The Weekly Observer.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1850.

VOL. XXII.—NO. 51.

The Observer.

Published on TUESDAY, by DONALD A. CAMERON at his Office, corner of Prince William and Church Streets, over the Store of Messrs. Jardine & Co.—TERMS: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Company is prepared to receive applications for Insurance against FIRE upon Buildings and other Property, at the Office of the subscriber.

I. WOODWARD.

St. John, Nov. 11, 1846. *Secretary.*

☞ NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of The Honorable HUGH JOHNSTON, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested; and all those indebted to the same Estate, are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

HARRIET M. JOHNSTON, *Executrix.*
HUGH B. JOHNSTON, } *Executors.*
JOHN M. ROBINSON, }

St. John, May 7, 1850.—[Cour.]

Notice of Removal.

FLEWWELLING & READING

BEG to give notice that they are about to REMOVE their Stock of GROCERIES and LIQUORS, to the premises in Prince William Street, (corner of Cooper's Alley,) formerly occupied by Messrs. JARDINE & Co., where they will be prepared to supply customers as useful, with every variety of Goods in their line.

St. John, May 4, 1850.

PHOENIX FOUNDRY,

POND STREET.

THE Proprietors of the above Establishment having erected a new *Moulding Shop* on the premises occupied by the late Firm of THOMAS BARLOW & Co., are now prepared to Manufacture STEAM and FIRE ENGINES, Steam Boilers, Force Pumps, MILL MACHINERY, Turning Lathes, Screw Presses, Bark Mills, Patent Purchases and other Ship Castings, Hoisting Wheel Gear, &c.,&c

On Hand—CAMBOOSES; Cooking, Close and Franklin STOVES; Oven and Furnace Mouths; Side-Hill, Double Mould-Board, Sod D, Improved D. E. and other pattern PLOUGHS Fanning Mill Wheels; Truck and Barrow Wheel; Waggon and Cart Boxes, &c. &c.

FLEMING & HUMBERT.

☞ *Brass and Iron Castings made to order. Brass and Iron Turning. All kinds of Machinery repaired.* St. John, October 16th, 1849.

LOOKING GLASS AND Picture Frame Manufactory,

Germain Street.

THE Proprietors of the above Establishment continue to Manufacture all descriptions of Plain and Fancy PORTRAIT & PICTURE FRAMES; Window Cornices and Poles, plain or carved; Fire Screens, plain or richly ornamented; LOOKING GLASSES of all descriptions, in plain and Gilt Frames, at prices lower than ever before offered in this Province.

ON HAND.—A large assortment of LOOKING GLASSES, including Cheval, Mantle, Pier, Dressing and Common Glasses, in Gold, Rose Wood, Mahogany and Pine Frames, which *will be sold low for Cash.*

GILDING of all kinds done in the best style on the lowest terms. SIGN PAINTING in plain and gilt letters executed in the neatest manner at prices lower than at any other Establishment in the Province.

☞ Cornices Ornamented and Gilt; Borders for Rooms, plain or burnished, supplied at short notice. Old Frames re-gilt. Pictures cleaned and varnished. MAPS mounted and varnished in the neatest manner. POTTER & CO.

VICTORIA BOOK STORE AND STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,

King Street, St. John, N. B.

V. H. NELSON

OFFERS for sale at the above Establishment an extensive assortment of School BOOKS and STATIONERY;

Bibles, Testaments and Prayer Books;
A large collection of Standard and Miscellaneous Works;
Superfine Laid and Wove Writing Paper;
Pocket Books, Card Cases, Albums, Drawing Pencils;
Quills, Steel Pens, Wafers, Wax, Office Tape;
Parchment, Inks, and Ink Powders, Slates;
Copy Books, Memorandum Books, Blank Books;
Picture Frames;
Drawing Paper, Artists' Materials;
Fulton's and Knight's Pronouncing Dictionaries.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

The latest and best editions, such as are in general use throughout the Provinces.

Primers, Spelling Books, Class Books;
Readers, Grammars, Dictionaries, Geographies;
Catechisms, Arithmetics, Classical Works, &c;
Maps of the British Provinces in North America;
Plans of the City and Harbour;
Douay Bibles and Testaments, Catholic Prayer Books, &c. &c. Feb 19.

PIANO and ORGAN.

MR. F. W. CLEAR, Teacher of the Piano Forte, Organ, and SINGING, would notify his friends and the Public, that he has REMOVED from his former residence to the house of Mr. John Armstrong, Charlotte-street, four doors north of King's Square.

Mr. C's terms for instruction are 30s. per quarter; and he pledges himself to give satisfaction, or no charge will be made. January 1st.

LONDON GOODS.

Landing ex Lisbon, from London:

50 CHESTS Fine Congo TEA;
2 casks *Lazenby's* PICKLES and SAUCES;
1 case Salad OIL; 20 cases Sperm CANDLES,
10 kegs Coleman's MUSTARD;
10 bags BLACK PEPPER;
6 cases Cayenne Pepper and Isinglass, Gelatine, Tapioca, &c. &c.—For sale by

May 4. JARDINE & CO.

Loaf and Crushed SUGAR.

Landing from Liverpool, per *Olive*—

17 TIERCES Crushed and Loaf SUGAR,
10 cwt. best STARCH,
1 cask Button BLUE,
3 cwt. Stove LEAD, 2 oz. and ¼ lb. packages,
4 tierces Bath BRICKS,
6 boxes Windsor SOAP.

FLEWWELLING & READING,

May 14. *Prince Wm. Street.*

April 30, 1850.

SPRING GOODS.

Just Received per "Catherine," and "Ann," from Glasgow, an assortment of—

FANCY MUSLIN DRESSES,
Plain and Fancy GINGHAMS,
Superfine and three-ply CARPETINGS,
SHAWLS and HANDKF'S—*all kinds,*
Swiss, Book, and Mull *MUSLINS,*
Damask and Diaper TABLE LINENS,
TOWELLINGS and *SHEETINGS,*
Brown, Grey, Slate and Fancy *HOLLANDS,*
LINENS, LAWNS, DOWLAS,
Osnaburghs, Canvas, and GLASS CLOTH,
Linen Cambric Pocket HANDK'FS.,
White and Colored *DAMASK CLOTHS,*
Muslin Collars, Habit Shirts, and Chimizetts,
Muslin Scallop and INSERTIONS,
Black and Colored DEMI VEILS,
Patent Linen THREADS, Cotton REELS, &c. &c.

—ALSO—

Per Lisbon, *and* Faside, *from London—and per* Olive, *from Liverpool:*

DRESS GOODS, in great variety;
Bonnet and Cap RIBBONS;
SHAWLS and HANDKERCHIEFS;
GLOVES and HOSIERY;
Laces, Netts, Blondes, and Fancy Trimmings;
Plain and Fancy PARASOLS;
Ladies' BOOTS and SHOES;
Gent's HATS and CAPS;
Fancy Bandannas and TIES;
Broad CLOTHS, DOESKINS, KERSEYS;
Fancy VESTINGS, Braces, Russell Cords;
Lasting, Drills, Grey, White, & Striped Shirtings;
CARPETS, RUGS, and DRUGGETS;
Silk, Worsted, and Cotton FRINGES;
OIL CLOTHS and SQUARES;
7-8 and 9-8 Printed COTTONS;
Fancy Muslin DRESSES;
Linen and Muslin Ginghams, Cotton Warps, &c.

May 21. W. G. LAWTON.

Spring Importation.

J. & H. FOTHERBY

Have received per ship *Lisbon*, from London, a large assortment of FANCY GOODS, viz:

SILKS, IN

BLACK Sattinetts, Black and colored Glace, Gros de Naples, Watered du Cape, Striped and Embossed Satins, Serges, &c.

RIBBONS.

Fancy French and English Bonnet Ribbons,
Fancy French and English Gauze and Satin do.
Plain Lutestring, Pearl Edge do., Love do.
French and German Ribbon Velvets,
Black and colored Fancy Velvet Trimmings,
Ladies' Neck Ties.

PARASOLS.

Claremont, Glace, Watered, and Fancy Parasols,
Satin do. do. do.
Printed, Corah, Bandanna, and China Silk Hdkfs.

BONNETS.

Coburgs, Alboni's, Lutons, Rice, China, Pearl, Tuscans, White Alboni, Willow, Chip, Dunstable, &c.; Fancy Batiste, Ladies' and Girls' Bonnet Shapes;
Children's Spanish, Albert, Anglesea, and Hungarian Hats; Lambs' Wool Hoods, &c.
French and *English* Caps, Bonnet Flowers, and Rosettes.

LACES AND NETTS.

Fancy Blond, Paris and Cambray Netts,
Black, Colored, and Fancy do.
Egyptian, Valenciennes, and Balmoral Laces and Edgings; Thread Insertions, Edgings, and Blonds; Edgings, & Blonds; Linen Collars, Habit Shirts, Muslin and Lace Sleeves.

GLOVES.

Ladies' and Gent's White and Dark French Kid,
Fancy self-colored do.; Embroidered Silk do.
Fancy sewn, Tasseled and full cuff'd Lisle Thread
Children's do. do.

GENT'S NECK TIES.

Shot Silk, Striped and Figured Damask Satin,
Paris corded, Glace, Barathea, French figured, and Oriental do, &c.

CLOTHS.

Superfine Black, Blue, Invisible, Broad,
Light and Dark Fancy Doeskins, Cassimeres,
Newest styles Fancy Trousers Stuffs,
A large variety of VESTINGS, Figured and Checked Satin do.; Hosiery, Haberdashery, Smallwares, &c. &c. &c.
Gent's Silk, Beaver, and Paris HATS,
CLOTH CAPS, &c. &c.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

North side Market Square, May 4, 1850.

SPRING GOODS!

Spring Goods, Spring Goods!

Landing per *Catherine*, from Glasgow—

1 HD. Lazenby's PICKLES & SAUCE,
1 hhd. Day & Martin's Liquid Paste *BLACKING,*
10 boxes London Sperm CANDLES, 4's and 6's,
10 kegs *MUSTARD,* S. F.; 1 cask NUTRE,
1 cask Alum; 1 hhd. Bath BRICK,
1 chest INDIGO; 1 bale WICKING,
1 cask Button BLUE; 6 bags black PEPPER,
2 boxes Sugar CANDY,
2 casks White Wine VINEGAR, French,
12 boxes Poland STARCH,
21 boxes Tobacco PIPES, (assorted)
4 bales Wrapping PAPER, (well ass'd)
1 bale Wrapping TWINE; 1 box INK,
3 casks Washing SODA; 1 cask Bunstone,
4 boxes pure white SOAP.

Per Annie McNab, *from New York:*—

35 boxes TOBACCO, 5's 8's 10's,
10 half chests fine Oolong TEA,
15 casks Goshen BUTTER; 1 cask CHEESE,
8 M. CIGARS, good brands,
10 M. do. very fine Havanna, (out of bond.)
20 half brls. FLOUR, for family use,
10 brls very fine PILOT BREAD,
5½ do. Soda *SALERATUS.*

JAMES MACFARLANE,

April 30. *Market square.*

Brandy & Pale Hollands Geneva.

Landing ex ship *Catherine* from Glasgow;

5 PIPES, 10 hhds. } old Cognac BRANDY;
10 qr. casks
10 hhds. Pale Hollands GENEVA;
2 puncheons prime Malt WHISKY.

For sale low by

May 7. JOHN V. THURGAR.

Hollow-Ware and other Castings.

Per ship Catherine.

C. & W. H. ADAMS.

5 TONS CASTINGS, consisting of POTS, Ovens, Spiders, Skillets, Dog Irons, Boilers, Bow handle Frying Pans, Cart and Waggon Boxes; 1 case Thomson's Screw Augers.

May 7, 1850.

NEW

SPRING GOODS

NOW OPENED,

Per *Ann, Catharine, Lisbon, Olive,* &c. &c.

MORRISON & CO.

Respectfully solicit an inspection of their

NEW STOCK,

Which will be found replete with every *Novelty,* the whole having been Personally selected, *Previous to the late Great Advances.*

They feel confident they can offer undeniable advantages to Purchasers,

Wholesale and Retail.

The DRESS Department

Embraces every Novelty in WOOL and SILK Fabrics; IRISH TABINETTES, POPLINS, POMELLAS, CHAMELIONS, SOIE LUSTRES, MADONNAS, ALPACAS, LUCRETIAS, BALZARINES, DELAINES, COVENANTERS, COBURGS, ORLEANS, &c.

Linen & Cotton GINGHAMS, Printed MUSLINS, &c.

Rich Brocade SATINS for SACKS, VISETTES, &c. TURC SATINS, GRO NE NAPS, &c.

Fine PAISLEY SHAWLS, SCARFS, &c. Norwich, Filled, Cashmere, Barege, Gerardine, Gala, Mauie, Canton Crape, Satin and Silk

SHAWLS.

Fancy Silk and Satin Neck Ties.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH RIBBONS,

in Satin, Lutestring, and Gauzes.

A Splendid Assortment of NECK and SASH RIBBONS.

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S HOSIERY AND GLOVES.

Black and White Silk, Thread and Cotton LACES,

Illusions, and Mecklin and Fancy NETTS, Elegantly Wrought Lace VEILS and DEMIS, Habit Shirts, Collars and Chemizettes.

Fancy Gimps, Fringes, Buttons, Braids, Tassels, &c. &c.

PARASOLS,

In Mourning, Black, Fancy Silk, Glacies, Plain and Damask Satin.

Silk and Gingham UMBRELLAS, &c.

Damasks, Moreens, Quilts, Counterpanes; Ticks, Table Linen, Sheetings, Towelling, &c.

Grey, White, and Striped COTTONS

Red and White FLANNELS, Plaiding, &c.
Printed CALICOES, Heavy GINGHAMS, &c.

FANCY JEANS.

Black, Blue, Brown, and Invisible BROAD CLOTHS,

CASSIMERES, DOESKINS, VESTINGS, &c. Cashmerette, Cassinetts, Russel Cord, Merino, *and other FANCY SUMMER COATINGS.*

A Beautiful Lot of Gent's SILK and SATIN NECK RUBBS. AND SCARFS,

OPERAS, DEMI and ARIEL TIES,

FRENCH GINGHAM HDKF

French and Irish Cambric Pocket Hkfs. Shirt Fronts, Collars, Bracers.

With an endless variety of other GOODS, unenumerated.

May 18, 1850. MORRISON & CO

Spring and Summer Fashions, for 1850.

If you would make a good Bargain in purchasing your

Spring and Summer Clothing,

you have only to call at

GILMOUR'S

Fashionable Tailoring Establishment,

BRIGGS' Building, King Street,

And purchase such garments as may be wanted, and you will be astonished at the

GOOD BARGAINS

you can obtain at his Store.

HE has on hand a good variety of the different styles of CLOTHING, cut and made in the best manner, and will guarantee his price to be as Low as any establishment in the City.

You will also find a good assortment of CLOTHS, DOESKINS, CASSIMERES, Plain and Fancy VESTINGS, adapted for the *Spring Trade,* which will be made into garments to order, in a faithful manner, and a good fit warranted in all cases. Also a good variety of

FURNISHING GOODS.

In fact every article usually kept in a genteel Clothing Establishment may be found here; which with the low prices, polite and gentlemanly treatment, makes his Store among the most popular in the City. He would respectfully invite you to give him a call and satisfy yourself that this is no humbug.

☞ Terms—*CASH* and Low Prices.

ANDREW GILMOUR.

Briggs's Building, South Side of King street.

April 23, 1850.

JUST RECEIVED,

Per ship "*Olive,*" from Liverpool—

8 CASKS PAINTS, containing Kegs White Lead; Black, Green, Red, Blue, Yellow and Stone Colour Paints, Tins patent Dried and Thumb Blue.

Per *Lisbon,* from London—

5 casks, containing: White Lead, Black, Green, and Yellow PAINTS;
4 casks Boiled and Raw OIL;
5 tons OAKUM; 2 bundles Pump LEATHER;

—IN STORE—

50 barrels Riggers TAR; 25 do. *PITCH;*
40 do. *VINEGAR,* (Mathews);
120 do. S'fine FLOUR; 30 tubs BUTTER.

—IN BOND—

100 barrels NAVY and PILOT BREAD;
10 do Extra Clear PORK;
15 do Prime PORK; 20 do *MESS BEEF;*
40 do *FLOUR.* GEO. THOMAS,

May 16. *South Mkt. Wharf.*

The Garland.

TRUSTING IN GOD.

As the pilgrim, faint and weary,
Wrapt in darksome shades of night,
Fearful roams the desert dreary,
Panting for the morning light;
So the saint may doubtful stray,
Roving on a gloomy way.

Should some sudden friend appearing,
Lead him with his faithful arm,
And his drooping spirits cheering,
Banish every dread alarm:
Strength would nerve his limbs again,
And new hope his heart sustain.

Heavenly traveller, who dost wander,
Knowing not the path to take,
On thy Saviour's promise ponder,
"I will never thee forsake.
I will teach thy steps to go
In a way thou dost not know."

Doth the darkness gather round then,
And the shades of death appear:
Devious tracks and snares confound thee?
Still thy friend forbids thy fear;
He will chase thy foes away,
And the darkness turn to day.

Through the flames, or through the rivers,
Should thy wayward steps proceed,
Him nor floods nor furnace severs,
He is still thy help in need.
Though thy flesh and heart should fail,
Trust Him, and thou shalt prevail.

He thy Captain is, and Leader,
Shepherd, Counsellor, and Guide;
He thy rearward and preceder,
Bids thee in His love confide.
Well the sacred name He bears,
Wisdom, power, and love declares.

On His mighty arm depending,
Soon the desert shall be past,
And life's journey safely ending,
Thou shalt reach thy home at last.
God will watch thy steps below,
And the prize above bestow.

Miscellaneous.

The Coconut in Jamaica.

The correspondent of the New York Evening Post, from whom we have already quoted, gives the following illustration of the mode in which the people of Jamaica neglect the good gifts that Providence has scattered around them:

"To illustrate this supineness a little more in detail; there is the coconut, one of the most profitable fruits that the earth produces, is turned to no account whatever by the Jamaicans, though it grows as luxuriantly here as in any quarter of the globe. I was told, by a gentleman who had a large number of these trees growing, that he would esteem it the best property on his estate, if he could get one dollar a hundred for the nuts, but that there was a very limited market at any price. And yet there is no part of this fruit that is not valuable. It thrives in a sandy soil, and bears in Jamaica within three or four years after it is planted. From its flowers the finest arrack in the world may be distilled, and the best of vinegar. A course brown sugar may also be prepared from the flower. The green fruit yields a nutritious and delightful drink, and a more substantial food in the pulp which contains the liquid. When ripe, the fruit is popular as an article of diet in all parts of the world. From that fruit a pure oil may be extracted, which may be manufactured into candles, soap, and used in a variety of other ways in which vegetable oils are available, while the refuse, or oil cake, as it is called, is a most excellent food for cattle.

A medicinal oil is extracted from the bark, which is used, I understand, in Ceylon as an efficacious remedy, in cutaneous diseases; the root is also used for medicinal purposes; its elastic fibres are sometimes woven into strainers for liquids, while the timber may be used in building, or converted into beautiful articles of furniture. The husk consists of a tough fibre, from which cordage and rigging of the best quality may be manufactured, and which furnishes the finest stuffing for mattrasses that is used, not excepting hair. I saw some of this fibre manufactured at the Penitentiary in Kingston, for mattress stuffing. I satisfied myself that if its value was known in America it would bring a higher price than any commodity now in use for bedding. The specimens that I saw were manufactured by the convicts, at a cost, I was told, of six cents a pound. Hair costs with us, I believe, about twenty-five cents. The process of manufacturing it is very simple,—the husk shells are soaked till perfectly soft, and then are pounded out until the fibres are all separated. This was done in the prison by hand, and without the use of machinery, and yet the article could be produced by them for six cents a pound. By the aid of a very simple machine, something, for instance, like that in which rags in a paper mill are first subjected, it is very apparent that the cost of manufacturing it might be reduced at least one half. When I asked why machinery was not employed in this department of the prison, I was told that they had not work enough to occupy the convicts if machinery was employed. Of course I had nothing to say to a reason so conclusive as that.

The supply of these husks would be almost inexhaustible. They have no more use or value here than walnut shells have with us, and may be had by the ship load for the mere expense of cartage. A cargo of a thousand tons could be manufactured for a thousand dollars, and be worth in the port of New York not less than $4,000, as soon as the usefulness of the article became generally known."

The Language of Animals.

It is often asked why animals have not the power of speech. From a few facts, however, it is easily proved that, although they may not have the faculty of articulation, like men, they yet in a way communicating their ideas. These classes of animals seem to possess this power to a remarkable degree, that live together in communities or societies, as to them it would of course be most necessary.

Bees are able to make sufficient sounds by means of their feelers, and these sounds convey various meanings. When they are about to swarm, scouts are sent out to find a suitable location; these return, report what they have seen, a buzzing noise is made, and the whole swarm start for the place on which the scouts have fixed. A wasp, which has found some store of food, has been observed to go to its nest, and in some way impart such information to its associates that they have flown to the place in a body.

Ants possess this faculty in a still greater degree. When they are at work, there is evidently a communication between the master work man and the labourers. So when an army of them is moving, the march is conducted with a regularity that would be impossible unless they understood each other. At given signals from the leader, they are seen to quicken their pace; scouts are despatched, reinforcements are brought up, messages sent from one portion to another, insomuch that the various movements seem almost to be directed by human intelligence.

An ant that has found a piece of food too large to be carried by itself unassisted, will return to its nest, and bring to its aid several of its comrades. Dr. Franklin gives us an instance in point. He had suspended a pot of molasses by a string from the ceiling in order to preserve it from the ants. One of the troublesome visitors had remained on the pot, and was seen ascending the string, and betaking itself to its hole. Not many moments had elapsed before a large company of ants were discerned making their way to the extremity of the string; they descended to the pot, eat their fill, and then gave way to another band of their hungry fraternity. It would seem in this case, that information must have been given by the first discoverer.

A crow perched on a lofty limb, while its companions are feeding, will, by a single caw, which is at once understood and acted on, give notice of approaching danger. Indeed the note of danger is one which all animals seem to understand. A hen, by her well known calls will collect her chickens under her wings as expeditiously as a human mother can gather her children by words.

EFFECT OF FREE TRADE ON IRELAND.—Our own British possessions get their supplies cheaper from the United States than they can from Great Britain or our North American Colonies. They expend the property of their own colonies, and of ours too, which they get there, in fostering the trade of our rivals, to the destruction and exclusion of their own. What has been the effect of free trade in Ireland? In the year 1841 or 1845, there were of acres cultivated in wheat in Ireland 1,059,620; but in 1847, the blessed year that followed the consummation of free trade, the number was reduced to 565,746, thus showing a decrease in three years of the palmy days of free trade of no less than 500,000 acres of wheat, equal to the production of 2,100,000 quarters, and in value, at what ought to be the price of wheat, upwards of £60,000,000 sterling. This shows with a vengeance that capital is flowing from the banks of the Shannon, and is going to the shores of the Vistula. What will you, farmers, your wives and your daughters, say to this? In the year 1833, the export of salt Butter from Ireland was 25,000 tons, in value £3,000,000 sterling, and it would take 260,000 cows to produce that quantity of butter. Now, let the free traders tell us what has been the export of salt butter from Ireland during the last year. Ireland has broken up her old pastures, and has sown wheat upon them, and yet with all that forced and ruinous cultivation, the foreigner beats her out-and-out."—*Mr. Booker's Speech.*

CHINESE TRADITION OF THE DELUGE.—*Confirmation of the Bible.*—In an address delivered in Dublin, Dr. Gutzlaff made the following statements:—"Let them now look to the east of Asia, and there on its shore, washed by the Pacific, they would find China, an ancient nation, which has retained its customs for over 2,000 years, with a strictness and attachment that would do honour to better things. In fact, the Chinese had a continual history, even from the deluge up to the present time; they had writers in all times and in all circumstances, and they had a language which, in its essential parts, had undergone very little change for the past 2,000 years. Was it not a wonder that this nation could exist so long, and could not be subdued by the storms that swept over the plains of Asia? The fearful inroads of barbarians who wasted and overthrew the Roman empire in the west and in the east, all that the wisdom of the Hindoos had established, did not annihilate or disperse his nation (for he called the Chinese his own nation). The invaders of China, instead of giving their triumph a national character, were obliged in time to amalgamate with the Chinese, and thus this nation was preserved in its purity. The Chinese history stated that there was at one time a great deluge, when the waters rose up to the heavens, and that the empire was then converted into a swamp, *which a king, called Shun,* had drained by means of canals whose mouths opened into the seas and rivers. The date of this event only differed a few years from that generally assigned to the deluge. It was a confirmation of the truth of the holy scriptures, that so distant a nation as the Chinese, who do not know from the bible of the occurrence of the great fall, should yet record the same event as that spoken of in holy writ. There were other coincidences also, such, for example, as the record of a great starvation, which took place about the time when Joseph was the prime minister of Egypt.

THE DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT BURNS.—There is an interest attached to all that relates to the great poet and the unsuccessful ploughman which extends over the whole Anglo-Saxon race. The little fact which we are about to state, may, therefore, be worth noticing. For some time there has been traveling in the interior of the remote island of Borneo, and sojourning among its rude people of head hunters, a young man of the name of Burns, and this young man is the grandson of Robert Burns and "bonny Jean." This adventurous youth has not only been hospitably and kindly treated by the rude Dyaks, but a prince of the Kayan nation, the most powerful of the island, has given him one of his daughters to wife; so that the future biographers of Robert Burns will, in all human likelihood, be able to enumerate among his descendants those also of a Bornean prince. Mr. Burns has discovered mines of antimony and coal fields in Borneo, more extensive than any in the world, out of America. He seems, moreover, to be not only a person of great enterprise, but also a man of intelligence and good education; for he has written and published by far the best and most authentic account of Borneo which has hitherto been given to the public. The grandson, in short, of him who sang "on the banks of Ayr," is an intrepid and intelligent traveller in the woods of Borneo and on the Equator. We do not think the poet could have anticipated this destiny for a descendant, although, for his forefathers, it was among his aspirations that some of them may possibly have followed the Scots kings in the charge of a hostile force or the storming of a breach.—*London Daily News.*

MANUFACTURE OF DIAMONDS.—The Paris correspondent of the London Times says:

"The scientific world has been in a state of commotion during the whole week, in consequence of the publication of the discovery of the long sought for secret of the fusion and crystallization of carbon. The Sorbonne has been crowded for the last few days to behold the result of this discovery in the shape of a tolerably-sized diamond of great lustre, which M. Despretz, the happy discoverer, submits to the examination of every chemist and savant who chooses to visit him. He declares that so long ago as last autumn he had succeeded in producing the diamond, but in such minute particles as to be visible only through the microscope, and, fearful of raising irony and suspicion, he had kept the secret, until, by dint of repeated experiments and great labor, he had completed the one he now offers to public view. Four solar lens, of immense power, aided by the tremendous galvanic pile of the Sorbonne, have been the means of producing the result now before us. M. Despretz holds himself ready to display the experiment whenever it may be required. The diamond produced is of the quality known in the East, as the black diamond, one single specimen of which was sold by Prince Rostoski to the late Duke of York, for the enormous sum of twelve thousand pounds!"

PRINCE ARTHUR'S CRADLE.—The *Morning Post* describes with gusto the rich fabric of a new cradle prepared for the Queen's newest infant:—"The sides, which are finished, are carved in the choicest box, the difficulty of procuring which wood (of sufficient size) has been one of the causes for the delay attending the work. In the upper portion are friezes in relief, having an alternate introduction of roses and poppies, designed and executed with the purest feeling of Italian taste. Beneath them is a bold torus moulding with pinks, inserted in fluted hollows. The interiors of the rockers are ornamented with foliated dolphins, and even the edges of the foot and head are elaborately carved into scroll-work."

THE WIDOW AND HER SON.—Considerably more than half-a-century ago there dwelt in a small borough of Forfarshire a poor widow, who earned a humble but respectable livelihood for herself and her only son by keeping a stall, principally for the sale of crockeryware, in the market-place. It was when gentlemen lived harder than they do now, and although the word "Wateffordizing" had not been invented the thing implied by it was greatly in vogue. The townspeople then were not unaccustomed to the occasional freaks and rough practical jokes of a neighbouring gentleman, who had lately succeeded to enormous property and a peerage, and there was no particular surprise manifested when, late one evening, the humble stall of the widow was overturned in an after-dinner frolic, and the brittle-ware it contained smashed upon the street. The aggressor was Lord Panmure. Next morning the proprietress of the stall waited upon his lordship, and the claim for damages was soon settled to the satisfaction of all parties. "And now my good woman," said the overthrower of the crockeryware, "is there anything else I can do for you?" The widow replied that she had an only son, a sharp little fellow, whom she wished to see receiving a better education that a limited means enabled her to bestow on him. Lord Panmure at once promised the necessary aid. He was as good as his word. Little Joey was sent for. The intelligence and sharpness of the boy were readily recognized, and highly commended, and he was placed at once in an excellent school. Such was the curiously-caused commencement of a long career of industry and honour. The little boy, the poor widow's son, was—Joseph Hume.—*Illustrated News.*

VALUE OF MARRIED LIFE.—By the register general's report in England it is ascertained that men and women, married at 26, live together on an average in that country 27 years. The widows survive their husbands a little more than 10 years, and widowers live not far from 9 after the death of their wives. When the husband is 40 and the wife 30, the mean term of married life is 21 years—the widows surviving 13 years after their husband's death, and the widowers only five after the loss of their wives. Probably there is no essential difference in the laws of life in the United States and England, but it should be added by way of encouragement, that both sexes, by being married, have a longer lease of life than they otherwise would have.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Judge Daly of New York has recently promulgated the decision that a woman may not legally be held to answer for a breach of promise to marry, and that it is only the masculine gender who can be so held for refusing to consummate such a contract.

[From the Newark Daily Advertiser.]

CUBA.

If the inhabitants of the Island of Cuba should think proper to throw off the Spanish yoke, and prove sufficient to establish a free and independent government of their own, the people of the United States would doubtless be the first to give them the right hand of fellowship. Though they cannot consent that predatory bands should be fitted out within our borders under the pretence of accomplishing the work for them, contrary to every principle of international law, and in open violation of express treaty. Nor are we prepared to accept the sentiments of the New Orleans Bulletin—though a paper whose opinions are entitled to high consideration—that "the inevitable destiny of this noble Island is, sooner or later, annexation to the United States." Much better would it be, if its separation from Spain is to be produced, that its independence should be guaranteed by a treaty among the Commercial nations that have an interest in its trade and position.

Rich in internal resources, and occupying a near and most important position in the great highway of commerce, we of the United States certainly cannot be indifferent to its character and condition. Under the Spanish rule, it has not flourished in any thing like a just proportion to its natural advantages. With an unsurpassed soil and climate, and accessible on all sides to the trade and commerce of the world, its resources have probably never been half developed. Occupied by a comparatively feeble population, embarrassed with slavery, and crippled by an arbitrary government, its interests and energies are rather deteriorating than advancing; and it is not surprising that some of the more enlightened among them should, in immediate view of the high state of prosperity under our free institutions, begin to long for some change in their social and political condition. The nature of the grievances of which they complain may be seen by the following enumeration furnished to our hand by the New York Evening Post. The population, it should be premised, is estimated at about a million, one half of which is supposed to be coloured:

"The population is taxed annually to the amount of over $24,000,000, by assessments levied upon every imaginable article of industry, of production or of consumption, upon the expenses of living and of dying, upon their religion and upon their infidelity, upon their litigation and upon their amusements.

These taxes are expended in supporting an army of 20,000 men to intimidate the inhabitants, to man and support the Spanish navy which is almost entirely stationed here, to pay the salaries of officials, and to support the feeble and profligate government in Spain.

Cuba is governed by officials always sent from Spain. There has never been but one Captain General upon the island that was a resident when appointed. Espleta had for some time previous to his appointment in 1838, resided at Havana, as sub inspector-general of the troops. He was too popular with the Cubans to be permitted to serve out even the allotted term of five years, to which this office is limited, and was soon removed by the jealous authorities at Madrid.

Within the last ten years, Cuba has been denied all representation in the Spanish Cortes, where three deputies had before always been permitted to occupy seats. The Governor General is absolute, and makes such laws and regulations as his caprice or his avarice may dictate. From his decrees the people have no appeal. The press is dumb under a censorship far more rigid than that of Vienna.—Any petition signed by more than two persons is deemed seditious, and punishable with imprisonment.

Martial law has prevailed there since 1825, by which a suspected offender may be hurried into the dungeons of the Moro or to the gallows, without a chance of defending himself, or of being succored by his friends.

No trade can be followed or goods sold without a license.

The Creoles, or native Cubans, are excluded rigorously, from the army, the judiciary, the revenue service, and from all influential or lucrative positions.

Notwithstanding the enormous tithes exacted from the inhabitants, amounting to more than a quarter of a million of dollars yearly, they are all obliged to support their churches, places of worship, and cemeteries, by individual subscription.

The farmers have to pay 2½ per cent. on their sugar, and 10 per cent. on their other harvests when gathered, and their live stock when marketed.