

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XII: |

Nec aranciarum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

Number 13.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, December 8, 1840.

BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL.

STEAM SHIPS of 1200 Tons, and 440 Horse Power. Under Contract with the Lords of the Admiralty.

FOR LIVERPOOL, G. B.

BRITANNIA, Capt. Henry Woodruff.
ACADIA, do. Robert Miller,
CALEDONIA, do. Richard Cleland,
COLUMBIA, do.

The above Vessels will be despatched from Halifax for Liverpool: Eighteen Hundred and Forty. October 3rd December 3rd
October 18th 1841.
November 3rd January 3rd.

Passage, including Provisions, Wine, &c. To LIVERPOOL, 25 Sovereigns—\$125.
To BOSTON, \$20.

These vessels will leave Boston for Halifax and Liverpool on the First of each month, and on the 16th of the month of October and November; and will leave Halifax for Boston immediately after their arrival from Liverpool.

For Passage, apply to S. CUNARD & Co. Halifax, 2nd November, 1840.

CARD.

Mr. P. TAYLOR, of Miramichi, having appeared before the Board of Examiners, at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and being found duly qualified to practise the various branches of his profession, was admitted a Member of the College on the 24th August, 1838.

Mr. P. Taylor, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and formerly House Surgeon to the Royal Waterloo Infirmary, &c. begs leave to inform the Inhabitants of Miramichi and its vicinity, that he has now arrived in Chatham, and will on Thursday, the 27th October, commence practising the various branches of his profession, and may be consulted at his father's, Mr. George Taylor, Sen., or in his consulting Rooms, in the building formerly occupied by James H. Peters, Esq. opposite the residence of the Hon. J. Cunard. Mr. T. will endeavor to arrange his time so that he may be seen at his father's from 9 to 10, and in his Rooms from 10 to 12 in the forenoon.

Mr. Taylor has had extensive opportunities of observing diseases of the Eye and Ear, and in addition to the usual certificates, submits to the inspection of his friends and the public generally, the following:—

(Copy).

I have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Peter Taylor, has evinced great zeal in the acquisition of professional knowledge, and that the extent of his general information, joined to the propriety of his conduct, eminently qualify him to discharge the important duties which devolve on a Medical and Surgical practitioner. R. D. GRAINGER, Lecturer on Anatomy & Physiology. London, February 27, 1839.

(Copy).

Wherever Mr. P. Taylor commences the practice of his Profession, my best wishes will attend him, as I am convinced from the talent and abilities which he displayed at his examination for the Diploma of the College, he will deserve all the success he may obtain. ASTLEY COOPER, Sergeant Surgeon to the Queen. London, February, 1839.

NOTICE.

The Subscribers having entered into Partnership, their Business of Attorneys, Solicitors, &c., will in future be conducted under the firm of HARDING & JOHNSON, at their Offices in Newcastle and Chatham.

C. A. HARDING,
J. M. JOHNSON, JUN.

Miramichi, 20th June, 1840.

AT PRIVATE SALE.

20 tons of HAY, delivered at the Subscriber's Barn. Also, at his Store, 150 boxes of Mould Candles, & a few boxes do. with Waxed Wicks. OLIVE OIL in jars of two gallons each. Neats Foot Oil in bottles. Liquid Blacking in crocks.

WM. LETSON.

Chatham, Feb 10th, 1840.

MAGISTRATES' and LAWYERS' Blank's for Sale at this Office.

THE GLEANER.

ABORIGINES OF THE VALLEY OF THE OHIO.

The following Extract is taken from a highly interesting Discourse, delivered by General Harrison, President elect, of the United States, before the Historical Society, at Ohio, on the above subject. We are indebted for a copy of the article, to the New York *New World*:

It is somewhat remarkable that Ohio, admitted into the Union before either of the Northwestern States, so far ahead of either in point of population, and having its position precisely intermediate between them and the European colonies, from whence the emigration to all of them came, should have been the last that was settled.

Fifty-five years ago, there was not a Christian inhabitant within the bounds which now compose the state of Ohio. And if, a few years anterior to that period, a traveller had been passing down the magnificent river which forms our southern boundary, he might not have seen in its whole course of eleven hundred miles a single human being—certainly not a habitation nor the vestige of one, calculated for the residence of man. He might, indeed, have seen indications that it was not always thus. His eye might have rested upon some stupendous mound, or lengthened lines of ramparts, and traverses of earth still of considerable elevation, which proved that the country had once been possessed by a numerous and laborious people. But he would have seen, also, indubitable evidences that centuries had passed away since these remains had been occupied by those for whose use they had been reared. While ruminating upon the causes which had occasioned their removal, he would not fail to arrive at the conclusion, that their departure (if they did depart) must have been a matter of necessity. For no people, in any stage of civilization, would willingly have abandoned such a country; endeared to them as it must have been by long residence and the labour they had bestowed upon it; unless like the descendants of Abraham, they had fled from the face of a tyrant, and the oppressions of unfeeling taskmasters. If they had been made to yield to a more numerous or more gallant people, what country had received the fugitives? and what has become of the conquerors? Had they, too, been forced to fly before a new swarm from some northern or southern hive? Still would the question recur, what had been their fate? And why had so large a portion of a country, so beautiful and inviting, so abounding in all that is desirable in the rudest as well as in the most advanced state of society, been left as a haunt for the beasts of the forest, or as an occasional arena for distant savages to mingle in mortal conflicts? To aid us in coming to anything like a satisfactory conclusion in answer to those questions, we possess only a solitary recorded fact. For every thing else, we must search amidst the remains which are still before us, for all that we wish to know of the history and character of this ancient and nameless people. And although the result of such an examination may be far from satisfactory, it will not be entirely barren of information. We learn first, from the extensive country covered by their remains, that they were a numerous people. Secondly, that they were congregated in considerable cities, from the extensive works with which several favorite situations are covered. Thirdly, that they were essentially an agricultural people; because, collected as they were in great numbers, they could have depended upon the chase but for a small portion of their subsistence; and there is no reason to believe that they were in possession of domestic animals, as the only one known to the American continent before the arrival of the Europeans, (the Lama of Peru,) was unsuited by nature to endure the rigors of a winter in this latitude. The impossibility of assigning any other purpose to which the greatest number, and many of the largest of these remains, could be applied, together with other appearances scarcely to be misunderstood, confirm the fact that they possessed a national religion; in the celebration of which, all that was pompous, gorgeous, or imposing, was brought into occasional display. That there were a numerous priesthood, and altars often smoking with heatombs of victims. These same circumstances, also indicate, that they had made no inconsiderable progress in the art of building, and their habitations had been ample and convenient, if not neat or splendid. Man in every age and nation has provided for his own defence against the elements, before he even designates any peculiar spot for the worship

of his God. In rigorous climates the hut will always precede the uncovered altar of earth or stone; and the well built city before the temple is made to shoot its spires to the skies.

Thus much do these ancient remains furnish us, as to the condition and character of the people who erected them. I have persuaded myself that I have gleaned from them, also, some interesting facts in their history. It may, however, be proper first to remark, that the solitary recorded fact to which I have alluded to enable us to determine their ultimate fate, is that which has been furnished to us by the historians of Mexico.

The pictorial records of that nation ascribe their origin to the Astecks, a people who are said to have arrived first in Mexico about the middle of the seventh century. An American author, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Madison, of Virginia, having with much labor investigated the subject, declares his conviction that these Astecks are one and the same people with those who once inhabited the valley of the Ohio.—The probabilities are certainly in favour of this opinion.—Adopting it therefore, and knowing by the date of their arrival on the north-west frontier of Mexico, we refer again to the works they have left us to gain what knowledge we can of the cause and manner of their leaving the Ohio valley. For the reasons formerly stated, I assume the fact that they were compelled to fly from a more numerous or more gallant people. No doubt the contest was long and bloody, and that the country so long their residence was not abandoned to their rivals until their numbers were too much reduced to continue the contest. Taking into consideration all the circumstances which can be collected from the works they have left on the ground, I have come to the conclusion that these people were assailed both from their northern and southern frontier; made to recede from both directions, and that their last efforts at resistance were made on the Ohio. I have adopted this opinion from the character of their works, which are there found, from those in the interior. Great some of the latter are, and laborious as was the construction, particularly those of Circleville and Newark, I am persuaded they were never intended for military defences. On the contrary, those upon the Ohio River were evidently designed for that purpose. The three that I have examined, those of Marietta, Cincinnati, and the mouth of the Great Miami, particularly the latter, have a military character stamped upon them which cannot be mistaken. The latter work, and that of Circleville, never could have been erected by the same people if intended for military purposes. The square, at the latter place, has such a number of gateways, as seem intended to facilitate the entrance of those who would attack it. And both it and the circle were completely commanded by the mound, rendering it an easier matter to take, than defend it. The engineers, on the contrary, who directed the execution of the Miami work, appear to have known the importance of flank defences. And if their business are not as perfect, as to form, as those which are in use in modern engineering, their position as well as that of the long line of curtains are precisely as they should be. I have another conjecture as to this Miami fortress. If the people of whom we have been speaking were really the Astecks, the direct course of their journey to Mexico, and the facilities which that mode of retreat would afford, seem to point out a descent of the Ohio as the line of that retreat.

This position, then, (the lowest which they appear to have fortified on the Ohio,) strong by nature, and improved by the expenditure of great labor, directed by no inconsiderable degree of skill, would be the last hold they would occupy and the scene of their last efforts to retain possession of the country they had so long inhabited. The interest which every one feels who visits this beautiful and commanding spot, would be greatly heightened if he could persuade himself of the reasonableness of my deductions, from the facts I have stated. That this elevated ridge, from which are now to be seen flourishing villages, and plains of unrivalled fertility, possessed by a people in the full enjoyment of peace and liberty, and all that peace and liberty can give, whose marons, like those of Sparta, have never seen the smoke of an enemy's fire, once presented a scene of war, and wr in its most horrid form, where blood is the object, and the deficiencies of the field made up by the slaughter of innocence and imbecility. That it was here that a feeble hand was collected, 'remnant of mighty battles fought in vain,' to make a last effort for the country of their birth, the ashes of their ancestors, and the altars of their Gods. That the crisis was met with fortitude, and sustained with valor, need

not be doubted. The ancestors of Quitlavaba and Guatimosin, and their devoted followers, could not be cowards. But their efforts were vain, and flight or death were the sad alternatives. Whatever might be their object in adopting the former, whether, like the Trojan remnant, to seek another country, 'and happier walls,' or like that of Ithome, to procure present safety and renovated strength, for a distant day of vengeance we have no means of ascertaining. But there is every reason to believe, that they were the founders of a great empire, and that, ages before they assumed the more modern and distinguished name of Mexicans, the Astecks had lost, in the more mild and uniform climate of Anahuac, all remembrance of the banks of the Ohio. But, whatever may have been their fate, our peculiar interest in them ceases after their departure from the Miami. In relation to their conquerors, I have little to say, and, perhaps that little not very satisfactory. Although I deny the occupation of the banks of the Ohio for centuries before their discoveries by the Europeans, I think that there are indubitable marks of their being thickly inhabited by a race of men, inferior to the authors of the great works we have been considering, after the departure of the latter. Upon many places remains of pottery, pipes, stone hatchets, and other articles, are found in great abundance, which are evidently of inferior workmanship to those of the former people. But I have one other fact to offer, which furnishes still better evidence of my opinion. I have before mentioned Cincinnati as one of the positions occupied by the more civilized people. When I first saw the upper plain on which that city stands, it was literally covered with low lines of embankments. I had the honor to attend General Wayne, two years afterward, in an excursion to examine them.

We were employed the greater part of a day in August, 1793, in doing so. The number and variety of figures, in which these lines were drawn, was almost endless, and, as I have said, almost covered the plain. Many, so faint, indeed, as scarcely to be followed, and often for a considerable distance entirely obliterated, but, by careful examination and following the direction, they could be again found. Now if these lines were ever of the height of the others made by the same people, (and they must have been, to have answered any valuable purpose,) or unless their erection was many ages anterior to the others, there must have been some other cause than the attrition of the rain (for it is a dead level) to bring them down to their then state. That cause I take to have been continued cultivation. And as the people who erected them would not themselves destroy works which had cost them so much labour, the solution of the question can only be found in the long occupancy and cultivation of another people, and the probability is, that that people were the conquerors of the original possessors. To the question of the fate of the former, and the cause of no recent vestige of settlements being found on the Ohio, I can offer only a conjecture; but one which appears to me to be far from improbable. Since the first settlement of the Ohio by the whites, they have been visited by two unusually destructive freshets, one in 1793, and the other in 1832. The latter was from five to seven feet higher than the former. The latter was produced by a simultaneous fall of rain upon an unusually extensive frozen surface. The learned Doctor Locke, of Cincinnati, calculated the number of inches of rain that fell, and, as far as it could be ascertained, the extent of surface which was subjected to it, and his conclusion was, that the height of the water at Cincinnati did not account, after allowing for evaporation, &c. for all the water that fell. In other words, that with the same fall of rain, other circumstances concurring, the freshet might have been some feet higher.

Now, these causes might have been combined at another time to pour the waters of the tributary streams into the main trunk more nearly together, and thus produce a height of water equal to that described by an Indian Chief (to which he said he was an eye-witness,) to General Wilkinson, at Cincinnati, in the fall of 1792; and which, if true, must have been several feet, (eight or ten,) at least, higher than that of 1832. The occurrence of such a flood, when the banks of the Ohio were occupied by numerous Indian towns and villages, nearly all of which must have been swept off, was well calculated to determine them to a removal, not only from actual suffering, but from the suggestions of superstition; an occurrence so unusual being construed into a warning from heaven, to seek a residence upon the smaller streams. Before the remembrance of these events had been obliterated by time, the abandoned regions would become an unusual resort for game, and a common hunting