

THE MIRAMICHI RAILWAY.

It is talked of pretty freely around the town that the Miramichi Valley Railroad has again become a live issue, and that men of means and enterprise are giving thoughtful consideration to the subject. If we are not mistaken both Senator Muirhead and Mr. Snowball, M. P. are both so interested in the project, that they are content for the time to put politics under water and become a unit in forwarding the railroad scheme. Several other gentlemen in Chatham and Newcastle, and in other parts of Northumberland as well, show no less earnestness and interest in the project.

There is a gentleman, not belonging to our county but belonging to New Brunswick, who has also taken a very active interest in the matter; and there is still another gentleman, also not of our county, who undoubtedly will take an interest in the movement, if indeed he does not become the moving and the foremost spirit: and both these gentlemen have ample means, and no less enterprise. In Montreal, influences in aid of the project, will also be at work in a few days. Altogether the prospects for the Miramichi and Nashwaak Railway, looks more favorable than ever before.

It is more than we could do, and more than would be advisable at this early stage of the scheme to enter into details: we have only to say, that all we want here is to have the railroad built, no matter who builds it, Syndicate, or Provincial Company; but we will say that in the event of building both Northumberland and York will have to contribute specially to the project, though what they would be called upon to give would be a mere trifle in comparison with what they would get from the proposed road.

The country between here and Fredericton is well worth opening up, even at a heavy cost; but the Miramichi and Nashwaak Road would by no means be dependent on the local traffic. Our impression is it would be the connecting link between the summer ocean highway, and the American and Canadian railroads. Mr. Blackman we understand will construct a railway across Newfoundland whose terminus will be on the Gulf shore. A line of steamers plying across the Gulf in summer would get the trans-Atlantic passengers and freight shipped across Newfoundland and such a line in all probability would make Miramichi the port on this side the gulf. In that case, the new railroad project assumes an important aspect.

Our readers shall be kept informed upon this matter.

THE CRUMBS.

Since the Reformers seem so jubilant over small favors, we shall explain to our readers just the extent of their triumphs, lest they might mistake Grit smoke for fire. Since the Conservatives assumed power, several seats in the Commons have become vacant. Some of these seats were held by Reformers, and some by Liberal Conservatives. If the Government were merely holding their own, they would have the same number of seats after the bye elections as before the vacancies occurred. But this is not the case. The Government have taken SIX GRIT SEATS at the bye elections: the Grits have taken ONE! leaving a gain of five to the Government. The Government seem to be using ground in precisely the same way as the trade, and the revenue, and the prosperity of the country are. In the Grit dictionary the word "increase" means, "a falling off."

The Government have taken six seats from the Opposition, the Opposition have taken one seat from the Government.—and the Grit journals are jubilant. The seat the Grits took is east Northumberland, and was contested for by two candidates. One of these was a Grit and a Protestant; the other was a Conservative and a Catholic. For the offense of being a Catholic Mr. Kennedy was left out, and Mr. Crouther being a Protestant, though a Liberal, was put in.

The Liberals, to which party Mr. Anglin and his Freeman have consecrated themselves raised the "no popery cry," and the war was carried to every hamlet and town, yea to every farmers door. The intelligent and good religious people of East Northumberland arose to the noble war cry, girded their loins, and watch. It was well they did: most assuredly if they had elected Kennedy, the Pope would have come and settled right in the very midst of the caribuns of East Northumberland. It is very easy what next would follow. Italian assassins would creep out stealthily in the dark,

and stab the peoples' preachers and licentiate, burn down their churches, and once more fill up their schools with "heathen toys." It is said when the news of Mr. Kennedy's defeat reached Rome there was dire consternation altogether. The flags floated at half mast, and the bell

"from the dome of Peter"

thundered out something like a funeral dirge over the waters of the Tiber. Mr. Wilkie Collins in his next novel will likely call it "A reverie for the Jesuits."

The Government has lost a member, but Holy Religion has gained a champion, so that if the Freeman and the Grits in general rejoice, we see no reason why we ought to mourn. It is certainly much to the credit of the intelligence and liberality of Canada, that at this day the people of East Northumberland have advanced so far in these directions as to persecute a man because he is guilty of being a Roman Catholic. In the good old times the same standard was used here, but we had really thought the people had become so degenerate of late that they were now minding their own affairs, and looked rather for intelligence and integrity than for Lutherism and Calvinism in the candidate who offered to become their representative. But they do not carry the zeal for enough. The stronger denomination should turn out, in every case where the opportunity offers, and mob, and spoil, yea annihilate the weaker. That would to say the least, be muscular christianity.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

(No. 7.)

Our fire department in 1879 cost the town \$1,283.46. The receipts that year were \$1,616.10, so that there was a balance in hand of \$362.64. The past year there was received from the assessment \$1,090.06, from T. F. Gillespie \$150 making with the balance from 1879 a total of \$1,512.70. There was expended \$1,015.41 leaving a balance on hand of \$497.29. This year the sum of \$1,000 is to be levied for fire purposes.

The published accounts do not give the details of the expenditure of the \$1,015.41, so we can not tell whether it has been judiciously spent or not. It is highly important that this service should be in an efficient state. The town has been singularly free from fires, but we can not count on a continued exemption. In a town such as ours, given the necessary conditions, and a fire might start at any moment, that would be very destructive. Supposing that a fire should now occur, in what condition is our fire department? We have a steam fire engine and a hand engine, sufficient host, but we understand that the most important consideration, water, to supply the engines, can not in many important parts of the town be procured. There are a couple of tanks that would be useful, but outside these the river would have to be depended on for the water supply. At how many parts of the town could the engine be brought to the river? We believe at very few. It is wrong to allow a fancied security owing to a long immunity from fire to blind us to the fact that our fire department should always be prepared to put out a conflagration in any part of the town. Every rate payer who pays his fire tax, has a right to protection, and the firewards should see that such protection can be given in time of need.

As to the management of the fire engine we will not say much just now. The gentleman who had charge of it up to a recent period was thoroughly competent and we trust his successor is equally so. It would be poor economy for the sake of a few dollars to entrust property so valuable and interests so considerable to an incompetent person. The ratepayers will hold the firewards responsible for any mismanagement in this respect.

While speaking of fire matters we may say that the steam fire pump in connection with Mr. Snowball's mill is of great benefit to that establishment, and to that portion of the town. It is a commendable idea to have such appliances for extinguishing fires connected with all such establishments and we trust that they will all procure them.

We presume that the balances in hand are invested in some insinuation at interest; but the published accounts do not say so, and we find no credit for any interest from the \$362.64 on hand last year. The Auditor ought to be more thorough in his examination or at least in his report on public accounts.

The blundering of the War Minister in the case of Col. Maunsell's removal from Fredericton is unexplainable. The necessity for the proposed removal in the first place was not to see; and the justification for allowing a gentleman to rent a house in Ottawa, break up his household in Fredericton, and then tell him he was to "await further orders," in the latter place is still harder to see.

AN UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.

It is our painful duty today to inform our readers that our contemporary the Advocate is displeased with the Northumberland members for voting against Hon. P. A. Landry's sentimental resolution. In the Advocate's love for humanity, it loses sight of the "point." Mr. Landry brought in a resolution. That resolution dealt with a matter over which the House had no control, over a question it could not influence in the slightest degree. Some of the 8 who voted against it, therefore, very properly said it was an impertinent, and a silly resolution, and this is why they opposed it. It was eminently both. But the Advocate makes out its case as if the question at issue was between the Scott Act and the License Law, and that the legislature had control over the matter. Truly, the Advocate's "tailings lean to virtue's side."

On the temperance question the Advocate is very influential in this county. It got in its "temperance man" at the last councillors' election at the head of the poll!! It is unfortunate therefore for Messrs. Adams, Gillespie and Hutchison to have incurred its displeasure.

The untruthful satirist who furnishes Ottawa news to the Telegraph says that Sir Leonard Tilley is to be appointed Governor of the Fiji Islands, an Imperial appointment.

"Proud Northumberland weeps at her position today in the Commons," is the truthful and well expressed remark of a correspondent.

Another falsehood furnished the Government press from Ottawa is that Sir A. T. Galt is soon to return and be Finance Minister.

Mr. Parnell proposes to convert the various Home Rule elements in England into a land league.

The Sultan and the Shah of Persia, have some mysterious correspondence between them.

Count Pecci, the Popes' brother, is dead.

EDITORIAL GLEANINGS.

Wilkie Collins' latest contribution to second class literature, is "The Black Robe," a novel now being published in serial form in the Canadian Monthly, which by the way is worthy of better things—in Frank Leslie's Newspaper & Co. Wilkie Collins has no merit whatever as a writer beyond the fact that in each of his stories there is a kind of mathematical plot that you can figure out once you possess yourself of the authors rule or key. We have read, we are sorry to say, three or four of Mr. Collins' books, and we do not hesitate to pronounce them all, thoroughly second class, and highly immoral. Mr. Collins is evidently unable to conceive of a pure or moral subject or if he is able to conceive of such, then we must assume that out of sheer love and choice, he turns invariably to immoral ones. One seldom finds much moral good in the man who looking through humanity finds nothing but evil. What Mr. Collins' morals are we do not know, nor do we much care, but we should suppose, judging from his books they are like his abilities as a writer, none the greatest.

His latest book, as we have said is "The Black Robe." It is an immoral story, founded on the authors vulgar hatred of the Jesuits. The story purports to lay bare the machinations of Jesuit priests in England to gain converts to the Catholic Church and to get hold at the same time of the lands of the converts. It is evident from the tenor of the story the writer knows nothing of the history of the Jesuits—or for that matter the history of anything else—for while some of his statements are naturally, wickedly false, others are notoriously absurd. The language is spread out over a dead flat, above which it is impossible for the author to rise. Ouida is equally as immoral, but you find a thousand things worth reading in Ouida's books. She has allusions which call up forgotten incidents or set you thinking, and her fine imagination gives you some beautiful pictures, but Collins' story is a mathematical plot, ignorant date of the Jesuits, and gross immorality. It is not worth reading, and we shall bother with it no further.

MR. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

The best essay we have ever seen in a Canadian, perhaps in any publication is in the last number of the Canadian Monthly from the pen of Mr. Davin. The subject of the essay is "Great Speeches;" and the pit of it is that our Canadian orators use too many words in expressing what they have to say.

He describes Sir Charles Tupper as a powerful speaker, and says the same of Mr. Blake; but he says both make their speeches too long; that Sir Charles Tupper put his words at the enemy while over a rib of their fabric stands, and that the "flure of a technicality" is too strong for Mr. Blake. He points out that one of Blake's speeches on the Railway Resolutions, has 30,000 words, and contrasts this with three, and four, and five and six thousand word speeches of great English orators, on great national questions. The great fault he says with the long speeches of Sir Charles and Mr. Blake and others is that they lack concentration and therefore do not always impress the listener or the reader as well as shorter and more pithy

speeches. You would think he says, listening to these two gentlemen, that they were entirely innocent of ever having read a book, their speeches being utterly wanting in literary tissue. Not so, the speeches of Sir John A. MacDonald. They, he says, have the "flavour of literary culture," with all their other merits; and that "the ideal oratory will always come from a vessel which has been often filled at Pieria fountains—will betray nature saturated with the thoughts and language of the great teachers of the world." Sir John's speeches are never tiresome because not "long drawn out."

He scouts the idea that because a speech is a day long it is proportionately effective. "No man," he says, "would call a painting great because it covered miles of canvass or a house a great building because it sprawled over a half an acre of land, or a poem a great poem because it contained as many lines as Homer and Virgil combined ever wrote." O'Connell used to say "a good speech is a good thing, but the verdict is the thing." He handles those who read their speeches, mercilessly but nothing too severe. He describes a written speech as "an impetuousness with the complexion of a fraud," a phrase so true, and so happily put, as to be well worth handing down to posterity.

Mr. Davin's essay is all so good, we tear ourselves away from it with reluctance. It is so good, so true, so well timed, so home-striking, that it cannot but bear the fruit intended. Speeches in the House of Commons are fast degenerating into harangues, and besides those leading members who carry their speeches too far there are a number of others who seem to have lost sight of the object of speeches, and this is why you read the speeches of a dozen of such members over and do not meet a new idea, hardly a new fact in them. They seem to think they have to make a speech, whether they can say anything or not. If the Commons set the example of brevity, the Local Legislatures will undoubtedly follow; and who in New Brunswick would not call this a blessing who has heard the long, dreary, vanity charged speeches of Black, and the empty and long drawn out sounding of Mr. Edward Willis? In other issues, other matters in the Canadian shall have attention.

We commend the letter of "A," our Alnwick correspondent to our readers. We shall refer to it more fully in another issue; for it takes the ground completely from under Mr. Snowball's Session's work!

Mr. John Costigan, M. P., leaves in a few days for the North West, where he is likely to remain during the summer. Hon. John O'Connor still continues to draw his pay as Secretary of State.

The Carleton Election took place today. The Grit is doomed there.

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NICHOLAS BARDEN.

Chatham, March 30, 1881.

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where all classes of the above goods are on exhibition.

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Newcastle, Sep 1880—sep29tf

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T. F. KEAREY, [Rear of Customs House,] CHATHAM, N. B.

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always in stock. Carriage trimmings neatly executed. Orders from abroad punctually attended to and shipped with care.

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James P. Mitchell

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c

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