THE BRITISH WHIG,
AND
GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR CANADA WEST,
PRINTED & PUBLISHED
SEMI-WEEKLY,
Every Tuesday & Friday,
BY EDWARD JOHN BARKER, M. D.
AT THE ATHENEUM,
In Bagot Street, next door to the Lambton House

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ADVERTISEMENTS—Six lines and under, 2s. 6d. first insertion, and 7½d. each subsequent insertion; six lines to ten lines, 3s. 4d. first insertion, and 10d. each subsequent insertion; above ten lines, 4d. per line for the first insertion, and 1d. per line for each subsequent insertion. Advertisements without specific directions, (which ought to be in writing) are inserted until forbid, and charged accordingly. Orders for discontinuing Advertisements to be given to the publisher, or left in writing at the Office.

The BRITISH WHIG being a Journal of the largest Canadian Circulation, NO DISCOUNT will be allowed on advertisements, on any pretext whatsoever.

Orders for the *British Whig* will be received by most of the Post Masters in the United Province; and monies handed to them will be credited as if paid to the Publisher.

All Letters (except from Agents) to be post paid.

ROSS DODD,
Military Tailor
AND
LADIES' HABIT MAKER,
PRINCESS STREET.
☞ *Four good Journeymen Tailors wanted.*

W. NODEN,
Tailor, &c.
(OPPOSITE MR. WILLIAM WILSON'S,)
WELLINGTON STREET.
All Work in his line executed with neatness and dispatch.

MESSRS. STUART & STRANGE,
BARRISTERS & ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Solicitors in Chancery & Bankruptcy.
Conveyancers, Land Agents,
AND NOTARIES PUBLIC,
COURT HOUSE, KINGSTON.
CHARLES STUART,
MAXWELL W. STRANGE.

MATTHEW DRUMMOND,
Grocer, Wine & Spirit Merchant
WELLINGTON BUILDINGS,
(Next to Mr. W. Wilson's,)
Kingston, C. W.

F. & B. KAYLER,
COACH BUILDERS
AND CARRIAGE MAKERS,
PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON.

ROBERT McCORMICK,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
WINES, SPIRITS, TEAS, GROCERIES, &c.
PRINCESS STREET.
KINGSTON.

Messrs. MACDONALD & CAMPBELL,
Barristers & Attorneys at Law,
PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON.
JOHN A. MACDONALD,
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,

JAMES McMILLAN,
TEACHER OF MUSIC.
PIANO FORTES TUNED.
ADDRESS—WM. M'MILLAN, AUCTIONEER.

THOMPSON & CAREY,
GENERAL IMPORTING AND
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
51, BROAD STREET,
NEW YORK.

A CARD.
CANADIAN DRAWBACK LAW
ORLANDO WARE.
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
AND GENERAL AGENT,
No. 105, Water Street,
NEW YORK.

WM. SMITH
WATCH MAKER AND REPAIRER.
PRINCESS ST., OPPOSITE THE SCOTCH CHURCH.
*** Piano Fortes and Accordions, Tuned and Repaired.
Kingston, April 6th, 1846. 1m.

MACDONALD'S HOTEL,
(LATE STONE'S,)
OPPOSITE THE CITY BATHS,
King-street, Toronto.

MR. J. M. PERKINS'
DRAWING ACADEMY,
AT THE
BRITISH AMERICAN HOTEL,
KINGSTON.

FRANCIS V. CAREY, M. D.,
SURGEON, ACCOUCHEUR, &C. &C.,
NEWBURGH, CAMDEN EAST.

EDWARD STACEY,
(FROM LONDON,)
MERCHANT TAILOR,
Opposite J. D. Bryce & Co.'s,
KING STREET, KINGSTON.

CHAMBERS' MISCELLANY.
JUST Received at the Atheneum Book Store, a full supply of *Chambers' Edinburgh Miscellany*, of Useful and Entertaining Tracts—of which 12 volumes are now published. Price 1s. 6d. per volume.
"This most useful and pleasing work should be in every person's hands, that can afford to lay out a shilling."—*London Times.*
October 26th.

NOTICE.
THE business heretofore carried on under the Name and Firm of "*Hendry & Blacklock*" will in future be continued as the Firms of—
THOMAS HENDRY & Co., *Kingston.*
JAMES BLACKLOCK & Co., *Belleville.*
THOMAS HENDRY.
JAMES BLACKLOCK.
Kingston, 23rd November, 1846.

The British Whig,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER FOR CANADA WEST.

VOL. XVI. KINGSTON, CANADA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1847. NO. 12.

NEW FALL AND WINTER GOODS.
A. & D. SHAW,
IN THE NEW BUILDING ADJOINING THE GLASGOW WAREHOUSE,
SECOND AND THIRD DOORS BELOW WELLINGTON STREET.

THE SUBSRIBERS respectfully intimate to the inhabitants of Kingston, and the public generally, that
THEY HAVE REMOVED
To the above premises, where they now offer for Sale, the largest and most varied assortment of
STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,
They have yet imported, comprising every description of
WOLLEN, COTTON, AND SILK MANUFACTURES,
Adapted to the present and approaching Seasons, which having been purchased by them in the London, Manchester and Glasgow Markets, and received by the different regular Fall Ships arrived at Montreal in course of last month, will be found on inspection, replete with the
NEWEST AND MOST FASHIONABLE GOODS
That have yet been imported, and from the facilities they possess as
A REGULAR IMPORTING HOUSE,
Every inducement is presented to purchasers that a New and Fresh Stock, laid in under the many advantages that a buyer in British Markets can command, they feel warranted in stating it will be found second to no House in the Trade, in price, variety, and quality.
A. & D. SHAW.
October, 1846.

WM. A. THOMSON,
COMMISSION AND IMPORTING MERCHANT,
51 Broad Street, New York.
WILL continue to give attention to Canadian Imports consigned to him at New York, for forwarding to Canada; and also to the Shipment or Sale of such Canadian Products as may seek this Port for export or sale.
Merchants who may be pleased to avail themselves of his services in New York should, in ordering their Goods, send his address to their European shippers, instructing them to send a duplicate Invoice and Bill of Lading to him; and it should be observed, that the Invoices of goods intended for the New York route, ought to show the charges on same, until on ship-board at the port of exportation. In Invoices *each* Case should be added up separately and extended to the outside column. The mixing up in Invoices of the contents of more than one package—the packing of a whole Invoice indiscriminately—or of more than one Invoice in the same case, are all points to be carefully avoided.
The recent changes in the Custom Laws of the United States, while requiring new forms have much simplified the system of re-forwarding goods to Canada. No cash advance is now required; a Bond of Import and Export from the Consignee being the substitute. Nor under the advalorem duties of the New Tariff, will packages have to be opened for measuring or weighing as formerly, under the specific duties which characterized the Tariff of 1842.
To the improvement in the Customs Department, may be added the experience of the past season, as further assurance to Canadian Importers, that they may rely on the New York route being one by which they can hereafter receive their goods with certain rapidity and economy.
New York, 23d Nov., 1846.

PATENT SELF-ACTING GATE.
THE Subscriber having secured a Patent for his *Invention* of a SELF-ACTING GATE, (which received the first Premium, at the late Provincial Exhibition,) is now prepared to execute such orders as he may be favored with, on reasonable terms. This GATE may be constructed in the simplest Style, or may be rendered Ornamental to suit the wishes of parties.
The Subscriber will dispose of his ENTIRE INTEREST in his invention, or will dispose of Rights for Districts only. A Working Model of his GATE may be seen at his Residence, where he may also be addressed.
FREDERICK HUTT.
Drummondville,
Canada West, Nov. 12, 1846. 135-3m

L'OBSERVATEUR FRANCAIS,
A FRENCH JOURNAL
OF THE POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND SCIENTIFIC NEWS OF THE WEEK:
Of Philosophy, Literature, and General information from France, Germany, Spain, and all other Countries.
EACH number contains Articles on English and French Politics; Political News from various other Countries; Judicial Reports; a Literary department, composed of select and original works; a Review of Paris; a Review of London; Gossipings and Anecdotes of the Fashionable World; Reports of the Weekly Meetings of the French and other Scientific *Académies*; a Commercial Report; a Review of English and French Theatres; a Musical Review; Miscellanies, &c.
L'OBSERVATEUR FRANCAIS is published Weekly in London.—Subscription, 26s. per annum.
LONDON—Office, 67, Strand.
KINGSTON—Dr. Barker, British Whig Office.
November, 1846.

BARKER'S BLACK VARNISH.
NOW that Winter is set in, the time to use this celebrated Varnish for Boots, Shoes &c., is come. Its use prevents wet feet, thereby preserving both the health and the pocket.
Sold, Wholesale and Retail, at the ATHENEUM BOOK STORE, Bagot Street, Kingston.
Nov. 2.

POPE'S JOURNAL OF TRADE, for 1846
A few Copies still on hand.
Price Three Dollars.
R. & C. CHALMERS.
Montreal, Oct. 20.

J. RICHARDSON,
Merchant Tailor,
ANGLIN'S (NO. 1.) BUILDINGS,
BROCK STREET, KINGSTON,
BEGS to acquaint his Customers and the inhabitants of Kingston generally, that he has received direct from Montreal and New York, his
FALL AND WINTER GOODS,
Comprising a large assortment of
BROADCLOTHS, CASSIMERES,
TWEEDS, DOESKINS, VESTINGS, &c.,
IN GREAT VARIETY.
NAVAL AND MILITARY CLOTHS,
Of all descriptions;
BLUE, BLACK, & BROWN BEAVERS
Of different qualities,
All of which he is prepared to make up to order, in the very best manner as regards Style, Fit, and Workmanship, and at
UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES.
J. R. would also beg to intimate, that he is always in receipt of the latest Fashions, and as he employs only first-rate Workmen, is confident of giving satisfaction to all those who may favor him with their patronage.
A large assortment of *Fashionable Buttons, Trimmings, &c. &c.*, always on hand.
October 19, 1846. 123-4in.

PRINCESS RYOAL SALOON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
CONFECTIONARY,
Corner of Princess and Wellington Streets.
THE SUBSCRIBER, grateful for past favors, begs to intimate to his Friends and the Public, that he has received his Fall supply of
CONFECTIONARY, &C.
Which he offers Wholesale and Retail, at the most reasonable prices, for ready money.
—ALSO—
A lot of PRESERVED LOBSTERS, hermetically sealed—and PICKLED SALT WATER SALMON, of superior quality.
N. B.—*Oysters, Lunches &c.*, prepared on the shortest notice.
THOMAS WILLING.
Kingston, Nov. 16, 1846. 136-3m.

NEW BOOKS.
JUST RECEIVED AT THE ATHENEUM BOOK STORE—Consisting in part of the following popular new Works—viz:
Capt. Paul, by Alexander Dumas.
Genevieve or the Chevalier of Maison Rouge, by do.
Count of Monte Christo, by do.
The Three Guardsmen, by do.
Legends and Stories of Ireland, by S. Lover.
Monsieur Antoine, by George Sand.
Heildelburg, by G P. R. James.
The Squire, by Miss Pickering.
Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, Oregon, California, Mexico, &c.
Dombey and Son, by C. Dickens.
Sartor Resartus, by Thomas Carlyle.
Poetry, Wit, and Humor, by Leigh Hunt.
Eothen or traces of Travel.
Together with an assortment of Annuals, and Books suitable for New-Years and Christmas Presents.
Also a great variety of English writing Paper of the best quality.
Kingston, Nov. 24.

LONDON ANNUALS, ALMANACS, &c.,
FOR 1847.
R. & C. CHALMERS respectfully intimate, that they have now got to hand the following Splendid ANNUALS and other NEW ILLUSTRATED WORKS, viz:—
The Keepsake, Book of Beauty, Fisher's Drawing Scrap Book, Juvenile Scrap Book, Ackermann's Forget-Me-Not, London Art Union Prize Annual, Oriental Album, part 1, folio, Floral Tableaux, London Art Union, vol. for 1845.
—ALSO,—
Punch's Pocket Book, and a variety of Pocket Books and Almanacs for 1847.
—AND,—
A very extensive assortment of JUVENILE and ILLUSTRATED BOOKS, suitable for Presents, all of which, will be sold, at moderate prices.
8, Great St James Street.
Montreal, December 3.

ORDERS FOR BOOKS, &C.
R. & C. CHALMERS respectfully intimates to Professional Gentlemen, and others, desirous of procuring BOOKS, &c., from England, by the first Spring Ships, that they will make up their first orders on the 24th instant, to go by the January Mail Steamer.
Orders also received for all the LONDON NEWSPAPERS, which will be delivered to Subscribers in Montreal, Postage free, on the arrival of each Mail.
No. 8, Great St. James Street,
Montreal, 17th Dec, 1846.

EDWIN CROWN,
MANUFACTURER OF
TIN, SHEET IRON, AND COPPER WARES,
AND DEALER IN
COOKING AND OTHER STOVES,
Princess Street, Kingston, (opposite the Military Hospital)
BEGS to return thanks to the Inhabitants of Kingston and its Vicinity, and the Public in general, for their very liberal patronage since he has commenced business, and hopes that by unremitting care and attention, together with the services of competent workmen, to secure a continuance thereof.
E. C. Keeps constantly on hand a general assortment of Tin Ware, and makes to order
Tin Eave Troughs, Copper and Tin Stove Furniture, &c.
MARKING PLATES
Of every description executed in the neatest manner.
Work of every kind in his line, made to order with punctuality.
Nov. 11, 1846. 133-tf

FALL IMPORTATIONS.
FRESH GROCERIES.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
WM. J. MARTIN,
Corner of King and Brock Streets, Market Square, Kingston, C. W.,
BEGS to return his thanks to his Friends and the Public, for the very liberal patronage extended to him during the past two years, and would most respectfully inform them that he has just received a large and varied stock of
GROCERIES, WINES AND LIQUORS,
Comprising as follows:
"Hunt's" and "Sandiman's" Port,
Madeiras, Sherries, Marsellas,
Claret, Champagne,
Jamaica Spirits,
"Martell's" Cognac Brandy,
"Otard's" Cognac do.
Pale Brandy,
Genuine Scotch Whiskey,
Hollands Gin, Scheidam,
Peppermint, Rum, Canadian Whiskey.
W. J. M. solicits particular attention to the above Stock of *Wines* and *Liquors*; most of them having been imported direct from Britain, he has confidence in recommending them as being free from adulteration. The GROCERIES, TEAS, FRUITS, &c., having been carefully selected by himself in the New York, Boston, and Montreal markets, can be recommended as being of the best qualities.
TEAS! TEAS!
Extra Imperial, Old Hyson, Young Hyson, Gunpowder, Twankay, Pouchong, Imperial, Pekoe, Souchong, Congou and other Teas.
COFFEES.—Green, Roasted and Ground Coffees.
SUGARS.—Loaf, Crushed and Muscovado, Treacle.
FRUITS.
Raisins, Currants, Figs, Figs, Almonds, sweet and bitter, Candied Oranges, Lemon and Citron, Sperm, Olive, and Lard Oils, Spices of every description; Pickles, Sauces, Maccaroni, Vermicelli, Anchovies, Liquorice, Sardines, Scented, Castile, and Brown Soap, Starch, Blue, Indigo, Brooms, Scrubbing, Brushes, Pails, Sponge, Washing Soda, Playing Cards, Pipes, Blacking, Black Lead &c. &c.
FISH.
Sea Salmon, Lochfine Herrings, North Shore Herrings, Digby and Lubeck Herrings, Whitefish and Codfish.
CIGARS—Fine Principes, Havanas, Regalias, Cheroots, Panatelas, Plantation, Steamboat, Woodville, La Normas, &c., in 1-4 and 1-8 boxes.
TOBACCOS.
Cavendish, Nailed, Honeydew, Cut Honeydew, and Aromatic Chewing, Plug and Ladies' Twist, Scarfarlatti and Cunaster, Turkish and German Tobaccos, Macaboy, Rappee, and Scotch Snuff, with a variety of other Goods too numerous to mention. All of which will be sold Wholesale or Retail, at the lowest remunerating prices—his motto being "*Light profits and quick Returns.*"
Tavern Keepers supplied on good terms.
Kingston, December, 1846.

FORWARDING NOTICE.
1847.
ON the Opening of the Navigation, next Spring, the Undersigned will charge the following Rates of Freight between Montreal and Kingston:
UPWARDS.

Pig Iron, Brick, Coals, Salted Fish, Pitch, Tar, and Resin	1s. 0d.	per cwt
Bar Iron	1s. 3d.	"
Heavy Hardware, Crockery, Rod, Hoop, and Sheet Iron and Boiler Plate	1s. 6d.	"
Dry Goods, Glass, and Powder,	2s. 0d.	"
Salt, in bags or barrels—per bag or barrel	1s. 6d.	"

DOWNWARDS.

Flour, per barrel	1s. 6d.
Pork and Beef, per barrel	2s. 3d.
Tobacco, per hhd	10s. 0d.
Butter and Lard, per keg	0s. 9d.
Wheat and other Grain, per 60 lbs.	0s. 6d.

Other Property in proportion.
Insurance, extra.
MACPHERSON, CRANE & Co.
HOOKER, HOLTON & Co.
H. JONES & Co.
Montreal, December 11, 1846. 143
The British Whig and British Colonist will copy.

TO LET,
A Large two Story Brick Building, situate in Queen Street, next door to Mr. Sellar's House. Rent £21 per Annum.
Apply for particulars to Capt. Hornby, Princess Street, or at the Atheneun Printing Office.
Kingston, Dec. 24, 1846. tf

PRINTERS' INK.
THE Trade supplied with Ink of various qualities—Scotch and the United States.
Atheneum Book Store,
Dec. 17, 1846.

SODA BISCUIT.
30 BOXES Fresh New York Soda Biscuit, very superior, for Sale by
THOMAS HENDRY & Co.
Nov. 9th, 1846.

EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
ACRES OF LAND
IN THE
Huron Tract.
NOTICE TO OLD SETTLERS, EMIGRANTS AND OTHERS.
THE CANADA COMPANY have again thrown open all their Lands in the HURON TRACT for disposal, by way of LEASE for TEN YEARS—NO MONEY BEING REQUIRED DOWN. The Rent payable on the 1st February in each year, is not much more than the interest upon the upset price of the Land—the right to purchase the Freehold at any time within the ten years, at a fixed price named in Lease, is secured to the Settler, who would thus save all further payments of Rents.
The Huron District is known to be one of the most healthy and fertile Tracts of Land in Canada—it has more than doubled its population within four years. The Huron Tract in the year 1842, contained 7,101 souls—in June last year the Huron District numbered 14,983 souls, according to the Official returns.
The above Lands are in Blocks, therefore affording facility for the undivided settlement of Families, of Old Settlers and their Friends.
Maps, Printed particulars, and every requisite information upon the Huron and the Canada Company's other Lands in the Province, will be furnished FREE OF CHARGE, by application (if by letter, post-paid) to the Canada Company's Office, at Toronto, and Goderich and Strafford, in the Huron District.
CANADA COMPANY'S OFFICE,
Frederick St., Toronto, 1st Jan'y 1847. 6m

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.
THE ROYAL MAIL
STAGES
WILL leave the General Stage Office, Kingston, next door to the British American Hotel, every morning at 7 o'clock, for
BELLEVILLE, COBURG AND TORONTO
and every evening at six o'clock, for
BROCKVILLE, PRESCOTT & MONTREAL.
EXTRAS furnished at all times for any part of the country, on reasonable terms.
CHAS. GREENWOOD,
Agent.
General Stage Office,
Kingston, Dec. 1st., 1846.

A CARD.
THE SUBSCRIBER is returning his most grateful thanks to the Inhabitants of Kingston, and the Public generally, for the very liberal patronage he has received from his commencement in business to the present, would also beg leave to state that he has, in addition to his former Stock, received a large and well selected assortment of almost every article in the Grocery line: and also state that from his experience for many years in some of the foremost Mercantile Houses in the Old Country, feels confident that all
TEAS, SUGARS, COFFEES.
SPICES, WINES, LIQUORS, &c. &c.,
Purchased under his own inspection, will, by comparison, prove the necessity of giving him a call before purchasing elsewhere. In conclusion, all he asks, which he does most respectfully, is a fair and candid trial of his various
GOODS:
The result he cannot doubt will promote mutual confidence, and be his successful advocate for future patronage.
ROBERT ALLEN.
Brock Street,
Kingston, 1st Dec. 1846. 141-2m

HOLIDAY PRESENTS AND
NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.
JUST RECEIVED at the ATHENEUM BOOK STORE, a variety of
Handsomely Bound Books,
Suitable for presents, &c., consisting in part of the following:
Ackerman's Annual for 1847,
Friendship's Offering do.
The Gift do.
The Christian's Annual do.
Religious Souvernir do.
Forget me not do.
Punch's Pocket Book do.
New forget me not, or Ladies' Pocket-Book for 1847,
The Library for the People, consisting of entertaining Tales, &c.
And a large variety of Juvenile and other Books.
Dec. 22, 1846.

ALMANACS
AT THE ATHENEUM BOOK STORE.
Starke's Pocket Almanac.
The Church Almanac,
A variety of Comic Almanacs.
Dec. 29, 1846.

SLEIGHS FOR SALE.
A SECOND-HAND Family Sleigh, for one or two horses, cushioned.
A second-hand CUTTER, in good order.
Apply at the Atheneum Book Store.
Dec. 18.

Doran's Hotel,
BYTOWN.
THIS HOTEL is now open for the reception of Travellers.
Furniture and Bedding, all new.
Good Stabling for Horses, &c.
JAMES DORAN.
Bytown, January 12, 1847. 5-3m.

CAMPHINE OIL
CONSTANTLY on Sale by
S. BOURNE.
September, 1846

FURTHER EXTRACTS PER STEAMER
HIBERNIA.

A COUNTRY CAROL.

From Punch.

I'm a true English farmer—no, that's not the word;
We don't mention it now, 'tis a name never heard;
No such people as farmers in these times there be—
Agriculturists now, mun, is what they calls we.
Folks are growing
Far too knowing,
Much too fast for a fellow like me.

Our calling itself is no longer the same,
It has got a new nature as well as new name:
We must all study science, we husbandmen, now,
And one need be a scollard to follow the plough.
Sent to college,
Crammed with knowledge,
Taught the wherefore, the why, and the how.

Time was when the farmer had no rule but one,
Just to do what his fathers afore him had done;
The new-fangled inventions we now take in hand,
I, for one, must confess that I don't understand.
Weeds restraining,
Ditching, draining,
Subsoil ploughing, all over the land.

I remember the time when the stable would yield
Whatsoever was needful to fatten a field;
But chymistry now into tillage we luge,
And we drenches the earth with a parcel of drugs;
Makes each fallow
Physic swallow—
All we poisons, I hope, is the slugs.

Lor! when I was a youngster, who thought to be sure,
Of guano, or gypsum, to use for manure?
Of acids and salts from the blue-bottle shops—
Where we soon shall be going for tinctures and drops,
Draughts and potions,
Washes, lotions,
Pills and powders, to doctor the crops.

Well there, to myself I says often, says I,
Things will come round again, I've no doubt, by-and-bye;
And your wiseacres find, after all's said and done,
That the old plan of farming, my bucks, is the one;
Drop reliance
On their science,
Only finishing where they begun.

ALLEGED CO-EXISTENCE OF MAN AND THE MEGATHERIUM.

IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.—A discovery is said to have just been made at Natchez, which, if confirmed, will set the geological world in a stir. On the authority of a private letter from Philadelphia, it is alleged that Dr. Dickerson, of that city, has exhumed, near Natchez, on the Mississippi, from the depth of 100 feet below the surface, a fossil human bone. The fossil was examined at a meeting held in the house of Dr. S. G. Morton, of Philadelphia, the eminent ethnologist. Professor Agassiz, Mr. George R. Gliddon, and several other palæontologists and archæologists, were present. The fossil was pronounced to be one of the pelvic bones of a man between the ages of 16 and 20 years. It was found amongst other fossilized remains of the megatherium, megalonyx, and other primeval creatures. The specimen has been deposited in the museum belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia. Hitherto the remains of men have been found only in the lacustrine, peat-bog, and other modern deposits and in conjunction with the fossil remains of animals now existing. If this, however, be correct, we must carry him back to the era of the ossiferous gravels; and though these deposits be of very various antiquity, yet the bones of the megatherium appear to fix the era as bordering on the tertiary formation, and when a tropical climate existed in the present temperate and frigid zones. We think it more likely the whole may be a mistake; for the bone may, after all, like "homo diluvii testis," be that of some other animal, or the deposit in which it is found, though close to those in which the megatherium is found, may be, in point of fact, much later. If correct, it will occasion much discussion and speculation, for it will carry man back into a climate and era infinitely more ancient than has hitherto been imagined.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—A considerable sensation appears to have been caused in the minds of the scientific, and part of the unscientific public, by the announcement in many of the newspapers of the discovery in America of a fossil human bone, associated with the remains of the megatherium and other extinct quadrupeds. I have only just read in the last number of the *Athenæum* (December 5, 1846) a brief notice of the reported discovery, copied from an American paper, and which the editor has inserted with a judicious caution to his readers, that no competent authority has yet vouched for all the facts. I feel sure that the story relates to part of a human pelvis (a fragment of the os *innominatum*), which was shown to me at Natchez last spring, together with several very remarkable remains of megatherioid animals. I visited Natchez in March last, on which occasion I was informed of the antiquity assigned to the human relic, and having examined carefully into the evidence, came to the conclusion that the proofs of the co-existence of the human individual with the megatherioid and other extinct quadrupeds found in the vicinity was altogether unsatisfactory. We are indebted to the skill and indefatigable industry of Dr. Dickerson, of Natchez, for having formed a splendid collection of organic remains, derived from the superficial deposits of that neighborhood. All these he had the kindness to show me, and afterwards accompanied me to the principal spots where they had been procured. One of these, distant about six miles from Natchez, has been named by him the Mammoth ravine, from the skeleton of the mastodon discovered there; and it was there also that the fragment of the human pelvis supposed to have been contemporaneous with the megatherium was picked up.

In order to explain its position, a few words on the geology of the region will be indispensable. The broad, flat, alluvial plain of the Mississippi is bounded on its eastern side by a table-land, about 200 feet higher than the river, and having a very gentle upward slope to the eastward, or towards the interior. This elevated platform ends abruptly at Natchez, in a line of perpendicular cliffs, or bluffs, the base of which is continually undermined by the Mississippi. The vertical section here exposed to view affords the geologist a fine opportunity of studying the composition and succession of the strata for a vertical thickness of rather more than 200 feet. The whole deposit is of comparatively modern date, the upper 60 feet consisting of clayey loam containing shells of recent species, and the lower of sand and gravel without organic remains, except some wood and silicified corals washed out of older rocks. The yellow loam at the top bears a singularly close resemblance to the fluviatile silt, or "loess," as it is termed, of the valley of the Rhine, between Cologne and Basle, and, like it, contains abundance of fresh-water and land shells, of which I myself obtained more than 20 species, now in my cabinet in London. They belong to the genera helix, helicina, pupa, succinea, accompanied, or rather replaced in a few places where the loam passes into shell-marl, by lymnea, planorbis, physa, and cyclas. All the species are identical with testacea now inhabiting the same part of the United States. With these shells are found, at different depths, some in the loam, and some in the clay at the bottom of the loam, the scattered bones and occasionally entire skeletons of the mastodon, megatherium, mylodon, casteroides, equus, bos, and other quadrupeds. If in any part of this formation, whether at the depth of 10 feet or 100 feet, any remains of man lie buried by natural causes in undisturbed loam or clay, the antiquity of the human race is thereby established to an extent far greater than has ever yet been made out in any instance which I have had an opportunity of investigating. It would follow that the human race had survived the extinction of one group of terrestrial mammalia, and seen another succeed and replace it; and also that man had lived in North America when the geographical configuration of the country was very different; in other words, before the valley of the Mississippi, or even some of the strata forming its boundary rocks, were in existence. Every deposit entering into the composition of the bluffs of the Mississippi valley must be older than the alluvial plain and delta of that river; and we thus obtain, independently of any evidence attesting great changes in the animate world, a measure for estimating the *minimum* of time which has elapsed since the bluffs originated. For we must allow a sufficient series of years for the deposition of all the sedimentary forming the plain and delta of the great river. I have endeavored to calculate the period (one of enormous duration, relatively to the historical epoch,) and explained my views on the subject in a lecture delivered to the British Association at their meeting at Southampton, and a correct, though incomplete abstract of that communication appeared in the *Athenæum* for September 26, 1846.

To come then to the point—what proof is there that the geological position of the human pelvis bone was such as to demonstrate its anteriority in date to the entire hydrographical basin of the Mississippi, and the formation of its alluvial deposits and delta? The yellow shelly loam, or loess, before mentioned, extends for 12 miles inland, or eastward from the river: and in consequence of its incoherant and destructible nature, every streamlet flowing over its cuts out for itself, in its way to the Mississippi, a deep gully or ravine. The denudation has of late years proceeded with accelerated speed, especially in the course of the last 30 or 35 years. Some attribute the increased erosive action to partial clearings of the native forest; others to the effects of the great earthquake of New Madrid in 1811-12, by which this region was much fissured, ponds being dried up, and some land-slips caused. Colonel Wiley, a proprietor in this part of the state of Mississippi, and who well remembers the district before the year 1812, assured me that the Mammoth ravine, although now seven miles long, and in some parts 60 feet deep, with its numerous ramifications, has been entirely formed since that year, when the earthquake occurred. He has himself ploughed some of the land, exactly over the spot where the ravine is now situated.

It is, however, enough for our present purpose to affirm that whatever be the date of the origin of this watercourse, it has of late years been considerably enlarged and lengthened, its banks presenting everywhere precipices, in which the loam, unsolidified as it is, retains its verticality, as is the case with its counterpart, the loess of the Rhine. Land shells are seen in great numbers at the depth of about 30 feet from the top, and the fossil bones of the mastodon, and other extinct quadrupeds, are usually picked up in the bed of the stream after they have been washed out of the undermined cliffs, where, however, some few have also been observed *in situ*. Under these circumstances, as I was given to understand, the human pelvis was procured at the base of the cliff. Even if it had been dug out in the presence of a practical geologist, it would have been necessary for him to be more than usually on his guard against deception, for land-slides have detached large masses from the cliffs, and these may easily cover human bones previously washed down by the stream, or dislodged from the soil near the top of the cliff, where some old Indian graves, so common throughout the country, may have been undermined. It is not rare to find on shoals and on the shores of the islands in the Mississippi, at low water, numerous bones of man, mingled with those of extinct animals, washed out of the bluffs. In these cases the human bones are as black as the quadrupedal fossils, having been apparently stained with peaty matter, in the soil where they were buried; but no geologist has ever ventured, on this evidence, to infer the contemporaneousness of man and the fossil species thus accidentally associated.

After I had made up my mind that the remote antiquity of the human bone of Natchez was questionable, and that its occurrence in the ravine might be explained in the manner above suggested, I found that Colonel Wailes, a friend of Dr. Dickerson's, who accompanied us in part of our excursion, and who has also made a fine collection of the fossils of this neighborhood, not only shared my doubts, but had made the same conjecture respecting the probable manner in which the fossil may have been conveyed to the spot where it was found. I have the honor to be, Sir, yours, &c.,
CHARLES LYELL.

OUR POSITION IN INDIA.—India is the theatre of great events. The mind almost staggers beneath the weight of ideas which forced upon it by the contemplation of the vast expanse of country which opens out before us—the stupendous mountain ranges, the multitudinous population, the mighty contests which are ever going on amongst them, the great deeds that are done, the enormous crimes that are committed. In India a bloody battle is of no greater account than a diplomatic *fracas* in civilised Europe: a massacre of a few hundred people, including Prime Minister, a Lord Chamberlain, and a few Royal Highnesses, in Lahore or Catmandoo, takes rank beside one of those bedchamber *cœnates* which overthrow Ministers in London. Everything is on a large scale. They count their money by hundred thousands, and their people by round millions. Elephants are to them what horses are to us; and alligators no more than water rats. The recent intelligence from India, which arrived just in time to be too late for our last issue, partakes largely of this gigantic character. There is a great war in the romantic regions of Cashmere; there has been a sanguinary revolution among the mountains of Nepaul. Gholab Singh, the Sikh chieftain, a man of rare energy and courage, with whom Lord Hardinge entered into an alliance as the man of all others most likely to hold his people in subjection, finds it impossible to possess himself of Cashmere without first beating down the powerful opposition of a hostile Mahomedan population. At the head of his entire army, reinforced by 10,000 men drawn from Lahore, he has marched against the insurgent hosts, and large bodies of British troops have been pushed forward to garrison those posts in the hill country which the necessities of Gholab Singh have stripped of their ordinary defences. Our Indian army finds winter quarters in strange places. A few years ago a detachment of British troops wintered among the fastnesses of the Hindoo Koosh; and now we find our regiments almost upon the borders of Thibet. Where all this will end it is hard to say. If it were not for the known moderation of Lord Hardinge, it would be easy to predict that the absorption of an immense tract of country would follow close upon the occupation of these remote points by British troops; but Lord Hardinge never has been moved by lust of conquest; and he will be only too happy to have an opportunity of withdrawing, without extending the limits of our already overgrown possessions in the East. But it might puzzle a greater man than the Governor-General to know how to withdraw. There is a class of politicians prodigiously wise after the event, which sets down all our present difficulties to the account of the defective policy of Lord Hardinge. It is said, with infinite sagacity, that if the Governor-General has absorbed the Punjab some time ago, all this would not have happened. Unquestionably different causes would have produced different effects. But what was right in 1845 is right in 1846. And it is not for us, who are now crying out so loudly against the absorption of Cracow, to be so sensitively alive to an injury done to the cause of freedom in Europe, and to whistle all national independence in Asia "down the wind, a prey to fortune." We have done much already to sacrifice our title to be regarded as the friends of freedom. Let us take heed lest we lose it altogether. We are aware that some politicians conceive that upon repairing to a new quarter of the globe, they have as good a right to change their principles as their vesture—to adopt a lighter kind of moral garment, one that may be easily thrown aside. Indeed, Sir Robert Peel when Prime Minister of England, declared that there was "some great principle at work wherever civilization and refinement come in contact with barbarism, which makes it impossible to apply the rules observed among more advanced nations; more especially when civilization and refinement come in contact with barbarism in an immensely extended country." There are many evil principles abroad in the world, and this is one of them. But all honor is due to Lord Hardinge for so manfully resisting it.—*Atlas.*

The Admiralty have it in contemplation to train all the able-bodied men in the several dockyards to the use of the long guns and musketry, and to form them into an available corps to man the batteries and block-ships in cases of necessity.