

large vote of 147 majority. But meanwhile, petitions against the measure were pouring in at a prodigious rate, showing that the strong Protestant feeling of the people is thoroughly roused. Upwards of five thousand petitions had already been received.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

**SWITZERLAND.**—The Grand Diet was still in session, and had carried a measure which promised to procure tranquility. A proposition was made to Lucerne to declare an amnesty, and to liberate the prisoners she has taken, on condition of the disbanding of the free companies. A treaty has accordingly been made between the government of Lucerne and those of the cantons of Berne, Soleure, Basle and Argau, relative to setting the prisoners free.—The indemnity to be paid is 350,000 francs. This may put an end to the convulsions by which unhappy Switzerland is torn—but it is very doubtful. The free Swiss have suffered so much from the Jesuits in years past, that they will hardly be appeased short of their expulsion from Lucerne.

In the Chamber of Deputies, while discussing an extraordinary credit of 143,000 francs for Oceania, the Minister of Marine stated that government had intelligence from Tahiti to the 22d of December, when all was tranquil. Admiral Hamelin had arrived, and had taken steps to re-establish the "protectorate," (in place of the French sovereignty assumed by M. Bruat.) The Chamber of Deputies granted that credit; and also the sum of 41,000 francs, awarded by Prussia as an indemnity to the British claimants aggrieved by the blockade of Portendic.

The *Press* says that Captain Page has been despatched to Oceania with fresh instructions to Admiral Hamelin, and adds: "We are assured that Captain Page's mission refers to the approaching abandonment of our possessions in Oceania. It is so serious a step that we had better await ample information on the subject." We shall be happy to learn if this last conjecture turns out to be true.

**MOHAMMEDAN PERSECUTION.**—An act of the most wanton and barbarous character was perpetrated on a native Coptic Christian at Damietta. This person was accused of having spoken slightly of the Mohammedan religion, and on the fact having been made known to the populace, they collected around him, gave him 509 lashes, paraded him naked through the streets mounted on a buffalo, with two dead dogs and a pig attached to his legs and shoulders, and afterwards beat him until he expired under the effect of the punishment. The European consuls have taken it up strongly, but the punishment inflicted on the principals has been limited to a five years' incarceration in the Castle of Aboukir.

It was reported on the Paris Bourse, on Saturday last, that England had applied to France to join her in a protest against the annexation of Texas to the American Union.

It appears from an article in the *Debats*, that the French Government has abandoned the projected expedition against the Kabyles for the present year.

The barbarous sentence on Maria Joaquina, who was condemned to death at Maderia, for heresy and apostacy, has been commuted to three months' imprisonment and a fine of six mitreas.

The municipal government of Portland, Me., have determined that three persons may be licensed to sell spirituous liquors, under certain restrictions, for medicinal and medical purposes, in that city, the present year, and that the profits on liquors sold by virtue of the license shall not exceed twenty per cent.

The ship *Yorkshire* took out 2447 sides and 34 bundles of leather, which is now admitted in the ports of Great Britain duty free. Almost every packet since the news of Sir Robert Peel's revision of the tariff, has had small invoices of leather, and one or two of the first lots have now been heard from, and brought such profits as to induce much larger shipments.

**ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE FRENCH COLONIES.**—We are glad to state that an act for this good purpose has passed the Chamber of Peers, and will, doubtless, the Deputies, of France. The main features of the bill are, that the masters are to give a day a week to the slaves, on which they will pay the latter for their labor, and the money thus acquired will form a fund for their emancipation. A slow mode of doing it, but admitting the general principle that slavery is wrong, and thus likely to lead to something more rapid. The debates among the Peers have been animated, turning upon the same points upon which the discussion of slavery always turns here: the abstract right to hold slaves—the policy of the system—its moral wrong—the comparative comfort of the slave and free laborer. The last in doing justice to the poor slave, we fear, will be free America!

**METHODIST PRO-SLAVERY CONVENTION.**—After nearly a fortnight of anxious and deliberate consultation, the Convention of Southern Methodists at Louisville, has arrived at something like a result in the passage of the following resolution, which containing a declaration of opinion, is to be regarded as the separating act. The resolution is said to have passed with only one dissenting voice; but when the division comes to be made, there is reason to believe that there will be far less unanimity among the Southern portions of the church. This in the third great rupture of ecclesiastical bodies occasioned by slavery. The following is the resolution:

*Resolved, by the Delegates of the several Annual Conferences in the South and South-western States, in General Convention assembled,* That we cannot sanction the action of the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, on the subject of slavery, by remaining under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this body, without deep and lasting injury to the interests of the church and the country, we, therefore, hereby instruct the Committee on Organization that if, upon a careful examination of the whole subject, they find that there is no reasonable ground to hope that the Northern majority will recede from their position, and give some safe guaranty for the future security of our civil and ecclesiastical rights, that they report in favor of a separation from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the said General Conference.

**EXTENSIVE SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS.**—Sales of public lands to the extent of 5,000,000 acres and upwards, lying in the North-west, West and South-west sections of the country, are advertised to take place in the course of the ensuing summer and autumn.—*New York Evangelist.*

**FIRE AT QUEBEC.**

Three quarters of the parish of St. Roch is in ashes, and two streets in St. Johns Suburbs, along the Cape, and the whole of the Palace, which was burnt in 1843. The number of houses consumed is estimated at between 1500 and 2000, and thousands of families are deprived of everything they possessed. The fire originated in Mr. Richardson's Tannery, in a steam-engine room, at the entrance of St. Valer's Suburbs, and the wind being strong from the westward at the time, it soon communicated to St. Roch's Suburbs. The Catholic Church of that parish, and two Methodist Chapels are among the buildings consumed.

The number of lives lost is not yet ascertained; about a dozen bodies have been removed from the ruins, but it is generally believed that a great number more have lost their lives.

It is said that the amount insured at the Quebec Office is between £25,000 and £30,000. At the Canada Office about the same amount. At the the Phoenix about £2,500. The Montreal Office, I learn, will not suffer much.

I am informed that the amount subscribed at a meeting for the relief of the sufferers, is about 7,000. The Gentlemen of the Seminary, the Ladies of the Hotel Dieu, and Mr. James Gibb, subscribed £500 each; and a large number of Merchants have subscribed from £250 to £100 each.—*Herald.*

**MONTREAL PRICES CURRENT.—JUNE 2.**

ASHES—Pot . . . . . 23s 6d	LARD . . . . . 5d a 6d p. lb
Pearl . . . . . 24s 6d	BEEF—P. Mess tierce . . . \$14
FLOUR—Fine . . . . . 23s a 24s	Do ibls . . . . . \$8
Do. American . . . . . 26s a 27s	Prime . . . . . \$6
WHEAT . . . . . 4s 9d	TALLOW . . . . . 5 1/2d
PEASE 3s per minot	BUTTER—Salt . . . . . 8d
OAT-MEAL . . . . . 8s 0d per. cwt.	CHEESE . . . . . 4d a 6 1/2d
PORK—Mess . . . . . \$16	EXCHANGE—London 1 1/2 prem.
P. Mess . . . . . \$14	N. York . . . . . 2 do
Prime . . . . . \$12	Canada W. 1/4 do

**Monies Received on Account of**

*Advocate.*—Rev. G. Bell, Buckingham, 15s; Dr. A. Richmond, Greenock, 2s 6d; H. Shaler, Aylmer, C. E. 2s 6d; H. Kellogg, Bytown, 2s 6d; Sunderics, Montreal, per. A. Gemmel 13s 8d; do per. W. Rispin, 5s; D. Smith, —1s 9d; W. Vaultine, Crovoland, 8s 9d; J. Flintoft, Port Sarina, 5s; Mrs. Mortimer, Thornhill, 10s; M. Magill, Hamilton, 3s 4d; M. New, Seymour, 5s; E. G. Salisbury, Liverpool, 1s 8d.

*Provincial Effort Fund.*—Collected by Miss. Margaret Cumming, Williamstown £1 5. 0.,

*Arrear Account.*—R. Williams, Parrie, 10s.