

ALDBOROUGH  
BY

Vol. 14

# The Standard,

No. 19

OR FRONTIER AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL GAZETTE.

Price 12<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> in Advance

ST. ANDREWS, N. B. WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1847

[15<sup>s</sup> at the end of the Year

YS' PILLS,

BOROUGH CURED OF  
MACH COMPLAINT;  
he Earl of Aldborough,  
21st February 1845.

ALDBOROUGH  
E. OF DROPSY OF  
STANDING.

Mr. Thomas Taylor (the  
17th April 1845.

THOMAS TAYLOR  
AND ONSLEY  
H. F. G. B. S. S. S.

WYTHEM BAXTER,  
A. AND SHORNICES.

## POETRY.

### THE EARLY TAKEN

The idea embodied in the following verses is the subject of an old German legend, intended, perhaps somewhat painfully, to represent a pining and diseased spirit awed by a fearful vision of eventual futurity into a becoming resignation for the early loss of those who might have proved unequal to temptations of a longer life.

A Mother, mourned her children dead,  
Two blooming boys, whose opening prime  
Along her path a light had shed,  
Now quenched, alas! before its time.

She mourned as one who dreamed that here  
Our home and dwelling place should be;  
She mourned as if she felt no fear  
Of earthly sin and misery.

Once, in the watches of the night,  
Before her dim and tearful eye,  
Beyond the clouds an opening bright  
Revealed a vision of the sky.

There, amid amaranthine bowers,  
Where God's own glory seemed to shine,  
She saw, on beds of golden flowers,  
Her dear departed ones recline.

There, bending down, a pitying smile  
Their fair illumined features wore,  
For as now freed from guilt and guile,  
O, dearest mother, weep no more!

But still her tears rebellious flow,  
And still she raves of angry fate,  
As if, with blind and selfish woe,  
She gazed her children's blissful state.

### MORAL METRICS.

Ye, who would save your features frow,  
From limbs, bright eyes, frown wrinkled forehead,  
From Age's devastation horrid  
Adopt this plan—  
To will make in cuisantes, cold or torrid,  
A hale old man—

Avoid, the youth, luxurious diet,  
Restrain the passion's lawless riot;  
Devoted to domestic quiet,  
Be wisely gay,  
So shall ye, spite of age's fist,  
Resist decay.

Seek in the Mammon's worship pleasure,  
But find your richest, dearest treasure,  
In books, friends, music, polished leisure,  
The mind, not sense,  
Make the sole scale by which ye measure  
Your equities.

### LIFE.

Oh! life is but a dream,  
A sunbeam's play,  
A flower on a stream  
Passing away.

A song upon the air,  
A foal's gay,  
A something wondrous fair  
Passing away.

A pinon-house of woe,  
A wintry day,  
A dark gulf's ceaseless flow  
Passing away.

A bird upon the wing,  
A meteor ray,  
A wild mysterious thing  
Passing away.

## MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

(CONTINUED.)

The principles were—popular representation, with an irresponsible dictator, electors to have 200 dollars a year of property qualification, which excluded the four millions of Indians, and other equally liberal and enlightened enactments. Santa Anna was inaugurated president the 1st of January, 1844. After enjoying his power one year, General Paredes headed the rebellion, which drove the dictator from the chair, with a sentence of ten years' banishment; General Herrera being substituted in his stead. His power was also short-lived, and Paredes soon succeeded him, carried to power by the voices of the soldiery. We now come to the negotiations which have ended so abruptly in war. The United States having several causes of complaint against Mexico, some just, as in the instance of the constant insult and imprisonment of her citizens in that republic; others questionable, as the Texas boundary question, determined on sending an envoy to adjust if possible their differences in a friendly manner. An inquiry was accordingly made in October, 1845, whether such an envoy would be received, with full powers to decide the questions at issue. On the 15th of that month, the Mexican government agreed so to do, and on the 10th of November, 1845, Mr. John Slidell of Louisiana, was commissioned as an extraordinary envoy. With regard to the alleged wrongs of American citizens, there can be no doubt the United States had just reason to complain, for outrages of a most execrable character were continually being perpetrated upon them without any chance of redress; its citizens were constantly imprisoned, robbed and even murdered without any excuse, save the popular hatred to all Americans; but with regard to Texas, the question is different. Texas proper is bounded undoubtedly by the Nueces, an inconsiderable stream. The land between this and the Rio Grande belongs to Tamulipas, and though very suitable to grazing, has been, in consequence of the guerrilla warfare between Mexico and Texas, almost abandoned. It was formerly the Indian hunting grounds, where the Comanches and other Indians—apocryphal supplies of food. When the offshoot from Mexico was annexed to the Union, as we have before observed, this large strip of land was also merged into the huge republic of the United States.

To come to some satisfactory conclusion on this point, that is to say, to obtain Mexican abandonment of all claims to any territory beyond the Rio Grande, was the object of Mr. Slidell's mission, and it was a consciousness of the probable issue which, doubtless, materially influenced the Mexicans in their unwillingness to receive him. On the 30th of November, Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz where he was received in the most friendly manner, though General Herrera's government was already tottering, in consequence, it is believed, of its supposed friendly disposition with regard to the United States. Some influence was accordingly exerted, and Mr. Slidell's credentials were not received. This was on the 21st day of December, and on the 30th, Herrera yielded up the presidency to Paredes. After receiving instructions from home, Mr. Slidell renewed his application to the existing government, and on the 12th of March, 1846, received a firm denial of his demand to be received as an accredited envoy. He at once demanded his passports and retired.

In the meanwhile the President of the United States had, with the avowed purpose of preventing a Mexican invasion, ordered a military force to take a position between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, which was, according to the Mexican view of the question, even allowing Texas to be a portion of the Union, an invasion on the part of that republic. The spot chosen for a camp was Corpus Christi, a collection of wooden shanties at the mouth of the Nueces, where we ourselves have more than once located ourselves. This force remained here until the envoy was rejected, and as the United States recognized the boundary fixed on by the Texan congress in 1836, it was resolved for various reasons to advance to the Rio Grand. The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and reaching the Rio Grande encamped opposite Matamoras, with a depot in its rear at Point Isabel. General Ampudia, the commander of the Mexican forces, after warning the Americans to retire beyond the Nueces, attacked a foraging party, defeated them, and took several prisoners.

"War with Mexico" resounded at once throughout the United States; the president senate and people, appeared to vie with each other in taking measures to prosecute it with activity. The army was increased to 15,000 men, the navy augmented, 50,000 volunteers authorized to be raised, 10 million of dollars were voted, and unless some means be taken to put an end to this deplorable state of things there can be little doubt that the vast frontier of the two republics will be the scene of a war, carried on after a fashion disgraceful to humanity. The first burst of enthusiasm however over in the United States, more sob-

er views appear to have influenced the conduct of its citizens. Though warmingtons without number have been held in Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, New York, volunteers have not rushed to the fray with the alacrity which was expected. Galveston, the real capital of Texas, has sent sixteen men, while Louisiana has been so lukewarm as to require a species of conscription. But the latest news had probably not reached these localities—news bearing date the 29th April, by which it appears that the American soldiers had suffered another defeat, and that seventy volunteers attempting to reach General Taylor had been routed and killed. These defeats, however, will doubtless have the effect of kindling an angry feeling, likely to aggravate the difference, and we cannot but expect that something similar to the struggle between Don Carlos and Christina in Spain will be enacted over again. Before we consider the probable results, it will be to view the condition of the people of Mexico, their armies and navy, and their probable means of coping with the republicans of Louisiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Texas and Arkansas, who will pour them in one vast flood of men eager for the excitement of the battle field. The eloquent denunciations of a Chatham will also again be needed, for the scalping-knife and the tomahawk will at once be put in requisition. The Apaches, the Comanches, the Pawnees, the Osages, will rush to the conflict, and side with the Americans, whom they hate a little less than they do men with Spanish blood in their veins, as if the memory of Fernando Soto's cruelties still lingered in their recollections.

From the above brief sketch of the story of Mexican revolutionary struggles it will be seen that more changes took place in twenty years than have been seen in two or three hundred of European history. No wonder therefore that the condition of the people instead of ameliorating has grown worse, that agriculture has been neglected, in fact that no encouragement to the cultivation of peaceful arts where reounding arms, desolation, and bloodshed cause civilization to retrograde rather than advance. Consequently no nation of the American continent is in a worse position than the Mexican. Numbering seven millions and a half, four-and-a-half are Indians. This section generally drags on a miserable and wretched existence, being chiefly lazzaroni and vagrants, houseless, penniless, and as ignorant as the brute that perishes. Their diet is poor, their clothing a blanket, their home, when they have one, a hovel of sun-dried bricks, worn with the weather to the shape of holes in the mud; their occupation in the capital to hang about the markets and pulque shops, snatching at fragments, drinking, stealing, and sleeping. The quantity of beggars in Mexico city is enormous, it being as much a trade as that of the water carriers or the hawkers of small wares. In the hills and meadows of the interior their position is little better, their home being a roof of thatch stuck on the bare ground with a hole left at one end to crawl in; while abject serfdom, a spirit corrupted by an avaricious gambling, bigoted and profligate, church, a mind utterly destitute of culture, are their general characteristics. No wonder, therefore, that they pass from one chief to another without even an inquiry while any man who will promise them a beneficial change finds an army at his back. It is this population of slaves—for though not hereditary bondsmen, they are complete slaves by custom, and submit, unarmouring, to the lash of their taskmasters—that the government have to oppose to the hardy, free, well-fed, and unscrupulous volunteers of the United States. The border population of the people of New Mexico, Seguro, and Coahuila, are certainly very superior to the denizens of Mexico proper. They are more free, and even more enlightened, are less divided into castes, and in many respects are better able to struggle with their neighbouring borderers. They are not wanting in courage, and being chiefly hunters, shepherds, and Indian fighters, have much practice in the use of arms.

A ciberlo or buffalo hunter is perhaps as picturesque a soldier as any in the world; and these hardy devotees of the chase make excellent light cavalry. With his leathern trousers and jacket, his flat straw hat, his carcase or quiver of bows and arrows, his long spear waving high over his head, his stopper of his fustil fantastically tasselled, he is a ready-made trooper. The stature of these people is below medium, but they are well proportioned, of athletic make, and sound, healthy constitutions. Their complexion is generally dark; but every variety of shade is found amongst them, from the lightest European tint to the swarziest hue. Their darkness arises in part from their original Moorish blood, and in part from the Aborigine. The peasantry are the most tawny, but this complexion alike pervades all classes. The women are less beautiful than the ladies of the interior, having much of the broad features of the Indians, but many are strikingly handsome, with small feet and graceful figures. Indeed we never saw a more generally interesting looking population

Generally they are cruel, bigoted, and fanatical, while many have accused them of cowardice. This arises in some degree from the fact that the military leaders, whose valour and conduct in a great measure decide the fate of battles, are always chosen from the enervated wealthy classes and the city-bred calleros, who have known no other practice of arms than the use of the knife in a street brawl. The rancheros or yeomanry are brave and intrepid to a life of fatigue and danger, continually combating with the Indian braves, as all wild Indians are called. If therefore, they have shown little firmness in the field, we must in a great measure ascribe it to the fact of their having no confidence in either their leaders or their arms. Some are provided with excellent English muskets of which they however scarcely know the use; but the old escopeta or firelock, an antiquated blunderbuss, a bow and arrow, or a lance have often been their only means of coping with the rifles of the Americans.

The manners of the Mexican borderers are very Spanish, which language they speak with a mixture of the Indian dialect, while their government is generally oppressive, partial, and inefficient. Imprisonment is almost the only punishment; for debt, larceny, highway robbery, and murder, a *lucero*, to jail with him, is the one judgment. In the case of debt he is satisfied, and serving as he does, at very reduced wages, his expenses often retain him in perpetual slavery. Upon the poor this system falls with terrible severity; they labour, it is true at fixed wages, but all they can earn barely provides them with food and clothing. Robbery and murder is rare on the borders, while petty larceny is unusually rife, as also gambling, which is a distinguishing propensity of the people.

To return to Mexico generally. That crime is rife amongst such a population as we have described above, will readily be credited. In no country is murder more frequent than along the coast, on the road to the capital, and in the interior. The traveller is never out of sight of little rude wooden crosses, of melancholy meaning, monuments erected over the bones of murdered individuals. One ravine, called the Barranca Secca, on the highway between Vera Cruz and the metropolis, is actually dotted with these sad signs. Assassination is of every-day occurrence, while not unfrequently the traveller will stumble over the freshly slain bodies of some luckless predecessor. Robbers, in gangs of from five to twenty, scour the country, way-laying the stage-coaches, plundering in the open light of day, even in the very city of Mexico; while associations for this lawless purpose are known to exist, in which men of wealth and rank play a conspicuous part. The very Custom-House officers have been discovered in league with the banditti, affording them information, and sharing their gains. General Santa Anna at one time executed sixty or seventy; but the evil is too deeply seated, springing as it does from the unsettled and lawless state of the country, to be thus violently uprooted. So systematic and ordinary, indeed, is robbery in this country, that the traveller is regularly warned as to what he is to do, when he hears the terrific words "*boca baje*." The ladrones, in order we suppose to rob with more ease to themselves, than they would with the victim's eye upon them; intimate to you in these words their desire that you will prostrate yourself upon your face.

The statistics of crime in Mexico city are fearful. The prison one of the most loathsome and ill-regulated hot-beds of crime in the world, contained, in one year, five hundred men and women charged with adultery, incest, and unmentionable crimes; fifteen hundred with robbery, seventy with murder, while hundreds of murderers were not even accused.—altogether more than nine thousand criminals charged with gross violation of every law divine and human. The very form of the houses denotes the universal insecurity of life and property. To the street they all present a sombre and gloomy appearance, but few windows being strongly barred with iron gratings. When we reflect that six hundred thousand only of the whole population can even read and write, while a very small portion of them have any real education to boast of, such results are the less to be wondered at. Moreover, the Church, which should teach them better, is but a huge corporation for obtaining land and wealth, which squanders its ill-gotten gains, while its members keep mistresses openly, take them into society, and spending the greater portion of their time in lounging about the streets and drinking shops, smoking, and often in the state of inebriety. Further, the only amusements afforded to the people are of a brutalizing and degrading character. Gambling is the passion of high and low; lotteries are in every square; while Sunday, by their neighbours set apart as a period of repose, thoughtfulness, and love, is here the moment chosen for the savage unveiling of the slaughter-house, in the shape of bull-fights, conducted in the most coarse manner, and where the most wicked passions of an ignorant and debased people are foster-

ed and nourished.

(To be continued.)

## Extracts from the Reports of M. H. Perley Esq., Printed by order of the House of Assembly.

### COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE.

The four principal wheels which support the carriage are without flanges, and present a perfectly flat surface to the rail. It is evident, that upon encountering the slightest curve in the rails those wheels would be quite inadequate to keep the carriage upon its destined route. The remedy provided is in four extra, or anti-friction wheels; these are placed, two in front and two behind the carriage, upon axles, at an angle of 45 degrees with the main axles. A deep groove formed by two flanges is made in their circumference, exactly corresponding to the inner and upper angle of the rail, and thus they serve as the guiding wheels to the whole machine. When the Railway is in the direction of a right line, only one of each pair of bevel wheels is in action at the same time according to the tendency which the carriage may have to move on either side from the centre of the rail. On a curve, the difference is simply, that the outside bevel wheel of the front pair, and the inside one of the back pair, come into play, and counteract the disposition there is in the carriage to fly off at a tangent with the curve. Another very important function performed by the bevel wheels is, that in case of an accident occurring to the running wheel, they would act as supporters to the carriage, and carry it on in safety. In traversing curves, the advantages of the bevel wheels is stated to be very great, as with these wheels a curve of 600 feet radius may be traversed with safety at a speed of 25 to 30 miles per hour. The rails may be made of beech, or other hard timber, six to eight inches square, let into wooden sleepers, and secured by wooden wedges, forming one great frame of wooden grating of longitudinal and cross sleepers.

The bite of the wheel upon an iron rail is stated to depend much on the weight of the engine, which is made to weigh from 16 to 18 tons. This weight on moderate gradients, and a speed of 20 or 30 miles per hour, enables it to draw from 80 to 100 tons. The carriages are built to weigh about three tons; this strength being found necessary to withstand the concussion, abrasion, and oscillation. An Engine weighing ten tons, running on wood, is alleged to have more tractive power than one weighing 15 tons, running on iron; and as the concussion and abrasion, is comparatively but trifling, carriages built to weigh one and a half tons will be as strong as those having to run on iron weighing three tons.

An important question connected with this subject is the durability of the materials, of which the railroads are composed. A short experimental line of wooden Railway was laid down near Vauxhall Bridge, and a second experimental line nearly two miles long was afterwards laid down on Wimbledon Common. The Engine employed for the experiment weighed about six tons; it passed over the rails during the two months it ran, 5000 times, in every variety of weather, which is stated to be nearly equal to seven years' traffic of twelve engines per day. The rails were made of larch, (prepared by Payne's Patent Process for preventing dry rot,) about nine feet long and six inches square; yet upon examining them after the severe test to which they have been subjected, they exhibited no appearance of wear from the friction of the wheels on the upper surface, as the saw-marks were not even effaced, nor had the bevel wheels exercised any abrading effect on the edges, which remained as sharp and well defined as they were when first laid down.

It is stated that the result of a series of experiments, made to ascertain the proportionate power of the bite of wood over iron, has fully borne out the assertion of the Patentee that the bite of the driving wheel on wood, is nearly double that on iron. A consequence of this difference is, that railway trains may be propelled up much steeper inclines on a wooden railway than could be overcome on iron rails; and as the cost of making Rail Roads depends greatly on the quantity of earth to be removed the vast expenses of deep cuttings and lofty embankments, and above all, the necessity of costly tunnels, may be avoided by the adoption of the wooden rail.

From the very level character of the country already surveyed for the Saint Andrews Railway, and the abundance of excellent Timber along the line, the Directors are impressed, with the belief that they can construct a Wooden Railway to Woodstock at an average cost of one thousand pounds per mile. If a good working Railway can be constructed on this line, at even double that amount per mile, there can be very little doubt that the investment would prove an extremely profitable one. The anchorage at Wavog is the point nearest to Woodstock, which can be reached by Ship Navigation; and the great difference in distance alone must give this line several very decided advantages.

From Saint John to Fredericton.

Original issues in Poor Condition Best copy available