocting another attempt on his life.

Work on the Bridge. The abutment on the Fredericton side of the river is nearly completed. The crib-work for the draw pier, and for four other piers is ready. Work will probably begin on the pier on the low water wharf on Monday.

Mr. F. E. Carre of the Dominion Bridge Company, who has charge of the construction of the new Railway Bridge at St. John, is in the city, and is having estimates made of the cost of an iron superstructure to take the place of the wooden superstructure provided for in the contract. He thinks the additional cost would be for 15 to 20 per cent. He intends to submit a proposition to the Government within a few days.

Amusements. The St. Ann's Boating Club are to have a moonlight excursion down the river shortly. The date is not yet settled. A picnic of the St. Dunstan's Church picnic will be held at the Hermitage in about a fortnight. The picnic has not as yet been definitely decided upon.

Persons. Rev. J. McLeod returned home yesterday and left again for Woodstock this morning. Mrs. Henry Perley and Mrs. J. Ross of Calgary, N. W. T., arrived here a few days ago, and are now visiting their old home and friends in Kingsclear.

Public Notice. Hon. P. G. Ryan has given notice that any one found hauling gravel from the grounds of the Normal School or Government House will be prosecuted according to law.

Miramichi Valley Railway. It has been scarcely three weeks since notice was given that the first sod on the Miramichi Valley Railway was turned, and that a railway extension wharf was in course of erection. The new wharf is now covered with tons of rails, and carts drive to the very outer portion of it. The track is also laid the full length of the wharf, and by 6 o'clock to-night rails will be laid a mile up the line. It was thought that the whole distance of the road to Marysville would be ready for the laying of rails by to night, but there is considerable work of filling in to be done yet. A very few more days' work however is required, and rails will be laid all the way to Marysville. An engine for use on the road is expected in a few days.

Minor Matters. Service pipes have been laid in the County Court House. The new sewer on St. John street is completed.

The small hose pipes afford pleasurable pastimes for the clerks in their hours of recreation. The captain of the "Florenceville" fears that the boat will soon have to lay up awhile, as the water is so low.

It is reported on good authority that a new building is in course of erection at the August session of the Equity Court meets on Tuesday next.

The Shamrock and the Imperial base ball Clubs, of St. John, will play at Blissett, Sunbury Co., at the Old Fellows picnic on the 6th inst.

The Halifax base ball Club are to play the Nationals of St. John on the 28th of August.

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