

The "St. Peter's Canal" was commenced in the autumn of 1854, as a provincial work. It is to connect the waters of St. Peter's Bay, on the Atlantic coast of the island of Cape Breton, with those of the Bras d'Or Lake; and, when completed, will divide Cape Breton into two islands. This will be a work inconsiderable as to its magnitude, but of great importance to the interests of the island of Cape Breton. It will open into the great Bras d'Or a safe and easy entrance, and one by which access to it will be sought much more frequently than through the natural outlet of that lake. The advantages expected to accrue from the completion of the work may be seen by a glance at a map of the country. The length of St. Peter's Canal will be only 2,300 feet; its breadth at water line, 50 feet; depth of water, 13 feet. It is intended to have one lock at the St. Peter's Bay termination, and a guard-gate at the Bras d'Or. The length of the lock will be 120 feet; width of gates, 22 feet. These dimensions are expected to be sufficient to accommodate any coasting or fishing vessel frequenting the neighbouring waters.

Every county in Nova Scotia is connected with the provincial metropolis, and with the neighbouring provinces, and the United States, by lines of electric telegraph. Those within Nova Scotia are owned and worked by the "Nova Scotia Electric Telegraph Company." They extend over a distance of 1,124 miles; and there are thirty-six telegraph offices in the provinces. The tolls for messages upon these lines are low, being at the rate of sixpence sterling per ten words, for distances not exceeding sixty miles, with proportionable increase for additional words and for greater distances. During the summer of 1856, the "New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company," succeeded in submerging a cable, by which the Nova Scotian lines were put in connection with St. John's, in Newfoundland. In the Provincial Legislature, during the session of 1857, a bill was passed giving to the "Great Atlantic Telegraph Company" the exclusive right, for twenty-five years, to land upon the coast of Nova Scotia a submarine cable, connecting this province with the British Islands. This truly magnificent enterprize was carried into execution, and messages were actually transmitted across the Atlantic, but, it is to be deeply regretted, that it has since proved a failure, the cable being partially destroyed. May we not hope that the hand of science will yet effect, among other wonders, the execution of this great scheme, and render it permanent.

CHAPTER IX.

A FEW GREAT POINTS OF CONTRAST BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT.

How chang'd the scene we now behold!

From what our fathers saw,

Who toil'd and bled in days of old,

That we might dwell 'neath freedom's law.

—Original.

Our forefathers who first came hither, found almost the whole country one vast wilderness. Immense tracts of this great wilderness have fallen before the sturdy strokes of the settler's axe, and where once the "grand