

The Woodstock Journal.

Thursday, August 22, 1861.

THE LAND, WE LIVE IN.

Looking abroad at the present state of the world, the difficulties political, and financial and sanitary which affect other countries, we cannot but congratulate ourselves on the position which we occupy, the comparative blessings which it is our lot to experience.

We have a country abounding in all manner of natural wealth,—rich forests, which as they disappear leave even a greater source of wealth behind them, in the ground which they occupy. Our fields, with but scant care, and without lavishing upon them the means which the study of agricultural chemistry has provided for fertilizing the soil, yield rich returns—how much more are they capable of doing, when the combination of education and necessity shall put those means in practice. We have within our borders untold wealth in mines and minerals, which only needs to be sought for, to be found, and to become a means of raising our position in the scale of nations.

We have a country provided with natural means of communication, through its rivers, such as can be scarcely be surpassed. Streams abound which may be made largely available for all manner of manufacturers, when it shall so happen, that we can succeed in diverting sufficient capital, to our borders.

We have extensive fisheries,—the most delicate and finest flavored trout and salmon abound in our rivers,—while on the coast the variety of the finny tribes which may be and are to a certain extent made available for food, are too numerous to be mentioned.

In conjunction with our means of internal communication, we have seaports which are easily reached, and which contain safe anchorage for the largest ships.

Besides all these, we have a preeminently healthy climate. No fever and ague, hangs about our rich intervals, nor yellow fever pestilence stinks in our nostrils, rendering life a burthen.

Our winters, to be sure are long and severe, but they grow less and less so every year; as the country becomes cleared of its dense masses of forest. If the weather were so inclement, that we dare not expose ourselves to it, then we might have reason for bemoaning our fate, but in reality the winter is the most enjoyable season of the year, and the time, when such kinds of labor as are suited to it, can be most easily performed.

Our summers too, though short, are long enough for all the harder kinds of cereals. Vegetation is exceedingly rapid, under our frequent showers, and ardent sun. Thus we combine as nearly as may be a climate, at once suitable for the highest perfection of the human race, and capable of producing all the necessary kinds of food in the greatest abundance.

With such an amount of natural resources, why may we not look forward to a brilliant future. We want nothing but hands to work and heads to plan, in greater number, and why may it not be, that the misfortunes of our neighbors may tend to our advantage. The unfortunate difficulties which now exist in the neighboring Republic, must have its effect in weakening the faith of capitalists in the stability of its institutions. Besides, it stops trade, it causes manufactures to cease. The foreign capital, which has hitherto found room for profitable investment must be diverted to some other channel.

May it not be, that some portion of it may find its way here. A better field for the investment of capital, can scarcely be found,—with all these natural means of wealth, it cannot be but that the exercise of a wise discretion, in selecting from these opportunities, must be crowned with a success which shall redound at once to the advantage of the capitalist and the country.

Whether our opportunity has yet come or not, time alone can tell, but one thing is certain; let it be sooner or later, the time will come, when the natural advantages of this country will meet with that amount of attention, which they deserve.

PARTRIDGE ISLAND QUARANTINE.—We have heard statements from some of Mr. Glass' much talked of Emigrants, which do not speak very highly of the management of matters in the St. John Quarantine. They say, that the buildings on the Island are mere shelter and nothing else, that the rooms are totally unfurnished, being unprovided with chairs and tables, and that not even straw is given them to sleep on—that there is no provision for dividing the sick from the well, no matter whether the disease is contagious or otherwise,—and that they are on landing, either compelled to continue to live on the ship's provisions, or pay very exorbitant prices for the fresh provisions brought from the city.

If these reports are even to a moderate extent true, there must be something very far from right in the management there. If Quarantines are necessary at all, and it seems to be a received fact that they are, it certainly is the duty of the Government, which enforces the stay of persons just arrived from long voyages within certain limits, for a certain time, to see that at least decent accommodation is afforded them, and that they shall not be compelled by the exorbitance of the charges, to continue subsisting on such food as is usually provided for ship's voyages. Nor is it consistent with humanity, that those persons who have escaped the contagion on shipboard, should be compelled by reason of want of accommodation to associate with those who are suffering from Small Pox, or any other loathsome contagious disorder.

If, for the good of the community, the newly arrived must for a time be deprived of their liberty, it certainly does not follow, that they must run the risk of being deprived of their lives also, and it behoves the Government and the whole Province, that Emigrants shall not have it in their power to write home to their friends, who may intend coming here, that they are likely to have to run the risk of a six weeks or longer stay, in close contact with the foul atmosphere of pestilence, and without any of the comforts, or many of the necessities of life, with which to render the detention bearable.

We speak this in no carping, fault finding way, we would be very sorry to lay blame where it is not deserved but we think it right that the authorities should know, that such reports are in circulation, and that the truth or falsity of them should be established.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.—On Saturday the 17th inst., Major Rynd of the 62nd Regiment, who has been appointed by His Excellency, Inspector of New Brunswick Volunteers, paid a visit to Woodstock, and inspected Capt. Baird's company.

After witnessing their evolutions, the gallant Major expressed himself as highly gratified with their state of efficiency, and then invited them to test their proficiency in the use of the rifle, by firing at the target, for the Silver Medal, presented by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

The Company then marched to Sheriff Dibble's intervals, and fired a number of rounds at the different prescribed distances. The shooting we have understood, was by no means to be despised, and showed a much better acquaintance with the rifle than could be expected, considering how seldom have been their opportunities for practising with ball cartridge.

Mr. Edward Esterbrooks, we understand, was the successful competitor for the Medal.

In the afternoon, Major Rynd inspected the Richmond volunteers at the Scotch Corner, but we have not heard any account of the result, though we cannot doubt that Capt. Kilburn and his men acquitted themselves with honor.

We trust that this further recognition of the service by the Government, may have the effect of stirring up the members of the various companies to greater diligence, and that it may also have the effect of adding new members to the roll,—a thing much needed here, as Capt. Baird's company, the only one in any branch of the service in existence in this Town, does not turn out nearly so strong as might be wished.

TOWN MEETING.—On Monday evening the 19th inst., an adjourned meeting of the Ratepayers was held at 8 o'clock, to take into consideration the most suitable situation upon which to erect the Town Hall and Mechanic's Institute.

Two sites had been selected after much consideration, one on Sheriff Dibble's property opposite the former site of the Institute; the other

on Governor Washburn's property on the South side of the Bridge. A good deal of feeling had been evinced on the subject, and the friends of both propositions mustered in considerable force.

As there seemed to be but little probability of an amicable arrangement of the difficulty, and as neither party seemed willing to give way, it was decided at the suggestion of His Worship the Mayor who presided, that it would be better that the two buildings should not be united, and that the Town Hall should be erected on its former site, leaving the Directors of the Institute free to select a site for themselves, and build when and where it best suited the state of their funds.

Though we should have liked to have seen the two united, if practicable, so that we might have a building which would be an honor and ornament to the town, we cannot help thinking the present arrangement, in view of all the circumstances, the most feasible. We cannot avoid thinking, that there would have been found great difficulty in so managing the affairs of the joint building, as to satisfy all interested parties, and it certainly is better to be satisfied with two ordinary buildings, than to have constant jealousy and dissatisfaction among townsmen.

We hope that the Directors of the Institute will find no difficulty in obtaining sufficient funds to erect a good substantial house to accommodate them, and that we shall not much longer feel the want of a hall for public lectures and exhibitions. So far, since the fire, the want has been much felt, as we have had no hall which would accommodate such an audience as can easily be collected in this place, for any interesting public entertainment.

We understand that the Directors have at their disposal between £500 and £600, which with the land they already own, ought to be sufficient to put up the shell of quite as large a building as they require, leaving the finishing of the parts not immediately wanted for use, to be cared for by future efforts.

THE HARVEST.—For the last ten or twelve days we have been favored with magnificent weather for haying, which is now completed or nearly so. Grain is fast ripening. The doubts which we expressed some time since about the potatoe crop will, we fear, be realised, as the rust has made great ravages. A few nights since we were visited by a severe frost, which has injured the buckwheat in several localities; and we hear also of the ravages of a small fly on the usually certain oat crop. This animal seems to fasten on the stalk, just below the head, and to tap it, and extract the vital juice, which goes to form the grain. We hope and believe that the damage is not so great as some fear; and we doubt the propriety of a resort to the extreme measure of cutting down whole fields in their green state for fodder. It would be more wise, we think, to wait and see the worst.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING.—J. G. Stevens, Esq., M.P.P., Secretary of the Provincial Board of Agriculture, arrived here last evening by stage; and this evening he will address a meeting in the Free Baptist Chapel on the subject of the Provincial Exhibition in Sussex Vale. Mr. Stevens is engaged in visiting various portions of the Province in the endeavor to turn attention to this exhibition, and the importance of a full representation of the natural resources and the industry of every quarter of New Brunswick thereat. The meeting opens at 8 o'clock, and we trust to see a large gathering of those interested in the promotion of home industry.

THE ELECTIONS.—Mr. McMillan, Surveyor General, has been returned for Restigouche without opposition. Mr. Hatheway, Chairman of the Board of Works, has been elected in York, polling more than double the number of votes given his opponent, Mr. McPherson. The contest in York has excited no little attention and comment. Perhaps we shall next week have something to say about it, as its circumstances present several points of interest. The Tilley administration is now fairly afloat.

BAZAAR.—The Bazaar in aid of the completion of the New Wesleyan Church in this place is going on to day. The weather is not such as will tend to the success which might have otherwise been expected.

RATHER UNEXPECTED.—We notice that the St. John Albion has received some lines, which are too stupid for insertion, in even its columns. We had not hitherto imagined such a thing possible.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO "THE OVENS."—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Admiral Milne, General Tillops, Col. Sinclair, Honbles, J. McCully, W. Annand, and B. Wier, paid a visit to the "Ovens" Gold Mine, on H. M. S. Nimble, on Monday, and after a personal inspection of the placer and quartz diggings, and the adoption of some new mining regulations, returned to town on Tuesday afternoon. The placer or shore claims, which are not turning out so profitably as was at first anticipated, are, we understand, to be sold at \$20 each, cash down, in the order of application, and any remaining unsold at the end of the week will be disposed of at public auction. The price of quartz claims has been fixed at \$20 each, \$5 to be paid when the lot is first applied for, and the remaining \$15 at the end of three months.

The washings at the "Ovens," which are of very limited depth from the shore to high water mark, will probably be exhausted in the course of five or six weeks, and the sooner the better; for all the space along shore will be required for the debris of the quartz excavations above, should mining operations be carried on extensively, as we believe they will.

That gold in considerable quantity exists in the numerous quartz veins at Lunenburg, is sufficiently proved by the experiments already made and the fact that all the scale gold found upon the shore came originally from these veins. We believe that mining operations, directed with skill, can hardly fail to be profitable at the "Ovens;" but no large return—we might perhaps safely say no return at all—can be expected until after a considerable amount of capital has been expended. To think of poor men, without means or credit, making fortunes by gold digging in quartz, is simply ridiculous. It has never been done in other countries, and Nova Scotia is not at all likely to prove an exception to the general rule.—*Chronicle.*

HARD TIMES IN THE STATES.—The following from the New York Herald, will give some idea of the injury being inflicted:

"The present war, although in itself disastrous, has already produced a salutary change in the social habits of our people. Before the commencement of the campaign we had become spoiled by prosperity, and, finding it easy to earn money, gave ourselves up to extravagant living. Hotels were built and conducted on a magnificent and costly scale, and with a plethora of guests willing to pay with a prodigal hand, they made large fortunes for their proprietors. It was fashionable to live at hotels, and people lived in them. But how stands the case now? The incomes of all have been more or less reduced by the condition of the country, and people have discovered the necessity for practising economy in every possible way. With this view they have left hotels and gone to reside privately. They have also reduced their tailors' and milliners' bills, and following the order of the day, have made the reduction of their expenses a study. At the present time, instead of visiting Saratoga, and other fashionable resorts, they have taken up their residences in the rural districts. Meanwhile the large city hotels are nearly empty. The proprietors are unable to pay their rents, and they are losing considerable sums every week by keeping them open. In previous summers all these houses were crowded with fashionable tourists, especially Southerners; but now, how great the change."

THE PENALTY ONE PAYS FOR FIGHTING.—We think the following is about the most dreadful thing that has yet occurred since the internecine war broke out in America:

"It is reported that Mr. Secretary Chase will propose a small Income-tax." "The Income-tax is the price (at least one out of the many prices) that a nation pays for going to war. Mr. Bright and others have been accused of attempting to Americanise our institutions. We should not be angry, for the Yankees are beginning to return the compliment. It is now clear—as clear as quarter-day comes four times a year—that the Americans, by adopting the Income-tax, are just beginning to Anglicise their institutions. We cannot compliment them on the wisdom displayed in the adoption of it if they are anxious to have their code British-plate, there are other laws that they might have borrowed with greater effect. We will instance only one.—The sacred fact that a slave the moment he touches British soil becomes free."

DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.—We are informed that the Hon. Joseph Howe, Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia and President of Lord Mulgrave's Council, proceeded last Saturday week to the Gold diggings in Lunenburg, and that on Sunday, whilst a large portion of those interested were attending Divine Worship, Mr. Howe laid off and sold a number of claims to his friends. "It appears that this disgraceful proceeding has excited intense indignation among the people, who consider such conduct, on the part of the leader of the Government, a violation of both human and divine law, and that it is very likely to lead to very serious consequences. Can it be wondered at that the rural population should, with the examples they have had from the highest authority, come to the conclusion that there is no law in this colony, and that all authority may be set at defiance?—*Halifax Colonist.*

ALARMING MORTALITY AMONG CHILDREN.—The returns of interments in cemeteries during the past week figure up to unprecedented total (except in time of plague) of one hundred and eighteen or nineteen per diem. One hundred were Catholics, buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery, and eighteen Protestants in the Protestant cemetery. The sexes on this occasion were disproportionate, the males being only 4 number, while the females numbered 72, the most startling feature of this bill of mortality is the fact that out of 118, one hundred children under five years of age. Examined into the causes of death, we find 74 ascribed infantile debility and other infantile complaints elsewhere specified, including 27 from the Scours Griens. This also includes Catholic still-born children, for as a report attaches to this among Roman Catholics, never by any chance make a return of a born child, but ascribe the death to infantile debility. The next chief devastator was diarrhoea, which last week carried off ten persons, showing great imprudence in the use of fruit, prunes, &c. Next small-pox, which in five proved fatal to children varying from four to four years of age. The excessive mortality among children must evidently be attributed to defective drainage, aggravated by the unusual wet weather.—*Montreal Herald.*

On Saturday night Miss Creighton, daughter of the County gaoler, when making her round of inspection, attended by a small carrying a lamp entered a cell in which were three desperadoes, two of whom, at having graduated in the worst schools of the States. One is a deserter, another is confined on a charge of robbing Ellen O'Neil, and the third is the man Maguire, committed on a charge of forgery. When Miss Creighton entered the cell, the door was closed, and the little girl remained outside. One of the ruffians, warning, knocked Miss C. down by a blow on the head, when she persisted in refusing to order the door to be opened, either this man, or another struck her a violent blow on the head with a stick. She remained cool and firm throughout, and told them they might murder her, but they could not get out. The little girl however becoming alarmed, opened the door to let Miss Creighton and the prisoners made a rush, but a New land dog who was in the hall, seized one of the throat and pushed him in again, and Miss C. then secured the door. The prisoners in joining cells hearing what happened, begged to be let out to thrash the three ruffians as they served, but this of course was refused. Creighton's injuries, we are told, are very serious.—*Freeman.*

THE BRITISH CENSUS.—The total number of the population of Great Britain and Ireland shown by the recent census has now been ascertained and is found to be 29,031,164. This population of the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands, the British possessions abroad, and in Ireland, and the navy and army, is the largest that has ever been recorded. The total population, 20,061,725, were in England and Wales, 3,061,127 in Scotland, and 5,764,543 in Ireland, 143,779 in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. In England the population has been increased since 1851 by 10 per cent; in Ireland it has decreased 12 per cent; and in Scotland it has increased 6 per cent. The total population of the United Kingdom was 27,511,862, and during ten years the increase was 1,519,302, at 6 per cent.

THE ARMY WORM.—The destructive which is the terror of the farmers of the and middle states, has made its appearance in Nova Scotia. We find the following last number of the Liverpool (N. S.) Traveller:

"Immense numbers of a species of blight resembling very much a caterpillar, have been seen in the appearance in different parts of the country. They destroy everything they touch. The grain fields throughout this province are completely invested by them and have been prevented complete destruction. From the reports in regard to our office millions have taken to the streets. In another field it was thought there was an average of three grubs to each bush of grass. They have appeared as if by millions and will do immense damage to the crops. The Great destruction has already been caused. There seems to be no possible way to destroy them. They present themselves in such vast numbers. The extraordinary heat of the season may be the cause of the appearance of these vermin."

The New York Observer has a letter, signed by a clergyman in Louisiana, who says: "I am five ministers of three different denominations in a single company, armed for the defence of rights and liberties, three of whom are fifty and sixty years old. And I tell you, dear Sir, in the fear of God, that if you and the brethren who have urged on this war come on with the invading army, I will slay you with as hearty a good will, and clear a conscience, as I would the midwinter sun." The Observer hopes the parson's scheme is carried out.

The "army worm" is committing ravages in the wheat fields in various parts of Nova Scotia and the United States.

Binding