

The Journal de Constantinople gives details of a fight which took place on the 23rd of February, before Sebastopol. A battalion of Zouaves carried by assault the plateau of Malakoff Tower, spiked 19 guns, and drove the enemy out of their trenches, retiring ultimately before a body of 8000 Russians. In this heroic struggle 380 French were put hors de combat.—General Monet was wounded in both arms.—The Presse of Constantinople estimates the Russian loss at 1000, and reduces the French loss to 250. Some journals say that General Monet received five slight wounds while dispersing a Russian column, which attempted to cut off their retreat.

## Communications.

### LECTURE.

Extracts from the Opening Lecture delivered by James Cole, Esq., at our Mechanics' Institute, in January last, with which the author has kindly furnished us. continued.

Tracing the progress of the arts and sciences since the formation of Mechanics' Institutes, the Lecturer said—

During the peaceful period that transpired between Waterloo in 1815 and Alma in 1854, Great Britain succeeded in converting her territories—upon which the sun never sets—into displays of her genius, and covering the globe with the triumphs of her talent, skill, and ingenuity! Nor have the triumphs of science been of any means confined to Great Britain! Man's ingenuity has everywhere been acquiring a mastery over the elements of Nature! Space is rapidly being annihilated. Our earth seems to be collapsing! Miles and distance are words which convey little meaning now-a-days! Two men may be a thousand miles apart, but if a line of Railway span the distance, these two men may interchange visits in less time and with greater comfort, than you and I could do, Mr President, were you at Boiestown and I at Chatham! Again, two men—between whom the Telegraph wires extend—though separated by thousands of miles, might communicate with each other in less time, than I could communicate with a person at Oak Point! The question then is not what are the number of miles, or what the distance between places, but what time will it occupy to travel that distance.

Even here Sir, we have shared in the triumph of science. Twenty years ago I recollect that it required four and often six months to send letters to and from England, but ever since the power of steam began to contend with the storms and billows of the Atlantic, one month has sufficed for this purpose.

Thirty years ago, it occupied a month to carry a message to and from Halifax, but now this may be done by mail in a week, and by telegraph in a few minutes.

A week ago, it occupied the best part of a day to communicate between Chatham and Newcastle, but at this moment, this may be done by telegraph, in five minutes, and at a very trifling cost.

I am no Prophet Sir, nor the son of a Prophet, but I venture to predict, that before ten years shall have passed, it will occupy less time to communicate with a friend at the antipodes, or in other words, it will occupy less time to carry a message a distance equal to the circumference of our earth, than it did in Professor Anderson's day to convey a message to a neighbouring town.

Still speaking of the progress made during the late season of peace, the Lecturer said—

In the mother country the operative classes have risen so rapidly during the current century, that unless the opulent classes move forward a little faster than they have hitherto done, their opulent heels will be apt to be trod upon by the operatives' toes. I know this unpalatable doctrine never fails to be met by the old argument, that the opulent classes having their time at their own disposal cannot fail to maintain an intellectual position, much higher than the operative classes. But allow me to remind you of a physiological truth, which is very apt to be overlooked! It is this—by a fundamental law of our constitution, less time for study suffices the active, than the indolent man. That vigor of body which moderate labor necessarily bestows, never fails to invigorate the faculties of the mind, as powerfully—if exercised—as those of the body.

The bodily and mental faculties of man, are so intimately and inseparably associated, that whatever has a tendency to injure or benefit the one, has a tendency to injure or benefit the other; less time then will suffice to enable the industrious operative to acquire the same extent of knowledge, as his more opulent but more indolent competitor. And who can doubt but that the amazing discoveries in the arts and sciences which have taken place during the last forty years, are designed by the Almighty, to lessen manual labour by the gradual substitution of labour saving agents; that the heads of men in a word, are to do the work formerly done by their hands, and that by these means all classes of mankind will be afforded ample time for moral culture and intellectual improvement.

A time of war is no doubt a time which the faculties of the human mind are called into vigorous exercise, but seasons of tranquility have always been found favourable to the progress of the arts and sciences, and the general diffusion of knowledge—since Professor Anderson's day, or during the late period of peace, he agents employed to circulate information—accelerate the progress of science, and ameliorate the social condition of our race, have been numerous and varied; but among them all, not one perhaps has proved more efficacious or successful than that of Mechanics' Institutes.

Here the Lecturer went on to compare Mechanics' Institutes with many other Institutions, which are intended to subserve the same purpose, and spoke of the Chatham Mechanics' Institute, as follows:

Since this Institution was opened in 1847, no less than 150 Lectures have been delivered by gentlemen, who look for no other reward beyond the gratification of having lent their aid to advance the intellectual and moral condition of the community in which they reside. These Lectures contained not one immoral or objectionable sentence. This of itself is a rare and gratifying circumstance, and one which furnishes a just argument in its favor. The subject of Lecture embraced Literature, and the Sciences; and unquestionably many of these subjects were well and ably handled; but their chief value in my estimation, and which may render them—with the Divine blessing—valuable when the tongues which gave them utterance, shall have ceased to articulate, was their moral tendency, or at least their entire absence from any sentiment of a contrary kind.

A Library—said he—is a receptacle of intellect; it is a reservoir formed by many intellectual rills that run into it; but as the purity of every fountain must depend upon the streams that supply it, so must the quality of every Library depend upon the prudent selection of the books that belong to it; now in that Library (pointing to the Library of the Institute) there are upwards of 500 volumes, the perusal of which, and also admission to the lectures cost but a trifle—say only 5s. per annum exclusive of the cost of membership. 5s. more—yet after a careful scrutiny, I am enabled to state, there is not an objectionable work on its shelves; nor one whose tendency would be to exert an immoral influence on the mind of any reader.

Are not these gratifying circumstances, and do they not plead powerfully in favor of your Institute.

The truth is this! If ignorant of the rudimentary knowledge which Mechanics' Institutes thus chiefly supply, no man—be he poor or rich—need hope to rise high in any station! Wealth may indeed enable an ignorant man to crawl through life the creature of flattery or the victim of ridicule; but through as rich as Rothschild, such a man can never command respect or enjoy genuine lasting happiness—Whereas the soul—my friends—of the enlightened man—piously educated—is ever open to the finest impressions and filled with the most generous feelings and emotions.

"The meanest flower of the dale,  
The simplest note that swells the gale,  
The common sun, the air the skies,  
To him are opening Paradise."

Yes my friends, knowledge is not only power—as Bacon has it—but it is pleasure! The Butterfly that gambols amid the flowers of summer! The lark which rises with the sun, and mounts the azure sky! The insect that dances on "Zephyr's wing," and the sheep that crops the flowery mead, all enjoy pleasure; but man was made to derive happiness from higher and nobler sources than these. He was made to think as well as to see and to smell. The sheep that browses on the bonny *vie gowan*, is unconscious of its delicate organization and humble beauty; and the horse that gallops over the garden of reeds does so with a sorrowless heart. Not so with reflecting man, his pleasure is derived from the contemplation of his Creator's works; in looking from nature up to nature's God, and the intensity of this pleasure will be just in proportion to the extent of his knowledge, and the degree of his refinement.

Let us fancy to ourselves, two men on a fine spring morning ascending together yonder high hill, that commands a distant view of our river and the surrounding scenery, one is a man of learning and refinement, the other is ignorant and vulgar minded.

Having reached the summit of the hill, they stand and gaze around, and behold "a *grand nature in a cheerful mood*," is looking herself in her summer mantle of green! The sun—fresh and vigorous—as on that morn, when at the fiat of its Creator, he first began to lighten the universe in coming forth from his chamber in the east! The song of the lark has superseded the sound of the sleigh bell, and is mingling with the music of birds; a fleet of sprightly ships, after buffeting long the ocean billow, are furling their sails—the voyage is ended—and they are now about to drop anchor, and ride in safety in our noble river. One of these men is enraptured, the other is dull and weary.

They now descend the hill—the one in mind just where he was when he ascended—the other with higher conceptions of himself, and the universe of God, of which he forms a part.

During the remainder of the day, the existence of the ignorant man has been a burden to himself, and he to society; but the man of knowledge has been deriving pleasure by tracing in his mind the scenery he beheld, and dwelling with delight on images which his senses had conveyed to his understanding.

It is now evening! The sun is setting, and this ill-matched pair are ascending the hill again. The sun is set. Twilight pervades the scene. It gets darker and darker. Star after star peeps out. The moon slowly shows her face. The heavens are now clad in their robes of twinkling light. The two men are again standing on the brow of the hill—How different their feelings, thoughts and resolves! The ignorant man is grumbling about the folly of such an excursion at so unreasonable an hour. The man of refinement is gazing at the "queen of the night," as she reflects her face in the liquid mirror below, and at the stars as they glow in their radiant freshness; he wonders, dreams, adores, his spirit is drawn out, exalted and emboldened; all is calm and joyous within; existence flows on as sweet and serene as the stream below, without a wind to disturb its waters, the voice of distant music falls on his ear like syriatic songs, and the inner man is a concentration of sweet sensation or joyous emotions.

But while the soul of the man of refinement is thus hearing with delight, the man of ignorance sees nothing wonderful in the moon, nothing strange in the stars, nothing sweet or substantial in the sound of music! Now what makes the wonderful difference between these two men? The former—whether poor or rich—has ever within himself a "feast of reason and a flow of soul, of which the latter knows nothing!" That is the difference, and a mighty difference it is.

## PROGRESSION.

Persons desirous of economically, certainly, and speedily

IMPROVING THEIR UNDERSTANDINGS, can have such desire accomplished, by supplying themselves from the Subscribers Stock of

Gents. and Boys Boots,

an extensive and select assortment, and by far the cheapest yet offered to the public, at his usual stands

IN CHATHAM AND NEWCASTLE,

Of which you will be convinced if you call and examine.

A. FRASER.

Miramichi, March 24, 1855.

### NOTICE.

The subscriber offers for sale, the FARM on which he lives, at St Andrew's Point, Black Brook, fronting the Miramichi River, containing 200 acres, of which 40 acres are under cultivation, and in good condition. Terms half cash down, and the other half in the 15th day of July next. Should the above property not be sold at private sale before the 17th April, it will then be sold at Public Auction on the premises. For further particulars apply to the subscriber, or to John D. W. Histon, Esq. who is authorized to treat for the sale of the said property.

DAN. BULMAN.

Chatham, 24th January, 1855.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1855.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s 6d in advance, or 17s 6d at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Print and Ornament Establishment, 24, Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

### EUROPEAN NEWS.

FROM our files of British papers, which came to hand by the last steamer, we have made copious selections. The dates are to the 17th March.

Among the Incidents of the War, will be found an extremely interesting account of the attack made by the Russians on Eupatoria, where they were gallantly repulsed with heavy loss by the Turks under Omar Pacha, who was assisted by several French and English steamers.

Under the same head, we have given a full account of the storming of a redoubt at Sebastopol by a body of French troops, which they carried and destroyed, after a warm contest.

The accounts from the Crimea agree in reporting that condition of the troops of the Allies is considerably improved, and that much vigor had been infused into the British commissariat and medical staff. The railroad at Balaklava was rapidly progressing. Three miles were completed, and the cars were constantly occupied bringing up large quantities of supplies and munitions of war.

Commercial affairs in Britain had assumed a much healthier appearance. From the Commercial and Monetary article of Wilmer & Smith's European Times of the latest date, we take the following extracts:

"The receipt of more satisfactory intelligence from the seat of war in the East, the recent heavy arrivals of gold from Australia and the United States—augmented yesterday by the supplies from Melbourne, ex Argo (£310,914)—the latter being nine months *en route*—with continued ease in the money market, all tend to give a more cheerful tone to the commercial world. The supply of money continues quite adequate to the command, and the rates for accommodation at the Bank of England, the discount houses, and the Stock Exchange, exhibit very little variation. The Continental Exchanges show a tendency to further improvement, and gold could not now be sent from this country, except at a decided loss.

"The Corn market throughout the kingdom has recovered from the panic of last week, and prices have an upward tendency. The general advance on Wheat has been 3s. to 4s. per quarter, and Flour 2s. to 3s. per barrel and sack.—At Liverpool, to-day, the attendance was small. English Wheat and Flour could only be moved in retail at about the same price as prevailed on Tuesday. Foreign Wheat is held too high for present business. Indian Corn was less brisk, and rather cheaper. The tone of the market throughout was dull, and any attempt to raise prices was unsuccessful for any article of the trade.

"The Provision Trade has been quiet but steady in value since our last.

"The Iron Trade is quiet, and the demand limited. The workmen in the Iron district are under notice for a reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages, to which many of them are unwilling to submit.

"The state of trade in the manufacturing districts, continues to exhibit improvement generally. At Manchester a more cheerful tone prevails the demand for yarns, and owing to the increased price of the raw material, manufactures have obtained an advance of 1d per lb. on almost all qualities. In cloths, however, there has been no improvement in value, but orders are coming in more freely. The reports from the woolen districts are also more satisfactory—the home demand consequent upon the favourable state of agricultural operations, have produced a good effect. The lace and hosiery trades appear to have acquired more confidence, chiefly the latter, with increased transactions, mostly for home consumption.—The enquiry for exports to the United States is renewed, and manufacturers look on the position of the market as highly favourable as regards the future. The iron districts are the only drawback to the general improved trade of the country. Several failures have occurred in Birmingham, causing a feeling of distrust, probably beyond any thing warranted by the actual state of affairs.

"The British funds have presented a daily improving tendency since our last, occasioned by the growing hopes of peace, based on the

conference at Vienna. The favourable intelligence from the Crimea, and the continued easy state of the money market, have also exercised a good influence upon the market.

### RECIPROCITY TREATY.

It appears by the St. John papers, that there is some difficulty about this treaty—the Americans having put such a construction on it, as will exclude many articles which it was expected would be allowed to be imported duty free.

On this subject the Freeman has a leader, from which we copy the annexed extract.

YANKEE HUMBLED.—"It will be observed by the subjoined extract from the Boston Times, that by a circular of the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury several articles, which it was thought would be admissible to the U. S. market duty free, under the Reciprocity Treaty, must still pay duty. The Treaty says as plainly as words can that all lumber, round, sawn or hewed, unmanufactured in whole or in part, should be admitted duty free; but the Secretary appears to think that if the article be one which by merely sawing or hewing is rendered fit for use, it must be classed as a manufacture: such are joists, laths, beams cut to given dimensions, pailings, pickets, posts, rails, &c., &c, in short nearly all the articles in lumber, from the free entry of which into the American markets this Province hoped to derive any advantage. We do not want to send them our square timber or deals for which we generally get a better price in England, and now they say that on all other articles we must still pay the duty.

"We can only conclude that the whole question is in a most unsatisfactory position after all the negotiations:

"The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular, declaring that the following specified articles, decisions in respect to all of which, with the exception of the article laths, have been heretofore made by the department under the existing tariff act, are to be considered as manufactures of wood, and therefore not admissible to free entry, namely: beams, boards, planks, joists, shingles, laths, lasts, staves, hoops, headings, masts, spars, knees, canes, pailings, pickets, posts, rails, rail-ties, or any other articles of wood, entered under the designation of timber or lumber, or otherwise if fully manufactured and fit for use as imported, or manufactured in whole or in part by planing, turning, or any process of manufacture other than hewing or sawing."

The following is the Editor of the Courier's opinion on the matter.

"ADMISSION OF ARTICLES UNDER THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.—We have received a copy of the Circular of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, conveying instructions as to the mode in which parties who have heretofore paid duties on fish, timber, and lumber, from these Colonies, are to have such duties returned. We find that the admission of timber and lumber of all kinds, round, hewed, or sawed, as expressed in the Treaty, is not to extend to such descriptions of wood as have been planed or turned, these being deemed manufactured, but will be confined to articles in the rough, or those, 'hewed or sawed.' Under this arrangement, ship-knees, when hewed only, laths, and sawed-shingles, will be admitted duty free in the United States. Dressed staves from the United States will be excluded here, while dressed shingles from hence, will be excluded there.

"We have no doubt, that the beneficial effect of the existing reciprocity arrangement will soon make itself felt both in the Province and the United States, and lead to further concessions on both sides respecting manufactured articles, greatly to the advantage of all parties.

"We find a mistaken expression has gone abroad, that Boards and other sawed lumber are not to be admitted duty free in the United States, and we are happy to correct the error."

This morning we obtained, a copy of Mr Farlow's Circular of the 31st ult. from which we take the following in relation to the matter.

"Since date of my last Circular, the President of the United States has issued his Proclamation declaring the Reciprocity Treaty to be in full force and effect. The goods enumerated therein are therefore now admitted to free entry.

"The Secretary of the Treasury in his circular of instructions to the Collectors of customs, has directed that beams, boards, planks, joists, shingles, laths, lasts, staves, hoops, headings, masts, spars, knees, canes, pailings, pickets, posts, rail ties, or any other article of wood, entered under the designation of timber or lumber, or otherwise, if fully manufactured and fit for use as imported, or manufactured in whole or in part by planing, turning, or any process of manufacture other than hewing or sawing, are to be considered as manufactures of wood, and therefore not admissible to free entry.

In view of the principles admitted as forming the basis of negotiations that resulted in the formation of the Reciprocity Treaty, this construction of the Secretary of the Treasury, cannot but be considered as most unjust to the "Provinces"; shutting out, as it will, if persisted in, their great lumbering interests from the benefits fairly understood, and honestly expected to result from the treaty.