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The Standard.
IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY
A. W. Smith.

At his Office, Water Street, Saint Andrews, N. B.

TERMS.

12: 61 per annum - if paid in advance.

15, if not paid until the end of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Inserted according to written orders, or continued

at the discretion of the publisher.

First insertion of 12 lines and under

Each repetition of 12 lines and under

First insertion of all over 12 lines 3d per line.

Each repetition of 12 lines and under

Advertising by the year as may be agreed on

The Standard.
OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

By the Proprietor, A. W. Smith.

No 21 SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1853. [Vol. 20]

COMMUNICATION.
For the Standard.
TRUE RAILROAD POLICY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. Editor.—It was fortunate for New York that she had such men as De Witt Clinton, Morris, and their coadjutors at the head of affairs, to give a right direction to the public mind in the matter of internal improvements—men who possessed a clear-sighted perception of coming events, and sunk all selfish and personal impulses in the future welfare of their State and Country. The result of their policy is felt, and will be felt in all coming time, in every vein and artery of that great country from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard. They saw the paramount importance of connecting the seaboard with the great Valley of the St. Lawrence, and history already records the signal wisdom of their provision. Had the leading men of New Brunswick been actuated by similar impulses, the Bay of Fundy shipping ports of New Brunswick would now be shipping ports of the Island world, washed by the waters of the St. Lawrence. We should at this day possess a substantial railroad, owned by the Province, connecting the Bay of Fundy with Quebec, and half our own port of it, paid for out of our own resources. The railroad, in all probability, would now be a paying investment, and cease to be a burden on the ordinary revenues of the Province. How is this made out? Let us see. In 1837, when the Crown in exchange for the Province, there were £150,000 and upwards in land, or due, and subsequently paid, derived chiefly from the proceeds of public lands—the whole of which could well have been spared for this great and important enterprise. In addition to this, £25,000 a year might have been spared from the ordinary revenue, without any inconvenience to the Province, which yearly sum, up to June next (sixteen years), would amount to £100,000. If the value of the public lands on the line of the railroad from the Bay of Fundy to the Canada line, estimated at half a million of acres, had been increased, by means of the road, by five shillings per acre, which is far below the mark, we have the sum of £125,000 added to the public resources by this increase. The distance is about 200 miles. Our statement will then stand thus:—

200 miles of railroad at £5,000 currency a mile.	£1,000,000
Usual revenue available in 1837.	£150,000
£25,000 a year for 16 years	400,000
Increased value of public lands.	125,000
	675,000

Balance due on the 200 miles of railroad at this day. £325,000

The St. Andrews & Quebec railroad, with an extension to St. John, ought some years since to have been finished to the Canada line, and half of the cost paid for out of the Provincial resources. Canada would doubtless have accomplished her part of the enterprise, if it had been entered upon with zeal and energy by this Province. Even if she had failed to do this, New Brunswick, by an additional extension of the line of about 50 miles, would have reached the St. Lawrence at or near the mouth of the river Da Loup. By the expenditure of the money, and the augmented population of the country, the revenue of the Province would have been greatly increased, and the ratio of future increase much greater than it ever will be in the absence of this link of commercial connexion (which nothing else can supply) between the upper and lower Colonies, and with the whole valley of the St. Lawrence. If the course above indicated had been pursued by our Magnates, one-third of the N. A. & E. line of railway within the Province, namely, from Saint John to the boundary of Maine, would have been constructed, without throwing the great thorough-fares of the Province into the hands of transatlantic speculators at nearly double the actual cost for somebody to pay, and which must ultimately fall on the traveler and transportation in the shape of fares much higher than the actual cost would afford. The Province would now be in a condition to enter upon, or to aid, other railroad enterprises of secondary moment to the country, as the European, on its own credit, which the possession of a commercial line of railroad to the St. Lawrence would have given her in the money market of England. She had no need to go a begging in Downing-street for imperial assistance, and on being somewhat cavalierly refused, to close a disadvantageous bargain with the first man she met with.

The statistics of the trade of the great Western lakes show that this trade doubles in less than five years. Mr. Galt, in his Report on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic railroad, observes, that the produce of these

lakes is continually pressing upon the means of conveyance. Since this time the Erie and Ogdensburg railroads have been completed, and Mr. Woodbury in his recent lecture observes, in reference to the Ogdensburg road, "Already they have more freight accumulated than they can transport, and they are daily increasing their equipment." It would perhaps be hardly too much to say, that the annual increase of the trade of the valley of the St. Lawrence would furnish a respectable through-business for an additional railroad every year. All the principal Atlantic cities are employing their utmost energies to put themselves in railway connexion with the St. Lawrence. The Boston Weekly Journal, speaking of the railroads in the United States, remarks, that "the principal lines are those connecting the seaboard cities with the West, together with nearly a coast line from Maine to the Mexican gulf." Poor and stolid, though not unskillful New Brunswick, is not only indolgent, but hostile to a connexion, for the accomplishment of which our more astute and go-ahead neighbors, in all their principal centres of business, are contending with a foresight and perseverance unknown to us, Bluebonnet. There are many intelligent persons among us, unconnected with the direction of public affairs, who see clearly enough that the consummation of this confessedly the shortest line of railroad is the grand desideratum for New Brunswick. Among the guardians of the public weal, we are sadly deficient in heads to understand our true policy, or in hearts to adopt it. Unprogressive New Brunswick is on one or the other of the horns of this dilemma, and when she will be in a condition to extricate herself, requires the prescience of a seer to determine.

The public mind is wholly unconscious of the opportunities lost of placing the country in a position of permanent advancement, by a reproductive investment of funds in internal improvements, and which have been so broad-cast for all imaginable utilities. The large surplus revenue of the Province, beyond its ordinary wants for so many years, has produced a fixed habit of waste, and it may well be questioned whether the benefits derived from it has not been more than overbalanced by the evils entailed upon the country in the wild and profuse management of its fiscal resources. Where a remedy for the future must come, it can only come from a source which is unconscious of the evil, any present remedy is hopeless. Where economy in the public expenditure is not appreciated as a public virtue, waste and extravagance must continue to be the rule. This is inevitable, until economy becomes a necessity, forced upon the country by circumstances extraneous to itself.

R. R. A.

WALNUTS A FAMILY MEDICINE.—Every body eats walnuts, everybody knows how to make a pickle of walnuts; few, however, know the medical virtue of walnuts. Now the fact is, walnuts, when properly prepared, are an excellent medicine and alternative, and this is the way to prepare them: get the green walnuts fit for pickling, put them in a stone jar filled with sugar, in the proportion of half a pound to a score of walnuts; place the jar in a saucepan of boiling water, for about three hours, taking care that the water does not get in, and keep it simmering during the operation. The sugar when dissolved, should cover the walnuts, and if it does not, add more, cover it close, and in six months, it will be fit for use, the older it gets the better it is. One walnut is a dose for a child six years of age, as a purgative; and it has this great advantage over drugs, that, while it is an excellent medicine, it is at the same time, very pleasant to the palate, and will be esteemed by the young folks as a treat. [N. E. Cultivator.]

Logic.—A gentleman asked a country clergyman for the use of his pulpit for a young divine, a relation of his. "I really do not know," said the clergyman, "how to refuse you; but if the young man should preach better than me, my congregation will be dissatisfied with me afterwards; and if he should preach worse, I don't think he's fit to preach at all."

ANTHROPOMY OF THE ORGAN.—The organ, the most majestic and comprehensive of all musical instruments in the present almost perfect state, was not in general use in churches until the tenth or eleventh century; but it is known that organs were in use much earlier than the eighth century, as mention is made of them by various ancient authors. Vitruvius, celebrated in the age of Augustus, described this instrument, and St. Jerome makes mention of one with twelve pairs of bellows, which might be heard at the distance of a mile; and another at Jerusalem, which might be heard at the Mount of Olives. It is said that the English had their first organ in 650, and

The Iron Age.—When we are drawn by iron horses of iron roads, construct iron houses, build iron ships, sleep on iron beds, sit in iron chairs, drink from iron fountains, and those of us who have any money keep it locked up in iron safes, and those who have not are locked up in iron jails, may we not with propriety call this the "age of iron?"

THE BEAUTIFUL EFFECT OF PAIN.

One of the most beautiful effects of pain is its tendency to develop kind feelings between man and man—to excite a friendly sympathy on the part of others towards the person immediately afflicted. No sooner is a person attacked with illness, than a corresponding degree of interest is excited in his behalf. Expressions of solicitude for his welfare are put forward, offers of assistance are made, old friendships are revived, new ones developed; all this, it is to be remembered, is essentially connected with the sufferings of sickness. Were it not for this, there would be no occasion for this sympathy, and there would be no manifestation of it. Every man would be left to battle with his attacks of illness as he could; and no kind voice would be raised to cheer him in his hours of solitary gloom; no tender hands put forth in offices of kindness; no midnight watchers volunteer to attend his bedside, in contemplating the uses of pain that a grateful God has attached to our constitution as a necessary part of our existence, is there any one that calls for louder admiration than this, which unites the whole family of Adam into one universal brotherhood, which gives existence to the noblest charities of our nature, and which is the means of securing to us, at the very moment when we most need aid, the tenderest assistance of the best and kindest feelings of our nature?

TO PICKLE ONIONS.—When gathering your onions in the fall, save all the small ones for pickling. Peel them carefully, and soak them in strong brine two or three weeks. This takes out the strong taste and smell. Then take them out of the brine and soak them 24 hours in weak vinegar. When taken out from this, insert a clove in the top of each onion, and lay them carefully in a stone jar, and cover with cold vinegar. They will be fit in a few days. [Northern Farmer.]

LIGHT PASTE FOR TARTS AND CHEESE-CAKES.—Beat the white of an egg to a froth, then mix it with as much water as will make three quarters of a pound of fine flour into a very stiff paste; roll it very thin, then lay the third part of a pound of butter upon it in little bits; dredge it with some flour left out at first; and roll it up tight. Roll it out again, and put the same proportion of butter; and so proceed till all be worked up.

A TALE OF A TEA KETTLE.

On a winter evening, nearly one hundred years ago, the tea-bag was laid out and the window curtains closely drawn, in the humble parlor of a small house in the town of Greenock, in the west of Scotland. A tidy, active matron was busied about, stirring the bread and butter; a blazing fire gleamed and roared in the grate, and curled round the black sides of the kettle which rested in the midst of it, and the fire crackled, and the water boiled with a faintly heard popping sound, and a stream of white vapour came whizzing out of the kettle with a shrill, chattering hiss. Now, the matron foresaw that the kettle and fire had burned from the beginning, and would probably do so to the end of the chapter.

As the matron stooped to pour the boiling fluid in the tea-pot, her son James, a boy of twelve summers sat on a low bench in front of the fire, his elbows resting on each knee, while his hands supported his head, being placed under his chin. The boy was intently gazing at the fire, the kettle, and the steam, even thoughts and lost in contemplation. The boy looked at the fire and the mother looked at the boy. "Was there ever such an idle ne'er-do-weel in this world as our James?" was the question which almost unconsciously she put to herself. Mrs. B. stepped in at this moment. "Nothing to the visitor, James's mother said, 'Mrs. B. did you ever see the likes of our James? Look at him; he'll sit there for hours, staring at the kettle and the steam. You would think his eyes would come out of his head.'"

And, truth to tell, there was something peculiar in the glance of the boy's eye. There was mind, active, speaking mind, looking through it. He seemed as one who gazed upon a wondrous vision, and whose every sense was bound up in the display of gorgeous paganism floating before him. He had sat watching the escaping steam, until the thin, vaporous column had appeared to cast itself upward in fantastic, changing shapes, sometimes the subtle, gathering in force and quantity, would gently raise the lid of the kettle, emit a white puff, and then let the metal fall with a low clanking sound. There

was power and strength in that watery cloud; and as the dreading boy saw this, an undimmed thought came upon his mind, and he knew that the fierce struggle was synchical of intellect warring with the elements.

And still he gazed, and saw in his day-dreams ships sailing without wind or sails, and wagons propelled over deserts wild by some power unseen by mortal eye. "James, James," exclaimed his mother, "sit by your tea; if I find you staring at the fire again, you'll feel the weight of my hand!" The boy rose meekly, and did as he was told.

His name was James Watt, afterwards Sir James. He was honored by the title of "inventor," being the first who applied the powers of steam to any useful purpose. Steam has made this world of ours a new one. What does it not do for man? It hurries him across the Atlantic in ten days, and grandly exalts in the power's store. Yet this triumph of art and science was once the laughing stock of jesting dunce, and once it was when the wildest fantasy of a boy's mind, as he sat and in seamy idleness watched a little column of vapour rise from the spout of a tea kettle.

The above anecdote is literally true. Watt was born in 1731. This incident occurred when he was in his twelfth year. He was the son of a poor tradesman in Greenock, Scotland, and probably never read a book, the spelling book and the Bible excepted. John Brown, the self-taught preacher, the author of the Bible Dictionary, the Scottish prelate, Dr. McTear, and whose praise is in all the churches, was the son of a cottar, an orphan in his tenth year, and who probably never saw a book except the Bible till he entered his eighteenth year; yet while teaching the sheep on the heather-beds of Scotland, and without having seen a college, he confounded the learned doctors in Edinburgh with High Dutch and Low Dutch, Greek, Hebrew and Latin, besides the dead and living languages. The church was near my parish. I was then in my 11th year, no judge of preaching, but my father said he was a great preacher; and I thought then, and I think so now, that my father was the best judge of preaching in all Scotland.

Burns, Hogg, and other self-taught, Scottish luminaries, whose writings have enlightened and charmed the world, were all the sons of the Scottish peasantry. Most of them had come to the years of maturity before they ever read a book excepting the Bible; the book which makes men wiser than all their teachers. The sublime, beautiful, and grand descriptions there given of the goodness, power, and majesty of God, expand and refine the soul. I gather light from the throne of the Eternal, and soar to worlds on high.

Now, Mr. Printer, you never read of a self-taught peasant in all the Pope's dominions, from the day of Pope Joan down to the present incumbent, Pope Pius the Ninth. Look at them as they lay on our shores from France, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, and other lands of Popish darkness. Quarrels, prisonings, Swiss prisons, and almshouses are heaped full and running over with them. But this day comparatively speaking, there is not a Scotchman in one of them. It is the Bible that makes them differ. I would not exchange being a Scotchman to be Emperor of all the Russias, with his crowns, lands, and royalties; for I think—and I have as good a right to think as any pope, cardinal, or freethinker in the world—that the national, moral character of Scotland will stand an unanswerable argument against all the sophistry of Deism as long as woods grow and waters run; for Scotland is emphatically the land of Bibles, and there the inhabitants lead quiet and peaceful lives, in all godliness and honesty.

European Intelligence.

The steamship Asia, from Liverpool for New York, put into Halifax on 1st inst. short of coal. The dates by the arrival here to the 18th Dec. The most important news by this boat is the defeat of the Ministry on the Budget, which has created much excitement. The Flour market exhibits no material change. Indian Corn was in good request at improved quotations. Cotton had advanced about 1d. per lb. Sales of the week, Bds. 570 bales.

Iron was still rising, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies from the works was not at all diminished. Scotch Pig has been speculated in largely, and prices have further advanced to 72s. to 73s. per ton.

The Funds had been affected during the week by the uncertainty which prevailed regarding the fate of the Budget, which had a rather depressing effect on the market. The debate on the Budget, which lasted four days, terminated on Friday, the 17th, when the House divided on a resolution affirming the House Tax. There appeared for the motion, 255; against it 305; majority against the Ministry 10. After the result was known, the House was adjourned until Monday. Lord Derby proceeded to Osborne to see the Queen. Of 82 Irish members in the House at the time of the division, 30 vo-

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ed with the Government and 52 against. It was believed that the opposition would not be able to form an Administration, even if the Ministry resigned, and at the latest accounts it was thought that a coalition Government would be formed.

The Tyne was visited by a heavy flood on Saturday, which caused serious injury to shipping property, involving damage to the amount of many thousand pounds, and the loss of four lives.

The cable enclosing the electric wires, intended to unite Belgium and England, will be sunk in a few days.

FRANCE.—The news is unimportant. It is positively stated that the Pope will visit France, to crown the Emperor, in May, and that, for his complaisance, the French clergy will be deprived of the "articles organiques," which have always been considered the safeguard of the Gallican party in the church. They are the charter of the French bishops and French clergy against the power of the Pope. Hitherto the Gallican bishops have been to a considerable extent independent of the power of the Pope.

Spain.—This country is once more on the eve of a revolution.

Cape of Good Hope.—Dates from the Cape to the 6th of Nov. have been received. By the last accounts from the frontier the war was not over, but was evidently fast wearing itself out. General Cathcart continued diligently engaged in routing, and killing vast numbers of the enemy, who were suffering greatly for want of food and ammunition.

China.—An earthquake had occurred in the province of Kan-uh, which was felt for 15 successive days. Upwards of 20,000 houses have been destroyed; 300 of the inhabitants perished, and 400 others were seriously hurt.

The insurance was spreading in China.

GOLD BY THE TON, WITHOUT OWNERS!—The correspondent of the London Times, writing from Melbourne, Australia, says: "One circumstance is not, perhaps, altogether undeserving of notice. There is now at Melbourne a large quantity of gold, which was sent from the diggings by escort, and which has never been claimed. The amount is valued at eight tons, and these eight tons of gold are watched and guarded by a corporal and five men."

The same correspondent, after noticing the scarcity of means of transport to and from the diggings, adds: "The last government escorts of gold were loaded in bags on the horses. The project of a railway to Mount Alexander has been started at Melbourne. The preliminaries are settled, and great hopes are entertained of the undertaking. There are just now 60,000 people at the mount, and the cost of carriage for flour alone amounts to £129,000 per month!"

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