The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 9, 1849.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE New-Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society.

On Wednesday evening last, the Anniversary of the Auxiliary Bible Society of New-Brunswick took place in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute. At an early hour the Hall was so crowded, that hundreds, we are told, had to retire without gaining admittance. It is pleasing to see such a growing eagerness to hear the Annual Bible Society intelligence which the Committee have to communicate, and the eloquent spirit-stirring addresses which the Reverend and Lay advocates of the cause deliver from the platform. No cause has such a claim for universal support as that of the Bible Society; for it is the cause of God and Truth; and therefore we recommend to our readers the serious and earnest perusal of the following account of this most interesting meeting.

Four verses of the 105th Psalm having been sung,

The President (the Hon. Judge PARKER,) opened the Meeting with a few remarks—referring particularly to the great cause for thankfulness we had in this Province, in being permitted to assemble together at the opening of a new year, without having to mourn over the afflictive dispensations of the sword, the pestilence, or famine, under which other countries have suffered. *Time was yet given to us*, and the Apostolic injunction should be impressed on our minds—"While we have time let us do good unto all men, especially unto those who are of the household of faith." No Society had been established which was more calculated to carry out, or more intent on observing this injunction, in regard both to the general and the particular precept it contains, than the British and Foreign Bible Society, which, while it had done its utmost to distribute throughout the world, in the languages which the inhabitants of the respective countries could understand, the authorized version of the Bible, having effected far more, even in ten years, than all other Societies put together had done in eighteen hundred, had a special regard to supplying all professing Christian Societies, Schools, and individuals with Bibles of all sizes, and at the lowest possible prices, and even gratuitously where necessary.

The President then observed, that we ought to bring this Injunction more home to ourselves—as he thought we had hitherto been more attentive perhaps to the *particular* part of the precept than the *general*. Our free contributions to the Parent Society ought to increase, especially at the present time, for in that way we did good to the world. More particularly is it the incumbent duty of all of us who hold that the Bible, God's inspired word, is, to the Church universal the "Rule of Faith,"—who hold, that all doctrine is to be brought to the test of the Scriptures, and not the Scriptures tried by the test of unwritten, fallible traditions—that "in our "doings that will of God is to be followed which "we have expressly declared unto us in the Word "of God," to make greater exertion to put the Bible into the hands of that large portion of our population spread along the coasts and rivers of the Province, who, without our aid, could not, humanly speaking, have the knowledge of the Word of God, could not obey the commandment of our Lord, to "search the Scriptures"—for they had not the Scriptures—although it was as true for them as for us, that "they testify of Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life." Certain it was that many of these people were difficult to reach—many refused to accept, many with difficulty would receive and with more difficulty retain, the Holy Book—but when persuaded to receive and keep, he believed they would open and read it. It is our duty to put the Bible within their reach, and in doing so it should be our constant prayer that their prejudices may be removed; and that, under the influence of the Divine Spirit, their hearts may be opened to understand the glorious truths of the Gospel, and receive them with faith to the salvation of their souls.

Reference was then made to the employment of a Bible Colporteur, during the last year, in the Eastern and Northern parts of the Province, of whose labours the Report would more fully speak.

The President observed, in conclusion, that it had been remarked, that while Christians of different denominations stood round the Bible as the common centre of attraction, the circle was often so wide, that although *they each* felt the central influence, they were almost beyond the reach of mutual attraction. May it not be hoped that in proportion as the attraction of the centre increases, the circle will be contracted, and we shall draw nearer together in true Christian charity, mutual forbearance, and mutual co-operation. For this assertion of the late learned and pious Dean Milner: "It is my firm belief,"—said that excellent man, at the formation of the Auxiliary Bible Society at Cambridge—"that if all persons who receive the word of God in sincerity, did but read and study their Bibles more constantly, and with more devout care and application, and more of a direct view to improve the heart and correct the practice, Christians of every denomination would approach much nearer to one another than they now do; would actually coincide, or nearly so, in most essential points; and in regard to subordinate matters, they would exercise so much mutual kindness and forbearance, as would almost annihilate the evil of any remaining difference of sentiment."

After the Honorable President took his seat, Dr. PATERSON, the Senior Secretary of the Society, read the Report of the Committee, which occupied a full hour, though many of the most interesting parts of it were omitted.

It would be vain, within the narrow limits to which we are confined, to give a full statement of the interesting facts and incidents contained in this document; neither is it necessary, as it will appear shortly before the public, full and without curtailment. Let us suffice then, in the meantime, to say that the Bible is making rapid progress through most of the countries of the earth. Before its power superstition, idolatry and infidelity are giving way. By the Lord's blessing following the labours of the Colporteurs in France, Holland, Belgium, Canada and England, much spirited good has been effected, and many real conversions have taken place. In Austria and Italy, countries in which, a few months ago, the Bible could not be openly introduced, on account of politico-ecclesiastical hindrances, the liberty of the press is now granted, and the Christian philanthropist may, without molestation, not only circulate but print the Scriptures, and preach the everlasting Gospel. This is cheering news, and leads us to anticipate the period when the earth shall be full of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

In our own Province, an active, zealous, pious Colporteur has been employed, chiefly among the French settlements in the Eastern section of the Province. He has been successful in disposing of, chiefly by sale, about six hundred English and French copies of the scriptures. His communications to the Committee are highly interesting, and as many of them will appear in the Report, when published, the subscribers and others, we trust, will not fail to peruse them, as they cannot fail to perceive from them the necessity of perseverance in Bible Society work; for much has yet to be effected for our poor French settlers, whose circumstances shut them out, *cruelly* shut them out, from becoming acquainted with that Book which can alone lead them to the knowledge of Him, whom to know is life eternal.

The Ladies' Bible Society of St. John continues vigorous. The Collectors have been very successful, notwithstanding the hardness of the times. "Your Committee," says the Report, "would have considered it their duty most gratefully to acknowledge the kindness and consideration of those ladies—and their number is not small—who respond to the call of the collectors at once, and furnish their subscriptions readily and without a grudge. May they, as well as the Collectors, experience the blessedness of those, who, from real heartfelt experience of the truth, take delight in the prosperity of God's cause."

The issues from our Depository during 1848 have amounted to 2200 copies of the Scriptures. Sunday-Schools and many poor persons have been supplied by free grants from the Committee. The Treasurer has remitted to the Parent Society £249 sterling, the greater part of which has arisen from sales at the Depository.

The following are the concluding words of the Report: "The Angel that is flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to give unto all people, is true to his mission. Having commenced his flight from the metropolis of England in the year 1804, he has continued, with unwearied wing, to flutter over the nations; and his benevolent career will not be stayed, until every political, ecclesiastical, superstitious, idolatrous, and infidel obstruction being removed, it shall be announced that all flesh has seen the salvation of God. The kingdoms of the world shall then become the kingdoms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—The Lord hasten it in his time."

Resolutions were then introduced as follows:

1. Moved by Rev. Mr. HARRISON, and seconded by Lieut DE CANE, R. E.:

Resolved, That the Report which has just been read be received, printed and circulated under the direction of the Committee.

2. Moved by Rev. Mr. COONEY, and seconded by Dr. ROBERT BAYARD:

Resolved, That this Meeting desires once more to acknowledge with humble gratitude and devout joy, the goodness of God in crowning the past labours of the British and Foreign Bible Society with such abundant success; and to express its fervent hope that the social and political convulsions which have agitated many parts of Europe, may be so overruled by Him, (who makes even the wrath of man to praise Him,) as to open the way for the more extended diffusion of the Divine Word.

3. Moved by Rev. Mr. THOMSON, and seconded by Dr. BOTSFORD:

Resolved, That the prospects of the future and important labour opening before the Parent Society and its Auxiliaries, and other kindred Societies, ought to excite the zeal and stimulate the exertions of all friends to Bible distribution.

4. Moved by Rev. Mr. ROBINSON, and seconded by Rev. Mr. LAWSON:

Resolved, That the primary duty of this Auxiliary Society is to supply the want of the Holy Scriptures in this Province—the field of its particular labour—and the extraordinary tender to convince us more and more of the importance of employing suitable agents to carry the Bible from house to house and from family to family, especially in the more remote parts of the Country.

5. Moved by Rev. Dr. I. W. D. GRAY, and seconded by JOHN M. ROBINSON, Esquire:

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to the Ladies' Bible Association of St. John—our most efficient coadjutor—and to the different Branch Societies which still continue to cooperate with us, especially the Amherst, Makish, Grand Lake, and Hampton Branches.

6. Moved by Rev. Mr BUSBY, and seconded by WILLIAM JACK, Esquire:

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen do compose the Committee for the ensuing year:

Messrs. Samuel Haughue, John Kinnear, John Wishart, Samuel Bayard, M. D. Nathan S. McAllister, Gilbert T. Ray, James Agnew, W. D. W. Hubbard, Messrs. Geo. A. Lockhart, P. LeSueur, A. Campbell, W. J. Starr, James McMillan, Dr. Ruddick, Edward Sears, W. A. Robertson.

FOR PORTLAND—Messrs. John Duncan, John C. MacIntosh, and Moses Tuck.

FOR CARLETON—Messrs. Geo. Bond and Robert Salter.

The Rev. Mr. HARRISON, in moving the first Resolution, said,

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The very interesting report which has just been read needs neither note nor comment from me, to commend it to the hearty approval of this large and respectable audience; and yet, Sir before moving its adoption, I would wish to bear my humble testimony, to the important truths which it contains.

We have heard, Sir, (I trust, with heartfelt gratitude to God,) of the great and glorious work which has already been accomplished, through the instrumentality of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In various parts of the hitherto benighted world, have the messengers of peace gone forth bearing with them the lamp of life, and God has graciously owned and blessed their labours.

But, Sir, whilst we rejoice over the vast amount of good which has already been effected, we must still weep in secret places for the lost and perishing condition of thousands and millions of our fellow creatures, who are yearly sinking into a cheerless grave, and a dark eternity. Yes, Sir, the blood of thousands of human victims still slain in sacrifice, cry to us from their shores, their rivers, their groves, their altars, and ask our pity.

Let us go in imagination with the immortal *Buchanan* to the shrine of Juggernaut, and test a mother's feelings when his compassion yearned. "I beheld," says he, "a poor woman dead, or nearly dead, and her two children by her, looking at the dogs and vultures which were near. The people passed by without even looking at the children. "I asked them where was their home? They said they had no home but where their mother was." What husband, what wife, what parent, what child, but must weep over a tale so tender as this, and sigh in union with that good man—"O there is no pity at Juggernaut, no mercy, no tenderness of heart, in Moloch's Kingdom." Enlist your feelings then my friends—weep over their miseries. 'Tis humanity that calls,—her voice, though almost hushed by the cry of waiting, frantic superstition, still reaches this our Christian land of social and domestic comfort—and shall it not reach every soul, and open every heart, and every hand? Another voice is heard: it is the voice of Jesus, speaking in accents of a dying Heavenly Friend. "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost—Freely ye have received, freely give." The spirit of christianity hovering over us, chides us for our long neglect, and reiterates the benevolent command to give them the Gospel.

And oh! Sir, if the Heathen groan so deeply here, to stud the voice of superstition, and yet have none to smooth their dying pillow, none to whisper peace when sinking in the arms of death—"Must we not believe that where the Bible is unknown, there the people perish?"

And yet, Sir, we do not mean to say that none of the Heathen can be saved—we dare not thus limit the operation of God's Spirit, but if any are saved, it must be through the merits of Jesus. God may operate in an extraordinary manner, for the promotion of his own glory—but, Sir, this is not the point with us—God has described to us the condition of the Heathen, and pointed out our duty most clearly respecting them.

And, here, Sir, let us glance at the sufficiency of christian revelation, to effect their salvation, and we can but barely glance at some of its leading points. Reason has determined that the Bible is a Divine revelation. It would seem every sober man must see, that its credentials are good, and every praying man must feel, that its doctrines are sufficiently plain. Its credentials are the past and present fulfilment of Prophecies, and the working of well attested miracles.

What then is the Bible? It is a message from the Court of Heaven—it tells, what fallen man most of all things needs to know, that God, the great God, can now be "just and yet justify the believer in Jesus"; and lays before him as the ground of his pardon, and as the foundation of all his hopes, a fact perhaps the most interesting Heaven has ever known—"That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This book thus establishes the righteousness of faith, as the sinner's sure and only plea, in the presence of an offended God. It informs man of the evil of sin, and presents an all-sufficient atonement for it—shews his lost condition by his present fallen nature, and brings the Holy Spirit to enlighten and reform that nature.—Where then, we ask, is the gratitude, where the benevolence of the person, who can look on the miseries of dying men, and not stretch forth a hand to save them?

The cause then in which we would engage our feelings, is a most benevolent one. The miseries, and the exigencies, of millions of our fellow men, must excite our sympathies, and the bright, present, and eternal prospects christianity imparts for them surely must call forth our benevolence, and engage our hearts. It is the cause of God and of souls, and it is big with eternal glory. We have gone in imagination to Heathen countries—and we have seen every bond of natural affection broken, every tie of humanity severed, and that in the very celebration of religious rites; and in the midst of distracting doubts and fears, religious hope, the only undying support earth could give, is found clinging as its last refuge to the "altar of an unknown God." There religion has awakened every passion and emotion of the human heart, and in its train all that is amiable, all that is odious, all that is bright and cheerful, all that is dark and dismal in man, we see in one common view. On every spot we cannot but say "how is the glory of man departed—ages of unbroken night have elapsed; what nature could do she has done, and darkness has settled thick over the whole face of the deep." Such is the deplorable condition of a land without the Bible. We lift our eyes to Heaven, and all is bright around the throne of God—at length from His presence darts a ray across the waste, and hope beams in the soul of man. Christianity lifts her voice over the dark domain of moral death—conscience awakes at the call, recognizes it as the long lost voice of God, and from nature's tomb, the soul rises by faith in Christ, fair and happy for immortality. But, Sir, I will not trespass longer on your time and patience, as there are others to follow me, who will do ample justice to the subject. With these remarks I beg to move the resolution.

In seconding the first Resolution, Lieutenant DECANE, (R. E.) delivered some excellent remarks, with which, we regret, we have not been favoured. It is pleasing to know that there are within the military circles, gentlemen of piety, whose delight it is to promote the fear of God, and to advance the interests of the kingdom of Christ. May their number rapidly increase.

The Rev. Mr COONEY, after having first referred with approbation to the President's opening Address, the Report, and the speeches of the speakers who preceded him, Rev. Mr. Harrison, and Lieut. DeCane, R.E., and congratulated the Society on having one of the highest judicial authorities of the land as its President, considering such a circumstance as an earnest of the glorious period when Kings and Queens shall be nursing fathers and queens nursing mothers to the Church,)—spoke nearly as follows—

THE BIBLE has claimed the praise of some of the most erudite men, and some of the most profound thinkers of every age. Philosophers, Statesmen, Orators, &c., have eulogized it in the most eloquent terms: and the most enlightened nations of modern times, have acknowledged its Divine authority—reverenced its lively Oracles—and offered up to it their aggregate homage.

BUT OH—Sir Chairman, if we had the inspiration of "THE ELOQUENT" and the fervour of "THE FERVENT APOSTLES of the LAMB"—if we could comprise in our verses, the resources of "THE CHERUBIM, and SERAPHIM;" and the capabilities of "THE HEAVENLY HOST;" and the matured powers of "the spirits of just men, made perfect;"—Could we comprehend in ourselves, all the Grace, and Wisdom—all the unction, and Love of this marvellous agency, and employ it as necessarily, and exclusively, to praise and magnify "the Sacred Scriptures," our homage would be imperfect, and our veneration inadequate.

TALK about the hoary chronicles of antiquity—and the aphorisms of the Sages, and Schoolmen.—TALK about the brilliant pages of classical literature, and the essays of grave moralists, and the Arcadian theology of the poets, and the worshippers of Reason.—TALK about the narratives of *Herodotus*, of *Livy*, and the orations of *Cicero*, and others, and the Odes of Homer, and Pindar, and Virgil.—Compare these with "the Holy Bible," and we'll insult the only true and wise God; compare these with the Bible, and we'll confound the wisdom of God, with the foolishness of sinful man—Yes Sir—a comparison of this kind, would silence the voice of PRAISE; spread a veil over "THE DIVINE GLORY;" remove the ancient landmarks that God has set up—destroy the foundation that he has laid in Zion—bury "*the tried corner stone*" under a heap of *rubbish*—quench "the true Light" that the Almighty has kindled—and send his people, as poor benighted pilgrims, to grope their melancholy way through this waste howling wilderness, without either VISION, or PROPHECY, the MIRACULOUS PILLAR, or "THE LAMP OF LIFE." But ha! here comes one that will lead me off from discussing this SUBLIME SUBJECT; let us hail him as an ambassador from God. He comes on a mission of heralds.—He comes to proclaim the Heavenly language—and to attest the Divine origin and pedigree of our sacred records—"ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD."

Could we now, Sir, collect all the productions of early piety, and recent zeal; of primitive learning, and modern improvement. Could we search all the Libraries of Christendom—and select from this *immense* and *heterogeneous mass*, all the truly pious and valuable works they contain, and contrast them with the glorious Book this Christian Society is endeavouring to circulate, the comparison would shew that whatever light they shed, is derived from "THE LAMP OF LIFE;" whatever knowledge they impart, is derived from "THE FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM;" and whatever excellency they possess, is borrowed from the Divine Excellency of "THE WORD OF GOD."

HERE we may walk in the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve; and listen to "the morning stars singing together," and "the Sons of God, shouting for Joy." HERE we may sit in the Ark with Noah; and go into Abraham's tent and partake of his hospitality. HERE we may walk in the Holy Sanctuary with David, and Levite, and their private devotions—see Moses performing signs and wonders—hear Solomon delivering a course of lectures on ethics, and moral and political economy—hear Daniel interpreting his dreams, and visions—hear Ezekiel describing what he saw in Patmos; and Paul preaching "Christ, as a man crucified," in ATHENS, and in ROME.

Yes, Mr. CHAIRMAN, in this "*New and living way*," we can walk in the footsteps of Him, "who went about continually doing good"—and then, spreading out the pinions of our contemplation, we can soar away to Heaven, and enter into "THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRST-BORN;"—and see "*the Lamb that was slain*," opening the Book with the seven seals; and interpreting his vision according to the Analogy of Faith, our hearts, and our voices say—THIS VENERABLE INSTITUTION will pervade the whole world—and—"THE HOLY BIBLE," the Classic of the Church, and the Library of FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST, will be circulated from Sea, to Sea; and from the River, unto the ends of the Earth.—And THEN, all that the Prophets and Holy men of Old, saw through a dim perspective, and in a shaded vista—all, has will shine forth brighter than the Noon Day Sun; and then, the Watchmen in Zion, shall see eye to eye;—and then, Mercy and Truth shall meet together; and Righteousness and Peace shall kiss each other; and their wars and rumors of war shall cease; and the Tabernacle of God, will be among men;—and then, the conceptions, and the prayers; the hopes, and the desires, of this Association will be fulfilled; and THEN, "THE VENERABLE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY" shall shine "as the brightness of the firmament;" and its numerous auxiliaries, "AS THE STARS FOR EVER, AND EVER."

☞ The foregoing account of the Bible Society Meeting is taken from the *Courier* of Saturday.—The remainder of the highly interesting speeches will be given in our next paper.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—This Telegraph is now in full operation between St. John and Calais.—The number of communications between these places is surprising, considering that little or no business was supposed to be carried on between them. Since the line was opened, from ten to twenty paid messages have been sent from each side, daily, which may give some idea of the business that will be transacted when the way is opened to the large Cities of the Union.—For the information of the public we may state, that when any communication is required to be sent, it has to be handed to the Operator to writing. If the party to whom it is sent is at hand, an answer may be received in a few minutes.—When messages arrive here, they are copied out and sent in an envelope to the party addressed.

It is expected that the line through Maine will be complete in a week or two.

RAPID TRANSMISSION OF NEWS!—*Express from Halifax, to connect with the Electric Telegraph.*—We have been favoured by D. Caldwell, Esq., with the perusal of a letter from Mr. Hyde, Mail Contractor at Halifax, dated 5th instant, which states that that gentleman will undertake to forward an Express with the News by the royal mail steamers from Halifax to Amherst, to connect at that place with Mr. Caldwell's line to this City, (to be telegraphed to Boston, &c.) at the rate of at least *twelve miles* an hour, and faster when the roads are in good travelling order, or as Mr. Hyde emphatically expresses it, "as fast as horse flesh can do it and live!"—The whole distance from Halifax to this City, at the above rate of speed, would be performed in somewhere about 20 hours. The news would thus be telegraphed to Boston and New York many hours previous to the arrival of the steamers at either of those ports.—We hope the bargain may be closed with these enterprising gentlemen, and the "horse flesh" set in motion!

The CIRCUIT COURT for this City and County was opened this morning. His Honor Judge PARKER presides.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS.—The collection in St. Andrew's Church, on Sunday last, for the benefit of the poor, amounted to £12.

In the St. John Presbyterian Church, the collection on Sunday last, amounted to £9 5s.

Amount collected in the Reformed Presbyterian, Church, on Sunday afternoon last, for the poor, £5 6s. 5½d.

Mr. Mount, the Magnetic Telegraph operator in this City, arrived on Thursday last from Fredericton, and has commenced his duties.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. GREEN will Lecture and examine Heads, at the Mechanics' Institute, on Thursday evening next.—Admittance, two persons for SEVEN-PENCE.

On Friday evening, D. S. Morrison, Esq., of St. Andrews, delivered, to a large audience, an excellent and highly interesting and instructive Lecture on Astronomy, directing their attention more particularly to the consideration of the *Fixed Stars*.—Mr. Morrison lectured again last evening, the *Milky Way* and the *Nebulæ* being the subjects principally noticed.

☞ An advertisement will be found in another column, calling attention to a course of twelve Lectures, on various interesting subjects, to be delivered in the new Temperance Hall in Portland, commencing on Friday evening next, when the introductory lecture will be delivered by M. H. Perley, Esq. The spacious Hall, reared in the noble cause of Temperance, is thus as so to be devoted to the laudable purpose of an Institute for the dissemination of literary and scientific knowledge. The design of the Trustees is highly praiseworthy, and should be liberally patronised and encouraged by the public.

COMMON COUNCIL.—The amendments to the City Charter were under discussion on Thursday last, when Alderman Needham's right of reply was sustained by the Board—3 to 1. The Alderman then addressed the Council for upwards of two hours. The further discussion of the Charter was postponed till Wednesday next, (to-morrow,) at 10 o'clock.

A beautiful new Ship, called the "Highland Mary," of 600 tons, built at Sheet Harbour, was towed to Halifax last week, by steamer Unicorn, owned by Fairbanks & Adisons.—A fine new ship called the "Carolina," belonging to the same house, has recently been launched.

We learn that the Steamer *Unicorn*, owned by Mr. James Whitney, of this City, and which has been employed for several years past in carrying the Mails between Halifax and Newfoundland, has been purchased by the Hon. S. Cunard, of Halifax, for £10,000.

Information was received by Telegraph, on Wednesday last, of the destruction of three houses at Houlton, by fire, valued at $3000—one of them was owned by Mr. Rufus Mansur.

We are happy to inform the Members of St Andrew's Church in this City, that the Committee of the General Assembly, to whom was entrusted the choice of a Minister to fill the place of the Rev. Mr. HALBERT, have appointed Mr. WILLIAM DONALD, of Hoolly, to the charge; and that he may be expected shortly to resume his duties. Mr Donald will come accompanied with the highest recommendations.—[Miramichi.

The Fredericton Reporter states that previous to the setting in of winter, the border of a Coal Mine was discovered in the City of Fredericton; and that an Iron Mine has also been discovered within a few miles of that city.

The whole number of cases of small pox at Fredericton has been 13—deaths, 7. There were no new cases last week.

The Newfoundland Legislature was convened on the 16th ult. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in his speech, recommends the promotion of Agriculture as the best means for the extension of the field of labour, the Fisheries alone being now inadequate for their support.

CHOLERA.—PITTSBURG, Jan. 2.—The reports of cholera on the river are much exaggerated.

Advices are from New Orleans to the 23th Dec. Two hundred and one deaths there from cholera, during the two days preceding. Business was nearly suspended.—Thousands were leaving the city. Weather cooler.

Dates from New Orleans to the 28th ult., announce the gratifying intelligence that the Cholera was abating.

MR. PERLEY'S SECOND LECTURE ON RAILROADS.—On Tuesday evening last, M. H. Perley, Esq., delivered a second lecture on Colonial Railroads, before a crowded audience at the Mechanics' Institute. The lecturer described the several lines proposed by the Commissioners for the Halifax and Quebec Railway, and pointed them out on the large map of the Colonies.—The Eastern or Bay Chaleurs line, which the commissioners so strongly recommend, was defined by a large red line on the map; the superior advantages of this line, and the beauty and fertility of the country traversed, was fully described. The whole length of this line from Halifax to Quebec, is 635 miles, which is divided as follows:—

In Nova Scotia,	- -	125 miles
In New Brunswick,	- -	270 "
In Canada,	- -	240 "—635

It was stated that the construction of this line would open up a large field for Provincial improvements, and for the settlement of emigrants—that it offered the greatest amount of external and internal communication, by the Gulph of St. Lawrence and Bay of Chaleurs—and that it would tend in the highest degree to develope the fisheries, and the commerce of New Brunswick. It was shown also, that as this line passed along the sea coast for a considerable distance, it was capable of being approached at several points by bays and navigable rivers, and would thus possess the greatest facility for construction, thereby reducing the general expense of the line. The further advantages were also mentioned of the line passing over a less elevated country than a line in the interior, and therefore there would be less apprehension of interruption from climate, while the more favourable grades would diminish the cost of working and maintaining the Railway.

The exact course of the St. John and Shediac line of Railway was then described minutely, with the view of showing the amount of traffic which the country, and the various settlements along the line, would furnish. In order to show the practicability of the line, Mr. Perley read a letter from J. Wilkinson, Esq., the Engineer who surveyed the route last summer; and as Mr. Wilkinson's engineering skill and scientific attainments are of the highest order, his opinions are entitled to great weight.

The reading of this letter, and the exhibition of tables of the traffic to and from St. John, taken at Hammond River Bridge, made a very strong impression upon the audience. We are prevented to day by want of space from going more fully into the various points of this very admirable lecture, embracing as it did, a wide field of observation, and at the same time possessing great precision and accuracy in all the details.

The public are much indebted to Mr. Perley for these very useful and valuable lectures, and we trust that such action will be taken by the public as will cause the adoption of such measures by the Legislature, as will ensure the commencement of the Shediac Railway next year, in connection with the Great Trunk line, of which it will form so important a part.—*N. Br.*

At the lecture last Tuesday evening, Mr. Perley exhibited tables of traffic to and from St. John, taken by Mr. John K. Campbell, at Hammond River Bridge, under the authority of the Governor and Council, during the months of August, September, and October last. A traffic table was prepared every 24 hours by Mr. Campbell during the time mentioned, from which a monthly table was compiled. The amount of traffic here given is the total amount for the whole period of three months, during which Mr. Campbell was employed:—

TOWARD WESTMORLAND.—One horse carriages, 1690; two horse carriages, 522; four horse teams, 14; passengers in these carriages, 2612; horsemen, 31; foot passengers, 64; mail stage or coach, 37; passengers in same, 94; luggage and commodities of all kinds, 177 tons 16 cwt.

TOWARD ST. JOHN.—One horse carriages, 1115; two horse carriages, 517; four horse teams, 9; passengers in these carriages, 2674; horsemen, 35; foot passengers, 39; mail stage or coach, 52; passengers in same, 113; horned cattle, 378; sheep, pigs, and calves, 1159; potatoes and other vegetables, 5492 bushels; grain, 1953 bushels; hay and straw, 40 tons 5 cwt.; luggage and commodities of all kinds, 156 tons.—*Ib.*

During December, the estimated amount of loss by fires in Boston was $31,650, on which there was insurance for $28,350.

The debt of Mexico to Great Britain is £10,241,650, on which there are unpaid arrears of interest amounting to £1,090,000.

Bishop Hughes, of New York, has issued a pronunciamento, directing his clergy to offer prayers for the protection of the Pope.

The following are stated to be the principal features of the new Postal Treaty between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States:—

1. The ship letter postage is fixed at *sixteen cents* for half an ounce.
2. The postage on newspapers to their destination at *two cents* each way.
3. An inland postage of five cents is to be paid on each letter
4. Letters may be pre-paid or not, just as the sender pleases.
5. Letters from America for France and other parts of the continent of Europe, are to pass through England *free* under the American seal, and in care of a mail agent.
6. Letters and papers from England for Canada, to pass free in like manner through the United States.

These are the chief points of the treaty. It will be observed that it is one of complete reciprocity and equality.

The California Gold Mines, we regret to perceive, is producing their effect upon the cupidity of mankind. Thousands of people have started and are about to start from the U. States for California, upon a gold hunting expedition, and it is said that the mania has even extended to this Province, and that there is some intention of fitting out a vessel at Yarmouth to carry a certain number of passengers to Monterey, that they may likewise engage in the all-engrossing pursuit.

Since writing the above we observe an advertisement in one of the City papers of a vessel about to proceed to California.—*Halifax Church Times.*

From the Augusta (Maine) Age.

GREAT BANK ROBBERY.—The Augusta Bank was broken open between Saturday night, 30th Dec. and Monday morning January 1st, and the following taken: 13 square boxes of silver, $500 each; 6 bags of silver, $260 to $300 each; a package or bag of gold, $3115; a package of sovereigns, $5000; foreign bills, about $1000; a package of foreign bills, amount unknown, directed to J. C. Brewer, Ticonic Bank. The President of the bank has offered a reward of $1000. The Augusta Bank is situated in the basement of the new hotel, which forms a part of the brick block recently erected on Water-street. The hotel is unfinished and unoccupied. The vault of the bank adjoins one of the lower rooms of the hotel, and is only separated from it by a brick wall one foot thick. The mortar used in the construction of the wall is comparatively green. The burglar first entered the room adjoining the vault, and with a small crowbar knocked away the bricks sufficiently to afford an entrance to the vault. The plundered property was confined in a safe of most approved construction, secured by Hull's celebrated gunpowder lock. It was opened by a key which must have been prepared before the safe was put into the vault. When the plunder had been removed, the safe was coolly locked again. In the hurry in leaving the building, a box containing $500 in specie was dropped outside, besides some $50 in scattered pieces. A more definite statement than that given above, makes the loss of the bank $21,502 in specie, of which about $9000 was silver, besides foreign bills, amounting to about $4000 belonging to the Augusta Bank, and a package (value unknown) belonging to the Ticonic Bank.

COALS IN CANADA.—It seems that two coal beds have been discovered simultaneously, one near Syracuse, in the State of New York, and the other near the village of Preston, in the Wellington District, Upper Canada. If this is extensive, it will be the crowning of our Province. The time will come when wood will be scarce and too dear to be used as fuel, but if we have an extensive coal field, it will be a matter of comparatively little consequence to be deprived of wood. We have now within the boundaries of Canada all the essential elements of a great country, and it depends upon its inhabitants so make her such. May it never be said of them, that they are unworthy of the country they possess!—*Provincialist.*

THE NEW LIGHT.—This phrase would be held in Scotland and the United States to designate a certain religious class, and in Germany it would bring to recollection the philosophical divination of that dreamy region. The *New Light* we allude to is neither of these, but an electric light—the *lightning's light* applied to the service of man. An account of the meeting in London for the exhibition of this new light, in another column, is extracted from Douglas Jerrold's newspaper. We are sorry for the candle-makers and the gas-makers, especially as we have but lately established a new gas company in Toronto. We presume that *fours in the pound* and argand burners will soon be among the things that were, and when we wish to add to our light, the word will be "light another wire," or "oblige us with another flash." Snuffers must immediately decline in value, and extinguishers be heard of no more—while "turn off the gas" will give place to "stop the electric fluid." What next? Truly we live in strange times.—*Toronto Globe.*

Letter from the West Indies.—Files of the Kingston papers, to December 7th have been received. Quarantine has been established at Fort Falmouth for vessels on board which cases of cholera have occurred. At Trinidad the weather was fine—money was scarce, and business ruinously dull. At Antigua a welcome rain had fallen after an alarming season of drought.

Accounts from Martinique represent the condition of the Island as very unsettled. Many of the inhabitants were seeking homes elsewhere.—*Boston Daily Adv.*

EXTENT OF OREGON TERRITORY.—It appears by official documents, that on the east it skirts 800 miles along the Rocky Mountains; on the south 300 miles along the Snowy Mountains; on the west, 700 miles along the Pacific Ocean; on the north, 250 miles along the North American possessions of Russia and England. This area, or immense valley, contains 350,000 square miles, capable, undoubtedly, of forming Seven States as large as New York, or forty States of the dimensions of Massachusetts.

General Taylor and his Cabinet.—In our opinion, the Cabinet under General Taylor will not be such a political conclave as the politicians generally suppose. General Taylor will be found a very different man from Gen. Harrison—a very different man from Captain Tyler—a very different man from any who have preceded him in the Presidency since the days of General Jackson.

We believe that the President elect will choose his Cabinet from the best names and the most efficient statesmen he can get; but if any individual of his Cabinet, or if even the whole of it, should attempt to rule the roast, or to upset the general principles he may lay down for the guidance of his government, he will at once get rid of them, as easily as General Jackson did, and will appoint a new Cabinet, if necessary, every six months.

The responsibility of the Cabinet, as wisely regulated by the constitution, rests upon the President's shoulders. The members of the Cabinet are only the heads of the several departments over which they are placed, and responsible merely for the discharge of the duties attached to their respective offices.—Should it happen that any of the subordinates of General Taylor do not concur in his general views and measures of government, we have not the slightest doubt that he will remove them with the same ease and promptness as General Jackson did during the eight years of his administration.—*N. Y. Herald.*

[EXTRACTS FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.]

THE OWNERS OF THE NATIONAL DEBT OF ENGLAND.—On the 5th of July last there were 284,127 persons entitled to receive dividends in the funds; in other words, of the whole national debt. Of these, no fewer than 275,721 received sums not exceeding £200 each. There were 96,415 not exceeding £5; 44,337 over £5, and not exceeding £10; 93,025 not exceeding £50; 24,462 not exceeding £100, and 13,882 not exceeding £200. There were 4,032 persons receiving more than £200, and not exceeding £300; 2,617 not exceeding £500; 1,222 not exceeding £1000; 328 not exceeding £2,000, and 117 exceeding £2,000 per annum.

INCREASING TRADE OF THE PORT.—A contemporary says, on first-rate authority, we learn that the amazing increase in tonnage at Liverpool, within the short period from the 25th of June last to this date, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, is no less than between 95,000 and 100,000 tons, while the increase in our dock revenue is, in some measure, commensurate—not that all the competing tonnage which crowds our docks, either brings or takes full freight. Still Liverpool is the magnetic attraction. Even prior to the late vast arrivals, we learn that the Customs' receipt here crept up wonderously—often £12,000, £13,000, £14,000, and, occasionally, £15,000 a day. Inasmuch as £13,500 per diem would be about £4,000,000 per annum, or equal to the Liverpool Customs' receipt in its palmiest days; we cannot but regret that those duties were not still exacted from untaxed foreigners—ere long they would have relieved our trebly taxed artisans from all Excise duties.—*Liverpool paper.*

TROOPS FOR INDIA.—On Friday the directors of the Hon. East India Company issued orders for 3,500 rank and file to hold themselves ready to embark for Calcutta and Bombay, between the 31 and 10th of January next. The men will be conveyed by railway and steamer to Cork, where they will embark on board transports. The greater number (2,200) are to be landed at Bombay.

HOSTILE EXPEDITION TO MOROCCO.—Sir C. Napier is expected to sail this day for the Mediterranean with his fleet, where he will be joined by the Polyphemus, in consequence of the daring piracies committed on the coast of Morocco, and the seizure of the British merchant vessel Three Sisters, recaptured by the Polyphemus. Sir Charles has been instructed to visit Tangier for the purpose of demanding satisfaction from the Emperor of Morocco.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the basis of the postal convention with the United States has at last been finally settled, and a draught of the convention itself will be sent by this day's steamer to America, for ratification by the Senate of the United States. By the convention a considerable reduction will be made upon the postage of American letters, and we trust that the ill feeling on both sides which the question had occasioned will be definitely removed.

We understand that Dr. Bowring, whose eminent qualifications as a linguist are so well known, has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul at Canton. The learned gentleman has long been in a state of health which required his residence in a warmer climate.

DEATH OF THE DOWAGER LADY ASHBURTON.—We have to announce the death of the Dowager Lady Ashburton, who expired on Tuesday last, at her residence, Stokes Bay, near Gosport, in the 70th year of her age. Her ladyship was eldest daughter of Mr. Wm. Bingham, of Philadelphia, and married the late Lord Ashburton, August 23, 1798, having survived his lordship only seven months.

Destruction of Government House in New Zealand.—The New Zealand papers of the 1st of August mention that letters had been received from Auckland of the 12th of July, which communicated the fact of the Government House having been accidentally destroyed by fire—a building which cost £20,000.

SCOTLAND.—A curious ecclesiastical case is presently before the civil courts. A clergyman in Blairgowrie, Perth-line, having refused baptism to the child of a school-master, the case went the rounds of the church courts, and ended in the baptism of the child. The school-master then instituted a civil action, and, in absence of the Lord Ordinary found the defendant liable to £500 damages, personally, and £1,500 in conjunction with the kirk session. In the meantime, the clergyman has commenced a new suit against the school master's wife for non