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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Prince Edward Island.

From the St. John New Brunswicker.

The articles we recently published on the Ship Harbours of this Province, within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, having attracted much attention, in connection with the proposed Halifax and Quebec Railway, we are induced to present the following notice of Prince Edward Island, which also possesses much interest at this time, as being also intimately connected with the same great undertaking.

Prince Edward Island is situated in a deep recess, on the Western side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is separated from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by the straits of Northumberland, which at their narrowest part are only 9 miles wide. The Island is somewhat crescent shaped; its length, measured on a line through its centre, is about 130 miles; its greatest breadth, 34 miles; in its narrowest part, near its centre, it is only 4 miles wide.

The East point of Prince Edward Island is distant 27 miles from Cape Breton, and 125 miles from Cape Ray, the nearest point of Newfoundland. Owing to the manner in which this Island is intersected by the sea, there is no part of it distant more than 8 miles from tide water.

The whole surface of the Island consists of gentle undulations, never rising to hills, or sinking to absolutely flat country. The soil is a bright reddish loam, quite free from stone. The entire Island is a bed of rich alluvium, elevated from 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 safe harbours; and wherever a brook is not found, good water can always be had, within 18 feet of the surface, by sinking a well.

The soil is admirably adapted for Agricultural purposes; it is easily worked, and there is abundance of sea manure, everywhere at hand. There are no stones to impede the plough; in fact, stone is so scarce, that such as is required for building purposes, is imported from Nova Scotia. Wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, are staple products, and are produced abundantly.

The area of Prince Edward Island is estimated at 2,134 square miles, equal to 1,365,000 acres. According to a census taken in 1848, the population amounted to 62,678 souls, being in the proportion of one soul to every 22 acres of land, or nearly 30 souls to the square mile.

The climate is neither so cold in winter, nor so hot in summer, as that of Lower Canada, while it is free from the fogs which rush along the shores of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Its climate is very nearly the same as that of Nova Scotia, but more equable; the seasons are very nearly the same. It is exceedingly healthy in every part.

This Island was discovered by Sebastian Cabot, on St. John's day (24th June) 1497, and thence received the name of St. John. The English took very little notice of this discovery, although made under their own flag; but the Gulf of St. Lawrence was very soon visited by the Basques, Bretons, and Normans, on account of its fisheries. So early as 1506, Jean Denys, a pilot of Honfleur, published a Chart of the Gulf, and of this Island.

It continued to be the resort of French fishermen until 1663, when it was leased to the Sieur Donbletto, and his associates, for a fishing station, by the "Royal Company of Missions," to whom it then appertained, as part of the fief, or seigneurie, granted to them by the King of France. As the French did not encourage settlements near their fishing stations, any more than the English, very little progress was made in its colonization, until after the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Its settlement and agricultural improvement were then encouraged, in order that the Island might form a granary for the supply of the

fortress of Louisbourg, upon which so much money was expended. At the taking of that fortress in 1758, it was stipulated, in the articles of capitulation, that the French of St. John's Island should lay down their arms. Lieutenant Colonel Lord Rollo was sent, with a body of troops, to take possession of the Island, which then contained 10,000 inhabitants.

After the Treaty of Paris in 1763, by which France ceded this Island, with her other North American Colonies, to England, the French inhabitants were driven off, as on all occasions they expressed great hostility to the English.

The survey of the Island was completed in 1766, when it was divided into 67 townships, of about 20,000 acres each. The whole of these townships (with the exception of two, then occupied by a Fishing Company) were disposed of, in one day, by way of lottery, the tickets being distributed among officers of the Army and Navy, who had served in the preceding war, and other persons who had claims upon the Government.

In 1770, Prince Edward Island was separated from Nova Scotia, and erected into a separate Colony, under Governor Patterson, with an Executive and Legislative Council of nine members, and a House of Assembly of fifteen members. It has since continued to enjoy representative institutions; the Executive and Legislative Councils have been divided into two distinct Councils, and very recently the principles of Responsible Government have been established in this Colony.

The Crown has very little land for sale in this Island; merely the residue of the two Townships that were not disposed of by the lottery. The price at which small lots are sold, is about 15s. currency per acre. The proprietors rarely sell any of their lands, but when they do, the minimum price is about 25s. per acre. Farm lots are usually leased, at 1s. per acre, per annum, for terms of 61 and 99 years, the tenant paying all charges and taxes. Some proprietors allow the privilege of converting the leasehold into freehold, at 20 years purchase, but a majority of the landholders do not concede this privilege.

By the census returns of 1848, it appears that the number of acres held in fee simple, by occupants, was 280,649; under lease, 330,296 acres; by written demise, 31,312 acres; by verbal agreement, 38,783 acres; and by squatters, 65,434 acres. The quantity of arable land, then under cultivation, was 215,359 acres.

The crop of 1847 was as follows:—wheat, 219,787 bushels; barley, 75,521 bushels; oats, 746,383 bushels; potatoes, 731,575 bushels; turnips, 153,933 bushels; clover seed, 14,900 pounds; and hay 45,128 tons. The quantity of potatoes was much smaller in 1847, than in previous years, owing to the prevalence of potato rot that season.

The Stock of the Island in 1848 was as follows:—Horses, 12,845; neat cattle, 49,310; sheep 92,785; and hogs, 19,683. There were in the same year, 109 churches; 182 school houses; 13 breweries and distilleries; 116 grist mills; 27 carding mills; 139 saw mills, and 246 threshing machines.

In 1849, the vessels owned in this Island amounted to 28,587 tons. The new vessels built in that year amounted to 13,677 tons.

The exports of Prince Edward Island in 1849, to the other North American Colonies only, amounted to £32,141 sterling; the value of fish, included in this amount, was £4,142 sterling—the residue consisted almost entirely of lumber and agricultural produce. To Great Britain, the exports in that year amounted to £12,548 sterling, while to the United States they only amounted to £1,283 sterling. Very many of the vessels built in this Island are intended expressly for sale in Newfoundland, where they find a ready market, being well suited for sealing and the fisheries.

The agricultural capabilities of this fine

Island are very great, and the cultivation of the soil would, without doubt, be largely increased, with much advantage, if greater facilities were created for reaching the best markets, through New Brunswick, which to Prince Edward Island is the nearest neighbor. The want of railways, or ready means for transporting agricultural or other produce, from the Gulf shore of this Province to the open waters of the Bay of Fundy, is a very serious drawback to Prince Edward Island, and materially retards its prosperity and advancement. The trade of this Island alone, and the transportation of its produce, would form a material item in the railway traffic of New Brunswick; and this trade and intercourse would rapidly increase, under the exciting stimulus of cheap and rapid transit to steady markets.

In estimating the benefits and profits of railway communication, along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and thence to the port of St. John, the value and importance of the trade and intercourse with the fertile colony of Prince Edward Island, and estimated in accordance with their great and interesting value.

United States News.

From the New York Herald, July 26.
THE DOUBLE EXECUTION.

The Hanging of Edward F. Douglass and Thomas Benson, for Murder on the High Seas—Scene in the Tombs Yard.

In accordance with the United States law, Edward F. Douglas and Thomas Benson, convicted of the murder of Asa Havens, second mate of the bark Glenn, on the night of the 17th of September, 1850, while sailing in the Pacific Ocean, and sentenced to be executed on Friday, 26th July, between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock, were launched into eternity at five minutes past eleven o'clock, and thus have atoned for the crime committed against the laws, in taking the life of a fellow being.

At an early hour the avenues and entrances leading to the city prison were densely crowded by anxious persons, some with tickets of admission, but a much larger number without, awaiting with anxious expectation to push their way in, if possible. Near the hour of eleven o'clock, some three or four hundred persons had been admitted into the prison yard. Among them we noticed his Honor Mayor Kingsland, Aldermen Morgan and Conklin, the Chief of Police, Mr Mat-sell, and a large body of policemen, to keep order, together with a file of marines of ten men, under the command of Lieutenant Norvil.

The scene became one of intense anxiety as the hour approached for the doomed men to appear under the gallows. The Marshal, in the prison cell, read the death warrant of execution to both, in the presence of Mr Hugh Maxwell, J. T. Hall, Z. Ring, and special deputies Tallmadge and Thompson. The culprits were then led from the cell by Deputy Marshalls Brown and De Angelis, preceded by Marshal Tallmadge and his two special aids, and in the procession were the clergymen and others. The doomed men were placed under the gallows, and Marshalls Brown and De Angelis stood close by their side, in order to adjust the fatal rope, when ordered to do so by the Marshal. The United States Marshal then addressed Douglas in the following words:—

"Edward F. Douglass, the hour has now come for your execution, and if you have anything to say, this is the time."

Douglass, in a somewhat tremulous voice, spoke briefly as follows:—

"All I have to say is, that the wages of sin is death. I want to tell you all my friends, and people, that the wages of sin is death. I am now getting my wages; you see an example before you. Let me warn you all against

beginning with small things of evil, lest you end in large ones. Again I say, you have an example before you. Take warning, I entreat you. I have one thing more to say to the United States Marshall, and to all you people—James Clements is innocent of the crime with which he is charged; he is not deserving of death. I have no more to say."

When he concluded, his countenance assumed a deathly pallor, his forehead and face were drenched with perspiration, and his frame shook violently for about a minute.

Marshal Tallmadge then addressed Benson in similar language to that spoken to Douglass.

"Men and Brothers—I have but few words to say to you before leaving this world. I did not have anything to do with the murder of Havens. I did not strike him, nor shoot him, nor stab him, or use any violence against him; and, to my knowledge, Clements is not guilty of participating in his murder. This I say at my dying hour before God and man. I am about to die. I am prepared, and I say to you all, be prepared, when the hour comes, to meet your God. You see what Christianity—I am resigned; I am an example before you. Farewell, my friends—may I meet you all in heaven."

Benson held in his hand a hymn book which had been given to him shortly after being placed under the gallows.

On signifying that he wanted to sing a hymn, his request was granted by the Marshal. In a loud, clear, and firm voice he sang the first verse of hymn No. 335, from the book which he held in his hand. Douglass, in a tone of voice that was scarcely audible, joined the singing. The lines were as follows, viz:—

"And let this feeble body fail,
And let it faint or die,
My soul shall quit this mournful vale,
And soar to worlds on high;
Shall join the disembodied saints,
And find its long sought rest—
That only bliss for which it pants—
In the Redeemer's breast."

After the conclusion of the hymn, the Rev. Mr Hodges, of Brooklyn, the officiating clergyman of the unfortunate men, made a short and appropriate prayer. Both of the condemned seemed to unite mentally with the clergyman, in calling for mercy from the Eternal Judge, before whom, in a few moments, they were to appear, and when the prayer was ended, they added fervently, "Amen."

Marshal Tallmadge and his assistants then shook hands with the prisoners, bidding them an everlasting farewell. While the Marshal had hold of Benson's hand, the latter, looking him full in the face, said:

"Marshal, may God bless you, and may I meet you in the ranks of the living, in Heaven. Be prepared and take warning by me. I die in the full confidence of a saving grace."

At shaking hands with the Clergyman, Douglass was much affected. He said, tenderly grasping the hand of Mr Hodges:

"Farewell, Mr Hodges! You have been a true friend to me in all my trouble; that is now at an end. You have been a kind father to me, and I feel grateful for the interest you have shewn in my behalf. May God bless you and yours; and may he keep you as strong and constant in your ministrations to others as you have been to me."

On concluding these few words, Douglass seemed almost in a fainting condition. He wiped away the heavy drops of perspiration that trickled down his face, gave one look at the fatal cord that swung perpendicularly over his head, and then closed his eyes for a few seconds.

In bidding farewell to Rev. Mr Lockwood, Benson said, "Farewell, brother! Keep firm in the faith, and may I meet you in Heaven. God bless you! Farewell!"

The guard of marines were then drawn up in a line at the foot of the gallows and ordered to kneel. The black caps were drawn