

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1850.

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.—We have much satisfaction in transferring to our columns the following gratifying piece of intelligence from the Novascotian of Wednesday last. We sincerely trust the information it conveys is correct; that the British Government have at length been made sensible of the necessity there exists of promoting this great national undertaking, which will have the effect of brightening up the gloomy prospects of the Colonists, staying the growing feeling of discontent which is widely spreading throughout the land, from the conviction which has been, reluctantly forced on us by the actions of the British Government and Parliament, that our interests are not cared for at home, and our trade and commerce has been sacrificed without the slightest feeling of sympathy or regret. If the information proves correct, it only remains for the Legislatures and the People of the North American Colonies to manifest an unanimous feeling in favor of this measure, and as far as their means will permit, support and patronise it, and this great and important work will be entered upon, and carried on to a successful issue.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

Sir,—It may perhaps interest some portion of your readers, to be informed of the result of the late interview between Lord Stanley, as the leader of a deputation of the promoters of the Halifax and Quebec Railroad, and Lord John Russell. Lord Stanley, who was accompanied by Lord Montagu, and several other gentlemen, most ably stated the business of the deputation, and urged on the attention of the Premier, the great importance of the British Government endorsing, as it were, the Colonial Grants, and of their adding thereto such other sums as will guarantee an interest of four per cent. on £3,000,000. Lord John Russell assented to the general principle thus laid down, and stated that he would instruct some of the members of the Executive Government to communicate with Lord Stanley on matters of detail.

My correspondent who was present at the interview, urges on all who take an interest in this great undertaking that 'the time for action has come, if anything practical is to be done,' and he points out that meetings should be held, subscriptions entered into, and memorials to the home government presented in aid of those at home who are endeavoring to promote this great work. If you can spare room in your valuable paper for this communication, it may perhaps contribute to this great end.

I am sir, your obedient.

WM. HENRY BUCKERFIELD.
Amberst, 10th June, 1850.

IMPORTANT—IF TRUE.

It is currently reported in well-informed circles in this city, that news has been received by the last mail steamer from England, to the effect that Lord John Russell has expressed himself highly favorable to a scheme for building the Halifax and Quebec Railway, and is willing that the British Government should guarantee the payment of interest at 4 per cent on £3,000,000, stg., to be devoted to that important national undertaking.

If this statement be true—and we see no reason to doubt its correctness—it is indeed the most important announcement ever made through the columns of a colonial print. The recent debates in the Imperial Parliament, on the Colonies, have doubtless had the effect of turning the attention of British statesmen to the actual condition and future prospects of these North American dependencies of the British Crown. In contemplation of the immense importance to the Empire, if the means of improvement were afforded them, the British Ministry could not fail to have been impressed with the necessity of complying with the often expressed requests of the Colonists, and thus assist them with the means of furthering internal improvements. The most obtuse could not fail to have observed that lacking the means which have been so freely bestowed, at a fair rate of interest, on the neighboring States, and to which they are so largely indebted for their present prosperity, the Colonists contrasting their almost hopeless condition with the advantage of these several States of the Union, were fast losing that chivalric loyalty for which they had so long been famed, and that a sullen discontent was growing up in the minds of those whose fealty to the Sovereign has been as true as the needle to the pole.

Under the Colonial head will be found an account of the proceedings of several meetings which have been recently held in the county of Westmorland in this

Province, on the subject. Would it not be well for the inhabitants of the different counties through which it is contemplated the line will run, to adopt a similar course of action? We think this a subject worthy of serious consideration.

COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE.

CAMPELLTON, June 15, 1850.

Mr Editor.—Yesterday, the Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, in this place, on their own behalf, as well as that of the Congregation, waited upon the Rev. JAMES STEVEN, their beloved and esteemed Pastor, who is about visiting his native land for a short time, when the following Address, and as nearly as possible, Reply, were presented and received. The scene, though the separation be but temporary, was most affecting.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,

Campbellton, N. B., 1850.

Reverend and Dear Sir.—The Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, at Campbellton, having heard with deep emotion of your intention shortly to visit the land of your fathers, cannot allow you to depart without testifying their esteem and respect.

From your faithful discharge of your arduous ministerial duties in this community, for a period of twenty years, such an endearing tie has been formed, that even your temporary absence will be deeply felt, and they sincerely pray that a kind Providence will take you under its especial care, and return you safe to them again.

They think it needless to enlarge upon your services as a truly Christian pastor, your laborious duties, zeal, unaffected piety and kindness of manner, have endeared you not only to your flock, but to all others who have enjoyed the benefit of your acquaintance. It may truly be said that you have been as the pouring of oil on the troubled waters, uniformly softening the asperity of feeling incident to human nature, by your friendly and christian mediation, in which good offices your deservedly esteemed partner has most cordially joined.

That Mrs Steven and your amiable family may enjoy all the blessings of Providence,—that you may have a safe passage, and a pleasant meeting with your friends in your native land, and a happy re-union with your family and flock here, is their most fervent prayer.

JOHN FRASER, Chairman.

To the Rev. James Steven, Campbellton.

Munse, Campbellton, 12th June, 1850.

To the Trustees of St. Andrew's Church,

Dear Gentlemen,

It is with feelings of no ordinary gratification, that I have received your Address this day, so much so, that I cannot adequately express my acknowledgments.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction I feel in the anticipation of shortly meeting with my relatives and friends in Scotland, I do not forget that I am about to take a painful, though I trust, a short forewell, of my congregation, endeared to me by all those ties, which must necessarily be found during a residence of twenty years among you.

If my labours in the ministry have been crowned with any success, to God be all the glory; and my greatest consolation at leaving you is, that I have made some provision for your spiritual wants during my temporary absence, and that you are under the protection and guidance of Him whose ear is ever open to the cry of the needy, and whose Omnipotent arm is continually stretched out to save.

My endeavours to keep my flock united together in the bonds of affection and brotherly love, have been amply rewarded by the peace and harmony that exist among them, and which is so often enforced in the Scriptures of Truth, to which I have at all times directed your attention.

For your kind wishes respecting Mrs. Steven and family, I return you my most sincere thanks; and that the Almighty may shower down upon you all needful blessings, that you may continue steadfast in the Lord, and that He may grant us a happy re-union, is the heartfelt wish and prayer of your devoted Pastor.

JAMES STEVEN.

DALHOUSIE, June 18, 1850.

The Rev. James Steven, who has labored for the last eighteen years with much acceptance and success amongst that part of the community, in the County of Restigouche, who are attached to the Church of Scotland, being called at this time to re-visit his family and native land, the Congregation of St. John's Church, Dalhousie, who have also enjoyed the advantages of his pastoral superintendence, met before their minister's departure, to present him an Address expressive of their kindly feelings towards him, and of their appreciation of his labors amongst them.

A meeting was convened at the house of William Hamilton, Esq., on Saturday the 15th instant when Dugald Stewart, Esq., in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, read an Address to Mr Steven, which, together with that gentleman's reply, we give below. We may add, in order to show how high Mr Steven stands in the estimation of the public generally, that a number of gentlemen of various religious persuasions, were among those who came to have a parting grasp of his honest hand, and to wish him a safe voyage, and a speedy return.

The following is a copy of the Address:—
To the Rev. James Steven.

Respected Sir,—We, the Trustees of Saint

John's Church, in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, asking leave of absence to visit your family and friends in your native land, feel, as a body, that this parish has no legitimate or merited controul over your acts—a circumstance which greatly enhances the value of those obligations under which we lie to you, for the voluntary zeal and assiduity with which you have administered to the spiritual wants of this people; and to your parishioners, for their kind indulgence in allowing a portion of your valuable services for so long a period.

We, however, take this opportunity of expressing our esteem for, and undivided confidence in your ministrations as a Minister of the Church of Scotland, and our appreciation of the punctuality and devoted attention with which you have for nineteen years laboured to promote the temporal and spiritual interests of those committed to your charge—of your considerate kindness on all occasions when your ministerial services were required, and of your benevolent and endearing manners which have so deservedly secured to you the respect and affection of not only your own flock, but of the whole community.

For the long term already mentioned, you have been constant at your post, and truly yours have been duties of no ordinary magnitude. Our country may even now, to the eye used to more extensively cultivated regions, seem wild and rugged; but we all know it is a paradise, compared with the aspect it presented when you first came amongst us; when the canoe in summer, and snowshoes in winter, were your only vehicles, and the water and ice your only highway; these things considered, some conjecture may be formed of the toil and fatigue the diligent discharge of your duty rendered it necessary for you to forego.

It were unbecoming in us, the objects of your professional ministrations, to boast of their success; but this we must in justice say, that if greater good has not been effected, it has not been from any lack of zeal, decision and perseverance on your part. Your doctrine, life and conversation have been such as became the Gospel.

In looking forward, it is needless to disguise the truth. The many difficulties with which you have had to contend, especially at the commencement of your career, and the unsettled state of our arrangements, cause extreme anxiety for the future. After your long, laborious, isolated residence in this wilderness, it may almost appear ungenerous in us to expect a further sacrifice of your individual interests or professional prospects. We can foresee many weighty considerations that may influence your choice, and justify your decision. We did hope that you would still continue the honored instrument of a merciful and bountiful Providence, in this rapidly extending field for Christian usefulness; but should you be called, in the Providence of God, to enter upon a new sphere of action, you may rest assured that our best wishes for your ministerial success, and for the health and happiness, as well of yourself personally, as of Mrs Steven and your little ones, will ever accompany him.

The tie that unites us as Pastor and Flock may be severed, but the mutual sympathies and hallowed friendships that have grown out of that relation, are too precious to be consigned to oblivion.

We wish you a safe and speedy voyage, and a happy meeting with your friends in the land of your fathers, assuring you of a cordial welcome, should you return.

J. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

D. STEWART, Secretary.

DALHOUSIE, N. B., June 15, 1850.

To the above Address Mr Steven made the following Reply:—

To the Trustees of St. John's Church, Dalhousie, Gentlemen.—The feelings with which your Address has overpowered me, prevent me from expressing in the manner I could wish, my heart-felt acknowledgments. The pride and gratification I feel, not I trust unbecoming in this instance, from your appreciation of my services, are, if possible, increased by the fact that the community over which my ministrations have extended, has been so connected by brotherly love, that my own parishioners, properly so called, voluntarily permitted me to extend that ministration to you. You yourselves have greatly assisted me in the duties you are pleased to allude to as so onerous; and certainly there is a most interesting field of missionary enterprise in the districts I have superintended—sufficient to occupy the time, and exercise the talents of even two or three of the most zealous and efficient workmen.

That Providence has blessed your strenuous efforts for the improvement of the country, is to me a source of the greatest pleasure, and calls for our deepest gratitude to the bountiful Giver of all good, who has conferred on us so many temporal blessings.

My absence from you is caused by family affairs alone. The ties that have bound us together cannot be so easily severed by me, that I could thus leave you without the prospect of a speedy return; and as regards the future, we must all rely upon a kind Providence, that will, I confidently trust, remove all anxiety from your minds. As far as possible, I have taken steps to supply your spiritual wants in the meantime.

For the benevolent wish which you have expressed for the health and happiness of myself, Mrs Steven and the children, permit me in our joint names to return you our most sincere and cordial thanks.

And "now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceed-

ing great joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever."

JAMES STEVEN.

Dalhousie, June 15, 1850.

THE WESTERN MILLER.—The Quebec Gazette of the 11th June, furnishes the following intelligence respecting this vessel:

"The Propeller Western Miller, of Toronto, arrived yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, in two of the steamer St. George, with a cargo of fish, sugar, and molasses, and having on board 63 passengers. The Western Miller has had a long passage, which is attributed to her boilers having become leaky. She put into Pictou just as the late gale came on. The Captain speaks favourably of her seagoing qualities, and attributes the leaking of the boilers to the corrosion of the flues by the salt water. News of the propeller's arrival at Kamouraska was received here on Saturday, and the Saint George was sent down to bring her up.

FIRE IN MONTREAL.—The Quebec Chronicle of the 17th inst., furnishes the following particulars of a destructive fire which occurred at Montreal on the 15th inst.

On Saturday afternoon, we learn from Captain Armstrong, of the steamer Montreal, a destructive fire broke out in a carpenter's shop in Griffin Town, caused, it is said, by some sparks from a tobacco pipe having fallen among the shavings. In spite of every exertion to prevent it, the flames spread with unaccountable rapidity, to the surrounding properties, and the wind, which was high when the fire began, increasing, the burning embers were borne to a great distance, igniting houses considerably removed from the outbreak of the fire, so that in a comparatively short space of time, 100 buildings were enveloped by the devouring element.

The Alliance which arrived yesterday morning also, did not leave Montreal until 8 o'clock on Saturday evening. By her news has received to the effect that 130 houses in all have been destroyed, including two churches the English and Methodist.

It was feared at one time that the extensive warehouses by the Lachine Canal would be destroyed, but we learn that they have escaped.

This is a great misfortune and deeply to be regretted. Many poor families must be placed in great distress, and they must need not only sympathy but assistance.—Montreal let it now be remembered, contributed handsomely to our sufferers.

CANADA.—The following Resolutions were to be brought into the Canadian Legislature by Mr Lafontaine, on the Seigniorial Tenure.

Resolved.—As the opinion of this Committee, that the Seigniorial Tenure in Lower Canada, is a matter of public concern, which it is the duty of the Provincial Legislature to take into consideration, more especially now that the subject has attracted the public attention in a high degree; and that it is therefore important to effect, at as early a period as possible, the conversion of the said Tenure into a free one, taking care that all the interests concerned are protected and equitably adjusted.

Resolved.—As the opinion of this committee, that such communication of Tenure can only be effected by securing a fair indemnity to all parties whose just rights it will affect.

Resolved.—As the opinion of this Committee, that the foregoing Resolutions be referred to a select committee of — Members, to report the different plans hitherto suggested for affecting said commutation, together with their own opinions; with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report from time to time.

OPENING OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.—On this subject the London Times of May 29, remarks:—

The Nicaragua question, now happily settled, though of great importance to the future course of trade between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is of less immediate interest than the proposal which Sir Henry Bulwer has recently been instructed to make for the opening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence to American merchant vessels in exchange for the admission of Canadian produce to the United States on a footing of complete reciprocity. The opening of the St. Lawrence has ever since the peace of Ghent been urged upon the British government by that of the United States as a measure of justice and policy. It formed one of the principal subjects of Mr Gallatin's mission in 1826, when protocols were exchanged between that gentleman and Mr Huskisson on the subject, but without effect, even under the administration of that liberal statesman. At the present time however, when the abolition of commercial restrictions is become the basis of the policy of this country, when we look for the progress of our own wealth and activity by the concurrent progress of the wealth and activity of our customers and competitors and even when our colonial trade is open to all nations, the ground of our former refusal is swept away.

The Saint Lawrence forms the boundary line of the territories of Britain and of the United States; in nearly half its prodigious course. It connects the vast chain of the lake