

World, would pass through Halifax, and over a great section of the proposed railroad.

But the great object for the railroad to attain and which, if it should be able to accomplish, its capability to pay the interest of the capital expended, would be undoubted, is to supersede the long and dangerous passage to Quebec by the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

To make two voyages in a season, vessels are obliged to leave England earlier, and encounter the dangers of the ice in the Gulf, much sooner than it is safe or prudent for them to do.

The loss of life and property which has occurred from this cause, and returning late in the autumn has been enormous. It cannot be ascertained, but probably it would have more than paid for the railway.

An opinion may, however, be formed of it from the rate of insurance, which in the spring and autumn are as high as 10 per cent. A much higher rate than to any other part of the world.

The navigation of the Saint Lawrence is closed for about six months of every year. During the whole of this period all the produce of the country is locked up, and necessarily lies unproductive on the hands of the holders.

The surplus agricultural produce of the year cannot be got ready to be shipped in the season it is produced. In the winter of 1846-7 it has been stated on good authority, that 500,000 barrels of flour were detained in Montreal at the time when famine was raging in Ireland. As soon as the season opened, there was a demand for shipping to carry provisions, that the ordinary course of the timber trade was deranged by it.

All this would have been prevented had the railway been then in existence.

For six months in the year then, the St. Lawrence would cease to be a competitor with the railway, and large quantities of produce would be certain to be forwarded by it.

For the other six months of the year, it would have also the following strong claims to preference—rapidity of transport; the saving of heavy insurance; cheaper rate of freight from Halifax; vessels engaged in the Canadian trade could have made three voyages to Halifax for two to Quebec.

The trade which is now crowded into six months, to the great inconvenience of every one concerned, rendering large stocks necessary to be kept on hand, would be diffused equally over the whole year.

It is most probable that these advantages will be found so great, that only the bulky and weighty articles of commerce, such as the very heavy timber, and a few other goods will continue to be sent round by the gulf of St. Lawrence.

If such would prove to be the case, then the proposed railway would have as much or perhaps more traffic than a single track could accommodate.

The cost of transportation, it is calculated, will not be too high on this line to admit of the above results being realised, and in that case, more especially if the capital can be raised at a moderate rate of interest, it is considered highly probable that it will even in a commercial point of view be a profitable undertaking.

From the foregoing remarks, it will appear then, that although no very good or precise estimate of the returns for the expenditure of five millions sterling can be given, yet that there are very good general grounds upon which to form an opinion, that ultimately, if not at once, the line will, in a commercial point of view be a very productive one.

The Montreal and Portland, which will be the great competitor with that of the Quebec and Halifax line, is an enterprise of a purely commercial and local nature. As such, it is not likely shareholders will be contented, unless they receive what they have every right to expect—a high rate of interest for the expenditure they have incurred, and the risk they have encountered in the undertaking.

But with the Quebec and Halifax it is very different. The enterprise is of general interest. It contains the prosperity and welfare of each of the three provinces, and the honor as well as the interests of the whole British Empire may be affected by it. It is the one great means by which alone the power of the mother country can be brought to bear on this side of the Atlantic, and restore the balance of power now fast turning to the side of the United States.

Every new line of railway made in that country, adds to their power, enabling them to concentrate their forces almost wherever they please, by the lines, of which there are already some and there will soon be more, reaching to their northern frontier, they can choose at their own time any one point of attack on the long extended Canadian frontier, and direct their whole strength against it.

The provinces, therefore, and the empire having such interest in the formation of the Quebec and Halifax line, it should be undertaken by them in common as a great public work for the public weal.

If so undertaken, the Provinces supported by the credit of the mother country, could raise capital at a rate of interest which could not be done by any company of shareholders. And if to this advantage be added, the disposal for the exclusive benefit of the railway, of a portion of the wild lands along the line, and in the immediate country which it would be the means of opening settlement and cultivation, then it is highly probable that it would be constructed for three millions sterling.

In a former part of this report it has been estimated that there are in the counties through which this line will pass, fourteen millions of acres of land yet ungranted, and therefore remaining at the disposal of the Provincial Government.

The ordinary price of an acre of wild or unenclosed land is about 2s 6d to 3s per acre. But where public roads are made through them, the value immediately increases, and it will not be considered an extravagant estimate, to suppose that the land along it, or in the immediate vicinity of the railway, will be worth £1 per acre.

For the construction of the great Saint Lawrence Canal, by which Canada has now the prospect of reaping such immense advantages from the trade of the western country, the Imperial government guaranteed the interest on a loan of two million sterling and upwards, at 4 per cent. This loan was easily raised, and a large premium per cent was received in addition to it.

There can be little doubt that another loan of three millions sterling at the same rate of four per cent interest, could be raised upon the credit of the provincial revenues if guaranteed by the mother country. With this amount of capital and two millions to reserve, and sold from time to time, it is conceived the railway may be made.

Upon the strength of these two millions of acres and the loan as a basis, a large amount of notes might be issued in payment of the wages and salaries of the laborers and other persons employed on the works of the railway. They should be made receivable for taxes and custom duties. The amount authorised to be issued might be limited to the extent of the acres, and as these were sold an equal amount of the notes should be cancelled.

The issue of a number of notes which would pass current over the three provinces would be conferring a great benefit on the community at large. The currency is not the same throughout, and persons who travel from one province to another are now put to inconvenience and have often to pay a discount upon exchanging the notes of one colonial bank for those of another. Advantage might be taken of the measure to assimilate the currency of the provinces to each other, and make it 'sterling,' the same as in England.

By a little arrangement also, these notes might be made payable at the chief ports of emigration in the United Kingdom; and in that case a very great convenience would be afforded to a large class of persons on both sides the Atlantic.

To remit small sums now, requires the intervention of bankers or agents. This has the effect upon persons residing in the settlements (and no doubt often also in the towns), of preventing their sending the assistance which they otherwise would do to friends at home. Many a small note would be put up and sent in a letter, which now is never thought of, for want of the convenience.

In remitting sums from Halifax to England, the banks do not like to give bills at less than sixty days' sight. These notes would, therefore, become a great public benefit, and there would be no fear of their being kept in circulation to almost any amount.

Upon the loan of three millions, the interest at 4 per cent. would amount to £120,000 per annum.

Of this sum it may be fairly assumed that for the conveyance of the mails between Halifax and Quebec, the Post Office department would be willing to pay annually an equal amount to what is now paid for the same service. This has not been officially obtained, but there are good grounds for supposing that it is nearly £20,000.

In the case, then, that beyond this the railway only paid its own working expenses, the sum of £100,000 would have to be made good out of the revenues of the provinces.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, JAN. 30, 1849.

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, 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.

THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE.

We have much pleasure in transferring to our columns the following intelligence relating to the doings of the friends of this good cause in the counties Kent and Gloucester. We learn that a petition has been forwarded from the first named county, to the Grand Division, for a Charter for the establishment of a Division of the Sons of Temperance in Richibucto.

We perceive by the Halifax papers that the members of the different orders of Temperance, are getting up very interesting meetings, at which, original Essays and Recitations are delivered, accompanied with Instrumental and Vocal Music. Could not the example be followed here—we have ample material to accomplish it.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

On the 30th ult., the Bathurst Division Sons of Temperance, met by appointment at their Division Room, to present

P. W. P. J. M. WOLHAUPTER, with a farewell Address, on his withdrawal from the Division, he being about to remove from the County. A Temperance meeting was afterwards held in the Court House, at which the Division appeared for the first time in the Regalia of the Order. The meeting was opened by an interesting address from the A. W. P., Henry W. Baldwin, Esq., on the origin, design, and progress of the Order. Brother Rev. C. Lockhart followed, and enlarged on the characteristics of brotherly love, charity, and forbearance. The Rev. G. McDonnell, the President of the Total Abstinence Society, by invitation, then spoke at some length, and very ably, upon the question of Total Abstinence, and how far the character and design of the Order of the S. of T. were calculated to help its progress. Appropriate Temperance Odes were sung by "the Sons," at the opening, and between each address, and the meeting throughout was one of the most pleasant and cheering kind. The interest taken in the proceedings by the respectable audience present, was manifested by their steady and respectable attention, with an occasional subdued clap or cheer, as some forcible or happy passage in the addresses excited them to a more marked expression of their satisfaction.

The following is the address and reply referred to above, made public by a vote of the Division:—

BATHURST DIVISION No. 33, SONS OF TEMPERANCE, Bathurst, November, 1848.

To Brother J. M. WOLHAUPTER, P. W. P.

Worthy Brother.—Appreciating as we do, most highly, the Order of the Sons of Temperance, to which it is our pride and boast to belong, we cannot but entertain feelings of more than ordinary regard towards those Brothers through whose instrumentality a Division of the Order was introduced into this community, whereby we were afforded an opportunity of uniting with the fraternity.

We acknowledge with grateful pleasure, that to you, worthy Brother, the credit is due, of being one of the earliest advocates of this measure. You undertook the task of procuring a Charter; and after it was obtained, and the Division instituted, you continued to manifest, by your punctual attendance at our stated meetings, and zealous assistance on all other occasions, a warm interest in our progress and success. For your kind and valuable services in these respects, now that you are unavoidably about to separate from us, we beg to offer you our sincere and warm thanks, to which we may add the assurance, that they shall not be readily forgotten by this Division.

Under ordinary circumstances, when one in the early vigor of life, is about to dissolve the social ties, that time had formed, and experience had approved, with an uncertainty where, and with whom they may be renewed, a feeling of painful anxiety naturally arises in the minds of his friends, for his future career. On the present occasion, all such apprehensions must vanish, before the conviction, that fortified by an attachment to the great principles of our Order, you will be enabled, under every circumstance, and in every clime, to withstand the assaults of vice and temptation; for you require not from us the assurance that a steady adherence to these principles, and the practices enjoined by our discipline, cannot fail to preserve your own self-esteem, and win for you the regard of the wise and good, wherever choice or accident may determine your future lot to be cast.

With regret for the necessity of parting, but with the best hopes for your welfare and happiness, We remain, worthy Brother, Yours in Love, Purity and Fidelity,

H. W. BALDWIN, A. W. P.,
B. DAWSON, R. S.

REPLY.

BATHURST, 30th November, 1848.

Officers and Brethren.—I join with you in your appreciation of the Order of the Sons of Temperance.

I feel confident of your pride in being members of this institution, and of your regard for those Brothers who were instrumental in introducing, into this community, a Division of the Order, through which means you were afforded an opportunity of uniting with the fraternity.

I cannot assume to myself so much credit as you are disposed to accord me, in being principally instrumental in proposing and advocating the introduction of the Order amongst you, but rather attribute the success of establishing this Division to the joint efforts of a worthy Brother, (now absent) and others friendly to the cause of Temperance, who are now enrolled amongst us.

I feel highly gratified to find that my feeble efforts to advance our cause have met with your approbation; and for your kind thanks, so freely tendered me, please accept my warmest wishes for the success and prosperity of this Division; reciprocating, upon the eve of separation from you, the assurance, that though absent from you, my connexion with this Division shall be held in lively remembrance.

Brothers—I am now about to part from you, with an uncertainty where my future lot may be cast; but wherever that may be, I confidently trust that adherence to the cardinal principles of our Order, "Love, Purity, and Fidelity," (Love for the brethren, Purity of intention, and fidelity to my obligations) will not fail to secure for me, in all situations, that con-

fidence which has so happily rewarded it here. In conclusion, Brothers, accept my warmest thanks for this mark of respect, and your kind wishes for my future welfare. Hoping that success may attend your efforts in our cause, "the cause of all mankind."

I remain, Brothers, yours, in love, purity and fidelity.

JAMES M. WOLHAUPTER.

To the Officers and Brethren of Bathurst Division, No. 33, S. of T.

COUNTY OF KENT.

The friends of Temperance will be gratified to learn that a meeting of the Richibucto Temperance and Total Abstinence Societies, attended by a numerous and highly respectable portion of the community, took place at the Court House on the evening of the 17th instant. After some general and agreeable conversation, DAVID WARK, Esq. was unanimously called to the chair; and after a neat and appropriate speech, stating the purpose for which the meeting had assembled, the object and beneficial effects of Temperance Societies, and his gratification at their pleasing results in this community, concluded by introducing Dr. A. Kennedy, a zealous friend of the cause. This Gentleman then rose, and in an Address, remarkable for its elegance of diction, and propriety of sentiment, exhibited in a striking manner, the demoralizing tendencies of Intemperance in the domestic and social circles, illustrating his remarks with anecdotes of a most interesting nature, drawn from real life. He then displayed in a clear, popular manner, divested of all professional technicality, its injurious effects upon the human system and intellectual powers. In concluding, he addressed more particularly the fair portion of the audience, complimenting them in the most gallant and glowing terms, upon the influence which, in every intelligent community, they must exercise, over its manners; alluding more particularly, to those peculiarly happy and tender periods which are the preludes to matrimonial felicity; recommending a resolute exertion of their silken power at that time, as a test of regularity, previous to any lasting engagement. The Dr. then sat down under the most gratifying applause, many a bright eye exhibiting a power, which peculiarly demonstrated the truth of his sentiments, and the propriety of his advice.

The chairman then introduced the Rev. James Law, who addressed the assembly in a speech, which for bold, manly eloquence, impressive manner, and striking illustration, could scarcely be surpassed. He drew the most vivid pictures of individual and national degradation, arising from intemperance; proved in a conclusive manner, the propriety of Temperance Societies upon scriptural grounds, and portrayed with a masterly hand, those seductions attending it, to which the young, inexperienced and intelligent mind is so apt to fall a victim. Amidst the most profound attention, he delineated with a felicity of manner peculiarly his own, the nature, and dwelt upon the folly and inconsistency of what are termed "convivial enjoyments," and the miseries of body and mind which inevitably succeed them; and concluded by alluding in the most graceful and dignified manner, to the galaxy of beauty which graced the audience, regretting that the eulogiums of Dr. Kennedy had left him little to offer but repetition. The Rev. Gentleman sat down under the warmest expressions of approbation.

Mr. Creelman, President of the Total Abstinence Society, then led a Choir of Ladies, who sang with exquisite taste and melody, an appropriate air, which elicited the highest praise.

The next speaker introduced was a young gentleman from Westmorland, Mr. Chartres, who offered a few brief remarks conveying some statistical information and amusing anecdotes respecting Intemperance in his County.

The Chairman then left the chair, and DAVID McALMON, Esq. being called there to, the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Mr. Wark, who responded in the most gentlemanly manner. Mr. McAlmon also addressed a few observations to the assembly, interspersing them with facets of the most amusing character, in his own well-known inimitable style, producing such joyous bursts of uproarious applause that "roof and rafters" did reel.

The Choir then sang the National Anthem, accompanied by the audience, with heart felt demonstrations of loyalty: after which Mr. Wark proposed votes of thanks to the Speakers of the evening, which were passed by acclamation, and also to those Ladies who had so delightfully united the charms of music and beauty; and expressed his conviction, that although the invention of mankind had been so long exerted in the production of Musical