

would have passed over it from Halifax.— One American sympathiser would destroy the Line in an hour. But the Hon. Member from St. John (Mr Gray) had said they did not require a military road—there would be no more war. The late Exhibition in London had established endless quiet. All the nations had smoked the calumet of peace; but that Hon. member could not be serious. Human nature must undergo a change ere these things would cease. The millennium must come, and then no railroad would be required. The French were already talking loud, and they were accommodated at the Crystal Palace. The Americans wanted but to see that these Colonies would strengthen or enrich them; they would soon begin to covet, and when they felt sufficiently powerful, would easily find grounds for a quarrel with John Bull. All this was natural, and a disruption of the present union through the slave question or otherwise might tend to annexation with these Colonies, or annexation would lead to a disruption of the union. He did not desire to weaken the British ties nor yet to diminish our chances of defence. But if the Honorable Member had concluded there was to be no more wars, he would ask how it was that he took so much pains to marshal his huzzar troop on the Sands at Saint John? He did not surely mount his charger equipped in gay attire, with nodding plume and glittering sword, for the mere purpose of display. No, this could not be considered by him an empty pageant, but, as it really was, a loyal preparation for the hour when he might rejoice to shed his blood in the defence of his beloved country, and the maintenance of British supremacy in New Brunswick; and he did not doubt that when required, the Hon. Member and gallant commander would convince them that the Grays of New Brunswick were as invincible as the Scotch Greys.

The Railroad in this side of the Province could not be carried to the Eastward of the St. John, but must pass between that river and the American frontier; and the same reasons which caused Earl Grey to require that the Line should go wholly through the British territory, would prevent him advancing the money for the route now proposed. But they had been told that we had eleven millions of acres of ungranted land. Yes, and where was that land. Not on the line by the Valley of St. John, but on the Eastern route. Northumberland alone had two millions of acres ungranted, and this the finest land in New Brunswick. That county possessed an area of three millions of acres; and the Counties through which Major Robinson's Line would pass had 4,700,000 acres ungranted.

He (Mr J.) had heard a great deal about the Colonial Secretary ruling us; that might be true; but it was not less true that the people on one side of this Province knew just as little about the other side; and one side of the Province was often treated by the other as if it were a part of Canada or Nova Scotia and not a part of New Brunswick at all. (Here Mr J. quoted a variety of newspaper extracts and commented thereon *seriatim*, to show the ignorance of the northern portion of the Province, frequently displayed in these publications.)

It was clear, then, that the proposed line did not possess any of the advantages which so eminently belonged to the Eastern route; and if the present representation would not consent to adopt the latter, the British Government were not so blind as to loan the money for the former. Let the matter be submitted to competent and disinterested commissioners and the Eastern Members were willing to abide their decision. It would not then be this line or none, but it would be Major Robinson's Line or none.

It was not a little curious to see the change of opinion on the part of our Government since last Session. At that time the whole Government and those who, then in the opposition, had since joined their ranks, were unanimous in denouncing the British offer as insulting in itself and destructive in its effects if adopted.

There was the solemn opinion of the Government announced in the speech at the opening of last session. His Excellency said:

"I am one of those who believe that great works like Railroads are neither best constructed nor best managed in their details by the hands of a Government itself. The distribution of the patronage connected with them would always be difficult and generally injurious."

And this opinion was re-echoed by the majority of this House in the reply. This House said—

"We are inclined to coincide with the views expressed by your Excellency, that the details of such great works may be left with greater safety to the public, in other hands than those of the Government."

These were the sentiments of the Government and the Assembly collectively in 1851. What were the opinions of individual members would appear by their votes and speeches.

(Here Mr J. read extracts from the speeches, some of which are as follows:.) The Hon. Attorney General said—"He was against the Government becoming shareholders in speculations of any kind which, if unsuccessful, might end in public bankruptcy." Again, towards the close of the Session, when Mr Hawes's letter to Mr Howe was laid before the House, Mr Gray moved a series of Resolutions condemning the scheme; and moved them hastily as he (Mr J.) thought; but the current was too strong at the time to admit of resistance. Speaking of the very offer which the Government were now urg-

ing this House to accept, the Attorney General said—"These were terms to which he could not agree."

What said this House by Mr Gray's Resolution on the 5th April, 1851. The language was as follows:

"The House cannot adopt the plan suggested in the correspondence between the Hon. Mr Howe and the Right Hon. Earl Grey, and is not prepared to pledge the public credit or the future resources of the Province," &c., &c. The Hon. Mr Gray in his speech declared that he could never assent to the proposition. The Hon. Member from the city of St. John (Mr Needham) said of this very offer—"If ever there were dictations, if ever there were shackles, if ever there was slavery—aye, the very essence of slavery—it was this. \* \* He (Mr N) would rather see the country in its primitive state—the sites of our towns once more the homes of the wolf and the bear," &c., &c.

Another Member of the now Government (Mr Wilmot) said—"He agreed with the Hon. Member from the City as to the derogatory nature of the terms offered and would rather leave the country and live under another flag than submit to them."

Such were the opinions last year, and every member of the present Government concurred in them by their votes. Where was the same Government now? why deliberately urging upon the house the offer they had condemned and denounced. No modification of the term had been offered, the Government had turned a somersets, changed their whole views and policy, and modestly asked the House to change with them: members of the opposition who agreed with them then had consistently gone in or changed with them now. "*Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur cum illis*." The Government saw no longer the ruin which so much alarmed, nor the insult which offended them last year, but the pleasing hope of £2,000,000 sterling, the glittering prospect of patronage and power, the whole revenues of the Province pledged, nay sunk, to preserve them in power; the whole people of New Brunswick subsidized; the frightful monster Responsible Government, annihilated; the people ruled, instead of being served, by those whose salaries they paid; a House of Assembly no longer troublesome, but selected from their own ranks and composed of their own creatures, men alter their own hearts. Honorable members might laugh, but he would ask what man would be mad enough to oppose a Government candidate in a Province, with 200,000 people, and that Government having £2,000,000 sterling of the public money to expend. Many people were now half mad at the prospect of getting the loan, and what would be the state of feeling when that money was being expended through Government officials. There was much danger in the glittering prospect; slavery was no less so in golden chains than iron shackles. Let members be cautious; "twas the bright day which brought forth the adder, and craved wary walking." He did not mean to argue that this Province should not borrow money for great public works if it could be had on fair terms, and be profitably applied and judiciously expended. But he asked them to weigh the matter well; ask themselves if New Brunswick was not building a highway for others, without any commensurate advantage for the risk and outlay. Should New Brunswick build five-twelfths of a road where she had a national highway, and leave one half of her own territory unconnected, unimproved, nay, greatly injured by the decreased value of her lands, the stream of emigration turned from it towards another country; the price of labor increased while the market for its productions was diminished. It was really absurd to hear it argued that the fisheries of the Eastern Counties would be improved by this line; when the voyage to meet the lice would equal the whole distance to market, from where the fish were taken. Let members fancy a craft sailing 200 miles away from her market to join the Railroad at Shediac, that her cargo might be taken 500 miles by rail, thus making 700 miles instead of 300 by water.

He was not opposed to Railways, but had ever been in favor of all public works which would tend to develop the resources and advance the interests of the Province; but he was not prepared to sink the whole revenues of the country, and entail an endless burthen upon the people. The present route was, in fact, building as much rail through New Brunswick for the Quebec and Halifax line alone, as would be required to build this line by the Eastern shores, and the line from the Bend to the American frontier; from the Bend to St. John, and from the Bend to the Canadian boundary amounted together to 362 miles, while this route from the Bend to the Canadian frontier was 332 miles. This Province was thus paying five-twelfths of the sum required for the Quebec and Halifax line, when by the other route she would build one-third, and the balance would enable us to build the European and North American line from the Bend. Our Province would thus possess Railway communication through her whole territory, a commercial road with 28,000,000 of people in the neighboring States, and a military road for purposes of national defence, when the present line would merely make a travelling highway for our colonial neighbors. The bargain was unfair in its terms, unjust in the amount it would impose upon our revenues, insulting in the dictation of route, and the line impracticable by nature. He did not believe the Government ever expected to get the money for this line, but having promised a railway measure in the speech, they had projected such a scheme as might be forced through the House, by the aid of

management within doors and without. If the money could then be got they would be perpetuated in office, and if not, they had carried their measure and might boast that they had the confidence of the House. The Hon. member opposite had said that the children of the present generation would hereafter exult, in remembering that their fathers had voted for this proposition; but he (Mr J.) thought on the contrary, that if it were now carried, their children would have cause to curse the day on which their fathers voted for it.

Want of credit was not always a curse, and should these resolutions pass, the refusal on the part of Great Britain to grant the loan might be hailed by New Brunswick as a great blessing.

(Mr Johnson spoke two hours and forty minutes, and not quite four hours, as the reporter has stated in the debates.)

## Communications.

To the Editor of the Gleaner,

Sir,—If you think the following extract from a letter received by the last mail, from my son, in California, is worth a place in your paper, you are at liberty to publish it.

THOMAS B. MALTSBY.  
Newcastle, March 26, 1852.

Mailed at Colusi County,  
February 5, 1852.

Dear Father,—I received your kind letter dated September last. You cannot imagine what pleasure it gives me to receive a letter from any of you, especially to hear that you are all well. I hope to be spared long enough to make you a visit once more, but not for another year or two. You hoped in your letter that I would not settle here, but we (Jas. McDonald and myself) have done so, and we have been busy farming for the last two months. We have got in about 25 acres of Barley and Oats, and about one and a half acres of vegetables, for our house use. We put up a house last fall, 36 by 18 feet, and it is paying us very well. There is an immense amount of farming going on this season. I have sent to Boston for a threshing machine, which I think will pay well next summer. It will not cost more than eight or ten hundred dollars, and I think it will clear itself in a week.

I came to this country to make money, and I will either make it or spend my days here. At all events, as long as I have to work for my living, I will not leave, for I can live easier and make more than I can in any other part of the world. Many people who come here get home-sick, or some other kind of sickness, and go back again, giving California a hard name. But let them say what they may, it is the place to make money. Why, if you hire out, a person will not think of offering you less than from \$4 to \$5 per day, and I believe I can go to the mines and make more than that every day, but I am better satisfied where I am. I have not a great deal of hard work to do, and I have plenty of horses to ride. We keep a dozen horses.

I have become quite a hunter and rifleman. Last summer I often went six or eight miles from the house, and brought home two or three antelopes. Deer, Elk, and Grizzly Bears are also plenty. My partner built a trap last fall, about three miles from the house: I went to see it one morning, and there were two live grizzlies in it: we had to shoot them before taking them out. You may talk about good meat, but I wish you could put your tooth into a piece of good grizzly bear meat. About the first of November the wild geese come, and I can stand at the door and shoot them. We have killed from 4 to 5 per day; in fact, more than we could use. I went out the day before Christmas, with my gun, and killed two geese, six ducks, and six partridges, and we had them all cooked for Christmas dinner, besides puddings, pies, &c. I can tell you we live like game cocks. We pay \$100 per month to our cook. Although the privileges and advantages of California are so great (society excepted), yet some are not satisfied; but the whole world would not satisfy some people. If I succeed as well next year as I expect, I may then pay you a visit, but I do not think I could be satisfied in any other part of the world than California.

McDonald intended going home last fall, but I persuaded him to remain; if he takes the notion this spring I shan't say anything against it. He and I are still in partnership, live like brothers, and when together have but one purse. I have not seen or heard from him for some time. We are a good distance apart, he being at the mines.

I repeat that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see you, but you must consider all things. In the first place, I have plenty to eat and drink, and can always have a few hundred dollars in my pocket; and secondly, I am quite contented. I hope, therefore, you will not discourage me by writing for my return, till I feel

myself satisfied to come; but rather than go home and bend my back over a currying beam again, I will lay my bones in California.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1852

### NOVA SCOTIA.

The Legislature of this Colony closed its sittings on Thursday, the 5th instant. The papers contain the speech of the Administrator of the Government, but it does not contain anything worthy of notice. The papers complain of the "fruitlessness of the session, from the labors of which so much practical good was promised and expected."

The Legislative Council rejected a vote of £300 to remunerate a Temperance Lecturer. The Assembly having refused its assent to the pay of the Council, that body, in retaliation, threw out the grant for remunerating the members of the lower house. One of the papers states that the Government intends taking upon itself the responsibility of making the necessary provision for paying the Assembly.

We cannot discover by our exchanges whether any grant has been made to Major Norton for keeping up a steam communication between Quebec, Miramichi, Shediac and Pictou.

The Sun contains the following paragraph: "The learned leader of the New Brunswick Government, Mr Attorney General Street, is being roughly handled by correspondents in the Miramichi Gleaner. The people of Northumberland are awakening to a due appreciation of the constitutional control which their electoral privileges give them, over the actions of a Legislator who may misrepresent their wishes."

### THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

We are indebted to a Correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser for the following account of the newly appointed Secretary for the Colonies:

"Sir J. Packington is a gentleman of wealth and great respectability, in Worcestershire, and has for a long time represented the town of Droitwich in Parliament. He was raised to the dignity of baronet a few years ago, and no gentleman in England was more worthy of such an honor from his sovereign."

"Sir John visited the United States in 1833, accompanied by his lady (who is since dead) and his son, and soon after proceeded to Canada in company with the celebrated Dr Dunlop, so well remembered in that part of the Queen's dominions. As Sir John's visit was not one of mere pleasure or idle curiosity, he could not be in better company than that of the lamented gentleman just named, who from his extensive knowledge of the Colonies was fully competent to impart the information Sir John was seeking. His observations were extensive and his reflections on the vast and noble country before him, were such as became a patriotic and well educated Englishman."

"On his return to Great Britain he devoted himself to the study of Colonial affairs,—receiving journals from this country, corresponding with those whose acquaintance he had made during his sojourn, and frequently speaking on Colonial questions from his seat in Parliament."

"A protectionist he certainly is, to which the Colonies will have no objection; and as a Conservative he is one who, while he upholds the just prerogative of the Sovereign, has a deep and innate sense of the value of public liberty. In stature he is somewhat below the medium size; exceedingly mild, affable and gentlemanly in his manners, an optimist, not a croaker in British affairs, and a firm friend of the Colonies."

UNITED STATES.—Neal Dow, the originator of the Maine Liquor Law, has lost his election for Mayor of Portland. He was opposed by Mr Parris. At the close of the poll the votes stood as follows.

Parris—1,900. Dow—1,495.

POPULATION OF THE PROVINCE.—It will be seen by the following returns that the population of this Province is steadily on the increase:

1824,	74,176
1834,	119,459
1840,	154,000
1851,	193,800

CITY OF ST. JOHN.—The City Elections have just terminated. Mr Needham has lost his election for King's Ward, Mr John M. Walker being the successful candidate. It appears, however, there is some informality in the return, which it is thought will cause a new election.

MR HINCKS.—This gentleman, it is reported, had an interview with the Colonial Secretary, in London, on the 19th March.