

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XIII.

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

Number 19.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, January 18, 1842.

THE GLEANER.

From the Houston Telegraph.
THE PRAIRIES OF TEXAS.
ORIGIN OF PRAIRIES.

The Prairies of Texas form a peculiar feature of its surface, and we often hear the enquiry made, especially by emigrants from the Atlantic states, "why are not these vast plains covered with forest trees, instead of grass?" Various are the causes assigned for the origin of the prairies. Some believe they were cleared of ancient forests by the unknown race of men who built the mounds and fortifications which are found scattered from the rocky mountains to the Atlantic. But this opinion is refuted by the fact, that most of these mounds and fortifications are found embosomed in deep forests, and trees that have buffeted the storms of many centuries are often found growing upon their summits.

Others believe the peculiar quality of the soil of the prairies is not adapted to the growth of trees, and is only capable of supporting a growth of grass or the smaller species of grass. But this opinion is contradicted by the fact, that insulated trees are often found growing luxuriantly in the very midst of a prairie, and at a distance of several miles from the forests. Others, and among them Gen. Pike, who travelled almost the whole section of country where prairies abound, advance the opinion that they are caused by the dryness of the soil and the avidity of the climate. Gen. Pike asserts that the forests found near the streams are supported by the moisture diffused from the streams through the interstices of the soil, and the humidity of the air bordering the streams. But as the hills which are often found extending into prairies are generally covered with trees, we think this opinion cannot be correct. There must be some other and more general cause. When we examine the country through which the prairies extend, we find, every where, evidence that it has been, in a comparatively recent period, the bed of a sea or immenso lake. The ledges of rock are filled with marine shells; the loose stones, wherever they are found, are round and smooth as if they had been subject to the action of marine currents, and the soil where no stones are found, is disposed in layers or beds, as if they were deposited, like sediment, from a large body of muddy water.

Often, in digging wells, we pass through a bed of black vegetable mould, then a bed of clay, then another of sand, then a bed of sand again, and not unfrequently of the depth of sixty or seventy feet we find the bones of animals imbedded in the earth. These facts indicate the soil of the prairies has been formed from the sediment of water. Mr. Maclure and other geologists imagine that an immenso lake or sea in ancient times extended from the Alleghany to the Rocky Mountains, embracing an area whose diameter from east to west was about 1500 miles, and from north to south about 1200 miles. And that the waters of this lake have been gradually discharged by the Mississippi, the Hudson and St. Lawrence; the only rivers that have broken through the mountains that once surrounded this immenso basin of water. Now, if this opinion is correct, the bed of this immenso lake, as it gradually emerged from the water, would exhibit the same changes in its vegetable productions that the delta of the Mississippi exhibits. First, it would be covered with a dense growth of reeds and coarse weeds, as it became more elevated and dry, grass would appear along the banks of the streams, and gradually supplanting the grass overshadow the soil with forests.

This vegetable was, if we may so term it, between the forests and the grass, is still going on, and it is a common remark among the emigrants, that the forests invariably encroach upon the prairies, where they are so situated as to be unexposed to the ravages of the fires that often devastate the large prairies. If these prairies were uninhabited and left undisturbed by man, doubtless in the course of a few centuries they would be supplanted by rocks. In the Atlantic States, where the primitive and older secondary rocks abound, it is worthy of remark that prairies are unknown. Hence it is but reasonable to infer, that these prairies indicate in some degree, the age of the surface of the country.

We shall be happy if these brief remarks shall excite a spirit of investigation among our citizens, as by this means facts may be elicited that may prove valuable to the naturalist.

OUR ERRORS are too frequently the source of our own chagrin; and we are generally unfortunate because we know not how to appreciate good and evil.

LIST

Of Contributors to the BROCK MONUMENT of the Officers and Privates, belonging to the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Militia.

Lieut. Col.	Alexander Fraser	1 19 7 1/2
Major	James McDonald	1 0 0
	Roderick McLeod	1 0 0 3 19 7 1/2
Captain	William Hamilton	0 13 4
Lieutenant	David Johnstone	0 6 6 11 10 10
Captain	Dudley Perley	0 13 4
Lieutenant	Asa Perley	0 7 6
Ensign	Peter Grey	0 2 2
Sergeant	Alexander Fenton	0 2 0
	John Whitehead	0 2 0
	Finlay McDermot	0 2 0
Private	David Saddler	0 1 0
	Shepherd J. Frost	0 7 6
	John Petrie	0 2 0
	William Manderson	0 1 0
	William Davidson	0 1 0
	John England	0 1 0
	Howard D. Frost	0 1 0
	Edward Lobban	0 1 0
	Sherwood Peake	0 1 0
	John Marquess	0 1 0
	David Steele	0 1 0
	Patrick Taylor	0 1 0 2 8 4
Captain	Alexander Goodfellow	0 13 4
Lieutenant	Andrew Hay	0 7 6
Ensign	Alexander Russell	0 6 0
Private	Robert Falconer	0 1 9
	David Goodfellow	0 1 9
	John Milne	0 1 0
	Adam Gordon	0 1 0
	Andrew Hay, Senr.	0 1 0
	William Hay	0 1 0
	John Hay	0 1 0
	James Hay, jun.	0 1 0
	George Stewart	0 1 0
	James Stewart	0 1 0
	Robert Stewart	0 1 0
	James Russell, jun.	0 1 0
	John Russell	0 1 0
	Francis Russell	0 1 0
	Henry Simpson	0 1 0
	James Corry	0 1 0
	William Clarke	0 1 0
	John Normond	0 1 0
	Andrew O'Neil	0 1 0
	Michael Fitzpatrick	0 1 0
	William McAllister	0 1 0
	Robert Simpson	0 1 0 2 11 4
Captain	William Gray	0 13 4 1/2
Lieutenant	Alexander Cameron	0 7 6
Ensign	James Cameron	0 6 1/2
	Peter McDougald	0 6 1/2
	James Gourle	0 6 0 1 18 1 1/2
Captain	Martin Cranney	0 13 4
Lieutenant	James Caie	0 7 6 1 0 10
Captain	Louis Robicheau	0 13 0
Lieutenant	Peter Morrison	0 7 6
Ensign	John McLeod	0 6 0
Sergeant	Frederick Robicheau	0 1 0
Private	Thomas LeMarquand	0 2 6
	Peter Allain	0 1 0
	Germam Savoy	0 1 0
	Michael Savoy	0 1 0
	John B. Martin	0 1 0
	Urban Martin	0 1 0
	Frederick Savoy	0 1 0
	Amatur Savoy	0 1 0
	Louis Bresim	0 0 6
	Matthew Bresim	0 0 6
	Theotime Savoy	0 1 0
	Bruno Porier	0 1 0
	Victori Savoy	0 1 0
	Gregoir Savoy	0 0 6
	Samuel Savoy	0 0 6
	Joseph Tallip	0 1 0
	Oliver Robicheaux	0 1 0
	Michael Allain	0 1 0
	Mitchell Thibodeau	0 1 0
	Tellison Thibodeau	0 1 0
	Thomas White	0 1 0
	William Morrison	0 1 0
	Walter Bell	0 1 0 2 10 0
Captain	J. M. Johnson	1 0 0
Lieutenant	Daniel Keith	0 7 6
	James Johnson	0 7 6
	James Millar	0 7 6
Private	John Formly	0 1 0
	Stephen Fall	0 1 0
	Benjamin Miller	0 1 0
	Robert Nicholson	0 1 0
	Alexander Cormick	0 1 0
	William Masson	0 1 0
	William Lobban	0 1 0
	Daniel Crimmens	0 1 0
	Robert Bain	0 2 0
	John Hes, jun.	0 1 0
	Neil McQuarry	0 1 0
	Asa Horton	0 1 0 2 14 6
Captain	Alex. Key (Surgeon)	1 8 6
Lieutenant	George Latson	0 7 6
Sergeant	John M. Johnson, jun.	0 5 0
	James F. Blanchard	0 2 0
	Solomon Samuels	0 2 0
Private	George S. Parker	0 1 0

	Archibald Haddow	0 1 0
	Robert McEwan, jun.	0 1 0
	Thomas Ford	0 1 0
	William L. Smith	0 1 0
	Alexander Fraser	0 1 0
	George P. McKay	0 1 0
	James Combie	0 1 0
	William Samuel	0 1 0
	Alex. James Henderson	0 1 0
	James Patterson, jun.	0 1 0
	Henry McKay	0 1 0
	Charles J. Cooke	0 1 0
	George Taylor, jun.	0 1 0
	John Murray	0 1 0
	James Thomson	0 1 0
	James Williams	0 1 0
	Albro Letson	0 1 0
	Henry Smith	0 1 0
	Andrew Irving, jun.	0 1 0
	Caleb McCulley, jun.	0 1 0
	Joseph Hea	0 1 0
	William Thomson	0 1 0
	Alexander Loudon	0 1 0
	J. Birch Wiswell	0 1 0
	Joseph Dutton	0 1 0
	Thomas McKee	0 1 0
	Albert Yates	0 1 0
	Henry Brown	0 1 0
	James Parker	0 1 0
	Charles J. Wolhaupter	0 1 0
	James Wolhaupter	0 1 0
	Robert Clarke	0 1 0
	Joseph Samuel, jun.	0 1 0
	James Dawson	0 1 0 4 0 0
Captain	Alexander McBeath	0 13 6
Lieutenant	Donald McNaughton	0 7 0
Ensign	Patrick Brophy	0 6 1
Sergeant	James Mahon	0 1 9
Private	William Dickens	0 1 0
	Patrick McDonald	0 1 0
	Edward Quinn	0 1 0
	Terence Cook	0 1 0
	Matthew Poole	0 1 0
	Donald McBeath	0 1 0
	Sidney Fale	0 1 0
	Thomas Mattock	0 1 0
	Thomas Kentville	0 1 0
	James Gore	0 1 0
	Thomas Conroy	0 1 0
	Roger Degan	0 1 0
	Samuel Alders	0 1 0
	Lawrence Kennedy	0 1 0
	John Edge	0 1 0
	James Porteous	0 1 0
	George Johnston	0 1 0
	John Campbell	0 1 0
	Robert Dixon	0 1 0
	Joseph Ramsbottom	0 1 0
	Martin Kennedy	0 1 0
	Archibald Campbell	0 1 0 2 10 10
	Ranald McDonald	0 13 6
Captain	Alexander Davidson	0 7 6
Lieutenant	John Sinclair	0 7 6
	Errom Cameron	0 1 6
	Enoch Godfrey	0 1 9
Sergeant	Charles Stewart	0 2 0
Private	Andrew McInnes	0 1 0
	Michael Fouhy	0 1 0
	Martin Parker	0 1 0
	Alexander Gilles	0 1 0
	Robert Brimmer	0 1 0
	William Sweezie	0 1 0
	Richard Godfrey	0 0 9
	Robert Godfrey	0 0 9
	Alexander McDonald	0 1 0
	Hugh McDonald	0 1 0
	Simon McDonald	0 1 0
	Alexander McDonald	0 1 0
	John McDonald	0 1 0
	Alexander McDougald	0 1 0
	Alexander Campell	0 1 0
	Archibald Cameron	0 1 0
	Donald Cameron	0 1 0
	John Cameron	0 1 0
	Donald McColl	0 1 0
	Archibald Cameron	0 1 0
	Murdoch Cameron	0 1 0
	Hector McDonald	0 1 0
	Archibald Cameron	0 1 0
	Donald Ross	0 1 0
	Ranald McDonald	0 1 3
	William McDonald	0 1 0
	Roderick McDonald	0 1 0
	Allan Cameron	0 1 0
	Robert Milton	0 1 0
	Alexander Ransberry	0 1 0
	John McBeath	0 1 0
	Robert Weeds	0 1 0
	Malcolm McNaughton	0 1 0
	Patrick Smith	0 1 0
	Robert McLean	0 1 0
	John McKay	0 1 0
	Erran McRae	0 1 0
	Donald McRae	0 1 0
	William Munroe	0 1 0
	Robert Sinclair	0 1 0
	Angus Sinclair	0 1 0
	Simon A. McDonald	0 1 0
	William McKinnon	0 1 0
	Hugh McKinnon	0 1 0
	John McRae	0 1 0