

whole flight of shells were sent in its direction. Some burst into the street, putting the populace to flight on every side; and, while the women were on the point of rushing down the stair, a crash was heard above, and an enormous shell burst through the roof, carrying down shattered rafters, stones, and a cloud of dust. The betteries had found our range, and a succession of shells burst above our heads, or tore their way downwards. All was now confusion and shrieking. At length one fell on the centre of the escalier, rolled down a few steps, and bursting, tore up the whole stair, leaving only a deep gulf between us and the portal. The women fled back through the apartment. I now regarded all as lost; and, expecting the roof to come down every moment on my head, and hearing nothing about me but the bursting and hissing of these horrible instruments of havoc, I hurried through the chambers, in the hope of finding some casement from which I might reach the ground. They were all lofty and difficult of access, but I at length climbed up to one, from which, though twenty or thirty feet from the path below, I determined to take the plunge. I was about to leap, when, to my infinite surprise, I heard my name pronounced. I stopped. I heard the words—*Adieu, pour toujours.* All was dark within the room, but I returned to discover the speaker. It was a female on her knees near the casement, and evidently preparing to die in prayer. I took her hand, and led her passively towards the window; she wore the dress of a nun, and her veil was on her face. As she seemed fainting, I gently removed it to give her air. A sheet of flame suddenly threw a broad light across the garden, and in that face I saw—Clotilde! She gave a feeble cry, and fell into my arms.

From Hamilton's Men and Manners in America.
CHARACTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

It has been the fashion with travellers to talk of the scenery of the Mississippi as wanting in grandeur and beauty. Most certainly it is neither. But there is no scenery on earth more striking. The dreary and pestilential solitudes, unbroken, save by the foot of the Indian; the absence of all living objects, save the huge alligators which float past apparently asleep, and an occasional vulture, attracted by its impure prey on the surface of the waters; the trees, with a long and hideous drapery of moss, fluttering in the wind; and the vast river, rolling on the vast volume of its dark and turbid waters through the wilderness, form the features of one of the most dismal and impressive landscapes on which the eye of man ever rested. If any one thinks proper to believe that such objects are not in themselves efficient, I beg to say that I differ with him in point of taste. Rocks and mountains are fine objects undoubtedly, but they could add nothing to the sublimity of the Mississippi. Pelion might pile on Ossa, Alps on Andes, and still to the eye the heart and perceptions of the spectator, the Mississippi would be alone. It can brook no rival, and it finds none. No river in the world contains so large a portion of the world's surface. It is the traveller of the earth five thousand miles, more than two thirds the diameter of the globe. The imagination asks whence come its waters, and whither tend they? They approach from the distant regions of a vast continent, where the foot of civilized man has never been planted. They flow into an ocean vast, the whole body of which acknowledges their influence. Though what varieties of climate have they passed? On what scenes of grandeur and sublime magnificence have they opened, if penetrated

hoary forests, still the bison's screen, where stalked the mammoth to his scaggy lair. The rough paths and alleys, roofed with sombre green, thousands of years before the silent air pierced by whizzing shafts of hunters' spears? When the traveller asks and answers these questions, and a thousand others, it will come to consider how far the scenery of Mississippi would be improved by rocks and mountains. He may then be led to doubt whether any great result can be produced by a combination of objects of discordant character, ever grand in themselves. The imagination perhaps susceptible but of a single powerful impression at a time. Sublimity is only connected with unity of objects. Beauty is produced by the happy adaptation of multitude of harmonious details; but the great sublimity of effect can proceed but from one glorious and paramount object, which gives its own character on everything around it. The prevailing character of the Mississippi is that of a solemn gloom. I have trodden the peaks of Alp and Apennine, yet never felt a sadder thing is Nature, until I was borne down waters through regions desolate and unlit. Day after day, and night after night, we continued driving right downward south, our vessel, like some huge demon, ying the eternal forest with the smoke of its trails. How looked the hoary river-god, not; nor what thought the alligators awakened from their slumber by a vision bounding. But the effect on my spirits such as I have never experienced before. Conversations become odious, and my time in a sort of dreamy contemplation. At night I ascended to the highest deck, for hours gazing listlessly on the sky, rest, and the waters, amid silence only by the clanging of the engine. All this very pleasant; yet, till I had reached

New Orleans, I could scarcely have smiled at the best joke in the world, and as for raising a laugh—it would have been quite as easy to quadrature a circle.

THE MOTHERLESS.

The following is one of the most touchingly beautiful things we have ever read. The whole scene is one of exquisite tenderness, and its beauty lies in its entire truthfulness. You're weary, precious ones! your eyes Are wandering far and wide; Think ye of her, who knew so well of you, Your tender thoughts to guide! Who could to Wisdom's sacred lore Your fixed attention claim! Ah! never from your hearts erase That blessed mother's name! 'Tis time to say your evening hymn, My youngest infant dove! Come, press thy velvet cheek to mine, And learn thy lay of love, My sheltering arms can clasp you all, My poor deserted throng! Cling, as you used to cling to her, Who sings the angel's song, Begin, sweet birds! the accustomed strain, Come, warble lone and clear; Alas! alas! you're weeping all— You're sobbing in my ear. Good night!—go say the prayer she taught Beside your little bed— The lips that used to bless you there, Are silent with the dead!

A father's hand your course may guide

Amid the thorns of life;

His care protect these shrinking plants,

That dread the storms of strife;

But who upon your infant hearts

Shall like a mother write?

Who touch the strings that rule the soul?

Dear, smitten flock?—good night!

WAS IT PROVIDENCE?

BY MISS SEDGWICK.

Take, for example, a young girl, bred delicately in town, shut up in a nursery in her childhood—in a boarding-school through her youth, never accustomed either to air or exercise, two things that the law of God makes essential to health. She marries; her strength is inadequate to the demands upon it. Her beauty fades early. She languishes through her hard offices of giving birth to children.

“What a strange Providence, that a mother should be taken, in the midst of life from her children!”—Was it Providence?—No! Providence has assigned her three score years and ten; a term long enough to rear her children, and to see her children's children; but she did not obey the laws on which life depends, and of course she lost it.

A father, too, is cut off in the midst of his days. He is a useful and distinguished citizen, and eminent in his profession. A general buzz rises, on every side, of “What a striking Providence!” This man has been in the habit of studying half the night, of passing his days in his office and the courts, of eating luxurious dinners, and drinking various wines. He has every day violated the laws on which health depends. Did Providence cut him off? The evil rarely ends here. The diseases of the father are often transmitted; and a feeble mother rarely leaves behind her vigorous children.

It has been customary in some of our cities, for young ladies to walk in thin shoes and delicate stockings in mid winter. A healthy, blooming young girl, thus dressed in violation of Heaven's laws, pays the penalty; a checked circulation, cold, fever, and death. “What a sad Providence,” exclaim her friends? Was it Providence, or her own folly?

A beautiful young bride goes, at night after night, to parties made in honor of her marriage. She has a slightly sore throat, perhaps, and the weather is inclement; but she must wear her neck and arms bare, for who ever saw a bride in a close evening dress? She is consequently seized with an inflammation of the lungs, and the grave receives her before her bridal days are over. “What a Providence!” exclaims the world; “cut off in the midst of happiness and hope!” Alas! did she not cut the thread of life herself?

A girl in the country exposed to our changeable climate, gets a new bonnet instead of getting a flannel garment. A rheumatism is the consequence. Should the girl sit down tranquilly with the idea that Providence had sent the rheumatism upon her, or should she charge it on her vanity, and avoid the folly in future?

Look, my young friends, at the mass of diseases that are incurred by intemperance in eating or in drinking, or in business; also being caused often by neglect of exercise, cleanliness, pure air, by indolent dressing, tight lacing, &c., and all is quietly imputed to Providence! Is there not impiety as well as ignorance in this? Were the physical laws strictly observed from generation to generation, there would be an end to the frightful diseases that cut life short, and of the long list of maladies that make life a torment or a trial. It is the opinion of those who best understand the physical system, that this wonderful machine, the body, this goodly temple, would gradually decay, and men would die as if falling asleep.

From the St. John New-Brunswick.
MR. PERLEY'S LECTURE ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Last Monday evening, M. H. Perley, Esq., delivered a very interesting Lecture, descriptive of the neighbouring Colony of Prince Edward Island, before a large and highly respectable audience, at a Mechanics' Institute. The lecturer commenced by observing, that very little was known in this Province of the real character and capabilities of this fine island, although it was our “next door neighbour,” and that he shared in the general ignorance until two years since, which he had occasion to visit it, and the information then obtained he proposed detailing to the audience.

This island was stated to be 140 miles in length, on a line drawn through its centre, from North Cape to East point, and varying in breadth from 3 to 24 miles. It is separated from New Brunswick by the Straits of Northumberland, which at one place, between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine, were only nine miles across. Before entering upon a description of the island, the lecturer gave a brief review of its early history. He stated that shortly after the discovery of America by Columbus in 1492, Henry VII, who then filled the throne of England, determined on sending out an expedition to discover and take possession of unknown Countries. That monarch issued a commission for the purpose to Sebastian Cabot, a Venetian adventurer, settled at Bristol who sailed from that port in May 1497, and steering due West, as near as the winds would permit, soon fell in with land, which the sailors named Newfoundland. Continuing his westerly course, Cabot, on St. John's Day (24th June) 1497, discovered an island, which in honor of the day, he named St. John's Island. He landed on this island, and brought off three of the natives, who accompanied him to England, where they died.—A variety of circumstances occurred to prevent the English availing themselves of the discoveries of Cabot, but the French were not so backward. In 1504, the fisheries on the Grand Bank and within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, were common and familiar not only to the Basques, but also to the Bretons and Normans. In 1506, Jean Denys of Honfleur, published a Chart of Newfoundland and St. John's Island, and in 1508, a native of one of those islands was exhibited in Paris.

Although the Gulf of St. Lawrence was thus early frequented by French fishermen, they made no permanent settlement until 1550, when one was formed at Percé, on the Gaspe side of Bay Chaleur. This was followed by another settlement at Caraquet, on the New Brunswick side of the Bay. Beside the valuable fur-trade and fisheries, the capture of the seal, the walrus and the whale, then abundant on those shores, was found highly lucrative, and in the year 1600 a Fishing Company was formed in Paris for carrying on these profitable branches of business. The king of France was at its head; its principal establishment was on the barren and desolate island of Miscou, the extreme North Eastern point of New Brunswick, and it was then called the Royal Company of Miscou. In 1603, this Company leased the Magdalen Islands to the Sieur Donblent and his associates for a fishing station; and in 1604, they leased to the same parties the island of St. John's, for settlement and cultivation. Not much progress appeared to have been made in the settlement of this island until after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. At the taking of the fortress Louisbourg in 1758, it was one of the articles of capitulation, that the French in St. John's Island should lay down their arms. Lieutenant Colonel Rollo was sent with a body of troops, and took possession of the island; there was then nearly 10,000 French inhabitants upon it, most of whom were subsequently driven off by the Treaty of Peace. In 1763, this Colony was given up to England, with all the other French possessions in North America. It was then surveyed, and divided into 64 townships of about 20,000 acres each, and these were divided, by a sort of lottery, among noblemen and gentlemen, and officers of the Army and Navy, who had claims upon Government. The whole island was thus in one day, upon certain terms of settlement, which have never been fulfilled, and the difficulty of obtaining land on reasonable terms, from the noble and wealthy proprietors, has induced a movement, commonly called the “Escheat Question,” which has caused considerable difficulty, and much retarded the advancement of the Colony.

The island was attached to the Government of Nova Scotia until 1770, when it was erected into a separate Government. At that time there were only 150 families on the island; but it soon received an accession of inhabitants. In 1772, John MacDonald, Chief of Glenaladale, for the more free enjoyment of his religion, and other reasons connected with Prince Charlie in 1745, determined on emigrating with the whole of his clan to Saint John's Island. The few French who were hiding themselves in the remoter parts of the island, were induced to remain by Glenaladale, and their descendants, with the descendants of other Acadians who were wandering about New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, now amount to five thousand persons, and they possess some flourishing settlements. The Earl of Selkirk, Sir James Montgomery, and other proprietors, also sent out settlers, and at the census of 1841, the population of the colony was found to be 47,000—of whom about 24,000 are either Scotch or the descendants of Scotchmen. The clan MacDonald alone is said to number 4,500 souls; and the manner of designating the numerous “John MacDonalds” belonging to the clan, as given by the lecturer, caused some amusement. Of the population, it was stated that 20,000 are Catholics, 15,000 are Presbyterians, and 5,000 belonging to the Church of England; the rest are Methodists and Baptists. The area of the island was stated to be 2,184 miles, or 1,365,000. Its general appearance was represented as highly picturesque, although destitute of those bold and romantic features which characterize many parts of the adjoining continent. The surface of the whole country consists of gentle undulations, never rising to hills, nor sinking to absolutely flat country. The soil is a bright reddish loam, quite free from stone, and the whole island appeared as if it were a bed of rich alluvium, elevated from the bed of the sea by some convulsion of nature or else left dry by the gradual recession of the waters of the Gulf. There are many beautiful bays and harbors, and the island is well watered in every part; wherever a brook is not found, the finest water can always be had, by sinking a well 15 or 18 feet below the surface.

The beech was stated to be the tree most generally found in the island, thousands of acres being covered with it almost exclusively. The beech, as well as birch, grows to a large size; spruce and fir are not so common as in New Brunswick. The soil is rather too sandy to form a good sward; consequently the pasture is very indifferent; stock is not numerous, and butter and cheese are dear in consequence. Oats, barley, and potatoes, all of very superior quality, are the staple products of the island, and of these considerable quantities are exported, from the want of a sufficient home market, at remunerating prices. The island farmer raises large crops, with comparative ease, but he receives little for them; he has abundance of all the necessities of life, but not being able to dispose of his surplus to advantage, he cannot grow rich.

The lecturer confined his local description of the island to its western division, Prince County, and on the large map, pointed out its principal features. Bedeque Bay, Richmond Bay, with Hennox Island, on which the Indians reside, Prince Town and Casempeque, were particularly described, and the valuable herring fishery at the latter place, had especial notice. The northern part of the island, round to Egmont Bay, was also described, and the fertile settlements of St. Eleanor's, Bedeque, and Tryon were mentioned and pointed out.

The lecturer concluded by stating, that he should continue the Lecture next Monday evening, and describe the other parts of the island included in Queen's and King's counties, particularly describing Charlotte Town, the Seat of Government, and other places of note, giving a variety of information relative to the colony generally.

The above is a mere outline of the Lecture, which, as usual, Mr Perley delivered extempore. We were much gratified with the useful and interesting information which it contained, and look forward with pleasure to a second on the same subject.

Last Monday evening, M. H. Perley, Esq. delivered his second lecture upon Prince Edward Island, at the Mechanics' Institute, before a very large and fashionable audience. The lecturer resumed his subject at St. Eleanor's, from whence he said, he should proceed to describe the Counties of Queen's and King's. There were two routes by which Charlotte Town could be reached, the one along the south shore of the island, by Bedeque, Crapaud, and Tryon, through a well settled and highly cultivated country, around many beautiful bays and harbours, frequently with full view of the sea, and the coast of Nova Scotia in the distance—the other route lay through the centre of the island, in great part in a wilderness state. On this latter road, the spreading beeches (fagus sylvatica), for which the island was celebrated could be seen to great advantage. The approaches to Charlotte Town by this route, were described as very beautiful, the road passing between hedge-rows of the red spruce, and other evergreens, with neat and well-cultivated fields, and many cottages and farm-houses snugly embosomed in groves of native trees, to protect and shelter them from the furious gales which at times sweep over the island. The country around Charlotte Town was stated to be sufficiently open to admit of a pack of fox hounds being regularly hunted, by the late Lieutenant Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy.

Charlotte Town, the capital of the island was pointed out on the Map, as situate on a point of land at the junction of the Hillsborough, the York and Elliot Rivers. The Hillsborough was described as being a broad river, 22 miles long, cutting Queen's County nearly in two, and almost dividing the island. The Harbour in front of Charlotte Town was stated to be large and safe, with plenty of water for large ships, the entrance from Hillsborough Bay being quite narrow however, and defended by Fort Amherst on the western side. The Town was said to contain between 3000 and 4000 inhabitants, and to stand on a piece of ground gradually sloping to the water, with a skirting of red cliffs toward the harbour, from 20 to 40 feet high; the streets crossing each other at right angles, with a large square in the centre of the town, in which a large building was now in course of erection, for the use of the Legislature and for public offices. The town lots contained half an acre, with a pasture lot of 12 acres attached to each, in the Royalty which surrounds the Town.

The houses in Charlotte Town were described as being generally built of wood, the older rather small and inferior looking buildings; the more modern being handsome and airy. The principal public buildings were said to be the Court House, the Academy, and the Gaol—there were also an Episcopal Church, a Scotch Church, a Methodist Chapel, and a Catholic Chapel. A detachment from one of the Regiments at Halifax, is usually stationed