

world; and in copper never exceeded. It now so far surpasses anything that perhaps you or I ever saw or heard of in the legends of mining, that for curiosity's sake alone, I should think it worth a journey to witness what nature has done so near the surface, particularly in the silver line. Yesterday I barreled up 1772 lbs., and to-day 1400 lbs. silver ore, with the labor of one man, and got it out likewise. Last month got out 55 tons of raw ore, making in all 145 tons."

### OPENING OF THE RAILWAY.

It has been suggested to us, and we cordially approve of the plan, that, as it is intended shortly to break ground for the commencement of the Canadian portion of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway, the proceeding should be one of more than ordinary ceremony, and commensurate with the importance of the results anticipated, when the undertaking shall have been completed. The expense, moreover, must be trivial in comparison with the effect that would be produced by some such demonstration of confidence on the public mind, in England.

If the Americans made a great and justifiable display of their feelings of gladness on the occasion of the opening of their part of the line, how much more readily have we the means at command of giving effect to a similar demonstration. Could the arrangements be postponed until after the arrival of the Governor General, so much the better. But if he does not reach this in sufficient time, Lord Cathcart might supply his place. The presence of the troops in garrison and neighbourhood would render the scene at once brilliant and imposing,—particularly to such Americans as should be invited from Portland on the occasion. All the Dignitaries of the country should be asked to attend, and an entertainment worthy of the Directors and the great scheme in contemplation, given to them.

### THE OLYMPIC CORPS.

It really appears to us that, even with reduced numbers in the *corps dramatique* of this theatre, the performances are infinitely better than they were in the commencement. This, perhaps, may in some degree be attributed to the substitution of the lighter and more entertaining nature of the pieces which have been selected—and so judiciously selected, that not one of them seems to fail to excite the laughter and approval of the audience.

In respect to Mrs. Skerrett's acting, we really cannot find language sufficiently favorable to express ourselves. We thought that our former encomia had rendered her all possible justice, but the oftener we see her, the more are we impressed with the conviction that no words, written or spoken, can convey to those who have not seen her what she is. There is an absolute fascination in the easy and "artless exhibition of her art," which must be witnessed to be understood and felt. That we do not overcharge our meed of praise they, who like ourselves, saw her last as Kate O'Brien, in *Perfection*, will, we are assured, fully attest. The best evidence of the witchery of Mrs. Skerrett, is given in the loud and nightly cheering which greets her appearance on the stage, and the comparative apathy that

is felt when a piece is played in which she does not take a part.

But while we confess our most fervent enthusiasm to be enlisted in favor of the talent of this charming actress—quite as much, indeed, as we ever felt for V. Stris in the days of her brilliant youth, when "George the Third was King," we must not omit a passing notice of those by whom she is so ably supported.

Mr. Skerrett is, as we have already observed, essentially of the low comic school—such as the Reeve, Buckstone, and even the Harley; and the inimitable drollery of his manner—sometimes, we must say, a little overcharged—contrasts not unfavorably, different as it is in its character, with the more subdued acting of his wife. His very *entrée* on the stage gives the assurance that the impersonation of mirth is there, and is the signal for enjoyment.

Mr. De Walden's acting is of the higher order of comedy, and exhibits a good deal of versatility of power. He plays the part of a gentleman as, of course, a gentleman would—freely, gracefully, and with the confidence of one conscious that he is not acting that which he is not. Even in the lower characters which are assigned to him, although irresistibly comic in the portrayal, he never suffers the spectator to lose sight of the fact, that it is only on the stage he is an actor.

Of Mr. Palmer's acting we are inclined to augur favorably, when time shall have familiarized him with the profession he has chosen. We do not think we pay him a poor compliment when we state, that now, even while in many of his characters his reading is correct and his acting even, there is a diffidence, the result of a modest and praiseworthy distrust of his own power, which, however, those who have watched his acting for any time may excuse and account for, operates unfavorably on the mind of a stranger. Time will cure this.

Of Mr. Pardy we have little to say. He is of the "Myteries of Udolpho" school, and his voice of that deep, sepulchral tone which would tell well in the long and deserted aisles of some old monastery or ruined castle, where the owl and the bat delight to dwell.—He plays certain characters well.

Mrs. Frary we have never hitherto noticed, and if so, it is because her acting is of that unpretending character which shuns rather than courts criticism. She is quiet and lady-like in her deportment,—plays with evenness, and is a great favorite with the play-going public,—especially the Gods,—who invariably encore her songs.

EMIGRANT AGENT.—It was with a great deal of reluctance, and a fear that we might unintentionally wound where censure was unmerited, that we gave insertion, in an early number of the "Expositor," to charges preferred against the management of the Emigrant Department, in this city. It was that feeling which induced us to withhold a second communication from the same party, the agent having previously called upon us, and assured us that the statement was, to say the least of it, highly overcharged, and induced by a strong personal feeling of hostility to himself.

Since then it appears, however, that the public functionary in question has been found guilty of very gross neglect, and as he himself admits, suspended from his office. It is not our province to inquire into the particular merits of the case involving such suspension, but simply to express our satisfaction that the columns of the "WEEKLY EXPOSITOR" should not have been found to convey, any imputation involving a public and acknowledged abuse that was not borne out by facts.

QUEBEC MINING COMPANY.—We understand that highly favorable accounts have been received from Lake Superior. We have seen one or two specimens of the ore, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be of a richness equal to any that has been submitted to our inspection. So abundant is silver in ore of the samples we have seen, that it is cut with ease, and, without crumbling, with a penknife.

A considerable number of Welsh emigrants arrived here yesterday morning, and immediately left for the Mining District on Lake Superior.

In the ensuing number of the "Weekly Expositor" will appear a graphic account of a bivouac in one of the oldest and most celebrated convents in Spain,—Oña,—by a *Caballero* well known to the Montreal public.

### To the Editor of the Railway Record. CAPABILITIES OF THE ATMOSPHERIC PRINCIPLE OF PROPULSION.

SIR,—When a new agent is proposed to produce a certain effect, the march which is shown to us by reason as the safest—the quickest in every respect—for judging what is the propriety of adopting and the means of applying this agent—is to define its *capabilities*. From these capabilities it is simple and easy to deduce whether this agent can produce the effect proposed—produce it in all the conditions required—what are the best, the most proper means for its full and complete application. Such a step is the first, the only one to be taken, if we want to avoid either futile schemes, or bringing valuable ideas into practice, by imperfect means which would destroy their real effect.

In the question of Atmospheric Railways, the first point to be solved is not the practical possibility. The construction of a tube, in all the conditions required to transmit the power, would be of little import if the Atmospheric principle wanted any of the necessary characteristics of a good system of locomotion—if its nature did not present the capabilities of safety, of speed, of economy. This last characteristic will always be the greatest—the most positive—the one admitting of clearest demonstration; and we can say that any system of locomotion presenting entire economy will, in consequence of it, present entire safety and high speed; because these conditions are nothing else than economy carried to its full extent, presented under all its aspects—economy of time—absence of disorders.

The strongest arguments hitherto admitted in favor of the Atmospheric system are taken out of the nature of the agent employed. It was thought that speed was a necessary qualification of the Atmospheric system, because atmospheric air acts instantaneously, in any direction; that its pressure is independent of any of those causes annihilating, in some parts of the year, the power of the locomotive engine. Safety was also attributed to this system of railway, in consequence of the constant action of the power in the direction of the road—of the fixity of the train on it—of the use of stationary engines—of a single direction. The facility of ascending gradients—of passing curves—had even presented to some rather narrow minds the levelling of railways, the construction of easy curves, as unnecessary with such powerful agents; but here stops every inquiry of