

Railway Correspondence.

The Halifax Colonist, of the 23d ult., contains a letter from C. D. Archibald, Esq., in reply to the Hon. Joseph Howe; but as we did not receive the paper which contained the article, we give some extracts from it, which we find in the St. John Freeman of the 4th instant, together with Mr Howe's reply.]

No one can read what you say on the subject of the 'agency,' without being impressed with the idea that I importuned you for some post that was to be productive of some personal advantage to myself. If you mean to say that I made any overtures to you with any such object, I feel bound in justice to myself to negative the fact in the strongest language that it is proper to employ;—and as for the expression 'that I would bid high for it,' allow me to say that it must have come from other lips than mine.—When I learned from you that some of the London banks had been making overtures for the management of the financial business which it is anticipated would have to be transacted in England, I did say that the Commercial Bank of London, of which I am a director, should not be outbid in the liberality of its terms by any one of them. Fortunately all that did take place in regard to this agency is in writing, and although I have no copies of your letters, my own, on behalf of the Commercial Bank, are before the public, to whom with these observations I leave it to say, whether you are justified by the real facts, in attempting to fasten on me a charge of mercenary motives. I will only add that I am not much accustomed to sue for favors, and the man does not live to whom I owe an unrequited obligation.

You have again fallen into error in stating 'that I again and again urged you to enter into contracts with Mr Hennet to do the work, and with the Commercial bank to sell Nova Scotia's unguaranteed debentures for what they would bring.' The fact simply is that I induced Mr Hennet, a well known contractor in the West of England, to make an offer for the lines from Halifax to Windsor, upon terms of taking the bonds and debentures of the Province at par, at the legal rate of interest. Mr Hennet's letter containing this proposal, (now published) followed you to Halifax, and it is quite clear, therefore, that I could not have greatly urged you to accept it, the rather as I knew full well that you had no authority to enter into contracts, or to sell debentures, with or without a guarantee.

There is one piece of information which you conveyed to me lately and upon which I have dwelt a good deal in the meantime; It was to the effect that my proposals had been brought under the consideration of the Council at Toronto and deliberately rejected. Now although I think you may be under some misapprehension on this head, even to the extent of the wish being father to the thought, you can hardly be mistaken as to the oft repeated fact, that the Government of New Brunswick stands pledged to that particular scheme of railway policy which you have promulgated. I apprehend that what you say on this subject, however, can only apply to the Halifax and Quebec line, since no action of the Executive could abrogate the Acts upon the Statute Book in reference to the European and North American. Assuming then from your information, that the Government of New Brunswick, as respects the Halifax and Quebec line, do not regard my proposals favorably, it is not my intention to urge them further. It was no part of my instructions to importune the Provincial authorities, and my offers are too plain and precise to require any additional advocacy or explanation. I gave distinct notice that there was necessity for immediate action. I supposed that if found acceptable, the Legislature of New Brunswick would have been immediately called together to consider the offer. Had this been done, two thousand men might now have been at work; as it is, the day of the 'pickaxe and the spade' may be far distant. When I, on one occasion, referred to the probability, that delay might drive these capitalists from the field, your answer was that they were not the only parties in England who had money. That is quite true, but they are the only parties having capital and resources commensurate with the enterprise, whom I have ever known disposed to put them in hazard in British North America. It is just three months since these offers were first submitted. In the meantime two of the associates have undertaken one of the great lines in France, formerly attempted to be managed by the State as a Government work; another has entered into large contracts in Piedmont; a third in Norway. I was therefore justified in saying that these parties were not obliged to seek employment in North America, and it will probably be no great disappointment to them to learn that their proposals have not been accepted.

TO CHARLES D. ARCHIBALD, Esq.
HALIFAX, October 1.

Dear Sir.—I reached home last evening, and having read your letter of the 17th September I must trouble you with a very few observations upon its contents.

You labor to show that on two several occasions I treated you with rudeness and discourtesy. My answer is very simple. Every day my public duties bring me into contact with every description of people, from

the highest to the humblest in the land. The Legislature tries my temper and my manners for a fifth part of every year. An excess of good nature and moderation is charged upon me generally by my friends—of personal rudeness and discourtesy I have never been accused by the most ardent of my political opponents. If my bearing towards you was all that you describe, you must have formed the exception to the rule. But my recollection assures me that what you mistook for rudeness, was but plainness of speech well suited to the occasion to which you refer.

For eight months I had been engaged in a most delicate and difficult negotiation. On the other side of the water, success, unhoped for by yourself, had crowned my efforts. The hostile aspects of New Brunswick to which you now refer, as though they threatened danger when we met at Toronto, had been changed in a few weeks by decided expression of opinion in various important sections. The Government and people of Canada were co-operating cordially. The Delegate from New Brunswick waited but for distinct propositions, to result from the friendly disposition which he had had ample time to discover existed all around him? What had I to apprehend from such a condition of affairs to render intrusion less than embarrassing? Canada was ready—Nova Scotia was ready—New Brunswick, more than half convinced, was prepared to favorably entertain, if she did not promptly accept, honorable terms.

At this moment, Mr Archibald, whose visit to Toronto had been mysteriously promised in April, stepped upon the scene, and thrust himself into the negotiation with a display of bad taste, to say the least of it, in slight accordance with the decencies of public life. Now, if my "familiar friend," his discretion and his capacity severely tested by eight months of anxiety and toil, stood ripe for perfecting a great scheme of public policy, properly accredited by and to all the parties concerned, would I have rushed in upon him—with a vain flourish of trumpets, at Toronto, or anywhere else? It was not thus I served him who has "illustrated" your name during the last eventful crisis of his public life, when I often wrote more, to aid him, in a week, than you have written, to embarrass me, in six. If, then, when you did thus demean yourself, I, with a thorough knowledge of what had passed in England, and a shrewd suspicion of what had brought you out—gave way to no delusion, but sited out the fact that you had brought no credentials and no definite proposition from anybody, you may have thought me wanting in courtesy. Had I done less, I might have improved your opinion of my manners, but certainly would have displayed little sagacity or common sense. When I reluctantly wrung from you that you had not a line from Messrs. Betts and Brassy later than their public letter which I held in my hand; and that Lord Grey, when urged to sanction some scheme of yours, had replied that he could not interfere, as the whole subject was before the Colonial Governments, I might indeed have been excused had I expressed what it would have been marvellous if I had not felt.

Suppose, when Stevenson, after months of toil, had the tubular bridge suspended in the air, some "familiar friend," innocent of the great conception, and unskilled to meet the difficulties inseparable from the progress of such a work, had rushed forward, alarming the workmen and deranging the machinery, what would the engineer have said and done? Suppose a mariner, who, on an unknown and perilous coast, had tested his seamanship for eight months, making his port with only the ordinary dangers around him, and old familiar landmarks under his eye, what would he say if Mr Archibald rushed from the cabin, magnified the dangers, terrified the crew and seized upon the helm?

With these illustrations of my position and feelings at Toronto, I shall leave the country to decide upon the good taste of the exceptions you take to my manners. On the "recent occasion" to which you refer, you came to my office on an errand which you have perhaps forgot. When you explain it to the public, they will probably smile at the good-humored levity with which so grave a subject was treated. Perhaps the banter which followed may have been provoked by your volunteering suggestions on a topic of extreme delicacy with which you had nothing to do, without (as in the Toronto case) exhibiting your credentials.

Your description of what passed in England may be the most accurate. The inference, drawn from what did, may have been unfair. I leave the public to judge of the whole matter, coupling your narrative and your conduct together.

That you have shaped your propositions in accordance with the Legislation of New Brunswick, when New Brunswick had no other resources but Facility Bills and wild lands, is true. That you have paid in £800 out of £1,000,000 required to build her portion of the line is also true. That you may detach New Brunswick from an inter-Colonial policy, by making a show of getting a line along her seaboard, leaving her whole interior untouched—Nova Scotia without a line to the Saint Lawrence, and Quebec without a line to sea, is barely possibly, provided anybody in England can be got to back you. That Messrs. Betts and Brassy, and their associates, whose pledge to co-operate with the Colonial Governments upon the basis of Mr Hawes's letter of the tenth of March, has never been withdrawn, would, for any pecuniary advantage, lend themselves to such a manoeuvre, without formal and due notice to me, I will believe when I see some better

evidence than any you have yet produced to prove them schemers, and not high-minded and honorable men. That they will prefer to advance three quarters of a million of their own money, to enable you to split up the interests of New Brunswick, and prevent the expenditure of the seven millions to be advanced by the British Government, and for which they have offered to contract, is not more likely. That Her Majesty's Government will countenance or favor such a diversion, I will believe, when convinced that all that they have done and proffered has been done and proffered in insincerity and bad faith.

You proposed to New Brunswick to grant to you and your friends five millions of acres of crown lands along the Railway lines, with all their "mines, minerals, and appurtenances"—or, in other words, all the timber and mill sites on the surface, and all the mineral wealth below. Truly a modest request! I asked you to show me the State or Province that ever had granted one seventh of its entire territory to a private company? Do you show it to me? No, but you write a column about the Grants and Facility Bills made by the Province before the pledge of the British Government to advance all the money required was secured. At the risk of appearing discourteous I must clear this matter up.

Major Robinson calculates that the lands included in the grants of the three Provinces along the Quebec line, would amount to two millions of acres. The recent arrangement suggested at Toronto only included three millions of acres, to be placed in the trust of a Joint Commission, acting under the jealous control of the three Colonial Legislatures. The area of the three Provinces includes about one hundred and eighty five millions of acres. One acre in 92, granted to the British Government, or 1 acre in 62, entrusted to a Provincial Commission, for public purposes, is something different from 1 acre in every seven, granted to a Private Company, with the control of two great Railroads running through the Province of New Brunswick besides.

The Grants in Nova Scotia, controlled by the Mining Association's monopoly, include about 2,145,000 acres. You know what a state of feeling these leases for sixty years have produced. Yet you have the face to ask New Brunswick to permit you to control double the quantity of acres, with all the mines and minerals, in perpetuity if you choose to hold them. I have no fears that I shall be regarded as a "foreigner" in that Province for exposing such a precious scheme as this. The area of New Brunswick includes about twenty three millions of acres. You demanded more than one fifth instead of one-seventh of the whole.

My special system of "Colonisation" is very simple. It was explained at Mason Hall in May. It will be tried in Nova Scotia before long, and if the lands of New Brunswick are not raised in price upon the poor of the United Kingdom, we shall probably see very soon some life and animation in central New Brunswick.

The threats that the great capitalists of England will be "driven from the field"—that we shall not get our Railroad made, because one of them is in Norway, and another in Piedmont, may do for conversation on the Folly Mountain, but really you presume too much on the credulity of your native country, by publishing such nonsense in the newspapers.

Do you suppose that when the three Provinces have completed their arrangements and certain millions of money are at their disposal, there will be any want of competent persons to spend it? Of this you may be assured, that, until you exhibit your authority for withdrawing Messrs. Betts and Brassy's letter of the 25th March, I shall assume that they are men of their word, and that they at least will be forthcoming even should you have retired from the field.

The "other questions" referred to in Mr Hawes's letter, and which you appear not to understand, were fully discussed by Earl Grey in the Despatches sent to Canada last spring. If you have not by this time discovered what they are, it may be satisfactory to you to know that their settlement involves no necessity for the alienation of one fifth part of either of the Provinces concerned.

But my "self will," we are told, "is thrown across the path of a noble project." If so, I believe that the will of a higher power will clear the path, whether you or I attempt to obstruct it by selfishness or passion. You may be right, but I never attempted to carry a good measure in my life, that I was not told by just such people as you, that I had better not do that thing—or had better not do it at that time, or in that mode.

Until you "show your authority" from that great power who, to this day, has crowned my toils and perseverance with eminent success, I may perhaps be pardoned for doubting your infallibility and having a "will of my own."

Wishing you a safe passage across the Atlantic, I remain, very truly yours,

JOSEPH HOWE.

Dreadful Accident in the County of Antrim.—A loft in an old paper mill at Ballyclare, in which a lecture on biology was being delivered on Monday night, suddenly gave way in the centre, from the press of people, about six hundred in number, causing the instantaneous loss of three persons, and seriously bruising about sixty others. Three of the latter died after some days' suffering.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STRANGE INFATUATION.

Marriage of a White Woman with an Indian at Niagara Falls.—Our Village has been in a state of ferment for a few days past, in consequence of a recent affair of love, romance and matrimony, the prominent actor—or rather actress—in which is not unknown in this vicinity.—We have not room for a detailed history of the matter, but give the prominent facts as they were related to us by an eye and ear witness. Dr. Okah Tubbee, chief in the Choctaw nation of Indians in Arkansas, is a distinguished performer on the flute, and has been giving musical entertainments in this section of the country, for some time past. He is thoroughly educated, is master of seventeen different languages, and plays on over one hundred different kinds of musical instruments.

A few days since a lady of respectable connections residing in this place, stepped on board the packet, at this village, with the intention of visiting friends two or three miles up the Canal. On entering the cabin she met Dr Tubbee, whom she had heard of but never seen before. Fond of music, and having heard of the Choctaw's remarkable performances on the flute, she ventured to ask him to play. The Indian complied, and the lady was charmed with his music. She conversed with him, and was more delighted with the music of his words than the silver tones of his famous flute. The boat arrived at the port where she was to meet her friends, but she concluded not to leave; and before their meeting had been prolonged to a single hour, their mutual esteem had been ripened with such amazing rapidity, that the lady, now fully given over to the fates, declared in most passionate language that she loved him with an unconquerable fondness, and gave proof of her sincerity with a flood of tears. The Indian, in his turn, fell upon his knees, and assured the trembling girl that her love was reciprocated. He told her that seven years ago that very day, he had a dream in which he saw a beautiful woman, who was represented to him as his wife. Since then he had been wandering up and down the earth in search of her, but to no purpose, until this providential meeting had brought him face to face with the identical image whom he had seen in his dream.

At Middleport the parties exchanged cards, and the enamoured woman left the boat to make suitable preparations to follow her tawny lover to Niagara Falls on the following day. At the Falls they again met, when the matrimonial alliance was fully completed, and in the presence of the thundering waterfall sealed with a fervent kiss. It was agreed that the ceremony should take place on the banks of the river, under the blue arch of heaven, and in the majestic presence of the great cataract. Friends were invited, a clergyman secured, and at the appointed time the matrimonial group were standing on the brink of the great precipice, on a grassy prominence near the American Fall, waiting the arrival of the man of God, to officiate in uniting the tawny chief with his fair betrothed in the holy bonds of wedlock. After much delay he made his appearance, clad in the robes of his office. Timidly he approached the company, gazed wildly at the swarthy Choctaw, cast a hasty glance at the fair woman with the bridal wreath, peeped cautiously over the precipice, trembled, grew fidgety and finally backed out. Under the circumstances he dared not marry them. He tried to persuade the matrimonial candidates to postpone the marriage for a few days until they had consulted friends, but to purpose. A clergyman of better pluck was engaged, who proceeded forthwith in the hymenial ceremonies. The parties were married, and the priest received for his services twenty dollars in gold from the hand of the fair bride. Mrs Tubbee returned to our village the day succeeding that of her marriage, and remained here until yesterday, when she left with her husband for Rochester. Dr. Tubbee is now travelling with Mr Gardner, an Englishman, and, we understand, will leave with him for Europe, in a few days.—*Medina, (N. Y.) Citizen.*

Contraband Goods.—The New York Journal of Commerce tells the following story as a fact:

Those of our merchant captains who have visited Rio are well aware of the prying habits of the Custom House Officials at that port. Among those who have been frequently subjected to annoyance from this source was Capt. Scott of Baltimore, as well known to the mercantile community as was his namesake, Martin K. of coon-shooting notoriety, to the sporting world. Captain Scott had been so often overhauled by the characters referred to, that he determined upon revenge, which he accomplished in this wise:—Having donned a sack coat of ample dimensions, he deposited in each capacious pocket a snapping turtle of his own importation, and which was not entered upon the manifest. Upon landing on the quay, he was soon surrounded by a group of old associates, and while he received their greetings, did not escape the observation of two of the lynx-eyed officials, who, pressing close upon either side, soon discovered 'packages' hard to the touch, and which, of course, were contraband. There was a simultaneous plunge into the pockets, followed by a scream, not of delight. The hands were quickly withdrawn, and hanging to a finger, each held his prize. The surprise of one party and the mirth of the other were about equal.