

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XII:1

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

Number 18.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, January 12, 1841.

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 1st 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.

M. 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 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, begs leave to inform the Inhabitants of Miramichi and its vicinities, 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 8 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.

Land for Sale

On the Renous River, about one and a half miles from the mouth: 150 Acres good LAND, more or less—30 or 40 Acres of which are cleared, with a good Dwelling House, and improvements thereon.

Payment to be made as follows:—one third on the 1st June, 1841, one do. on the 1st June, 1842, and one do. on the 1st June, 1843,—in cash or in good merchantable Lumber. Apply to the Subscriber, on the Premises.

JOHN O'KEEFE.

November 20, 1840.

RUM, GIN, &c.

The Subscriber has received ex Schooner Dartford, Woodie, master, from Halifax—

Panchoas Demerara RUM,
Hogsheds Hollands GIN,
TEAS, SUGAR, &c. &c.

Which he will sell low for Cash.

—Also, for Sale—

A Good WORKING HORSE.
GEO. TAYLOR, JUN.
Chatham, December 14, 1840.

THE GLEANER.

THE LAST SIEGE OF BAGDAD. 1628.

Blackwood's Magazine for December gives us a Chapter of Turkish History, a vigorous and rapid sketch of the declining fortunes and disasters of the renowned City of Bagdad from the dismemberment of the Arabian empire, and the restriction of the boundaries of the once mighty Caliphate to a narrow district surrounding the Capital, A. D. 938, to its final capture by the Turkish Sultan, Mourad-Ghazi, A. D. 1630.

The history is most eventful. Its territories were ravaged by the Pagan hordes of Jenghis-Khan in 1225, and the City itself stormed and taken in 1258 by his ferocious grandson Hulaku, who put to death the last Caliph, and abandoned the inhabitants and their wealth for forty days to the ferocity, lust and rapine of his Mogul savages. Its palaces, merchant-princes, libraries, gardens, &c. were whelmed in one common ruin, and the current of the Tigris was crimsoned by the blood of 800,000 victims. The ancient Bagdad perished in one vast conflagration.

A new city soon arose on its ruins, as a provincial town of the Mogul empire of Persia; but this empire in turn was overthrown by Timur the Tartar, who in 1401 besieged and took Bagdad, after a gallant and protracted defence, which was punished by an adult of the savage conqueror, commanding that each soldier of his army should bring in the head of an enemy: no rank, age, or sex was exempted from the general carnage, and 120,000 heads piled in pyramids exhibited a ghastly memorial of the ferocity of the scourge of Asia and the consequence of resisting his invincible arms. Again was Bagdad left in ruins, while its ruthless destroyer moved on to encounter the Ottoman Sultan Bajazet.

During the last century, Bagdad was frequently lost and won by the Turkman princes of different races, who desolated the East by their endless wars for the fragments of the Tartar monarchy, who at the commencement of the sixteenth Century were all involved in one common ruin by the victories of Shah Ismail, the founder of the Soffi dynasty, who established himself in the possession of what was left of Bagdad with most of the provinces which constitute modern Persia.

The Persian monarchy was thus established, favored by a religious controversy between the Sunni or orthodox Mussulman sect, and the Sheahs or followers of Ali, who predominate East of the Euphrates but are held in abhorrence by the Turks. The overthrow of the heretic Mamluke Sultan of Egypt and Syria in 1517 by the Turkish Sultan Selim I. brought down the whole weight of the thus extended Ottoman Empire upon Persia; and in 1534 Soliman, son and heir of Selim, taking advantage of the consternation caused by the fall of Tabreez, advanced upon Bagdad and entered it without opposition—the Persian governor and garrison flying at his approach. Soliman proclaimed himself successor to the Caliphate as the legitimate heir of the orthodox Caliphs, erected it into a pachalick, and it remained un molested until the treaty of 1555, when it was surrendered in sovereignty to the Sublime Porte.

The commencement of the next century exhibited a change in the face of affairs. The Ottoman Empire, under a succession of feeble Sultans, was fast verging to decay; while Persia, under the rule of Shah Abbas I. justly surnamed the great, was rapidly rising in the scale of nations. In 1605, the Shah won a great victory over the Turks under Cicala, and recovered most of the northwestern provinces lost by his predecessors; but it was not until 1623 that, in consequence of an insurrection in the garrison, during which the governor was killed, Bagdad was tendered by the insurgent chief to Shah Abbas, who eagerly clutched it, though in violation of a peace which had then subsisted seven years. But when the Persians advanced to take it, the double traitor Bekir, who held it by virtue of the insurrection, and had vainly attempted first to procure from the Porte a confirmation of his usurped power, now repelled them from the walls, and declared his determination to hold the city as the faithful vassal of the Sultan! The Shah, nothing daunted, invested it with his troops; and when repulsed from his walls by reason of his want of skill and artillery, he turned the siege into a blockade. The Turkish commanders were disabled from advancing to its relief, by the revolt of Abaza; and after four months' blockade the gates were opened by Mohammed, son of Bekir, who betrayed both his father and his country, on the promise of being appointed sirdar or Persian Governor of Bagdad. Bekir himself and all the Sunnis or orthodox Mussulmans were

first subjected to inhuman tortures to compel the disclosure of their concealed treasures, and afterward executed.

The fall of Bagdad excited equal consternation and rage at Constantinople; but it was not till 1625—two Sultans having in the meantime been elevated and deposed, and an accommodation with the rebel Abaza at length effected—that the Turks advanced under the Grand Vizier Hafez to form the siege of Bagdad. Want of artillery made the siege a slow and laborious one; at the end of six months little progress had been made in it, when in 1626 Shah Abbas for the last time took the field for its relief. A series of bloody but indecisive conflicts took place under the walls; each army maintained its ground, till at length the failure of his provisions and ammunition, and the mutiny of the soldiers, who attributed their ill success to the incapacity of their commanders, rendered the retreat of the Grand Vizier inevitable. The army, after a disastrous march reached Aleppo, where the troops broke out into a furious mutiny, in which several officers perished; and Hafez was degraded from his post, and only saved from death by the influence of his sister, the favorite wife of the Sultan. From this point we quote the narrative of the writer in Blackwood:

“But the spell of Persian success was broken, in the following year, by the death of Shah Abbas the Great, whose grandson and successor Shah Soffi, weak and cruel by nature, and further enervated by his education within the walls of the harem, speedily gave evidence of his unfitness worthily to wield the sceptre which he had inherited. The three following campaigns witnessed the reconquest, by the Turks, of nearly all the territories which had been wrested from them by Abbas, with the exception of the fortress of Eriwan and Bagdad; and in 1630 the latter city was again invested by the grand Ottoman army under the Vizir Khosroo, (the conqueror of Abaza,) flushed with the recent successful invasion of Persia and sack of Hamadan, and amply provided with all the munitions of war. But a current tradition, which declared that Bagdad could never be taken by any army not commanded by a monarch in person, was destined to be again verified; though the fortifications were breached and ruined by the fire of the Ottomans, the gallantry of the defenders repulsed all their efforts to carry the shattered walls by storm or escalade; and after a final assault (Nov. 9.) in which four pachas were slain in the fruitless attempt to plant their horsestails on the rampart, Khosroo was compelled by the approach of winter to abandon the enterprise, and retreat upon Moosul, where he vented his rage and disappointment in the decapitation of all his Persian prisoners, and of numerous officers whom he accused of misconduct during the siege.

But if Bagdad was fated, in accordance with the popular belief, to fall only in the presence of a sovereign, the final catastrophe was not long deferred. Until the accession of Selim II. it had been held as a fundamental rule of the empire, that the Sultan was bound, at least once in every three years, to assume in person the command of his armies, and wage war against the enemies of the true faith whether Christians of schismatic Moslems; but from that time this martial ordinance had been suffered to fall into disuse, and in only two instances since the great Soliman, had his successors been seen at the head of their troops. But Mourad IV. who had been removed at an early age from the torpidity of the harem to the throne, and whose naturally fierce and martial temperament had already made itself felt in the coercion of the refractory janissaries, and the destruction of all the turbulent spirits whose frequent outbreaks had disturbed the first years of his reign, was little disposed to pass his life in the same inglorious ease as his predecessors, and declared his intention of marching sword in hand to expel the Sheahs from the fortresses which they still held within the ancient limits of the empire. His first essay in arms was made in the campaign of 1635, when Eriwan was surrendered, or rather betrayed, by the Persian Governor, Emir Gounah Khan; but his rigorous investigation of the conduct of the provincial governors made his presence not less dreaded in his own dominions than in the country of the enemy, and death was the punishment which he awarded to the most venial as well as the gravest dereliction of duty. But while his cruelties spread terror along the line of his march, he shrank not from sharing the privations of the meanest soldier in his army: ‘for several months,’ says Rycant, ‘he made use of no other pillow for his head than his saddle, no other blanket or quilt than the covering or foot-cloth of his horse;’ and the janissaries saw with admiration and respect the martial virtues of their sovereign. The recovery of Bagdad was postponed for three years; but at the

commencement of 1638 an imperial expedition was again announced. A Persian ambassador, who was accredited to Constantinople as the bearer of magnificent presents and propositions of peace, was not only refused an audience, but detained in custody in order to accompany the march of the Ottomans, and become by compulsion the witness of their triumph; and Mourad, summoning his ministers to a solemn divan at the Seraglio, imparted to them his determination to efface the last vestige of the disasters which had marked the commencement of his reign, by re-annexing to his away the ancient seat of the caliphate.

On the 9th of March, 1638, the imperial standard of seven horsestails was accordingly pitched in front of the pavilion of the Sultan on the heights of Scutari, where the provincial troops of Europe and Asia were already encamped under the orders of the valis or Viceroys of Roumili and Anadoli; but an interval of a week elapsed before Mourad himself quitted Constantinople—a delay which was speedily explained to the inhabitants of the capital by the tidings of a third fratricide; the prince Kasim, whose talents and accomplishments had awakened the dark jealousy of his brother, had been bowstrung in the seraglio by his order and in his presence; and Ibrahim, the youngest son of Sultan Ahmed I. remained the only surviving male, except the remaining monarch, of the line of Othman. The imbecile and sensual temperament of this prince, (who afterwards mounted the throne,) probably saved him from sharing the fate of his murdered brothers; but he was confined to the custody of a trusty mute, who received strict orders to dispatch him if any popular commotion should render his existence dangerous; and, after providing by those barbarous precautions for the stability of his power during his absence, the Sultan crossed the Bosphorus at the head of the Janissaries, accompanied by the mufti and great officers of the law, whose presence was commanded (as it had been in the campaign of Eriwan) in order to impart an additional character of sanctity to the holy war against the Sheah heretics of Persia. Mourad was now in the twenty sixth year of his age; and the promise of his youth had been matured (if we may credit the concurrent testimony of every contemporary writer) into a frame in which gigantic strength was combined with bodily agility in a degree not equaled by the most robust soldier of his army. Though scarcely above the middle stature, his muscular force was such that he could raise a bulky man by the girdle, and hold him for some time suspended at arm's length in the air. On the march upon Eriwan, he had cut asunder with a single stroke of his scimitar a wild goat which darted from the cliffs before his horse; and the flight of his arrow in a trial of skill, as marked by pillars in the Ok-mesiden of Constantinople, remained unrivalled in extent by the most expert archers in the empire till the days of Sultan Mahmoud II. His features, as described by an Italian traveller, were regular and handsome, and his aquiline nose and waving black beard gave dignity to his presence; but the expression of his brilliant dark eyes was marred by an habitual contraction of the brows, which covered his forehead with deep wrinkles, and imparted to his countenance an air of settled ferocity well according with his character. Such was Sultan Mourad Ghazi, as he entered the camp of Scutari in all the pomp and pride of martial array, himself and his charger armed at all points in complete steel, and the long ends of the scarlet turban which he wore above his headpiece floating over his shoulders in the fashion which he had adopted from his fallen favorite, in whose eyes the warlike bearing of their sovereign atoned both for the savage cruelty he had so often displayed, and for the recent tragical fate of their brother, received with loud acclamations a prince who, after a succession of effeminate rulers, seemed resolved to revive in his own person the severe and hardy manners of the early Sultans, who lived in the field at the head of their armies, and shared equally with their soldiers both the perils and glories of war.

The route from Scutari to Bagdad had been divided by a proclamation, immediately before the advance of the army, into a hundred and ten stages or day's marches, with a fixed number of halts; and such was the awe which the terrible severity of Mourad, and the condign punishment which instantly followed the smallest infraction of his orders, had inspired the troops, who, a few years previously, had threatened his throne and life, that neither mutiny nor murmurs were heard as the vast host pressed steadily onward to the frontier where the work of death was appointed to commence. But the presence of Mourad through this march, (the last personal visit paid by any of the Ottoman monarchs to the interior Asiatic provinces of their empire,) was as the progress of the