





IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BRITISH NAVY.

PORTSMOUTH, Sept. 1.—The screw squadron, consisting of the Argonaut, 40, Captain Robinson; Dauntless, 21, Captain Halsey; Encounter, 14, Captain Gordon; and Highflyer, 21, Captain Matt, anchored at Spithead, on their return from their trial cruise in the Mediterranean, this morning. The result of this two months' trial has been most satisfactory, fully proving that it is compatible for our ships of war to rank at once among the fleetest of steamers and most "crack" of sailers. This was demonstrated in a regular trial in the Mediterranean, where, in a fleet of 13 ships, the Highflyer and Encounter (under sail) were second and third; the Phaeton, a sailing vessel, only termed the "fleetest of the fleet," being the winner, the Highflyer receiving the compliment from Admiral Dundas's speaking trumpet, "You'll best the Phaeton next!" On another occasion, in a trial under steam, the run being from the flag-ship round the Trafalgar (an excellent ship, by-the-by, as a winning-post) and back the Highflyer rounded first; Pury, a paddle-steamer, second; while the Encounter and Terrible held a "neck and neck" contention for the third place—their respective horse-powers being 250, 515, 300, and 500—(tonnage being 1,000, 1,500, 1,000, and 1,000)—the return being made to wind, the powerful paddle-steamer had the advantage, though not very greatly. The screw squadron parted company from the Mediterranean fleet, under a complimentary signal from Admiral Dundas, on the 5th of August, and left Gibraltar on the 11th, towing through the strong current of "the Gulf," Argonaut, one (under sail); Dauntless, one; Encounter, two; and Highflyer, four—averaging from 300 to 350 tons each. The Argonaut (auxiliary) is a noble frigate, of sufficiently serviceable steam capability. It is difficult to see how a fine ship and the Dauntless to be from the same yard; the latter a full-power steamer, formidable, no doubt, in a calm, dipping her lee gun under water on the slightest provocation. The Encounter (full power) is a light, highly armed corvette. The Highflyer (auxiliary) a new ship, has done wonders, under sail or under steam. Frequently the victor, though possessing not the horse-power of the Dauntless, and one hundred less than the Argonaut and Encounter, and consuming considerably less fuel. Her powers of endurance are great; in a calm with one engine, steaming at more than five knots, but one ton of coal was consumed in twenty miles, and her stowage being 220 tons—at this rate her own resources would suffice for a voyage of 4500 miles, a matter of regret that this ship has not more been, or was not built larger upon a similar model, as her vast gun cannot be fought with convenience. It is questionable, also, whether an entire armament of hollow-shot guns be a judicious one. A bad sailor, with every gunnery convenience, or a fleet ship without the slightest provocation. And if in the ships of a squadron equalization were extended beyond that of mere jockeyism to success to gunnery practice, so much the better.

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The Times then proceeds to state that Mr. W. has founded a third argument on facts of an opposite character, in stating which he admits that Americans have frequented the islands for 30 years before their reported discovery by Capt. Morrell. "The American papers state that the vessels which have returned from the Gulf of St. Lawrence this season have brought meagre fares of mackerel, in consequence of the vigilance of the British cruisers. The Gloucester Telegraph says, 'the prospect is that the American vessels will obtain poor fares this fall.'—N.B.

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The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, SEPT. 28, 1852.

European and North American Railway.

A contemporary of this morning contains an editorial article, which professes to give the details of an arrangement actually entered into between the various authoritative parties, with regard to the contemplated Railroad operations. As however, no reference is given to any positive authority for the statistical facts, we refrain from copying such a non-official article; but we have every reason to believe, that such arrangements have been agreed to, as will most satisfactorily ensure the speedy completion of the Railroad from Sheshaie and the border of Nova Scotia to that of Maine; provided that those arrangements meet the approbation of the Legislature of this Province. The strongest of our official documents, in our papers, we can lay no more specific information before our readers to-day; but we have the best authority for announcing, that a special Session of the Legislature will shortly be summoned, to consider this important subject. Should this be so, and should the fit of approximation be legislatively pronounced, (as most earnestly desired by us,) we shall be enabled to congratulate the people of New Brunswick, on the happy termination of all our doubts and difficulties, with regard to the establishment of a Railroad, and to the commencement of the project of the harboring of a long career of general prosperity and advancement.

LATER.

Since writing the above, we were authorized to announce that an agreement was this day concluded between the European and North American Railway Company, and Messrs. Jackson, Peck, Brassy, Betts, and Locke, of London, for the construction of the entire line of the European and North American Railway, together with branches to Fredericton, and to Shediac and Miramichi. The terms of this agreement we consider eminently favorable to the Province, and such as will undoubtedly command the approval of a very large majority of the inhabitants. We understand that the road is to be constructed in ten lots of the agreement entered into between Mr. Jackson and Mr. Chandler, with the difference that the stock taken by the Province in the road shall not exceed the £250,000 already granted by the Facility Bill. That the land Bill, formerly passed, granting five miles of land on each side of the line by road, and in lieu of it, that the Province shall guarantee a loan to the Company to an extent that shall make up the £250,000 of stock taken, a sum of £240,000 sterling per mile of road constructed—this loan to be secured by a first mortgage on the road with all its rolling stock. The price to be paid to the contractors for that portion of the road between St. John and the frontier of Nova Scotia, is to be 500 stg. per mile, which price shall form the basis for the cost of the remainder of the road, to be increased or diminished as the work is heavier or lighter. The road to be a first class, with heavy rails, easy grades and curves, and constructed in such a manner as to allow travel at the rate of 40 miles per hour, and will be in all respects superior to any thing of the kind on the Continent. The whole is subject to the assent of the Legislature, which we understand will be called together at an early day, and we have no doubt but that it will command the approval of a very large majority of the country, and already has produced a wonderful effect on the minds of many an intending emigrant; in fact, we know many parties who, with the view of bettering their condition, are preparing to leave their homesteads and stock, not only changed their minds but gladly availing themselves of the first good chance for again investing their means in a new country. The number too of stock, absent for years, that daily appear in our streets, is truly astonishing; all this is the effect of the noble progress, this we say with the whole of the Locomotive in our cars—Charlotte Gazette.

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