

of New Brunswick," published in 1850. That Report, little though some may have thought of it, cannot fail to go down to posterity, its popularity and value increasing with the growth of intelligence and the cultivation of the resources of this Province. To the farmers of this County that Report contains much valuable information, and in no way can they pass the leisure hours of the long winter evenings more profitably than in studying it, and the many other works which have emanated from the pen of Professor Johnston.

Respectfully Submitted,
JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

Communications.

TEMPERANCE.

Americans boast of their Republican form of government, of their free institutions, &c., &c., and tell us that theirs is the only land of freedom, but, according to our ideas of liberty, some of their popular notions savour little of that Heaven-born gift.

Our remarks on the Liquor Law reminded us of an anecdote related to us by a valued, but deceased Naval friend, who had been first Lieutenant of the Ganges when she was the Flag Ship of the Mediterranean. Having anchored off some small Town on the Turkish Coast, an official came along side in a small skiff, to ascertain the name of the ship, her business, &c.—The quarantine regulations being very stringent in all parts of that sea, he was not allowed to go on board, but communicated with our friend from alongside, through an interpreter. His enquiries satisfied, he, through the same channel, asked for a glass of rum to drink the Lieutenant's health. What! exclaimed our friend—a glass of rum, I thought the Khoran forbids strong drinks to all true believers! Psha! exclaimed the Turk—Rum was not known to Mahomet, had the Prophet only once tasted it he would never have thought of forbidding the use of so delicious a beverage. The Lieutenant was not disposed to argue the point, and ordered the rum. A decanter and a tumbler were accordingly handed down, and the official drank off about two-thirds of a pint of pure Jamaica, undiluted, with as much gusto as though it had been so much sherbet, and stroking his beard he observed he should like to have a puncheon. Then, to the astonishment of the by-standers, he requested to have another glass. Another glass! ejaculated the Lieutenant, why, tell him it will kill him! The interpreter having repeated our friend's observation, the official coolly observed, pointing to the boatman, that it was for him—the latter calling the Prophet to witness that he would not taste the forbidden poison—but the former persisting in his demand, another glass was handed to him, which he immediately offered to his companion. The boatman persisting in his refusal to taste it; his cup-bearer coolly drew a pistol from his girdle, and presenting it at his retractory countryman with one hand, and the rum with the other, gave him his choice of the two evils. This cogent argument was not to be resisted, and the boatman quaffed his allowance with as much apparent gratification as the official did his, who then significantly observed, you will tell no tales.

In our opinion, the most powerful auxiliary that tee-totalers can call to their aid is education. We fully concur in the truthfulness of the old proverb, that "ignorance is the parent of vice." Remove that stumbling block from your path and the demon of intemperance will gradually disappear, like the snows of winter beneath the genial rays of the glorious orb of light. But so long as one half at least of your population can neither read or write, your efforts will be vain. Educate the masses, establish village libraries, Mechanics' Institutes, courses of Lectures, and you will insure the rapid and luxuriant growth of the tree of temperance. Such a mode of culture will cause it to take deep root and destroy the rank weeds which now retard its growth. If ignorance is the parent of vice, and if intemperance be the besetting sin of the ignorant, remove the cause and you effect a radical cure. But so long as a vast portion of the inhabitants of these Provinces are uneducated—so long as the substance is neglected to grasp the shadow—grog shops will exist and drunkenness prevail in defiance of all your Legislative enactments. Something more however, is required than mere reading and writing. Religion must be the first stone of the building, without that all your labour is vain, and you exemplify our Saviour's Parable of the man who built his house upon the sand. We address ourselves alike to all religious denominations. Religion is the only sure foundation on which you can raise a glorious and durable superstructure: The fear of man, so far as regards our choice of good or evil, is like a grain of sand in the balance when compared to the fear of God. "Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Such arguments as these may be met by the following pertinent question—How comes it then that numbers of our most talented and educated men are addicted to intemperance. This we admit is unfortunately the case in our villages and rural districts. But these may be

termed as isolated cases. That argument does not hold good as regards Cities and Towns. In large and populous communities the number of educated men who are intemperate is comparatively small. On the other hand we should be curious to ascertain what proportion of those who have fallen can say that their early training was based upon religion.

The mind of man ever active, ever craving, like his body, requires active food. What resource has an ignorant man, how can he supply the cravings of his mind? He has no means of gaining information, no other mode of relaxation than by frequenting Taverns or other similar places of public resort, where, by mixing with his fellow men, he can learn something—be it good or evil.

The darkest page in the history of our Mother Country is that which bears witness to her neglect of the education of the working classes, whilst the United States of America stand pre-eminent as a Nation for their wise and fostering care of the tree of knowledge. Hence their rapid advancement. It is only within the last fifty years that education can lay claim to the rank and dignity of public history in England.

Pagan Persia, could boast of a National system of Education in past ages. Greece owed all her greatness to the spread of education in past ages. Greece owed all her greatness to the spread of education, no available means being neglected by the State to promote the improvement of the people. All free born males were educated by and for the State. In Athens the most free and enlightened State, the males continued their course of education until they had attained their twentieth year. What a lesson, what an example to us professing Christians. We who are born under the benign influence of the Gospel. Athens may be said to have been in the zenith of her glory and prosperity about three hundred years before the birth of our Saviour. Yet after a lapse of upward of eleven centuries and half, what Christian Country can be compared to Athens so far as regards a universal system of education.

The Legislatures of our North American Provinces have wisely provided in some measure for the education of the people. But in too many localities the law is unfortunately a dead letter. Here, for instance, we have an expensive machinery—to what end—what benefit do we really derive from it. Are the Teachers generally speaking, qualified? Are they persons whose example is likely to benefit the rising generation?

A judicious movement, in our opinion, on the part of the Tee-Totalers of these Provinces would be to obtain the passing of an Act to compel all public Officials to become members of their fraternity. Let none but Tee-Totalers be qualified to hold any office of emolument under the State. Such a law not to have a retroactive effect, but to apply only to future appointments. This enactment could not be deemed an arbitrary one, because it would be optional with candidates to accept office subject to such conditions.

Such are our views of this grave question, and we think that ere the new Law has been in operation twelve months, many of its warmest advocates in the Sister Province, will be convinced that the strong arm of the Law is not the most effective weapon in such a warfare.

We think we cannot better conclude this article, which has extended far beyond our first intention, than by giving the Temperance readers of the Gleaner the following verses written by a relative:—

TEMPERANCE HYMN.

A Beacon has been lighted,
Bright as the noon-day sun,
On a world of mind benighted,
Its rays are pouring down;
Full many a shrine of error,
And many a deed of shame,
Dismay'd, has shrunk in terror,
Before the lighted flame.

Victorious, on victorious,
Proud beacon onward haste,
Till floods of light all glorious,
Illumine the moral waste.

Intemperance has foundered,
The demon gasps for breath,
His rapid march is downwards,
To everlasting death.
Old age and youth united,
His works have prostrate hurled;
And soon himself affrighted,
Shall hurry from this world.
Victorious, on victorious,
Proud beacon onward haste,
Till floods of light all glorious,
Illumine the moral waste.

Bold Temperance, untiring,
Strikes at the monster's heart,
Beneath her blows expiring,
He dreads her well-aim'd dart:
Her blows, we'll pray "God speed" them,
The darkness to dispel;
And how we fought for freedom,
Let future ages tell.

Victorious, on, victorious,
Proud beacon onward haste,
Till floods of light all glorious,
Illumine the moral waste.

MERCATOR.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

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This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

NOVASCOTIA.

THE Legislature of this Province met for the despatch of business on the 31st January. Mr Stewart Campbell was appointed Speaker. The Speech of the Lieutenant Governor on opening the Session contained nothing particular: we give a few extracts below:

"Our special gratitude as a people, is due to the Almighty for our exemption from Pestilence during the year that is past.

"To that source we must also gratefully ascribe the success which, in the last season, has attended the industry of the Husbandman.

"The Revenue, though somewhat diminished in productiveness, when compared with that of the preceding year, as was anticipated, from the reduction of Duties, and the first effects of suddenly expanded Commercial freedom, is nevertheless, amply sufficient to meet all demands upon it, and affords satisfactory evidence of the increased energies, and growing prosperity of the people.

"The Normal School—opened at Truro during the past Autumn, under circumstances most auspicious—is now in efficient operation.

"A measure, having for its object the improvement of the general educational condition of the country, will be submitted for your consideration.

"Our Railway system is progressing favourably, and I trust that, when the Accounts of the expenditure and liabilities, connected with it, are laid before you, the utmost prudence and economy will be found to have been observed by those to whom the Legislature has entrusted the conduct of this important branch of the public service.

"The Reports and Accounts respecting St. Peter's Canal, and the Lunatic Asylum, when submitted to you, will show that those public works have advanced satisfactorily during the past season.

"On the subject of the Mines and Minerals, in connection with the claims of the General Mining Association, an opinion of the Imperial Law Officers of the Crown, and a Correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, will be laid before you, which will doubtless engage your most earnest attention.

"A measure will be submitted to you founded on the example of the Mother Country, and on our local experience, for facilitating the collection, and improving the administration of the Revenue.

"The substitution of a simpler and more economical process for re-vesting forfeited lands in the Crown, in place of the existing system, will be proposed to you by my Government.

"The selections of Stock which I have made in accordance with the desire expressed in the closing Session of the last Parliament, will, I trust, commend themselves to your approval.

"I venture to indulge a confident expectation that the further promotion of Agriculture, in its various relations, will, in the present Session, command the interest of the Representatives of a people thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of that great object.

"Some modification of the existing Laws for protection of the River Fisheries appears to me imperatively called for, and I trust that your local experience will suggest such improvement of them as will ensure the attainment of the purpose for which they were enacted.

"You will be gratified, I am sure, to learn that I have resumed the occupation of Government House, seriously injured by the late fire, but renovated and refurnished in a style that bespeaks your munificence, whilst it demands my grateful acknowledgements."

The inhabitants of Halifax have presented their late Mayor, Henry Pryor, Esq. with several pieces of Silver Plate, to evince their appreciation of his services, extending over a period of three years as Mayor of the City.

OUR RAILWAY PROSPECTS.

WE perceive by the Halifax papers, that the Hon. Charles Fisher, Attorney General of this Province, came passenger in the last mail steamer from Britain. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to allow us to be informed what progress that gentleman has made in his negotiations with Messrs. Jackson & Co., in reference to the contract entered into with that firm to build our Railways, or the success he has had in raising funds to prosecute this great and necessary undertaking. As the Legislature meets next week, we presume nothing officially will be allowed to transpire until he gives an account of his mission to that body. When we consider the present distracted state of Europe, the high price of money, and the stringency of the money market, we cannot expect to hear that the Attorney General has accomplished all he could desire, but we hope he has so far succeeded as to induce Messrs. Jackson & Co. to complete the line from the Bend to Shediac, or to relinquish the contract. On this subject we copy the following extracts from an Editorial article of the Fredericton Reporter:

"As the time approaches for an exposition of the operation of our Railway delegates in England, curiosity and expectation are daily becoming more manifest in the Province. It is we believe generally granted, that if the Attorney General fail in the object of his mission, it will not be from any laxity or want of judgment on his part—that such failure would be the result of uncontrollable circumstances; and as the wish is often the herald of the work, the general belief is that he will prove successful. This state of feeling is probably more and more induced in St. John, by some indirect intelligence said to have been received from some public functionary in Halifax; but so far as we are able to ascertain, nothing has emanated from Mr Fisher himself, excepting his communications to the Government, which are, as they should be, strictly private.

"There is another rumour afloat, we suppose also having its origin in St. John, and more immediately connected with the mission of Mr Robertson, to the effect that much greater difficulty exists in negotiating with Messrs. Petto, Brassey & Jackson, in relation to their deserted contract, than that experienced by the Attorney General in getting the money. Time will of course shortly demonstrate the truth or falsehood of all these speculations.

"With regard to the Jackson contract, it is well known that we never held a second opinion. In the face of the highest legal authorities of St. John and Fredericton—that of the present Judge Ritchie, as the framer of the contract, and of Mr Street its reviewer and approver on the part of the Province—in the face of all the Press of St. John and partially of Fredericton, then almost crazy with excitement consequent on the hope of carrying a favorite measure in the face of the general support awarded to that scheme by the Legislature, and by many of our friends, we never ceased to regard it as a mockery and delusion, and to treat it accordingly; and if it should not now assume the character of a snare we shall be exceedingly thankful.

We can easily imagine how Mr Ritchie, then not in government, but merely the prospective Representative of an excited constituency, himself perhaps as excited as any—would close with Mr Jackson upon almost any terms, which the latter might see fit to dictate; but that Mr Street, the Attorney General of the Province—the leading adviser of Sir Edmund Head and his Government, should support or sanction a document, not worth its own size of a cabbage-leaf, was then, and is now, to us a mystery. It were almost as foolish to doubt his legal ability as it would be wicked to impeach his integrity; and yet this fiction of a contract received the sanction of Mr Street, and through him of the old Government, although we are perfectly aware that several of its members viewed it with fixed aversion.

"The most utter sticklers for the 'great English contractors' have since acknowledged that their faith—for after all it appears to have been a matter of faith—has vanished. Mr Jackson was at the time negotiating for the ownership of the line from Portland to Montreal; and although in the event of the erection of a line from St. John to Portland he might identify himself with the general line which would then exist from Halifax to Montreal, he had not the slightest intention to fix himself to a local line from Shediac to St. John, unless he could obtain what he afterwards asked for, about double the amount of his first tender. About a year and a half of the time named in his nominal contract is yet to expire, and the specified payments in the mean time have been most rigidly made by the Government. Some work has been done on the eastern portion of the line, and some property or materials deposited; but we cannot ascertain the amount of either. Such are the circumstances under which the Hon. Mr Robertson has been deputed on behalf of the company to treat with Mr Jackson; and if with the assistance of the Attorney General, he can succeed in relieving the Province from Mr Jackson and his contract, he should have a public dinner at least as sumptuous (the liquors excepted) as that which celebrated the turning of the first sod, when the voluntary shoulders of the people foolishly bowed beneath this Provincial incubus.