

importance, we shall take occasion to return to the subject.—*St. John Courier, Oct. 2.*

*St. John, N. B., 29th Sept., 1852.*

At a Meeting of the European and North American Railway Company, held in the Commercial Bank Building, this day—

*Present.*—The President, R. Jardine, Esq., and the Hon. John Robertson, D. J. McLaughlin, Edward Allison, W. J. Ritchie, Directors; also the Honbles. the Attorney General and the Provincial Secretary; the Hon Messrs. Hazen, Gray and Wilnot; Wm. Jackson, Esq., M. P.; Messrs. Morton, Beatty and Ross, Civil Engineers; J. A. Poor, Esq., of Portland, Me., and Capt. Rhodes, President of the Quebec and Richmond Railway.

The President took the Chair.

Read the Contract between this Company and Messrs. Wm. Jackson, M. P.; Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., M. P.; Thomas Brassey, and Edward Lidd Betts, of England, for the construction of so much of the European and North American Railway as extends from the boundary of the State of Maine to the West side of the River St. John, and from the East side of the River Saint John to Miramichi, with extensions to Shediac, frontier of Nova-Scotia and Fredericton.

And thereupon *unanimously Resolved*,

That the same be approved and confirmed, and that the Seal of the Company be attached thereto.

And further *Resolved*,

That an application be made to the Legislature for the repeal of an Act intitled, "An Act further to facilitate the Construction of the European and North American Railway, passed the 30th April, 1851."

Also to make such alterations, additions and amendments in the "Act to Incorporate the European and North American Railway Company, passed 15th March, 1851." And also in the Act intitled, "An Act to facilitate the Construction of the European and North American Railway," passed 28th March, 1851.

And also in the Act 15 Vic, cap. 41, intitled, "An Act to Amend an Act to Incorporate the European and North American Railway Company," as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of a contract bearing date 29th September instant, entered into between this Company, on the one part, and Messrs. William Jackson, M. P. Samuel Morton Peto, M. P. Thomas Brassey, and Edward Lidd Betts, of England, of the other part of the construction of the European and North American Railway, the branches and extensions thereof, as contained in and referred to in the said Contract.

And that copies of this Resolution be forthwith transmitted to the Honbles. the Attorney-General and the Provincial Secretary, with the Seal of the Company, affixed thereto.

*Extract from the Minutes.*  
THOS. B. MILLIDGE, Clerk.

William Jackson, Esq., M. P. John A. Poor, Esq. and Capt. Rhodes, with Mr. Morton and Mr. Ross, Civil Engineers, left yesterday morning in the *Admiral* and were greeted with a salute of twenty guns as the Steamer passed Reed's Point. They were accompanied to the wharf by His Worship the Mayor, the Directors of the European and North American Railway Company, and the Members of the Executive Government in the City.—*Ibid.*

SIR CHARLES LYELL'S OPINION OF NEW BRUNSWICK—This eminent Geologist, now in New-Brunswick, has visited some of the districts of Westmoreland and other parts of the Province—and we are gratified to learn that he expresses a highly favourable opinion of the geological features of this country, so far as his observations have extended. We understand that he is unable to decide the question for the Lawyers, as to whether the substance found in Albert, in such abundance, comes under the cognomen of Coal, or Asphaltum, as its character differs from both. It being a new thing to science, Sir Charles is puzzled to know, on first examination, what to call it. When in St. John he visited the black lead, or plumbago mines, at the Falls, and remarked that Anthracite Coal would yet be found in that vicinity, in immense beds, as this plumbago was but the outer encrustation of the treasure within. We hope the Company will keep on digging until they strike a vein, and their fortunes are made. In the opinion of Sir Charles Lyell, this Province abounds in mineral wealth—such as coal, iron, copper, &c. &c.—which will one day be explored and developed to the enrichment of the inhabitants. It requires but enterprise and capital to bring about these ends. Opinions from such a quarter, cannot be overestimated. If Professor Johnston was capable of giving our Agricultural capabilities a good character, Professor Lyell will assist us in the mineral kingdom. We hope yet to hear from him, under his own hand. No doubt he will write a treatise upon what he has seen and approved of, in this Province. That alone will do us an immensity of good. We are informed that Sir Charles Lyell and our Lieut. Governor were school-mates. In company with Lady Lyell he intends to make a journey to the "Rocky Mountains" for Geological researches, and the pleasure which the prosecution of science affords him. We hope when he returns to England he will give New Brunswick as good a name as he may think it deserves.—*M. News*

The Provincial Exhibition will open on Tuesday next the 5th October, and we understand that every exertion has been made, to render it attractive and worthy of the Province. Those who have seen the temporary building erected for the occasion, pronounce it to be of a most elegant and tasty description; and we believe

that the combination of articles prepared for exhibition both in the mechanical, artistic and agricultural departments, will be worthy of admiration.—The Steamboats on the River will run, during the week, at reduced fare and at frequent hours, and will thus afford every accommodation to visitors.—*St. John Observer, Sept. 28.*

The Provincial Exhibition was formally opened at Fredericton, yesterday, in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and a vast concourse of people; a salute of nineteen guns was fired on the entrance of the Governor, and the Band played the National Anthem.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's Proclamation, calling the Provincial Legislature to meet at Fredericton for the despatch of business, on Thursday the 21st inst., was issued in a Royal Gazette Extra last week.—*St. John Observer, Oct. 5.*

#### CANADA.

QUEBEC, Sept. 20, 1852.—The entire of last week, with the exception of Monday, was occupied by the House of Assembly in discussing certain resolutions which had been introduced by the government, on which to found an address to the Queen, for the repeal of the act of the Imperial Parliament, distributing the fund arising from the clergy reserves among the different religious denominations in Canada.

The history of these reserves is briefly this:—By an act of Parliament, passed in 1791, when the public lands in this colony belonged to the crown, one-seventh of all that should subsequently be surveyed, was to be reserved for the support of the Protestant clergy—the Roman Catholic church of Lower Canada, already possessing large endowment, arising from private donations, or grants from the French King, which were confirmed at the time of the conquest of Canada. By a provision in the act, however, power was given to the Colonial legislature to alter or repeal it, with the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, upon which is grounded the present application.

At that time, the principal portion of the inhabitants of Upper Canada belonged to the Church of England, by which the reserves was claimed; but as settlers arrived from Scotland, much dissatisfaction was expressed at this exclusive appropriation of a fund set apart for religious purposes; and it became a cause of much strife and contention. The subject was taken up at different times by the Colonial legislature; but finding this body unable to agree upon any satisfactory settlement of the question, and a bill, which was sent home in 1829, containing a retrospective clause, the Imperial Parliament passed an act, in 1830, distributing the funds arising from the clergy reserves among the different religious denominations in Upper Canada, giving two-eighths to the Church of England, deducting therefrom the cost of surveys and other expenses that had been incurred—one-eighth to the Church of Scotland, and the remaining half of the gross amount to the other religious bodies, including the Roman Catholics of that section of the province.

This was considered as a final settlement of this vexatious question at the time; but as members of the Free Church, and other dissenters from the Churches of England and Scotland came into the country, much dissatisfaction began to be expressed, the subject was made the watchword at the elections, and last session Mr. Price, one of the members of the government at that time, in his individual capacity, introduced resolutions, upon which an address was founded to the Queen, requesting that the clergy reserves might be placed at the disposal of the local legislature, to be devoted to other purposes than those which were originally intended; and an address was sent home, accompanied by a despatch from the Governor-General, expressive of his regret that the subject had again been agitated.

The action of the Queen's government ought to have satisfied the agitators here that, at all events the Imperial Parliament would not be called upon to divert the clergy reserve fund from the "support of divine worship and religious instruction in the colony;" and the despatch, received in reply, states, that, "under the present distribution, no ground is left for reasonable jealousy or complaint of undue favor to particular religious denominations," but admitting that, owing to changes that may be effected in the character of the population, through immigration or any other cause, the question of distribution might, from time to time, be considered.

Notwithstanding this decision the provincial government, at the commencement of this session, brought in a series of resolutions, couched in rather strong language, which were passed on Saturday, and to day an address, in accordance with them, was presented to the Governor-General, by whom it will be transmitted to England.

It appears to me—and I have watched the proceeding throughout—that it originates in a contemptible sectarian jealousy. There is no question of Church and State at issue, as is pretended, every religious denomination being placed on a footing of perfect equality in the province. The reserves are not withdrawn from settlement, but are in the market in the same manner as other public funds, and secular education, to which it is urged they should be devoted, being amply and extravagantly provided for.—*Can. N. Y. H.*

CANADIAN ASSEMBLY, Sept. 24.—On motion of the Hon. Mr. Morin, the House resolved to take into consideration in Committee of the whole, on Friday next, the following proposed Resolutions, on the subject of the Constitution of the Legislative Council of this Province:

1. That under the circumstances in which the Province of Canada is placed in a social, political and

economical point of view, the introduction of the Elective principle into the Constitution of the Legislative Council, would not only impart greater weight to that important Branch of the Legislature than it can have under existing arrangements, however judiciously the selection of its Members may be made, but would also ensure greater efficiency in carrying out that system of Government which obtains in the Mother Country, and has been happily introduced into this Province.

2. That the object in view might best be attained by dividing each of the Sections of this Province into thirty Territorial Divisions, containing as nearly as possible an equal amount of population, and by allowing the persons qualified to vote at the Election of Members of the Legislative Assembly in each Division to elect one proper person qualified in the manner hereinafter mentioned to sit in the Legislative Council; which should be composed of sixty persons so elected, one-third of whom should be required to retire in rotation every three years.

3. That the persons qualified to be elected Members of the Legislative Council should be all subjects of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, of the full age of twenty-one years, and residing in this Province, who may have been Members of the Legislative Council of Upper or Lower Canada, or of this Province, or who shall have been elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of this Province, or of either of the said late Province; no person who is at present disqualified by law to be elected Member of the Legislative Assembly being eligible for the said Legislative Council.

4. That for the better working of Constitutional Government the Legislative Council so constituted ought to be liable to dissolution and re-election in the same manner as the Legislative Assembly now is,—and that under the proposed change, it should be optional to the Governor General to dissolve both or either of the Houses of Parliament whenever advised so to do.

5. That it being inexpedient under the amended Constitution of Parliament to require any pecuniary qualification from its members: that now imposed for being elected to or sitting in the Legislative Assembly ought to be abolished.

6. That the Legislative Council so constituted should elect its own Speaker, and ought to possess the exclusive power of adjudicating upon Impeachments preferred by the Legislative Assembly against high Public Functionaries, and that in all other respects the peculiar powers and privileges now possessed and exercised by each of the two Houses of Parliament should be maintained inviolate in so far as they may not be repugnant to the foregoing Resolutions.

7. That the following Territorial Divisions are fit and proper to be adopted for the said purpose viz:—

*Here follows 1 to 60 to be filled up.*

#### Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

#### NOTES OF THE BISHOP'S MOVEMENTS IN CAMBERLAND.

September 23.—Major Norton, the worthy American Consul at Pictou, accompanied by the Rev. C. Elliott, drove His Lordship from that place to Wallace, where they were met by the Rev. G. Townshend, of Amherst. The party were hospitably entertained by Alexander McFarlane, Esq. On the morning of the 24th the Bishop left Mr. McFarlane's with Mr. Townshend, for Pugwash. At 11 o'clock Divine service was celebrated and the holy rite of Confirmation administered to five persons, several having been kept away by the stormy weather. After Divine service the Churchwardens and Vestry called upon the Bishop, and on behalf of the Parish, presented an Address to His Lordship, to which he returned an appropriate answer. Sept. 25.—The Bishop proceeded to Amherst, and attended Evening Prayers in the Parish Church. After Prayers, the Rector surrounded by his congregation, presented a School Address to His Lordship, giving him a hearty welcome; to which the Bishop replied in feeling terms. Sunday, 26th, after prayers, the Bishop instructed an overflowing congregation in the duties of their Christian calling, and then administered to many of them the Holy Eucharist, assisted by Messrs. Townshend, Simonds and Bliss.—Afternoon, prayers and confirmation, His Lordship addressed the Candidates admirably, and administered the holy rite most impressively. After which the Bishop again delivered another excellent discourse to a greatly increased congregation. Monday, 27th, the Bishop rested. Tuesday, 28th, Mr. Townshend drove his Lordship to Dorchester, in the Province of New Brunswick, to meet the Bishop of Fredericton, who was likewise visiting and confirming in that part of his Diocese. On the way over to Dorchester, the Bishop called on the Honble. Judge Botsford; the venerable Judge gave our Bishop a cordial welcome.—Having visited the Parish Church of Sackville, his Lordship proceeded to Dorchester, and met the Bishop of Fredericton, at the residence of the Honble. E. B. Chandler. Their Lordships, together with the Rev. R. Podmore, late Chaplain Priest of St. Mary Ottery, Exeter, and Messrs. Townshend, Simonds and Bliss, having partaken of Mr. Chandler's hospitality, attended evening prayers in the parish church, when the Bishop of Fredericton preached from Genesis vii. 18—"And the ark went upon the face of the waters." The Bishop of Nova Scotia returned to Amherst the same evening, and next morning set out for Parrsboro. I may add that the unanimous opinion here respecting his Lordship is a most favorable one. Much good is expected from his activity and firmness. May God be with him.