

beam, scanning, probably, its capabilities as a resting place, as it paddled its long stiff body past the ship. In so doing, it would raise a head of the form and colour described and delineated by Captain M'Quhae, supported on a neck also of the diameter given; the thick neck passing into an inflexible trunk, the longer and coarser hair on the upper part of which would give rise to the idea, especially if the species were the *phoca leonina*, explained by the similes above cited. The organs of locomotion would be out of sight. The pectoral fins being set on very low down, as in my sketch, the chief impelling force would be the action of the deeper immersed terminal fins and tail, which would create a long eddy, readily mistakeable by one looking at the strange phenomenon with a sea serpent in his mind's eye, for an indefinite prolongation of the body. But I am usually asked, after each endeavour to explain Captain M'Quhae's sea serpent, 'Why there should not be a great sea serpent?'—often, too, in a tone which seems to imply, 'Do you think, then, there are not more marvels in the deep than are dreamt of in your philosophy?' And freely conceding that point, I have felt bound to give a reason for scepticism as well as faith. If a gigantic sea serpent actually exists, the species must, of course, have been perpetuated through successive generations, from its first creation and introduction in the seas of this planet. Conceive, then, the number of individuals that must have lived and died, and have left their remains to attest the actuality of the species during the enormous lapse of time from its beginning to the 6th of August last! Now, a serpent being an air-breathing animal with long vesicular and receptacular lungs, dives with an effort, and commonly floats when dead; and so would the sea serpent, until decomposition or accident had opened the tough integument and let out the imprisoned gases. Then it would sink, and, if in deep water, be seen no more until the sea rendered up its dead. After the lapse of the æons requisite for the yielding of its place to dry land—a change which has actually revealed to the present generation the old saurian monsters that were entombed at the bottom of the ocean of the secondary geological periods of our earth's history. During life, the exigencies of the respiration of the great sea serpent would always compel him frequently to the surface; and when dead and swollen:—

He would
 'Prone on the flood, extended long and large,

'Lay floating many a rood; in bulk as huge
 As whom the fables name of monstrous size,
 Titanian or earth-born that warred on Jove.'

Such a spectacle, demonstrative of the species, if it existed, has not hitherto met the gaze of any of the countless voyagers who have traversed the seas in so many directions."

MELANCHOLY DEATH BY CHLOROFORM.—On Tuesday last, Mr. Carruthers, a gentleman of fortune, residing at Dormount, Annan, lost his life from the incautious application of chloroform. It appears that the deceased was afflicted with asthma, and having found relief from inhaling the subtle vapour, had frequent recourse to it. Being an expert angler, and extremely fond of piscatorial recreation, he sometimes employed himself rather late in adjusting his hooks and making artificial flies. On Tuesday morning, he was found sitting at the table apparently following this occupation, in the position in which his servant had left him on the preceding night, but it was soon discovered that the unfortunate gentleman was quite dead, and to all appearance life had been extinct for some hours. On the table was the evidence of the fatal occurrence—the handkerchief which he had used in applying the chloroform to his mouth. His death forms another melancholy instance of the folly of employing such dangerous agents for the purpose of obtaining a temporary relief from pain.—*Carlisle Patriot*.

It has been noticed that all porters engaged in loading and unloading charcoal, at Malta, and other parts of the Mediterranean, have escaped the cholera. The power of charcoal to absorb atmospheric impurities is thus rendered highly deserving scientific investigation.

It will be remembered, that towards the close of last year, a Christian gentleman offered three prizes, of £25, £15, and £10, for the three best essays to be written by working men upon "The Temporal Advantage of the Sabbath to Working Men." In the short space of two months upwards of 950 essays were received, many of them so remarkable for the talent exhibited that it has been decided that the number of prizes shall be increased from three to fifty-three. Many of these additional prizes have already been offered.

[From the Fredericton Reporter, December 8.]

It gives us much satisfaction, in these days when the interest of our agricultural movements is daily increasing, to redeem the pledge already twice given, respecting the encouragement held forth by the New Brunswick Land Company to the settlers on their Territory. We were unfortunately and unexpectedly prevented from accepting the invitation courteously given us by the Company's Commissioner (Colonel Hayne), and the judges, to inspect the properties of the individuals competent to compete for the prizes; but we have since received the report of the judges, which with great propriety opens with an acknowledgment of the public spirit and liberality of the Company. It then proceeds to state the terms

upon which the settlers become eligible to compete for prizes; and as these conditions appear to be extremely judicious, as well as applicable to the state of new settlements generally, we give them entire.

No. 1. The first prize of £12, currency, to the resident settler fulfilling the following conditions, viz:—

- 1st. Having the greatest number of acres cleared.
- 2d. Having the greatest number of acres stumped and ploughed.
- 3d. Having the greatest value in Stock, such as Cows, Oxen, Sheep, Horses, or Swine.

N. B. The other conditions attached to this prize are, that the total valuation under the three heads must not be below £180 currency; towards which the land cleared is to be valued at £5 per acre, and the land stumped and ploughed at £8 per acre. The quantity of land cleared must not be less than twenty acres, and of which the quantity of land stumped and ploughed must not be less than five acres.

No. 2. The second prize of £8, currency, to the resident settler fulfilling all the above conditions, except so far as regards the following modifications, viz: That the total valuation must not be below £130, currency. The quantity of land cleared not to be below 15 acres, out of which the land stumped and ploughed must not be less than three acres.

No. 3. The third prize of £5, currency, to the resident settler fulfilling all the conditions containing in No. 1, except so far as regards the following modifications, viz: That the total valuation must not be below £80, currency. The lands cleared to be not less than nine acres, out of which the land stumped and ploughed must not be less than one and one-half acre.

Messrs. Douglas, Clarke, and Moir, residing in three different settlements on the Company's lands, were appointed judges, and it appears examined the farms of the competitors, in Stanley, Springfield, Campbell and Bloomfield, when the crops were in the ground, and again in October, when they were housed. This gave them a favourable opportunity of forming their conclusions on the relative systems pursued by the parties, and of ascertaining the amount and quality of the grain and root crops. This investigation resulted in their awarding the first prize of twelve pounds to Mr. George Moir; the second of eight pounds, the judges suggested should be divided between Thomas Jeffrey and William Curry; it being impossible to determine any superiority in their stock and improvements. The third prize of five pounds, was awarded to Henry Rodgers.

In order to form a just estimate of the value of improvements already made on the Company's lands, from their first establishment, twelve years ago, we will state that on the farms of the prizeholders were found:—First—George Moir's: Extent of Farm, 200 acres; 75 cleared, and 35 ploughed. His stock consisted of five cattle, four horses, 20 sheep and six pigs.

Secondly—Thomas Jeffrey's: Extent of Farm, 100 acres; 49 cleared, and 14 ploughed. Stock—7 cattle, 2 horses, 6 sheep and nine pigs.

Thirdly—William Curry's: Extent of Farm, 200 acres; 60 cleared, and 10 ploughed. Stock—7 cattle, 15 sheep and 2 pigs.

Fourthly—Henry Rodgers: Extent of Farm, 100 acres; 57 cleared and five ploughed. Stock—7 cattle, 1 horse, 12 sheep and 3 pigs.

Making an estimate of land cleared and ploughed by twenty of the settlers, (which including the above, amounts to 955 acres cleared, and 161 ploughed,) we have the value of the labour performed by the settlers, amounting to £6463, estimating the cost of clearing at £5, and stumping at £8 per acre. This estimate does not include the value of stock and buildings on the farms. Does not this statement clearly contradict the statement sometimes made in perfect ignorance of the agricultural capabilities of the country, namely "that it is of no use to attempt earning a living by farming in New Brunswick?" Here we see comparative poverty elevated to comfort, and industry rewarded as it ever will be, by independence; and we have little doubt that the encouragement held out by the company to settlers on their lands, will become a public benefit, by stimulating not only their own people, but those of the whole County of York, to a more systematic course of farming. Indeed it may not be amiss to mention, that the only prize for wheat given by the County Agricultural Society in 1847, was awarded to one of the settlers on the Company's Lands; and the second prize for the same grain in the present year to another.

The extensive improvements made by P. D. James, L. D. Wigan, and C. Rice, Esquires, are alluded to in the Report; the judges expressing an opinion, that if the regulations of the Company had permitted them to compete for prizes, some of them would have been successful.

They also have given great credit to Messrs. Pringle, B. Smith, J. Clarke, W. Gordon, F. Howell, and R. Ward, for the general good management of their farms; and they conclude by expressing an opinion, that the judicious outlay made, and proposed to be continued by the Company, will produce the best effects throughout the whole extent of their Lands.

We cannot conclude the present notice, without adverting to the unceasing pains and attention bestowed by the Chief Commissioner upon the concerns of the Company, as manifested in the good will borne towards him by the settlers, and their admission of the many services for which they are indebted to his prompt and ready interference to promote their welfare.