

THE INVENTOR OF RAILROADS.

Howitt, of the "People's Journal" some few years since, gave the following brief sketch of the alleged inventor of Railways, who up to May 1853, had been neglected and almost forgotten in England:

"About half a century ago (the exact year is not known) there was born in Leeds, England, a man named Thomas Gray. Scarcely anything is known of his early history. He was, we believe a poor collier, and, being very ingenious, he conceived the idea of facilitating the transportation of coal from the Middletown colliery of Leeds, a distance of three miles, by means of a sort of railway which was constructed of wood. Upon this his cars moved at the rate of three-and-a-half miles an hour, to the great merriment of a wise and discriminating public, who laughed at the idea of a railway, as something very visionary, and as the mere suggestion of laziness. Poor Gray thought otherwise. Magnificent views of future railways, such as are now stupendous realities, loomed up before him, and he began to talk in public of a general system of iron railroads. He was, of course, laughed at, and declared a visionary moon-struck fool. But the more Gray contemplated his little railway for coal, the more firmly did he believe in the practicability and immense usefulness of his scheme. He saw in it all that is now realised, and he resolved, in spite of the ridicule, the sneers, the rebuffs that were heaped upon him, to prosecute his undertaking. He petitioned the British Parliament, and sought interest with all the great men of the kingdom; but all this had no effect except to bring down upon him wherever he went, the loud sneers and ridicule of all classes. Still he persevered and at length engaged the attention of men of intelligence and influence, who finally embraced his views, urged his plans, and the result is now before the world. Thomas Gray, the inventor of railroads who, not longer ago than 1820, was laughed at for mentioning the idea, still lives in Exeter, England, in the full realisation of his grand and noble railroad schemes, for which he was declared insane. How much has the world been benefited by his insanity?"

NEW WORKS.

LECTURES ON TEMPERANCE.—To Mr C. F. Beverly, of the Olive Branch Book Store, Fredericton, we are indebted for a copy of Lectures on Temperance, by Eliphalet Nott, D. D., L. L. D., with an Introduction by Taylor Lewis, M. D., Professor of Greek in the Union College. The work is Edited by Amasa McCoy, late Editor of the Prohibitionist, and published by Sheldon, Blakeman & Co., New York, upon whom, for its masterly and workmanlike appearance, it reflects the highest credit. We extract from the Preface the following highly complimentary account of the writer and his work:

"The Temperance Reform long since engaged sufficient learning and talent in its advocacy to rescue it from contempt. This vast agitation, which for more than a third of a century has stirred the heart and the mind of society, has evolved a literature of its own, which is more than respectable. Yet of the tens of thousands of speeches, sermons, addresses and lectures; the editorial reports and prize essays; the papers, tracts, pamphlets and volumes which this prolonged and arduous discussion has elicited, there are no productions on this subject which are marked with so much learning, eloquence and wisdom, as these eleven lectures by President Nott.

"The mature fruits of the orator, who, at the age of thirty, pronounced a discourse on the death of Hamilton, which has made him famous for eloquence ever since—the wise and efficient President, ever since that year, (1804) of Union College—the beloved and honoured preceptor of fifty-three successive classes of collegians, and now a patriarch hardly less of Temperance than of education; the mature fruits of so gifted, so experienced, so profound, so sagacious an intellect; the vivacity and fervor of the author's style; the beautiful truth-seeking spirit which marks his investigations, his tireless patience of research, his unflinching charity and candor to all opponents, his devout deference to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and last, but not least, his own great personal renown; these circumstances unite to concentrate upon these Lectures a degree of interest and attention which is commanded by no other volume on this vast social reform; a social reform, let it be added, which, more than all others combined, engrosses the thoughts and feelings, the hopes and fears, of this generation of men.

"Often as we had read these Lectures before, and always with admiration, instruction and delight, we rise from the more careful and critical perusal which is necessary to those who examine the proof sheets for the press, impressed with a deeper sense of their extraordinary merit, and a large appreciation of their power for good over the minds of others. Our own experience would lead us to urge even veteran friends of Temperance—with whom it is a common mistake, that to them no more reading on the subject is necessary—to study anew a volume which, beyond any other ever published, either in America or Great Britain, goes further towards exhausting and placing on an impregnable basis, the arguments in favor of Total Abstinence from all intoxicating liquors.

"The value of this volume is much enhanced by an able and elaborate introduction by Taylor Lewis, LL. D., Professor of the Greek

Language and Literature in Union College—a man who is equally eminent as an acute, and original thinker, and for his profound acquisition in classical and in biblical learning."

From a letter written by E. C. Delvan, Esq., the President of the New York State Temperance Society, we take the following extracts, to show the high opinion formed of these Lectures by this gentleman:

"It is my belief that in the proportion that this work is circulated and read, the cause of Temperance will advance and be perpetuated.

"I would urge all ministers of the gospel, all professing Christians, all heads of families, all organized Temperance societies, all instructors in institutions of learning from the common school up to the university, to take immediate steps to give universal circulation to this work, called, by one of our most learned and benevolent citizens, 'the book of books on Temperance.'"

We recommend the work to our Temperance friends as it is presented to the public in a form that must be attractive, and at a price to bring it within the reach of all. It may be seen at our Stationery Establishment.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—To Messrs Phillips, Sampson & Co. of Boston, Publishers, we are indebted for the first number of this magazine. It contains 128 pages of clearly printed matter, and bears a marked resemblance to the British Periodicals, not only upon its face, but in the manner and style of its contributions.—For a list of its contributors and the aim for which it is got up, we refer our readers to an advertisement in another column. The following is a list of its contents:—

Douglas Jerrold: Personal Reminiscences. Florentine Mosaics. Santa Filomena. Sally Parsons's Duty. The Manchester Exhibition. The Romany Girl. The Chartist's Complaint. Days. Brama. The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table: Every Man his own Boswell. Illusions. The Gift of Tritemus. The Mourning Veil. Pendlam, a Modern Reformer.—British India. Akin by Marriage. The Origin of Didactic Poetry. The Financial Flurry. Sonnet. The Round Table. Literary Notices. Music.

It is for sale in all the cities and principal villages by all Booksellers, Newsmen, and Periodical Dealers, and that those residing where it is not convenient for them to obtain it through such sources, can have it sent by mail, prepaid, for one year, by sending three dollars to the address of the publishers.

It can be seen at our Stationery Store, adjoining the Gleaner Office.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—To the Publishers, Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., of New York, we are indebted for the October number of this Magazine. The following is a list of its contents:

What will he do with it?—Pisistratus Caxton.—Part V. New Sea-Side Studies.—No. V. Jersey. Modern Light Literature.—Society. Our Hagiology. Scenes of Clerical Life.—No III. Janet's Repentance.—Part IV. Belogher Traits. Teaching and Training: A Dialogue. The Haunting Face. From India. The Syrian Route to the East.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE community here were not a little disappointed in not receiving the British mail, as the Telegraph reported that the steamer Canada had arrived at Halifax at eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, only two hours after the regular period for the departure of the mail from that city for this quarter. How is this? Surely the Post Office authorities in this Province, should enter into some permanent arrangement with the Government of Nova Scotia, to prevent such disappointments. We presume the mail was despatched to Windsor, to be forwarded to St. John by one of the steamers. We have no objection that the inhabitants of that city should receive every attention, and obtain their mails at as early a date as possible, but we do not see why, to accomplish this, the interests of this section of the Province should be lost sight of. We think this is a matter which requires the prompt action of the people, and we are not a little astonished they have not made some remonstrance on the subject.

We are indebted to the Westmorland Times for an extended Telegraph report of the news, which we have copied entire. We also publish a summary of the news from our American journals, obtained by the Persia at New York.

CANADA.

We perceive by our exchanges from this Province, that Sir ALLAN McNAB has retired from public life, after serving his country, in various ways, for upwards of forty years. The Hamilton Spectator contains the following

Letter to the Electors of that city from Sir Allan.

GENTLEMEN,—I deeply regret that the state of my health is such, that I am unable longer to discharge my duty in Parliament with justice to you, or satisfaction to myself. I, therefore, feel that the time has arrived for me to retire from a position that it has been the pride of my life to enjoy. I would have taken this step at the close of the last session, had I not believed there would have been a general election, and I was unwilling to give you the trouble and annoyance of a second contest; however, from the best information I can obtain, I am inclined to the belief that there will not be a dissolution of Parliament. I have, therefore, transmitted my resignation to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, that you may have ample time to select a member in my place.

Most sincerely do I thank you, gentlemen, for the kind and cordial support you have accorded me during nine successive Parliaments, in which I have had the honor of representing either the county or city.

The best portion of my life has been spent amongst you; and I can say, WITH TRUTH, that during this long period my best energies have been devoted to the interests of my constituents, and the honor of my country.

One word more before we part, and that is—if, in times of trial and great excitement, I have erred, I trust you will kindly ascribe it to an error of the head, and not the heart. Believe me, Gentlemen, I shall ever remain, your greatly obliged, and very faithful friend,

ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB.

Danburn, Oct. 24, 1857.

The Montreal Herald after copying this Letter thus alludes to the cause of his retirement and the labours of the learned and gallant Baronet.

"That the gallant and learned Baronet has done well and wisely in retiring from public life, all will admit, while few, indeed, but will regret the cause of his resignation. No man in Canada has played a more prominent part in public life than Sir Allan, or, upon the whole, with more credit to himself and advantage to his country. So far, we are inclined to believe, the more candid, at least, of his political opponents will be ready to concede, and we are satisfied he will carry with him into the retirement of private life the personal regard and esteem of many who have been his firmest opponents as a politician and minister of the crown."

It appears that the offer of several Companies of Canadian Militia to proceed to India or to perform active service in Canada should it be found necessary to remove the troops, has been laid before her Majesty in Council. The Queen has expressed her gratification at the loyalty and patriotism thus displayed by her Canadian subjects, but declines accepting their offer, assigning as a reason that her Government state that reasons may exist which at present would prevent them entertaining proposals which would involve the withdrawal of any portion of the Militia of the Province.—What does this mean? Is there any difficulty apprehended from our neighbours over the border? We hope not.

The following is the official answer published by the Governor General's Secretary on the subject.

Governor's Secretary's Office,  
Toronto, 21st October, 1857.

Sir,—I am directed by his Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, to inform you that he has received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies acknowledging the letters in which you forwarded offers from Lieut.-Colonel Jackson, Major T. Bailly Turner, Major Gamache, Major Smyth, Captain Ibbitson, and the men under their command of the volunteer force, to proceed to India or for active duty in Canada.

The several offers have been laid before Her Majesty, who has been pleased to express the high gratification which it has afforded her to receive these additional proofs of the loyal and patriotic feelings which animate the inhabitants of Canada.

Reasons may exist which at present would make Her Majesty's Government hesitate before entertaining proposals which would involve the withdrawal of any portion of the Militia of the Province, but whatever decision may be ultimately arrived at as to the expediency of accepting the services thus freely and voluntarily proffered for foreign service, I am instructed to request that you will carry to these gentlemen the strongest assurance of Her Majesty's appreciation of their zeal and loyalty, and sympathy with the other portions of her Empire.

I have the honor, &c.,  
R. T. PENNYPACKER,  
Governor's Secretary.

The Adjutant-General of Militia.

The Montreal Herald gives the following report of the Flour market at that city on the 24th October:

"The receipts are light, but the demand for shipment having fallen off, the sales of the week are unimportant at gradually declining prices. Extra Superfine to-day is not worth over 26s 3d

to 27s; Fancy is now asked for at 25s 6d to 25s 9d; and Superfine is slow of sale at 24s 6d to 25s."

The following is a report of the state of the Market at Toronto on the 22nd ult.

"Wheat.—A larger supply than yesterday was brought into market, and a brisk demand prevailed during the forenoon. It subsequently declined somewhat, however, and the market closed easy. The rates paid during the day varied from 4s 6d to 4s 9d. Some inferior loads did not bring even so high as 4s. About 3,000 bushels offered.

Considerable snow has already fallen in Quebec and Montreal.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THEATRICALS.—On Thursday last the Amateurs repeated the Comedy of "The Heir at Law," with a new Farce, entitled "Naval Engagements." The performers acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner, more particularly when we make due allowance for the smallness of the stage, and the various other inconveniences they laboured under. The funds acquired are to be appropriated as stated, to the relief of the widows and orphans of the Fishermen lost on our coast during the gale of July last. They announced that it was their intention—if circumstance permitted—to play again, the proceeds of their labours to be applied to the relief of the widows, orphans and others, who have suffered in the late fearful and cruel massacres of our countrymen which have recently taken place in India. The audience was numerous, and it gives us much pleasure to be enabled, to record, that the juvenile portion, who have been in the habit for some time past, of conducting themselves in a very rude and boisterous way, much to the annoyance of the other portions of the spectators, during both evenings, demeaned themselves in a very quiet and orderly manner, much to their credit and to the comfort of the audience. We give the youngsters praise, and hope it is an indication that they have seen and feel the impropriety of acting so rudely as they have done on occasions of popular assemblages. "Reform it altogether, Shakspeare, Hem," as Dr. Pangloss would say.

IMPROVEMENT.—We are gratified in being enabled to state that Hallow E'en passed over more quietly than it has done for many years past, much to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the town. If our authorities would act with more firmness and decision, and manifest more zeal in upholding the law, and putting down all public nuisances and outbreaks, many of the evils which now exist to the annoyance of the lovers of peace and decency, would speedily be removed.

THE SEASON.—With the exception of one or two days, the weather during the past week was extremely wet, cold, and disagreeable.—Thursday night, considerable snow fell, but the heavy rains of last night washed it all away. A great many persons are suffering from colds, and there is scarcely a family that has not one or more of its members laid up.—Several schooners with cargoes are due, and their arrivals are anxiously looked for, as there has been such a long continuation of boisterous weather.

SEIZURE.—The American Schooner *Dr. Kane*, has been seized at this Port for an infringement of the Navigation Laws; she having conveyed a cargo of Wood to this Port from Quebec.

WRECK.—The Ship Royal Sovereign, of Belfast, Captain Tier, ran ashore on McEachren's Reef, outside of the Miramichi River, and is expected to be a total wreck. She was outward bound with a cargo of Deals.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday, October 29, by the Rev. W. Henderson, Mr WILLIAM LEACH, farmer, to Miss ANN RUSSELL, both of the Parish of North Esk.

DEATHS.

On Friday morning, Oct 27, after a long and lingering illness, which she bore with christian resignation to the Heavenly Father's will, much beloved and deeply regretted by all who knew her, JESSIE McTAVISH, wife of Wm. Masson, Jr., in the 22nd year of her age, leaving a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

At Chatham, on the 2nd inst., Mr ALEX. McLELAN, a native of Rothshire, Scotland, in the sixty third year of his age, after a painful illness which he bore with patience and resignation to the Divine will.

At Campbellton, Restigouche, on Wednesday evening, 28th ult., of Consumption, DUNCAN SMITH, son of Mr Peter Smith, aged 36 years. His long and painful illness he bore with christian resignation to the Divine will of his Heavenly Father—comforted in his last moments with the cheering thought, that such as fall asleep in Jesus, die only to live, and live to die no more.

His remains were followed to the grave by his sorrowing Father and ten Brothers, and also a large number of friends.