

Hon. John Montgomery and Sherman Smith, Esq., of Dalhousie, are said to have been present at the great road sale, not for the purpose of being road contractors, but the Hon. *Gentlemen* alluded, it is said—for the purpose of tendering his advice to Mr Joseph Meagher, on the different lines of road laid off. Which of the Hon. gentlemen was to tender his advice? Next follows a hit at the Hon. John Montgomery. 'As for the Hon. gentleman expressing his opinion on the different lines, I am creditably informed he never did, for a good reason, he never saw the line of road partly opened by the former superintendent. But I have no doubt the Hon. gentleman, if a judge in these matters, will state openly his opinions, for the satisfaction of both superintendents.' Complimentary, very, to the Hon. gentleman's judgment? But let me ask Contractor, what use is there in the Hon. gentleman expressing an opinion, when you yourself expressed a doubt at the very commencement, and at best he could but satisfy one of the superintendents, whatever he might do with the public. Of this fact, however, I will assure Contractor, that the Hon. Mr M. knows the difference between a road and a bush fence, as well as that of a gentleman and a hedge-hog.

Contractor then goes on to say—'I am creditably informed he never did, for a good reason, he never saw the line of road partly opened by a former superintendent.' That the Hon. gentleman travelled on a portion of road alluded to on the day of the first sale of road, I can prove by one, two, or three witnesses, and more if required; but whether that gentleman expressed an opinion as to the merits or demerits of the different lines of road, is not my business at present to enquire into, suffice it to say, that if Contractor's creditable authority be correct, and the Hon. gentleman did say that he never saw the line of road partly opened by the former superintendent, I say that such an expression can only be accounted for in this way—that he mistook Contractor's line of road for a cow path, such paths and tracks being very common about the Flat lands, from the number of cattle attracted to those flats to satisfy the cravings of nature; but apart from all this, it is of no earthly consequence whether the Hon. gentleman ever saw or travelled on your favourite line of road. He knows all about the Flat Lands; he knows the ravages and effects of spring and fall freshets in that quarter; and could give a correct opinion, were the different lines truthfully described to him, even if he were sitting in his office or parlour.

Contractor says—'The present Superintendent, Mr Lefeber, is an honest, industrious man, but as his pretensions of road making cannot be much, as his first work in that line, was the bushing out of the Kempt road, which any boy could have superintended.' Take now another extract and couple it with the foregoing—'I am sorry to hear of so many of the contractors giving up their contract, it cannot be that the road has not sold high enough, one half mile sold for £100, and I am told it will not finish the contract.' Strange, passing strange, that such should be the case, when Superintendent's highest pretensions to road making consists in the bushing out of the Kempt road, which any boy in the country could have superintended, and that Contractor is satisfied; 'it could not be, because the road has not sold high enough.' Perhaps the contractors found out that it was to be but a bushed road, or dog path, and in consequence became disgusted, scorning to take money for nothing. But console yourself, Mr Contractor, and strive to command a little patience, and I shall promise you to clear up this strange mystery by and bye, if not to your satisfaction, at least to that of the public. So Contractor after taking breath with a period after the word Superintendent, clears his swallow, and says—'But being in the confidence of the member for the county, of course qualified him for any undertaking, more especially when such a man as Alexander Fraser, was appointed to be his Guide.' Well, well, my dear fellow, never mind this sad circumstance at present, I shall strive to make amends for this unhappy circumstance hereafter. This clever writer continues to remark—'It is stated in the same communication, that two gentlemen by the name of Sillers had counselled the former superintendent, but I am well aware he did not require counseling from any person, being perfectly competent of himself, and as for a considerable sum having been expended by that gentleman, on what is called the disputed line:—A mere paltry sum of seventy pounds, which were carefully expended, and made nearly one and a half a mile of road fourteen feet in breadth on a superior line to the present, and can be made for one third the cost of the other.'—Good, very good, Mr Contractor, and I thank you for your information.

I shall pass over the remarks in reference of the Messrs. Sillers and the former Superintendents, not wishing to have anything to say to either at present, and just notice your more paltry sum of seventy pounds, which you say built one and a half a mile of road, fourteen feet in breadth, on a superior line to the present. I did not know correctly what sum was expended, nor the amount of labour performed, but now we have it in the shape of 'a mile and a half a mile of road, fourteen feet in breadth.' All this may be quite true, but this I state for the benefit of the people at a distance, that this mile and a half of road, and fourteen feet in breadth if it was ever made, it has like Larry M. Flin's kit, run away sir.' It is not there now, which can be proved by 100 witnesses if required, and the truth of which any gentleman interested can satisfy himself of by taking a guide from the neighborhood of the Flat Lands to point out the place where it

once was. But, Mr Contractor, before proceeding any further, let me ask you a few plain, straight-forward questions. Dare you, or any one of you, in your 'second epistle to the Gleaner' or the Times, with which the public are threatened to be inflicted with; dare you, I say, state, and put your name to it, that a mile and a half of road exists, fourteen feet wide, or a mile, or half a mile. If you do, I shall take it in hand to prove you state what is not true, before the public or any court, by 50 witnesses as of respectable a character as the Counties of Bonaventure or Restigouche can produce. Again I ask you—would you—dare you, take in hand to drive a horse, an ox, or even a Jackass, on this mile and a half of road, and fourteen feet in breadth. If so, I would recommend you to keep a driving school.

I have trespassed on your space and shall resume the subject in your next paper.

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI :

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1857.

TERMS.—New Subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old Subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 15s. 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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CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM
Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited November 2, 1857 £264 12 7
Withdrawn, including interest, 645 17 10

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Moon last Qr. 8th, 2h 15m A. M. HIGH WATER.		
6 S.	2nd Sunday in Advent.	9h 8' 9A35
7 M.		9 59 10 27
8 T.		10 54 11 24
9 W.	Washington died 1799.	11 52
10 Th.		0 28 1 0
11 F.	[1718.	1 31 2 2
12 S.	Chas. 12th of Sweden killed	2 32 3 2

The above Tides having been calculated with regard to the moon's horizontal parallax and angular distance from the sun, will be found to be correct, due allowance being made at times for high winds and freshets. For Richibucto, subtract, 2h30m.—Bathurst, 2h45m.—Dalhousie, 2h50m from the above.

GENERAL HAVELOCK

A late number of the London Athenæum furnishes the following notice of the early training and characteristics of this good and brave officer, who we hope may be spared the fate of many of his companions in arms, that he may reap from the Government a rich measure of reward.

'Old Phlos' is a name which we are sure, must be now making the hearts of old Carthusians dance with pride and delight. The Charter-house has boasted of many scholars who have sprung into eminent men; among others, Crashaw, the poet; Addison and Steele, the essayists; John Wesley the religious reformer; and Lord Ellenborough, the Lord Chief Justice. To the list will surely be added 'Old Phlos.' The pet name will be remembered by Carthusians whose memories can go back some 40 years or more. They will not have forgotten the gentle and thoughtful lad who used to stand looking on while others played, and whose gentle meditative manner procured for him the name of 'Philosopher,' subsequently diminished to 'Phlos,' and occasionally applied as 'Old Phlos.'—That young and popular philosopher is the soldier at whose name the hearts of Englishmen beat with honest pride. 'Old Phlos' of the Charter-house is Havelock, the hero of Cawnpore."

BRITISH EAST INDIA POSSESSIONS.

The following account of British India we copy from a late London paper. The information it furnishes will be interesting at the present period:

'The territory in India which owns British sway is about the size of Austria, Prussia, France, and Belgium put together. The Bengal presidency is about the size of Turkey in Europe, but four times as populous. The Madras presidency is not much larger than Spain, but contains a population equal to

Spain and Portugal combined. The population of British India, in comparison with other parts of that country, is the best possible proof that the natives prefer British rule to the power of their own potentates. Belgium the most thickly populated country in Europe, contains 337 persons to the square mile; but in some districts of Bengal there are 698 to square mile. The population to every square mile in England is 304; in Ireland, 242; in Scotland, 110; and in France 168; but that of British India, notwithstanding the vast forests and the thousands of acres still uncultivated, reaches 124 to the square mile. The natives are continually pouring into those parts of India where they are under the protection of British law and government. In England the taxation per head in 1853 was £1 19s 4d; in France, £1 12s; in Prussia, 19s 3d; whilst in British India it was only 4s 5d per head. The wages of a native labourer are about 7s per month; in England they are 40s; but whilst the price of labour comparatively is as six to one, the taxation is as nine to one.'

THE PRESENT TIMES.

LET us look in any direction we please, the present aspect of affairs is gloomy in the extreme. We have witnessed many commercial panics, but never one so extensive—that caused the failure of so many firms of long standing, in nearly every portion of Europe, the United States, and we are fearful we will have to add, the British North American Colonies, as the present.

We have fortunately, in this quarter, up to the present period, been but slightly affected, but we are now entering into our difficulties. The effects of the monetary crisis have at length reached us, and a good deal of anxiety exists on the subject. We hope sincerely it will be of short duration, and that we will be enabled to pass through the ordeal without witnessing the downfall of our men of enterprise, and the prostration of all branches of business, as has been experienced in other communities.

The inhabitants of the Northern Counties of this Province, have, within the last eight or ten years, passed through many vicissitudes, occasioned by short crops, the failure of merchants both here and in Britain, and from other causes; but they manfully combated them and succeeded in overcoming them. We have a hope that such will be our lot at the present momentous crisis. But to accomplish this it will require strict economy in our expenditures—a disposition must be evinced to aid and assist one another as far as prudence and our circumstances will admit of—and forbearance must be extended to all such persons as may be so unfortunately circumstanced as to be unable to meet their engagements. If such a course be generally pursued, we may be enabled to tide over the present crisis; but if a different one be adopted, we may have to suffer long, and witness many of those distressing scenes which we read of as having taken place in other parts of the world.

The following sensible remarks on the causes which were instrumental in bringing about the crisis, as well as on the present aspect of affairs, are taken from the *Eastern Times*:

'But a year or two since and there was a numerous class of men, who, starting with little or nothing, have by apparent success, swelled into mighty characters. They talked of big stocks of goods, big vessels, big steamboats and railroads, big houses, big horses and big everything. They rode right over their less bold and ambitious brethren, who were content to continue in the even tenor of their way, and considered them as destitute of enterprise, energy, stamina, ability and activity. The former considered themselves the men of the day, and were willing to undertake any enterprise, however desperate, upon a capital of promises to pay backed up by friends, whose promises have proved equally as valueless. So long as the banks continued to inflate their balloons with paper gas, they were enabled to float triumphantly over everything that was common or unclean. The trade in lands, corn, sugar, silks and all the necessaries and luxuries of life were fully under their control. With the imaginary gain,

'Rusted in silks
And silver had to spare.'

daughters "trundled hoops" covered with the nicest fabrics, and sons sported fast teams, women and liquor, while the elegant mansion showed that the owner was a man of taste and pleasure. He grew rotund with pride, and plethoric with fat living. The airy castle was complete and all was going merrily on. Suddenly the supply of gas was cut off. Amazement seized the crowds. When at one of Napoleon's great battles, Lannes was mortally wounded and was told that he could not live, he exclaimed, 'what a Marshall of France die?'—He had risen from the ranks and was inflated. So with the mushroom rich; they fell, and

'Where are now,
Those busy, bustling days?
Those gay-spent festive nights?
Those longings after fame?
Those unsolid hopes of happiness?'

'Codfish rank ceased to be at par. Human nature was resolved into its original elements. Commiseration was demanded; but is it any worse for the few fallen to suffer, for a season, than the thousands whose lives have been a continued struggle? But the less ambitious, having been left apparently behind in the race for wealth and power, and having resisted the temptation of hazarding all in speculative enterprises, will remain unmoved while the financial tempest howls around them. Relying on God and their own right arm, they will safely breast the storm and show to their contemporaries that if they are not so fast, they have more bottom than their more showy competitors. Most magnanimously, however, will they extend to their fallen brethren the right hand of fellowship, and together will renew the contest in the great battle of life.'

The following article on the same subject, affords a striking contrast to the remarks copied above. How very dissimilar the medium through which the two writers viewed the matter. It is copied from the *Cincinnati Times*:

'A tall, lank, Jerusalem sort of a fellow, pretty well under the influence of Mr Alcohol, was observed to be swinging to a lamp post on Fifth street last night. He was talking quite loudly to the aforesaid post, when a guardian of the night approached him.

'Come sir, you are making too much noise,' said the watchman.

'Noise? Who's that said noise?' asked the post-holder, as he skewed his head, and endeavoured in vain to give the intruder a sober look.

'It was me,' replied the watchman, as he exposed his silvered numbers to his full view.

'You? and who in the d—l are you. It taint me that's making of the noise. No sir. It's the bank that's a making all the noise.—They are a 'breakin', a crushin', and a smashin' of things to an incredible amount. Noise? It's the bankers that are a makin' of the noise. They are a cussin', a rappin', and a stavin' all 'round. It's the brokers that are a makin' of the noise. They are a hollorin', and a yelpin', and a screechin', just like wild injuns, over the times, that worsers everybody but themselves. No sir, it aint me that's a makin' of the noise.'

'You are tight as a brick in a new wall,' said the officer, amused at the good nature of the individual.

'Me tight? Who said I am tight? No, sir, you are mistaken. It's not me that's tight.—It's money that is tight. Go down on Third street, and they'll tell you there that money is tight. Go into the workshops, and you find money is tight. Read the newspapers, and you'll find out that it's money that's tight.—Me tight? I've got nare a red, but Kanhawa Bill, and the duce couldn't get tight on that. No sir, I'm not tight.'

'Then you are drunk.'

'Drunk? Stranger, yer out of it agin.—The world's drunk. The hull community is a staggerin' 'round, butting their heads agin stone walls, and a skinning of their noses on the curbstone of adversity. Yes, sir, we're all drunk—that is, everybody's drunk but me.—I'm sober, sober as a police Judge on a rainy day. I ain't drunk; no sir, stranger, I ain't drunk.'

'What are you making such a fool of yourself for, then?'

'Fool? Sir, I'm not a fool. I'm distressed. I've caught the contagion. I'm afflicted.'

'Are you sick?'

'Exactly.'

'What's the matter with you?'

'I've got the Panics.'

'The what?'

'The panics, sir; it's a going to carry off this town. I have tried to escape by hard drink, but it's no use. The panics have got me, sure.'

The watchman, more amused than ever, tendered his sympathy, and, what was better, his aid, to the panic-stricken individual. In the course of half an hour he had the pleasure of putting him into the door of his boarding-house, and pointing out to him the best remedy—a soft bed and a long slumber.'

RAILROADS IN AMERICA.

A late Boston paper furnishes the following list of Railway Companies as having gone to protest on their floating debt, suspended, or made an assignment of their property, in the month of October last.

'New York and Erie, \$38,000,000; Illinois Central, \$24,000,000; Philadelphia and Reading, \$20,000,000; Michigan Central, \$14,000,000; Michigan Southern, \$18,000,000; Cleveland and Toledo, \$7,500,000; Milwaukee and Mississippi, \$7,000,000; La Crosse and Milwaukee, \$14,000,000; Cleveland and Pittsburg, \$6,000,000; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, \$10,000,000; Chicago, St. Paul, and Fond du Lac, \$5,000,000; North Pennsylvania, \$6,000,000; Cumberland Coal Company, \$6,000,000; Huntingdon and Broad Top, \$1,200,000; Steubenville and Indiana, \$5,000,000; total liabilities, \$181,700,000.'