

## MR. TRAVIS'S LECTURE.

From the Saint John Freeman.

Sir:—The Gleaner of the 4th inst., and the Freeman and Newbrunswick of this morning containing articles in reference to the essay on 'Restigouche and Vicinity,' delivered by me at the Institute on the evening of the 21st ult., have been handed to me and seem to require a notice.

Stripping those articles of the large amount of verbiage that they contain, I shall notice the various points in reference to which they join issue with me, and then leave you and such a portion of the public as may feel an interest in the matter to draw your own conclusions.

What your correspondent means by his reference to a 'past occasion,' his acuteness will perhaps enable him to determine. Certainly, I am not aware that Mr Perley and I have had any previous differences, nor that we have ever come in contact at all until a few evenings ago, when I undertook to exercise my right and to defend it, (held in common with all Provincialists) to review a document paid for by the Province and put forth as an official report.

The matter in those letters that I can collect, after setting aside the idle and frivolous portion of their contents, consists of a reference to my notice of Dr Gesner's report on Geology and to Mr Perley's remarks regarding Miscou Island, and the head of ship navigation on the Restigouche.

Concerning the first of these, your correspondent in the very gentlemanly style that appears natural to him, speaks of 'the correctness of Dr Gesner and the ignorance of Mr Travis.' Let us see about that. I stated that Dr Gesner had asserted that coal fields were to be found in a number of places about the Restigouche, but that it appeared to me that it was conclusively proved by other authorities—quite as eminent as the Dr—that the slight indications of coal observable there were not to be looked upon as proofs that coal fields existed in that locality.

Your correspondent affirms the Dr is correct. Now for the authorities. Sir Wm. Logan (the eminent Canadian Geologist, recently knighted) tells us in his geological letters published in the Quebec Morning Chronicle, that there is no such thing as a coal field to be found in the whole of that section of country. In speaking of the slight indications of coal that led Dr Gesner astray, Sir William in his report (published previous to his letters) states that the coal seams which line the margin of the Restigouche contain a small but regular seam of coal, and carboniferous shale, together measuring three inches; adding, 'that though seven thousand feet of vertical thickness in continuous succession have been carefully examined, nothing like a working seam, or like a seam at all has been met with.' Dr. Robb, in speaking of the same place, says, that he had an opportunity of examining the shore, and discovered but a black coaly rock, that he says is 'a black shale, indurated and changed by neighbouring igneous rocks.'

Professor Johnson, who was familiar with these and other reports in speaking of Dr Gesner's remarks relating to the richness of the coal-fields of New Brunswick, says, 'From all I have seen or learned, the opinions he expressed were much too sanguine and exaggerated. This proved unfortunate in many ways, it injured his reputation for general accuracy, diminished the confidence in his reports, and lessened the confidence of the people in the predictions of science generally.' Surely I was right when I said that Sir Wm. Logan differed with Mr Gesner, and that Sir William's views were also apparently concurred in by both Professor Johnson and Dr Robb.

Your correspondent, while acknowledging that he knows nothing about the real extent of the coal at Restigouche, will scarcely persist in asserting, after he reads the above authorities, that he has discovered a 'coal bed' which he has traced from the Restigouche a considerable distance inland. His statements in reference to the coal, though, is quite as true as it is in reference to some other matters of which he now speaks.

Miscou Island is the next subject to which the attention of those very erudite (save the mark!) reviewers is directed. In my notice of the Island, I confined myself to extracts from Cooney on the Northern district of New Brunswick, and to Perley's report (or Mr Perley's if you will) on its Fisheries. The extracts I furnished were given *verbatim*, and if they present Mr Perley's report as apparently contradictory, surely the blame is not with me. It is amusing to see the various and tortuous methods adopted to do away with the effect that the reading of those extracts produced. Mr Perley, in his attempt at a reply to me in the Institute, stated that his description had reference to one solitary farm on the Island—his juvenile defender in the Gleaner affirms that I have misstated the case, that the 70 barrels of potatoes planted, were not planted, but raised. In reference to these matters, first, I put a question to Mr Perley in the Institute, to this effect, "Do you say that the Barley you speak of in your report was raised on Wilson's farm?" Mr Perley, distinctly and emphatically, "I do!" Now for the report.—Mr Perley on pages 17 and 19, speaks of Wilson's farm, (a Mr John Merks, it appears, has also a

farm there) and on page 22 tells us that Point Miscou is four miles north-east of Mr Wilson's farm, and says on page 23, in describing "a gully very near the extremity of Point Miscou" that there was a field of barley there last season, growing luxuriantly." And yet with these facts published, a man can be found who, in the presence of six or seven hundred persons, will coolly and unblushingly make such a statement as that to which I have referred. Again, on page 19, plainly and undeniably are these words (seven lines from the top that the St. John correspondent of the Gleaner may be set right.) "The quantity of potatoes planted, was 70 barrels, and nothing could be finer than the appearance of this crop, which promised an abundant yield." Not a word about "raised" in the whole matter, and how any one can have the consummate impudence to make such a statement as that in the Gleaner, is a matter of surprise to me. The young man sends his precious productions to Miramichi; doubtless that his absurdities may not receive as much notice in this quarter as they otherwise would. So much for Miscou.

Whether Athol House is, or is not, the head of ship navigation on the Restigouche, is the next question to be considered; Mr Perley states that it is. I have stated that it is not; that schooners in some instances have gone there, but that anything that by any stretch of the imagination can be called a ship has not gone there, and I presume never will go there, for the simple reason that a ship-channel to Athol House does not exist and cannot be found.

Your correspondent should have written in reference to the head of ship navigation, and then his remarks might have had some bearing on the question. He errs like him whom he attempts to defend in not knowing what he is writing about and it seems to me that it would have been quite as well had he known what was asserted, before he uses such language as 'unwarrantable and groundless assertions, where it has not to be applied. I am well aware that the American traders (schooners) go to the Mission Point—I never asserted to the contrary. But schooners going to the Mission and ships, and square-rigged vessels going to Athol House are really two distinctly different things. The writer in the Gleaner tries to beg clear of this matter by saying that he "has no doubt a vessel might go 1½ miles above Campbellton." This is a practical admission of the truth of my statement which was literally as follows:—'For all practical purposes Campbellton is properly to be considered the head of ship-navigation, as ships never attempt going any farther up. A few have gone up a little farther some years ago, but recently the same thing has not happened. Ships though never have gone as far up as Athol House; schooners in some cases done so, but anything that by any stretch of the most vivid imagination can be called a ship, has not reached that quarter, and I presume never will reach it, Mr Perley and his report to the contrary, notwithstanding.'

The writer in the Gleaner suggests that A. Ferguson, Esq., should express his opinion. I can inform the young man that before I left Restigouche I put the question to Mr Ferguson in presence of another Restigouche gentleman, and his reply was in strict accordance with the information that I had furnished on this head. Will that satisfy him? Mr Perley in his reply to me, spoke of Fredericton being the head of ship-navigation. I have seen it spoken of as the head of 'Sloop-navigation,' but the discovery, that, notwithstanding the Oremocto shoals, Fredericton is the head of ship-navigation on the St. John, could not be made excepting by him who discovered that Athol House was the head of ship-navigation on the Restigouche, even though the facts of the matter tell a very different story.

The Gleaner contains a request that I should have the whole lecture published. As a considerable part of it was delivered extemporaneously, this I cannot do, but as I purpose passing through Miramichi next March, if my Miramichi friends wish it I will deliver it then, and will also furnish them with Mr Perley's oral statements, previous to my complying with a request I have received from Restigouche to do the same in that quarter. As the Gleaner has copied all the rest that has appeared in reference to the matter, will the editor oblige by inserting his article. Should any reply appear to this you will please bear in mind that ere this can be published, I will have left St. John for a few weeks, and will thus be prevented from noticing a reply.

Truly yours,

J. TRAVIS.

## News of the Week.

From English papers to January 4. EUROPE.

FRANCE.—Paris.—The chief topics spoken of here are the Conferences and the dispute between Switzerland and Prussia; but which latter, although they are difficulties, it is hoped may be settled amicably. On these two subjects we have given some details elsewhere.

An Army for the Swiss Frontier.—A letter

from Besancon (Doubs) mentions that it was very probable that a French army would be established on the Eastern frontier to be ready for all emergencies. It was said that the army would consist of not less than 60,000 men—that Marshal Canrobert would be named to command it—and that the head-quarters would be Besancon. The intelligence is generally corroborated by the local papers.

Relieving Distress.—By an article in Tuesday's *Moniteur* that a credit for three millions of francs have been decreed by the Emperor to relieve the distress occasioned by the dearth of provisions, bread, &c. This is a favorable symptom, mainly due to the abundance of the harvest. Two years ago the sum devoted to that purpose was ten millions, and last year five millions.

The Paris Conferences.—The plenipotentiaries met in conference on Wednesday at two o'clock; to put an end to the difficulties which had obstructed the execution of the 20th article of the treaty of Paris; and although we do not yet know the result, the *Times*' correspondent writing on Wednesday evening predicts a quick and favorable termination to the proceedings. He says:—The line before them is already traced, and the questions are few and unmistakable. They have been already studied thoroughly, and the plenipotentiaries understand so clearly what is before them that, in point of fact there ought to be hardly anything to do beyond exchanging their powers, reading over the protocol as a matter of form, and signing. The result of the conference is thus shadowed forth by the same correspondent:—It had been proposed by the French government that Russia should abandon her claim to the Bolgrad situate on Lake Yalpuk, and which communicates with the Danube, on condition of the cession of a certain portion of territory in Bessarabia where she might establish the centre of her Bulgarian population, and that this proposition was rejected by the English government. It is now said that, after a good deal of negotiation, the 'principle' has been accepted, not, however, as a compensation for Bolgrad, the Russian claim to which was invariably declared to be unfounded, but in return for the Isle of Serpents. By this arrangement Russia will be debarred from all contact with the Danube, and the question of the navigation of that stream satisfactorily settled.

Russia.—St. Petersburg.—News up to the 20th ult speaks of some very important alterations that have been made in the organization of the army. By virtue of an Order of the Day dated the 19th ult, in each of the three divisions of Grenadiers as also in each of the eighteen infantry divisions of the Sixth Army Corps, and finally, in each of the four divisions of the separate Caucasian Corps, a battalion of sharpshooters has to be formed and added thereto, which consequently will increase these bodies to twenty-five Rifle-battalions. While, therefore, on the one hand a reduction in the Russian Army will take place, on the other hand it will be increased, and even strengthened considerably in the end.

Bessarabia and Kars.—The Russian Government, says a letter from St Petersburg, has despatched to its representative in the commission for the delimitation of Bessarabia an order to hand over at once to Moldavia the territory on which the commission have already come to an understanding. The population of this territory is supposed to comprise 160,000 souls. Russia, on the occasion of the relations which were established for the delivering up of Kars, between the Russian military authorities and those of Turkey, has conferred the grand cross of the White Eagle on Ismail Pasha, commander-in-chief of the army of Anatolia, and that of St. Stanislas on Hessian Pasha, chief of the staff. Other decorations of different kinds were at the same time given to thirteen other officers.

Austria and Prussia.—Our accounts from Vienna show that the Emperor and Empress are still at Venice, enjoying their round of festivities; while the only intelligence from Berlin is that relating to the difference between Prussia and Switzerland, of which we have spoken in another place.

Germany.—Hamburg, Dec. 29.—a letter says:—Our city is terror struck by the laconic and so unexpected news of the bombardment of Canton by the English, which arrived here yesterday. Even the interest in the cloud that hangs over Switzerland has, for the moment, been thrown back by this event in the eyes of our so essentially commercial community.—The Chinese trade is a growing branch of our commerce, and great expectations have already been entertained of it in this place, which numbers many merchants, that know the Chinese ports from personal knowledge. Everybody thought at once of this dismal alternative which the future relations between the Christian States and the Chinese Empire are placed in by this attack. People here, I can assure you, watch with anxious eyes in what way this sad news will be received by public opinion in England.

Württemberg.—The *Moniteur* official confirms the telegraphic despatch of Wednesday, from Stuttgart, by publishing the report of the commission appointed to consider the demand for the passage of Prussian troops. The commission, relying on the positive right of allies, refuses the demand of Prussia as a political intrusion.

The Hague, Dec. 30.—Letters from Luxembourg—for journals are now muzzled there—give a pitiful account of the state of the Duchy which, in matters of politics, has become a Russia in miniature. For some days past no

foreign journals have been delivered at their addresses, as all must now come under the surveillance of the Censor, and his materials seem not yet to be complete. In future no foreign journal will be delivered until it has been detained twenty-four hours for censorial examination, and only then such part of it as is found to make no uncivil allusion to royal perjurers in general, or to the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, as the violator of his duchy's constitution, in particular.

Sweden.—Stockholm.—A grand public banquet took place here on the 18th ult., on the occasion of the unanimous rejection by the Diet of the bill for striking out from the constitution the law on the liberty of the press. In the Chamber of Peasants, M. Nils Olsen proposed that every Swede from twenty-two to fifteen should be liable to military service. If this proposition be adopted, said M. Olsen, we might in a moment of danger immediately have under arms an army of 500,000 men, who, with 200,000 others to be furnished by Norway, would form a total force of 700,000 men. The motion of M. Olsen was adopted unanimously by the Chamber of Peasants, which has already on more than one occasion during the present session strongly insisted on the necessity of the two united kingdoms being always prepared to oppose any aggression.

Spain and Portugal.—Spain.—Madrid.—The Marquis de Constantia is charged with the Ministry at war. The Jesuits who were at Majorca are removing to Loyola. Several sacred orders have been conferred upon bishops in the provinces.

The persons compromised in the affair of the republican club which was lately discovered, have been sent to different parts of the kingdom under the surveillance of the authorities. Letters from Rome state that the Pope has expressed his satisfaction at the nomination of M. Mon as Spanish representative at the court of Rome.

A Paris correspondent says:—According to a letter I have this day received from Madrid, the situation of Spain is by no means satisfactory. The writer says:—

'I do not think many weeks will pass over without a political movement of some sort.—The present government does not possess the energy its friends expected; trade is dull, and there is much discontent and want of confidence at Madrid, as well as in the provinces.'

Portugal.—Letters from Lisbon to the 22nd ult. have come to hand. We learn that H. M. S. Duke of Wellington had arrived from the Mediterranean, with Admiral Dundas's flag. The weather has been very stormy on the coast of Portugal and in the Tagus, but no serious damage to shipping had been reported up to the time the *Industry* left. Mr Scott Russell and Captain W. C. Thompson, who had been out to Lisbon about the projected Azores and African Steam Company, had taken their passages and returned home on board the *Tagus*, little satisfied with the prospects of carrying out that Portuguese enterprise with British Capital.

Italy.—Count Cavour.—A splendid gold medal has been presented to Count Cavour at Turin, in the name of the inhabitants of Naples. It bears on the obverse the profile of Count Cavour, with the inscription, "To Camillo Cavour, the bold defender of the independence of Italy, the grateful Neapolitans." On the reverse is a crown of oak encircling the date, "VIII. April 1856." The medal was accompanied by an appropriate address, in which we remark the following passage:—Europe heard your voice, and admitted that Italy exists, by which it meant that it will exist."

Parma.—The citizens of Parma have sent 1,520*l.* towards the expense of the 100 guns of Alessandria. The budget of the Duchy of Parma for 1857, just published fixes the expenditure at 9,614,360 Parmese lire (the lire is 85 per cents), and the receipts at the same sum, so that there is no deficit for the coming year.

China.—The Bombardment of Canton.—Advices from Alexandria enables us to give a tolerably complete view of the recent occurrences at Canton.

It has more than once been mentioned by correspondents at Hong Kong, that the intercourse between the British authorities and the Governor of Canton has for some time been embarrassed with growing difficulties, the result of the unredressed grievances of British merchants. On the 8th of October the Chinese authorities consummated their career of arbitrary violence by seizing a lorcha under British colours, and making prisoners of the crew. It is stated on good authority that they cut off the heads of four of the crew. The consul, Mr Parkes, the British agent on the spot, proceeded first on board the lorcha, and afterwards endeavoured to obtain an interview with the mandarins. On board the lorcha he was menaced, and the mandarins refused to give any kind of explanation of the proceeding.

The consul immediately despatched intelligence of these events to Sir John Bowring, at Hong Kong, and also to Sir Michael Seymour, who were on the spot, and reprisals were commenced in a mild form by the seizure of a mandarin junk, which Commodore the Hon. C. Elliot, of the *Sybil*, took and sent into Hong Kong. Meanwhile the consul sent in strong remonstrance to Yeh, the governor of the city, to which no answer was returned. Finding all his efforts in vain, Consul Parkes renounced further attempts at conciliation, and a naval force soon appeared on the scene.

On the 18th of October Sir Michael Sey,