

THE INSTRUCTOR,

FOR
NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EDITED BY ALEXANDER MUNRO,
Bay Verte, New-Brunswick.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, POST PAID.

TERMS.—3s. 9d. per annum. Clubs of Five 15s.—One Copy Extra.

Vol. 3.

AUGUST, 1860.

No. 8.

The Tidal Phenomena of the Bay of Fundy.

THE tides of this Bay have been long and generally noted for the extraordinary height to which they rise, as well as for the rapidity with which the waters ebb and flow. Their peculiar rise, seventy feet, may in a measure be attributed to the bell-mouthed shape of the Bay, and other local causes; the rush of the tidal waters of the Atlantic against the rocky walls of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the State of Maine, brings the tides almost to a stand still, when it has to turn nearly at right angles, and enter the Bay of Fundy with a more than double velocity.

But what appears most strange is, that the tides are either on the rise or the land is settling; one of the two must have taken place long ago, and still seems to continue. Professor Dawson asserts in his *Acadian Geology* that a change has taken place;—that the thousands of acres of what is

now called marsh, situate on the various arms of the Bay of Fundy, was once covered with a growth of spruce, pine and other wood, that will not grow on lands overflowed by salt water; and Hugh Miller asserts the same phenomena to have taken place on the coast of the British Islands.—

The change in both countries appears to be about the same, twenty-five to thirty feet, only of a reverse order; in Britain it would appear that either the land had rose twenty-five or thirty feet, or the sea had settled that much; in America, or rather this section of it, the contrary appears to be the case. However, it may be possible that both operations, nameiy, the rising or the settling of the waters, or the rising or settling of the lands, may have been taking place at the same time. In corroboration of these statements we have frequently been informed by those who have been engaged in the