

From Tait's Edinburgh Magazine. EDITH BRAITHWAITE—A TALE.

BY RICHARD TAYLOR, ESQ. No piteous melting tale is mine, Of lordlings' false and maidens' frail; Of sterner stuff my heroine— A humble maid of Ennerdale.

A pair sat in a latticed porch— A stately youth, a radiant girl: Young Edith, sempstress of the vale, And Jocelyn, Raby's dark-browed Earl.

A hunter or a fisher, he Oft sought a noontide shelter here, With speech of gentlest courtesy, And tribute from the hill or mere.

In beauty—grace, how near of kin This pair!—in soul, how far apart Was he that virgin heart would win, And triumph in his baneful art!

Sweet maid! here rose, with earliest dew, Her hymn, like bird-notes heard afar; The carol rang, the needle flew, White gleam'd her lamp, the Dale's last star.

Cot of her sires! thou wast a shrine By peace and labour sanctified; And can she leave their sheltering vine To glitter Raby's low-born bride?

Vain, perilous dream; fond, trustful girl! The eagle mates not with the dove; The bright gold of the sated earl O'erpays the fallen rustic's love.

He clasps her waist—he whispers bland, Bashful and blest, she drops her seam; Anon, and see her quivering stand, Like one smit by some hideous dream.

"And this thy suit!" she clasped the blade, Lay on the Ancient Book hard by; And calm, though proud, the maiden said, "This was a brave man's legacy:—

"A poor, brave man, who strove and died, And left his child no ill-wool hoard; Like him she gains her honest bread, And scorns thy love, thou abject lord!

"Pass on; pass like the girlish dream That idly, fondly would ally Truth, Manhood, Honor with thy name And generous thoughts with lineage high.

"Pass on; thy gold and gauds I spurn: Foul price of woman's direst shame— Her barter'd love—my bread I earn, And bear to heaven a stainless name."

She laid the blade "the Book" beside— The heir looms of the Puritan; And calm, though pale, her needle plied, Ere thus the heart-struck earl began—

"Thou peerless girl! forgive, forget— Take state and rank, so be thou mine; And ne'er sat Ruby's coronet Upon a nobler brow than thine."

"Ah, coronets weigh not 'gainst hearts, Those priceless gems, the pure and strong; Nor would I pledge the matron's vow, To him who planned the maiden's wrong.

"Pass on; and wed in thy degree; I pardon, while I kiss the rod; Call back my wandering thoughts to Thee, My God, and my forefather's God!"

Colonial News.

Novascotia.

Halifax Sun, December 11.

A boat in which were Mr. Alchern, his son and daughter, when crossing to Patton's Cove, through some mismanagement, struck against the bark Zealous lying in the stream, and upset, Mr Alchern and his son clung to the bottom of the boat and was saved, but the girl was at once carried away by the current. She did not sink, but floated about half a mile; when picked up life was extinct.

Mr. Alchern has friends in P. E. Island. This is the second bereavement of the family within a year. The first being the death of a fine intelligent young woman, his step daughter, who died on her way to Quebec, via. New York and Buffalo, at the residence of her uncle, in Perry, New York.

[Mr Alchern resided for some years in Miramichi.]

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, DEC. 22, 1846.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, he hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for Advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the

CASH, otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

Gleaner Office, October 23, 1846.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—Such is the state of our roads, that the Courier from the Southward, who should have been here on Friday afternoon, did not reach Chatham until late in the day on Sunday, and to our astonishment, brought the English December mail.

It was brought to Halifax by the splendid Steamer Cambria, which vessel arrived at that place on the morning of Tuesday, in the astonishingly short passage of ten and a half days.

We have devoted a large space to extracts, which will be found under the proper head. Although the news thus furnished does not contain any thing of startling importance, still there is a good deal worthy of perusal.

STEAMER GREAT BRITAIN.—The fate of this noble vessel appears at length to be sealed. It will be seen by the following extracts copied from Willmer and Smith's European Times, that she has received much damage from a late heavy gale, and little or no hopes are now entertained of ever getting her afloat:

"The Great Britain's position at present is almost the worst she could be in, and her fate is even supposed by some to have arrived at its climax, that is, that there are now no hopes of her preservation, and that she may almost be abandoned as a total wreck. She certainly has suffered considerable injury from the gale and high tide which took place on the morning of the 20th ult; her stern has been shifted some distance further in shore, and she is laying with a list to port; several of her cabin doors and bulkheads, particularly amidships, have been split and smashed in consequence of her heavy straining; the boilers have forced the kitchen deck upwards from at least eighteen inches to two feet, which can leave no doubt but that she is resting upon a rock of no inconsiderable size, it is generally supposed to have gone through her bottom, but of this there are some doubts. Altogether she has suffered considerable damage; but I am still decidedly of opinion that she is to be got off, if prompt and efficient means be applied; but if the same apathy prevails which has shown and manifested itself during the last nine weeks, she stands a good chance of leaving her ribs and trucks where she now is. Some favourable weather has passed since she stranded, which in my humble opinion, might have been more advantageously employed than in making fenders and breakwaters which has proved only food for the fury of another gale.

"From the first moment I heard it was determined to leave her on the sands for the winter I gave it as my decided opinion she could not stand the gales and heavy seas that prevail almost invariably with the spring tides on this coast during that season of the year. "That the Great Britain could weeks ago have been liberated from her perilous position, there can be no doubt in the mind of any man knowing anything at all of the matter; that she can be saved now becomes another matter of consideration: I say she can, but should be very sorry to make that assertion two months hence.

"The plans that I propose have been hitherto approved of by every one who has seen them, and I still maintain that if I meet with that due support which should long since have been shown, I will once more place this levitation in her own element."

(FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.) "I can say nothing but what, I presume, you are already in possession of. The late gale and high tide of the 20th ultimo did all we had done, and has made her getting off much more difficult and doubtful than it was before. The ship is a wonder: how she stood the last tremendous thumping I cannot conceive—the bottom being the only part seriously injured."

"We extract the following from a report made by the engineers, Messrs. James and Alexander Bremner, to the Underwriters and owners of the Great Britain:—"She now lies nearly N. W. and S. E., thereby exposing the stern to the heaviest sea experienced in this bay. The sea will strike the vessel at an angle of about sixty degrees and then run along the port side of the vessel. She has at present a heel or list of about two feet. On sounding round her we find at high water spring tides eleven feet water aft and ten feet forward.

"At low water spring tides the land dries about one hundred and fifty feet outside of the ship; but, from the nature of sand exposed to a heavy surf, it is probable these depths and distances will vary very much, even in a short space of time. She is at present embedded in the sand four feet and a half aft and ten feet forward.

"We find that a projecting point of the rock, about three feet in diameter, has caught her under the starboard barge and stove in two plates longitudinally; also, three of the ribs inside are broken, and two others materially injured, being much twisted. There are, also,

five iron stanchions in the fore hold bent from one and a half inch to half an inch from external pressure.

"The bulk head, or compartment before the boilers, is strained, or bent about three quarters of an inch in the lower hold, and a little less so in the middle and upper ones. The rudder and stern post are both carried away by the upper part of the chamber of the propeller.

"The counter of the vessel appears to be shaken by the sea striking on it.

"A communication from Bristol, dated November 28, speaks in a very desponding tone of the ship, and seems to coincide in the view taken by the first correspondent, whose opinion we have given above."

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.—The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last, contains the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of this Province, further proroguing the Legislature of this Province to the 29th January next, then to meet for the Despatch of Business.

WESLEYAN ACADEMY, SACKVILLE.—A Correspondent has furnished us with the following brief account of the semi-annual examination of the students of this highly popular Institution:—

"The semi-annual examination of this Institution, was held on Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th instant. A number of ladies and gentlemen were present, and expressed themselves highly gratified with the manner in which the students acquitted themselves. The examination was commenced at an early hour on Monday morning, with the classes in Arithmetic. These were succeeded by the classes in English Grammar, and Penmanship. In the afternoon, classes were examined in Geography, French, and Algebra; and in the evening classes in Geometry, Land Surveying, and Navigation, and in Chemistry. On Tuesday forenoon, the Examination was concluded with the Classes in the Greek and Latin languages.

"On Tuesday afternoon the usual exhibition was held, when twenty one young gentlemen took part in Declamation, &c., in English, French, and Latin, in presence of a large audience assembled in the spacious Lecture Room of the Academy. At the close of these exercises, the average standing of the students in their classes, and the record of the general department of each individual during the term, was read by the Principal, from the academical register.

"A class of young men who were about leaving the Institution, after having completed their studies, then presented themselves, and were addressed in a very feeling manner by the Principal. They were a very fine class—some of them, indeed, were young men of peculiar promise. They had endeared themselves to all the officers of the institution, and their departure appeared a cause of mutual regret. At the close of his address, the Principal read and delivered to each of them, a certificate stating the time he had been connected with the Academy, the studies to which he had attended, what his general department had been, and giving him now an "honorable dismissal." These young men will not, we are sure, soon forget that closing scene of their academic life.

"The interest always manifested in these exercises, was increased on this occasion by the first public performance of a choir recently formed among the students. A Seraphine, said to be a very fine instrument, has been imported for their use, on which one of the teachers, Mr. Hea, performs, and which was accompanied by two students on the Violin, and from twenty to twenty five who joined in singing several pieces of music, during the afternoon.

"The number of students during the term was 92, being a larger number than had before attended during a corresponding term; of these 79 boarded in the institution, the remainder residing in the immediate neighbourhood. The next term commences on Tuesday the 7th January next."

THE TIMBER TRADE.—For some months past the accounts from Britain respecting the price of Timber and Deals have been very satisfactory. This arose, not so much from there being a greater demand than usual for our great staple, but in consequence of the small stock in market. Our merchants, looking at but one side of the picture—the high price—and not at the cause which led to the same, used great exertions last season to procure an extra supply; this they shipped to the mother country, and the natural consequences ensued—the market is overstocked, and prices have declined. This is the history of the Timber trade ever since we know any thing about it; and judging from the past, we are apprehensive there is but little prospect of a better state of things being brought about, until the attention, and capital of our Merchants are less engrossed than they

are at present in this precarious, heretofore any thing but profitable beneficial branch of business.

This extract is taken from Chalmers and Fleming's Circular, published at Liverpool.

"The arrivals from British North America were very large last month, consisting of vessels, 62,150 tons, which compared with same month last year, shows an increase of 29,900 tons. It is now pretty accurately known what further amount of tonnage may be expected from Quebec, and, although reaching that of last year by one fourth, will still be the largest year's import, that single exception. From St. John and Lower Ports, it is in excess of even last year. The greater part of this large direct of timber to this place, has occurred in the last two months. The constantly advancing prices throughout the summer, caused the deficiency of the spring and summer, induced much attention to this matter, and the unusual result of a pressure, peculiar to this place, is now exhibited by a steady decline of the market of 1d to 1 1/2d per foot on St. John, and 1 1/2d to 2d per foot on Quebec, and this state of things must always, in such cases, occur, so long as the system of shipping and holding timber continues so difficult and expensive as to render it a first object of importers generally to submit to a present sacrifice rather than incur the certain expending, with the contingency of an advance in price, remunerative of such expense, and the ability of holding makes no difference, avoidance of the expense of yarding is the main motive for a sale from the port. The import since 1st February is here entered with last year: From 1st February to November, 1846—Quebec, 116 vessels, 77,000 tons; St. John, &c., 235 vessels, 112,500 tons; Baltic, 131 vessels, 31,873 tons. From February to 30th November, 1845—Quebec, 203 vessels, 119,310 tons; St. John, &c., 235 vessels, 92,750 tons; Baltic, 105 vessels, 852 tons."

UNITED STATES.—Congress met in Washington on the 7th instant, for the despatch of business, when the President, Mr. Polk, delivered his message. It was a very lengthy affair occupying two closely printed columns of the New York Sun. In our next paper we will give such extracts from this document as we may deem interesting to our readers.

The American Journals do not contain any later intelligence respecting the progress of the war in Mexico.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—According to our announcement, our Mechanics' Institute was opened to the public on the evening of Thursday, when James Caie, Esq., delivered a very excellent address on the progress, and utility of these institutions. The audience was large, and they readily evinced their approbation of the sentiments of the Lecturer, by long and hearty applause. At the termination of the Address, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed by the audience, expressive of the obligations under which they laboured to Mr Caie, for the entertainment he had afforded them, and for the very able manner in which he had elucidated his subject. The President, Hon. Joseph Cunard, then spoke at length—pointing out the advantages which must result from the formation of such institutions in the place—urged on the attention of fathers, mothers, and all the wishers of the public, the necessity which existed for giving it a warm and liberal support—and concluded by affectionately pressing on the attention of the young branches of the community (a large number of whom were present,) the benefits they would derive from a constant attendance, and storing their minds with useful knowledge, which would enable them, wise, and consequently, worthy members of Society. John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., will Lecture on Thursday evening.

THE SEASON.—On Friday an additional quantity of snow fell, and our roads, which were had before, are now almost impassable. The Courier from the Southward, informs us, that the travel in that direction is most wretched. He brought the mail on the backs of horses, the finding it impossible to travel any other way. There was a great turn out of horses sleds and sleighs on Saturday, for the purpose of breaking