

anything but agreeable tenants. The room which you are desirous of purifying being secured as much as possible from the admission of air, put a small quantity of musk in a tobacco pipe, light it and blow through the key-hole of the door. A very few whiffs will effectually settle the bloodthirsty inmates.

## The Politician.

### The Colonial Press.

From the St. John New Brunswicker.

#### GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY FROM SAINT JOHN TO SHEDIAC.

We stated in our last number, that the commissioners for the exploration of a route for the proposed line of railway from Halifax to Quebec, had reported a good and practicable route to exist throughout the whole of the line, which offered many facilities, and but few engineering difficulties. The course of the line reported by the commissioners has not yet been officially announced, and on that point we must wait until the plans and sections of the route have been prepared. We learn however that the line projected by Mr Perley from this city to Shediac will be favourably noticed by the commissioners, as offering a most desirable mode of connecting St. John with the trunk railway, while at the same time it will open a communication with the northern coast of the province, with the fisheries of the gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Chaleur, and with the Agricultural colony of P. E. Island.

With reference to this line of railway, we give the following extract from Mr Perley's report, printed by order of the house of Assembly at its last session, and reprinted by authority, in London in May last—

"The line of railway which, in all probability, will hereafter become of the greatest importance to St. John, would be one extending to the eastward, through the fertile vale of Sussex, to Shediac in Westmorland, and thence along the northern coast of the province to its utmost limits.—Such a railway would connect the port of Saint John, which is always open, with the richest agricultural and mineral districts of New Brunswick. It would transport their abundant products to the place of shipment and a market: the salt and gypsum of Sussex and Studholm, would be rendered valuable, and immense deposits of iron ore in Springfield, would be brought into profitable working. The coal mines of Queen's county would become of the utmost consequence for smelting the Iron ore, for working the line, and furnishing traffic in its transport to all parts of the country. A considerable portion of the trade of Prince Edward's Island, and of the Northern portion of New Brunswick, both import and export, would pass over the railway, as would also the products of the fisheries of the Gulf, which might then be safely prosecuted to an almost unlimited extent.

"In the absence of precise statements as to the value and extent of the numerous elements of wealth existing in the districts mentioned, few but such as have visited those districts, and ascertained the abundance of their resources in timber, coal, iron, salt, and the various products of highly fertile soils, can form any just idea of the tide of riches which their developments would pour in upon the city of Saint John, or the immense influence which a railway would exercise in producing that development. To a large and valuable portion of New Brunswick, this line of railway would be of paramount importance, and the various matters connected with it are suggested as fitting subjects for farther inquiry."

In describing the County of King's and its agricultural capabilities, Mr Perley's report again recurs to the subject of the eastern railway.—

"There are no statements existing from which any account can be given of the quantity of agricultural produce raised annually in this county; the amount however must be very large, and the surplus finds a market in the city of Saint John. It had previously been stated that salt and gypsum are abundant in Sussex vale; the deposit of iron ore near Bull Mouse Hill in Springfield, is very large, and it is said that the ore is of good quality. A railway through the Vale of Sussex, even if constructed on Professor's principle, with wooden rails, with branches or feeders from the valleys of the Mill stream, Smith's Creek, and Ward's creek, and Trout creek, would open up a most valuable country, abounding in resources of every description. Among the advantages of wooden railways, not the least is the cheapness and facility of their construction especially in a country abounding with timber well adapted for the purpose. If it be deemed more advantageous to construct long lines of railway with iron rails, still the feeders from towns or settlements within their reach may be accommodated with railway communication, at an expense which their more limited traffic will enable them to bear.—These branch railways would pour into the main line a great accession of traffic, and all parties would thus be benefited.

"A great eastern line of railway from the city of Saint John, through King's county to Westmorland, and the northern counties on the Gulf shore, would, in a few years, be maintained profitably by such feeders, which would be constantly adding to their number; and, by promoting the settlement of the country on a large scale, would increase its productions, and cause the development of its valuable resources. The county of Albert

would be immediately benefited by such a line of railway, and in return would most certainly prove a valuable supporter, from the large quota of traffic, which it alone might furnish."

While the enterprising inhabitants of Saint Andrews are vigorously pushing on their railway to Woodstock, and thereby seek to divert from Saint John a large portion of its trade with the upper part of the province, no effective movement has yet been made in this city for the construction of a railway from it to any part of the interior. We have heard an opinion very generally expressed, that among the various railways which have already been projected in New Brunswick, none could pass through a more densely populated or finer line of country, or would offer so fair a prospect of being profitable at the outset by instant traffic, as this eastern line from St. John. Considered as a local undertaking only, it deeply concerns half the counties of the province, and a very large proportion of the whole population of the country; while as tending eventually to connect the commercial emporium of New Brunswick with the Great trunk line from Halifax to Quebec, and thereby to establish a communication by railway with those important places, it may be considered as a work of great public utility in which all are interested. In a matter of so much moment, we look forward with confidence to such action of the legislature at its next session, as will ensure an early survey of the line, and such other proceedings as will lead to arrangements for the actual commencement of the work so soon as may be found practicable.

### The British Press.

From the London Times.

#### IRELAND.

The Irish intelligence is again written in letters of blood. Three more murders are reported by the mail. Like the rest of the fearful catalogue they appear to be popular crimes, committed at the suggestion and by the laws of society, though by the hand of select or hired assassins. While they thus retain their family likeness, they are distinguished by circumstances of peculiar atrocity and the portentous significance. The intended object of the first is steward and bailiff to Sir Mathew Barrington, the well known friend of the late Mr O'Connell, and therefore it is to be presumed, a landlord of popular habits and character. The bailiff's house was last year burned down by incendiaries, and he has since received threatening notices. Two "Thugs" entered his house, and after detaching a neighbor behind whom the unfortunate victim was screening himself, discharged a piece at the latter, the contents of which, however were received by the wife, who threw herself at the moment before him. The mother of three young children fell dead; and the murderers, as if this vicarious sacrifice had more than accomplished their object, walked quietly away. It is to be supposed that the slaughter of an affectionate wife, with an infant at her breast, in the presence of her husband and children, was a grace beyond the reach of art, a casual result hardly contemplated even by such miscreants as these. They, however who would butcher a husband before his wife and children, would probably be equally satisfied with another cast of the parts, so as it produced as much misery and struck equal terror. The second of these crimes was in a neighborhood which only a few days before had furnished an equal atrocity. The victim was an extensive land agent the chairman of the Nenagh Union. We are not told in what capacity he had infringed on the code of Tipperary—whether by disputing 'tenant right,' or by sifting a claim for relief; but there can be little doubt that his assailants were fresh from the instructions of Messrs. Doherty and Lahor, and those who assisted at the important demonstration. Notwithstanding the best intentions and the most skillful aim, there does not appear to have been the immediate success which so generally attends the fire of these professional murderers. The poor man's mouth was dreadfully shattered, but it is just possible that he may still live to present an easier mark, like a wounded bird, the next time he ventures in public. While the last mentioned attempt is rather disagreeable intelligence for poor law guardians and chairmen, the next has a serious bearing on the question of Irish railway. A railway functionary endeavours to reduce the wages of the men employed on his line—a proceeding very common in this island, when circumstances may happen to require it, and never attended by a worse result than a temporary strike. The Cashel line, however—one of those by the way, to which the public capital was so freely advanced a few months since—is not a place where the employers can afford to trifle with the convenience of the laborers. A servant of the company tries to economise its resources, and forthwith he is felled like an ox at his station. With the bloody axe in view, of course the directors will now make a more liberal use of the money which England has so liberally contributed, and though shares may be at a discount and dividends nil, wages, at least, will not fall below par.

From the London Morning Post.

#### WEST INDIES.

We fear that her Majesty's Ministers seem destined to do little else for the country than furnish an expensive illustration of the proverb, that fine words butter no parsnips. The other day we had the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland talking a sort of ethical and historical treatise to certain Roman Catholic prelates, when it

was plain from the state of the kingdom he is appointed to govern, that he should have been doing something for the overthrow of rampant ruffianism, and the securing of life from the attacks of organised murderers. At present we have her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies giving to the public a long written treatise on education, immigration, and other fanciful remedies for the wretchedly depressed condition of our West India colonies, when most people beyond Downing-street know very well that what these colonies really want is a better price for their produce than the adoption of extreme free trade theories will allow them to obtain. His lordship is pleased to say, that "long before the duties on foreign sugar, it had become manifest that in the existing state of opinion in this country, founded, as it was, in reason and on facts, if the cultivation of sugar by free labour could be sustained at all." We beg leave to demur to every part of this very dogmatic proposition. No such thing as his lordship states had become manifest. This, however, has become manifest, that there is no chance of prosperity for the British West India colonies while the views propounded by his lordship are in the ascendant at the Colonial-Office. The public opinion of this country, in regard to all practical affairs, ought to be founded on experience. The West India colonies in former times have been prosperous. They have ceased to be so owing to certain steps taken by the legislature, which were no doubt intended to be beneficial. Public opinions may have been in favour of these opinions, but that public opinion we now know by experience was founded on error. It is absurd to worship public opinions as if it must be necessarily right. Every one knows in his heart, whatever he may say, that it is more frequently wrong than right, and that when it is most positive and most impetuous, it has been generally found wrong in the end. Lord Grey writes very curiously about the education and training of the negroes, as if negro men and women were things which could be made and moulded like clay in the potter's hand. His lordship knows nothing about the matter. He does not consider what experience has taught of the moral and physical nature of the negroes. He writes as if everything could be done by training, whereas only a very little can be done. Changes may take place in centuries, but he is only a fool in such matters, who supposes that within the lifetime of any one now breathing on the earth the negroes of the African race will become good free neighbors—by which we mean that they will become constant, steady labourers, at remuneration which will make the produce of their labour saleable in competition with slave labor. Such essays as Earl Grey has put forth are nothing else than the solemnities and formalities of nonsense. It is downright, unmitigated nonsense, to suppose that, within the tropics, produce can be obtained, requiring heavy labor, at as cheap a rate from free labourers as from slave. It is impossible within the tropics, to induce men to hard work, at the same rate as men who may be compelled to labor. It is needless we say to go beyond this point. The thing is impossible; and being impossible, it must, we think be an error, that the opinion alluded to by Earl Grey was founded "in reason and on facts." In Jamaica, a remedy for the ruin which prevails is sought for by the importation of free labourers from the coast of Africa. If these persons be really free labourers, as the emancipated slaves now are. The measure will not enable the West India planters to compete with the planters of Cuba and Brazil. If they be subjected to compulsory labor, then the scene is mere hypocrisy—a concession to the necessity of the case, without an honest avowal of the concession. In the Mauritius, other extraordinary remedies are to be adopted, having nothing to do with a supply of labor, and founded on principles precisely the opposite of those which ministers pretend to rely upon in their home government. All this seems to argue that in the home government of our sugar colonies there is no exercise of sound practical judgment. Bigoted theorists are disturbed, and, perhaps, frightened a little, at the failure of their theories, and the ruin which has followed their adoption, but they lack the sense, the courage, and the patriotism which would lead them to avow their mistakes, and to be taught by experience. Absolute free Trade—free competition with slave produce—can no more be maintained, consistently with the prosperity of our own sugar colonies, than manufactures by hand can be maintained in competition with similar manufactures by machinery. The attempt is vain. Either Free Trade must be given up or the West India colonies must be given up, and he is unworthy the name of Englishman who would counsel the latter alternative.

## Communications.

[Written for the Gleaner.]

### VANITY.

"Philosophy, wisdom, and liberty support each other: he who will not reason is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not is a slave."

The following trivial circumstance suggested a moral to my mind concerning the vanity of human affairs, and as at this time when the state of the community is rather unsettled with regard to mercantile affairs it probably struck my attention more forcibly than it would at any other time. A small building that was exposed to the influence of the

weather with the door partially open admitted the snow that was whirled in by the circling eddies of wind, and had deposited itself in beautiful light crystals upon an innumerable number of cobwebs that lined the interior of the building and there exhibited itself in festoons, garlands, networks, and every form of drapery the imagination could conceive of, the quantity of snow that was sustained by some, was truly incredible, considering their fragile support, and the wind occasionally flustering those most depending, added to the beauty of the effect. I thought nothing could give a better idea of the gaudiness, frailty and instability of human affairs, 'all is not gold that glitters' suggested itself; and when I considered it merely required a slight increase of temperature to dissipate this fairy embroidery, and exhibit the blackened skeleton of the tawdry original. Ill fortune in whatever form is seldom looked upon with a beneficial eye, except it is by the true Christian, who can view with contentment the misfortunes that settle themselves in his path to irritate his patience, or mar his happiness.

When human intellect has exhausted its resources, in striving to preserve a conscientious and dutiful course amidst the quicksands and sunken rocks of the stream of life, and fails in meeting with a sufficient worldly competency, it should then bear with resignation to existing circumstances, and smile with contentment in the face of adversity. St. Paul says:—If ye endure not affliction, 'ye are bastards, not sons.' When we are assailed by trials, troubles, and cares of this life, it affords us a better opportunity to resist them; we must in this moral tournament choose the never failing weapons of patience, the shield of contentment, and armour of recititude, and rush into the conflict, manfully knowing that armed cap-a-pie with such irresistible materials, every foe must retire confessing the superiority of their powerful opponent. What vanity to see numbers in the pursuit of pleasure, at the ball-room, card-table, and the brandy and water, they have their enjoyment for the time 'tis true, but what occupations, to bear reflection, can they look upon the amusement of such with satisfaction, does a quiet state of the feelings supervene on revolving those past scenes in the mind, twelve hours at an excited table of *vingt-e-une*, blind hooky or the brandy and water, gives a flimsy enjoyment, compared with those that emanate from the moral and intellectual part of our nature.

Not long ago being in the shop of a Christian merchant residing in Chatham, there entered a woman enveloped in a capacious cloak from beneath the folds of which she exhibited a bottle with an accompanying salutation, "a bottle of gin," she had not long made her exit, when an image of the human form divine, of the male gender, asked for and obtained a bottle of rum. Such an occupation for a Christian in the 19th Century of the Christian era is truly deplorable, but I hope 'tis the fag end of a demoralising age, 'tis the last gleam of a departed, depraved and viciated constitution of society, and 'tis ill in accordance with the present stagnated condition of the mercantile world to encourage such deteriorating influences. They are enjoyments, springing legitimately from the animal propensities, and as the animal must be kept in subjection. If the nights spent in debauchery that have disappeared in the stream of time, could be amassed together, 'twould form a large spanned arch in the bridge of human existence. Let the mind wander over the past transactions of the ages that are gone and see what an awful picture presents itself of the malevolent dispositions that influenced man-kind. Look at Carthage former mistress of the seas, and daughter of Tyre, the raven sweeps o'er its ancient site, scared at the solitude of its complete desolation; and the bitter with its mournful and melancholy wail booms o'er its sea laved ruins. See her ancient antagonist Rome, 'lone mother of dead empires,' thou art gone—thy skeleton palaces proclaim the exit of a once mighty people, who lived on the 'milk of conquest'—Where is Greece ancient? Ask her polished shafts that stand bleaching in the winds of a golden clime; whose broken fragments exhibit the finest productions of a refined intellect, that knew no religion but a plurality of deities. Let the imagination wander through the tomb-cut defile of desolate Petra, and there view the time worn temples of the children of Edom; the fallen frieze and rent entablature, looking in vain for a hand to replace them, laying in moon like loneliness, exposed to the heated blast of the Arabian winds, that sing their funeral dirge. Where are the hands that graced the mystic characters on the moss-covered columns of ruined Copan? or rose the vast summi on the misceonian wall. They are gone 'like the cloudy groan of dying thunder on the distant wind.' Because a false Philosophy influenced their actions. They bowed to the shrine of their inferior propensities, and worshipped at the altar of imaginary deities. Reason was obscured by the gross incense of idolatry, whose vapour ascended to the throne of an offended God and the remains of whose vengeance is a palpable evidence of the completeness of their punishment. It behoves us to treat every pleasure that does not conduce to our bodily or mental welfare as VANITY—to banish every thought that has not in its connections something beneficial or advantageous—to set our minds on the improvement of mankind, and help to remove those barriers that obstruct the stream of truth, that daily widens as it approaches the ocean of eternity. If total Abstinence was universal, the ONE great evil of intemperance would be removed, the greatest perhaps in modern times. 'Tis appalling to contemplate the misery that has been entailed upon the suffering tribes of