

DOMESTIC.

Railroad Despatch.

5, Sloane Street, London,
4th April, 1851.

SIR,—I have now the honour to make to you my final report, for the information of the Lieut. Governor.

Mr. Hawes's letter to me bears date the 10th of March. I could have left in the Steamer of the 15th had I believed that no further steps were prudent or necessary. But, being quite aware of the obstructions which might be presented, and the delays which jarring elements on the other side of the water might occasion; I thought it best not to leave England without placing Nova-Scotia in a position to show to her Sister Provinces the practicability and wisdom of the policy to which I had given my sanction, but to act independently of them should that policy not be approved.

Looking to the sparse population of New-Brunswick, and to the absolute impossibility of that Province executing, unaided, and within a reasonable time, either or both of the two important lines projected across her territory. I deemed it to be my first duty to satisfy my own mind that a systematic plan of Colonization might be super-inducod upon the gradual construction of the Railways, so that, by the time that serious liability was incurred, her population and revenues should be correspondingly increased. The way having been previously cleared for conducting the enquiries and forming the connexions which I deemed desirable, I trust I shall be prepared to shew His Excellency that while, by accepting the generous and advantageous proposition of the British Government, New Brunswick would obtain two Railroads, for a trifle more than one, made with her own resources, would cost, she would, by falling into the general scheme, run but little risk, and throw into her wilderness lands, in a very short time, at least half a million of people.

Into the details of the measures which I have prepared myself to propose, or the extent of the resources which can be brought to bear upon the waste territory which, it is wide policy to people, I do not think it necessary here to enter.

Two or three simple facts will shew that I did not attach too much importance to this branch of the subject. The terms upon which the British Government is content to aid the Provinces are not less favourable than those given to the proprietors of Incumbered Estates in the Mother Country. These parties pay for £100 Sterling 6 1/2 per cent. for 23 years, which extinguishes the debt, paying in full principal and interest. Those who wish us to make our Railroads with American capital or contractors, propose that we should give our debentures, redeemable in 25 years, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. If we did this it is quite clear that we should make a ruinous and unnecessary sacrifice, paying in interest alone a sum nearly equal to the whole amount borrowed by either mode, and then having to repay the principal besides. However profitable such an operation might prove to the Attorneys and Contractors who appear to have been pressing this policy upon the Provinces ever since the Convention was held at Portland, it would, in my judgment, now that we have the credit of the British Government at our back, and the treasures of London at our disposal, be one that would forever stamp us as inferior in practical sagacity and shrewdness to the astute neighbours, who tempted us to make, for their advantage, such a ridiculous bargain.

But I do not believe that 6 per cent. is all that Provincial Companies, without the guarantee of the Colonial and Imperial Governments, will have to pay when once Public Works are commenced with insecure and meagre resources. Our own experience of one such experiment ought to be sufficient for Nova Scotia. A model illustration should convey a significant warning to all the Provinces.

The City of Montreal, naturally desirous to aid a work in which it had a deep interest, gave to the Contractors upon the Montreal and Portland Railroad a large amount of Debentures to enable them to go on. These were sold here recently. A gentleman of the highest mercantile character thus discerns the value, in the London money market, of the credit of the first City in British America, unassisted by the Provincial or Imperial Government. I understand that the agents of Blackwell & Co. (American Contractors) who accept of a part of the loan for their work on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, £125,000, 6 per cent. City of Montreal Bonds at par, sold them lately in London at the price of

£70 per £100. They mature at various dates, averaging, I believe, from 10 to 15 years."

In this case, (and so it will be in all others, where haste makes waste, or cupidity outruns resources) it is clear that the Canadians will pay not only high interest upon their Debentures, but will have to redeem them at short periods, at an enormous sacrifice. If then, the Provinces can, by mutual co-operation, secure funds to complete their great lines at about one half what money has cost in all the adjoining States, and what it must cost them, without the aid of the British Government,—and if, while this money is being expended, their population and resources can be so increased, as to make the risks they run merely nominal, I am well assured, however timid statesmen may shrink from the responsibility, or interested speculators may advocate a different policy—that sound views will ultimately prevail, and that the sacrifices which precipitancy may occasion to either Province, will ultimately afford instruction to them all.

Nova Scotia, having led the way to the adoption of an enlarged and enlightened policy, and having discharged towards her Sister Provinces, in a fair and generous spirit, the obligations which her prompt adoption of that policy imposed, it did not appear to me that I should leave her dependent upon their appreciation of her exertions, for the easy and successful completion of her internal improvements, in the event of no common action being attainable in respect to national or inter-colonial lines.

Looking to the development of her internal resources alone, Nova Scotia must have a common trunk line of Railroad, extending in a northerly direction from her capital, and branching east to the Pictou Coal Mines, and west to her most populous Rural Districts, a large portion of the trade which now flows across the Bay of Fundy. Her clear interest is to make these lines without delay, should any thing retard an inter-colonial enterprise. She may make fifteen, perhaps thirty miles, and then turn east or west as circumstances may determine; or she may complete the trunk and continue the branches, for the accommodation of her own trade and people, by regular and safe gradations.

Entertaining these opinions, I could not leave England without providing for the independent execution of our own internal improvements, under any and every possible contingency. I shall be prepared, therefore, to submit to His Excellency, propositions by which any amount of funds which we may require can be obtained, on our Provincial credit alone, at 5 and 6 per cent., from Banks, and individuals of the highest respectability, who will dispose of our Debentures on the most favourable terms—and I shall also be prepared to submit the offers of capitalist and contractors, who have made one third of all the Railroads in the United Kingdom, and who will complete working plans at their own expense, lodge thirty thousand pounds in the Provincial Treasury as a pledge of their good faith, and construct either Nova Scotia's own lines, (should the Provinces not agree) or all the lines contemplated by Mr. Hawes's letter of the 10th March, on terms much more favorable than any Railroads have been or can be completed with Colonial or American funds. I have &c., (Signed) JOSEPH HAWES, Wm. H. KEATINGE, Esq., Depy. Secy.

COLONIAL.

Canada.

It is stated that Mr. Murray, the new Postmaster General, has succeeded in his negotiations with the Americans in Washington. It so, the necessity of an arrangement for the necessity of preparing a new arrangement for the arrangement is now being discussed.

On Saturday the new postal law goes into operation. From that date, letters may be sent from one extremity of the Province to another for three pence. As soon as the other British American Provinces complete their arrangements letters may be sent to any part of British America for the same amount of postage, viz. three pence. There is a great boon to the country.—H. The Globe says that it is very likely our mails will be closed to American vessels. This grows out of the opposition of the Americans to reciprocity.—H.

TRADE WITH HALIFAX.—That very spacious and fast sailing vessel, the *James Coleman*, as advertised for Halifax on the opening of navigation, she carries upwards of 3,000 barrels of flour, and is perhaps better adapted for the navigation of the Gulf than any vessel now on Lake Ontario. Those of our merchants who wish to test the advantages of a direct trade with Nova Scotia, are now afforded an excellent opportunity.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

TEMPERANCE.—The Town Council of Ottawa, have fixed the price of tavern-licenses within the limits of their municipality at one shilling, and the imperial duties. What a contrast between that and Gode-rich, where the price of a license is fixed at fifteen pounds.—*British American*.

PUBLIC LECTURES.—On the evening of Saturday week, the Rev. J. Elliot, of this town, delivered a very excellent Lecture at the St. Nicholas' Division Room, the subject being "Our mutual responsibilities." A very respectable audience testified their appreciation of the merits of the lecturer in a marked manner.—*Prescott Telegraph*.

LIGHT DUES.—We understand that it is the intention of the Trinity Board to lower by one half the dues payable by vessels coming to this port. The Act imposes specific rates, but an order in Council has been obtained, authorising the above mentioned reduction, and a Bill to impose the lower rates will be brought into Parliament next session. This will be a great relief to shipping. The excess of revenue over the expenditure enables the Board to effect the change.—*Pilot*.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—A very pleasant meeting of the Montreal Sons of Temperance took place on Tuesday evening, in the Lecture Room below the American Presbyterian Church. There was a lecture by the Grand Archon, and some more speech making; capital music by Mr. Oliver and his family, and good refreshments by Mr. Alexander. The company was numerous and enthusiastic.—*Herald*.

SUDDEN DEATH AND INQUEST.—On Tuesday the 20th inst. a man by trade, from Pertuisire, Scotland, died suddenly at the house of John Campbell, near Franktown. It appears that the deceased was of intemperate habits, and had been on what is called "a spree" some days previous to his death. We are informed that about an hour or less before his death, he sent to a neighbouring tavern for a quart of whiskey, and that immediately after partaking of some of it, he suddenly expired. The coroner's inquest did not take place until the evening, and was attended by a large number of witnesses. It is reported that the deceased was a young man, and had two children, an only son and daughter, who both resided in the city of Montreal. The inquest is adjourned for the 27th inst. The coroner is understood to have been the means of an indulgence in this case, by sending a young wife and two children to an early grave. *Montreal Courier*.

POLICE.—Seven tavern keepers were brought up yesterday, on a charge of having violated the provisions of the new act, by having their bars open on Sunday evening. The decision turned upon the interpretation of the fifth clause, which provides that no bar room or snuggery shall be open on the Lord's day. The magistrates ruled that to violate this provision, the drinking of liquor in the bar-room was necessary. This was established only in two cases—that of a man named Stevens, in Queen street, and Mr. Kerr of the Shakespeare Inn, in King street. Stevens was fined £1.50 and costs. In the case of Mr. Kerr, mitigated circumstances were shown, and the fine was reduced to five shillings and costs. The magistrates postponed decisions on one of the other cases. The information was laid by a man named Hewitt, who was roughly dealt with by a crowd that had assembled outside the Police Court. Eventually it was found necessary to obtain the assistance of the police to escort him in safety to his residence.—*Montreal Globe*.

TEMPERANCE.—The *Zanesville Gazette*, of the 5th inst., says that Mr. J. R. Gough continues his lectures in that city with unabated interest. Up to the close of the previous week, he had obtained 2,700 signatures to the pledge.—H.

THE NEW LICENSE LAW has brought to light some changes of the several municipal authorities. The following is the latest: The *Kingston Chronicle & News* relates the case in illustration. The sales of the Municipalty of Stirlington, resolved on their wisdom that the swinging sign should blot the face of the town, and a warrant was granted to license to houses of public entertainment. The license was however, imagining that they were not elected by the people or holding, entered upon the duties, and granted the necessary certificates, which being presented to the Revenue Inspector, that functionary immediately granted licenses without regard to the resolution of the Council, which, by-the-way, he had no knowledge of. The Council have taken legal proceedings against the Revenue Inspector. The result will be of some importance.—*E. C. Paper*.

UNITED STATES.

JOHN B. GOUSSIN is lecturing in Kentucky upon Temperance. He obtained 2,000 signatures to the total pledge, in Cincinnati, Ohio, during a recent visit to that city.

Anti-Slavery Paper published in New York on the 14th inst. He proposes to make a friendly visit to America, during a people's war of independence.

his genius, and who have evinced their admiration of his talents by giving a wide circulation to his works.

LOSS AND GAIN.—The whole sum received for licensing liquor "Saloons," in New York, amounts in the year to some \$45,000, while over \$500,000 are required for the support of the Almshouse. The Police department costs as much more, in consequence of this traffic, and 15,000 persons were arrested last year for intemperance and offences growing out of it. Surely the trade is one which ought to be encouraged!—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A CURE FOR NEURALGIA.—The *Courier des Etats Unis* says:

A young doctor of the Paris Faculty of Medicine has just made a discovery, which we deem of importance to communicate to our readers—Neuralgic affections are, of all others, the most inoperative to the art of medicine. M. Distierne, profoundly convinced of the science in those affections, so common and so torrid, has devoted himself zealously to researches upon the physiological action of the nervous system. Taking for the starting point of his researches the remarkable result of the cure of Neuralgia by the cauterization of the "trilix," he has discovered a method of curing instantaneously, and without disturbing any organ, all Neuralgic affections of the head, attacks of migraine, and pains resulting from teeth in an advanced state of decay. What renders this discovery truly marvellous, is the promptness at once of the cure, and its perfect success in more than two hundred cases, which have presented themselves since the 22nd of December, the date of the first experiments.

M. Distierne proposes presenting to the Academy of Medicine a memoir upon this important discovery. The presentation of the memoir is only retarded by the time which the author entertains of preventing, by the same means, hysterical and epileptic attacks, and his desire to make a more complete work.

BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN.—One fountain there is, whose deep living voice has only just begun to throw up its silver drops among mankind—a fountain which will give the least of saloons, and will give to those who drink from it, peace and joy. It is known as the fountain of intellectual cultivation which gives aid to mankind in their earthly labors. It brings joy to his weary brain, and his soul's purity, a deep religion, God and man's love, from whom he receives his strength and power. It will be found in the world and it will be found everywhere at home; thou canst carry it in thy own little chamber; thy friends are ever around thee, and carry on with thee with their true antiquity, heaven and earth are accessible to thee! The individuality of the soul, the works of man, and rainbow, and music remains, offer to thy soul hospitality.—*Review & Beacon*.

RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY TO GROUNDS IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSES.—At Philadelphia an action was brought by a huckster to recover damages from a police officer for assault and battery. The circumstances of the case were—Kerr, the huckster, was standing in front of the United States Hotel, and was ordered to leave by the proprietor. On his refusal the floor was raised and Kerr was arrested. This constituted the assault. Judge Parsons said in his decision, that every man owns the ground in front of his house. He has given to the public a right to pass and repass over it, but in all other respects it is as much his property as any other part of the premises. No one has a right to stand or carry on any business in front of any man's house, and if he is thus annoyed and injured the party to leave, on a refusal, sufficient force may be used to compel the offender to go. The case was dismissed.—*N. Y. Com. Ad.*

THE POTATO ROT.—It has been stated that Mr. John R. Snyder, of Franklin, Bergen county, in New Jersey, professes to have discovered an effective remedy for the potato disease, and that he has applied for the premium of \$5,000 offered by the State of Massachusetts, for the discovery of a remedy. His plan is to sower a handful of seeds around each vine, upon the first appearance of the disease.

ELECTRIC PAIN.—Mr. Thomas Davenport, of Salisbury, Vt., has applied electro-magnetism to a strangled instrument, for the purpose of prolonging the vibrations. He proposes to apply his invention to the piano forte, so as to make the strings vibrate, under the influence of electro-magnetism, with a clear and full tone for any desired length of time after the first impulse is imparted.

CHARLES EVER.—The clew, foot, and antennae of crustaceous animals, as the lobster, and the limbs of the *Arctia*, or spiders, are restored, when lost, by a fresh growth of these parts. If the head of a snail be cut off, the whole of that part of the animal including the telescopic eye, and the proboscis, they are commonly called, and other organs of sense, will be reproduced. Even among the vertebrated animals, in process may be found those organs of sense or non-vital parts.—This happens with respect to the fins of fishes, for in whatever direction they are cut, the edges usually unite and the new ones are reproduced; provided the most part of their foot has not been cut. The tails of mammals and of some species of birds will grow again if cut; and what is of more importance, the legs of the spider, which are cut off, will grow again, and have a new joint and web. The growth of the hair of a man's head, after it has been cut, is a very good example of this kind.