

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

STATE OF THE PROVINCE.—The following extracts are taken from the St. John, N. B., Courier of the 4th inst.—The Carleton Iron Works sustained a very severe loss by fire during the past year: but this damage has been repaired, and the works are now making a large quantity of the best charcoal iron daily.

The crops of the past season were good, with the exception of the damage to the potatoes, and a deficiency of hay in some districts. In other respects the husbandmen have had great reason to be grateful, and we have no doubt will enter upon their labours the coming spring with renewed cheerfulness, and a full determination to avail themselves of all the improvements which modern science, and the experience of sound practical men have suggested for agricultural improvement.

The Fisheries of the past season were somewhat below the average, but prices have been well sustained. The exertions which have been made by the Executive to acquire correct information as to the present state of our Fisheries, and the best means of extending and improving them, will, we trust, lead to the adoption of judicious measures for those purposes.

On the whole, we congratulate the Province upon the favourable aspect of its affairs, in many, if not all, its important interests. With the beginning of public improvements on a large scale, we shall have an influx of population, and an increase of trade. Our fertile but neglected lands will be cultivated, and that which is now useless will be rendered productive.

DEPARTURE.—The Barque Amelia, Capt. A. B. Holder, sailed from this port on the 30th October last, with a cargo of Sugar-Box Shooks, for Matanzas, and returned on Friday, 27th December, from Boston, having landed her outward cargo at Cuba—there received a cargo of Molasses for Boston—bringing from thence a cargo of Flour, &c., thus earning three freights in fifty-eight days.—Ib.

ARRIVAL FROM CALIFORNIA.—Captain Albert Betts, who sailed from here upwards of a year ago, in the Schr. Clairmont of 50 tons, owned by himself, arrived here this week from California, by way of the United States. We are sorry to state that while descending the Chagres river, in a boat, on his way across the Isthmus, the boat upset and he lost one of his trunks, containing \$1500, besides other valuable property and letters for parties in this City, narrowly escaping with his life. Capt. Vroom, a native of Nova Scotia, but who had sailed out of this port, and who went from here as Master of the Brig. Arabian, we much regret, was unfortunately drowned at the same time with two other passengers, owing to the difficulty of their swimming with quantities of gold on their persons. There appears to be great risk both of life and property connected with that golden region, at least so far as people from these provinces are concerned, scarcely one of them having returned home safely with large fortunes.—Ib.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—The last Woodstock Sentinel gives an account of the murder of Mr. Wm. Montgomery, of Andover, N. B., by a man named Finemore—who, in consequence of some quarrel, struck Mr. M. on the head with a whistle-tree, so as to cause his death in less than 48 hours.—Ib.

Canada.

TORONTO BUILDING SOCIETY.—At the Forty-eighth Loan Meeting of this Society, on Monday evening, Dec. 9th, twelve shares (or £120) were disposed of, at an average bonus of £16 16s 6d—the lowest being 15s, and the highest 17½ per cent. At the General meeting of the Shareholders of this Society, which took place on the same evening, the 31st Rule, was repealed, and the following adopted:—"That the Directors of this Society be authorized to offer to such shareholders as may feel disposed to sell their shares and withdraw from the said Society, the amount of their Stock and Fees paid in, provided the shares have been fully paid up to the time of such withdrawal, and at such premium per share as the Directors may deem expedient for the interest of the said Society."—Daily Patriot.

SUDDEN DEATH.—We regret to announce the premature death of W. J. C. Benson, Esq., one of the oldest and most extensive merchants of Quebec. Mr. Benson, we understand, left Montreal on Monday, on his way to England, by the mail steamer of Wednesday, and expired suddenly at Whitehall at six o'clock on Tuesday morning.—Montreal Transcript.

DEER SHOOTING.—Deer shooting goes on at a famous rate in this neighbourhood. The family of Mr. Reeves, and some companions, killed four splendid animals near Mr. Paddock's farm, in Pustuch, in one day, this week, and during the week ten deer have been killed in the same neighbourhood.—Galt Reporter.

QUEBEC, Dec. 12, 1859.—Two very interesting meetings have been held here lately, by the auxiliary branches of the French Canadian, and the Congregational Home Missionary Societies. The former took place in the Baptist, and the latter in the Congregational Church. Excellent addresses were delivered on these occasions by the Rev. Messrs. Churchill, Marling, Marsh, Geikie and Dr. Wilkes, they had the merit of being brief, practical, and to the point. These meetings were well attended. Some R. C. Priests were present, and I learnt that they expressed themselves as rather pleased with the tone and character of the addresses. An excellent suggestion was thrown out by one of the speakers, (Mr. Churchill,) that in future it would be well to have an anniversary week, about that season, of the following societies, viz., the two above alluded to, with the Auxiliary Bible Society, the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and, perhaps, the Temperance Society might be added; this would indeed be a very interesting era at Quebec.

The note of preparation is sounding for the restoration of the seat of Government to this ancient capital: a pleasant abode has been secured at Spencer Wood for the residence of the Governor General; a commodious building has been leased for the public offices, and workmen are busily employed preparing the site for the additional wing to the Parliament Buildings, which will be constructed with much architectural taste.

A very wholesome excitement appears to prevail throughout the Provinces just now respecting railroads. Some delay has occurred about the Corporation grant of £100,000, in aid of that in which this city is more immediately concerned, (the Quebec and Richmond Railroad,) owing to a difference of opinion, as to the terminus, but an amicable arrangement has been made between the Corporation and Directors to have a competent survey to determine this matter.

The Ship Yards begin to present a busy aspect, about 25 vessels have already been laid down, and several others will probably be constructed during the winter. This important branch of business, for which this place is so admirably adapted, gives employment to several hundred persons.

The advent of a fresh Editor to an old established Journal (the Quebec Gazette) has been the signal for a general onset, and after bandying some hard words, the press has again assumed a more even and courteous tone. I think I may add, that both the English and French newspapers in this city are now conducted in a very creditable manner.—Quebec Correspondence of Montreal Witness.

The whole country is in a ferment about railroads, and there is much probability that Canada will, at no distant day, be traversed in every direction by locomotives. It is a great pity that the money capital of this country does not equal its enterprise. We speak, of course, of the people speaking English; for, from some recent developments in the Montreal papers, it appears that the amount of Stock held in Banks, Railways, &c., by our French Canadian neighbours, is next to nothing;—a result that we can easily conceive as likely, from the dwarfing effect of Romanism on the mind, and the manner in which it absorbs the capital of the country.—Montreal Witness.

There is great need for strong temperance efforts about the Holiday times; at which those who have not left off old usages—and even in some instances those who have for a season abandoned them—are strongly tempted to indulge in the intoxicating cup, whose final fruits are to bite like a serpent and sting like an adder.—Ib.

Last week an influential and spirited meeting was held in Cobourg, on the subject of forming a main Railroad from Prescott to Hamilton, along the shores of the St. Lawrence and Ontario. Resolutions approving of the design were adopted, and Committees appointed to obtain information and to take other preliminary steps. Other places will soon follow the example thus set.—Toronto Christian Guardian.

It is said the Hon. W. H. Merritt has had a split with his colleagues and has resigned his office as Chief Commissioner of Public Works.

It is also reported that the Hon. J. H. Price has resigned.

The Montreal Gazette, noticing Mr. Mosely's draft of a New Vessel about to be constructed for Messrs. Siler & Twining of this city, and to be employed as a regular trader between Jamaica and the Lakes in Canada West, says:

Lake trade is destined to be of the utmost importance to the Lower Provinces, and we are glad to see her Merchant's moving thus early in the matter. We shall watch the development of this most promising branch of Commerce with great interest. The time is approaching when the whole aspect of the trade and commerce of these Provinces will be completely revolutionized.

Sleighs of exquisite pattern, and elegantly furnished, and Sleigh Robes, are among the articles, to be forwarded to London for the Great Exhibition, from Canada.

Parliament is to assemble on the 5th February. The Montreal Gazette says, it is also stated that the question of a Federal Union of all the North American Provinces will be brought up and will most likely be carried.

A daring attempt was recently made to fire the city of Hamilton, Canada West. A lighted bundle of combustible materials was discovered, and the light extinguished before any damage was done.

UNITED STATES.

A WINDFALL.—Not long since, Col. Daniels, a wealthy Englishman, bequeathed about two millions of dollars to a bookseller in New Haven, who had been kind to him in his sickness there. Not being able to give the name of the bookseller, he specified the locality of his book-store.—Mr. Young, and Dr. Uthorn, who went in company in the book-trade, in the locality specified, both claim to have been kind to the sick stranger. Both lay claim to the two millions.—Observer.

DARING THEFT.—A Boston thief the other day extracted about eleven hundred dollars from the window of a broker, corner of State street and Merchant's Row, by thrusting his hand through a pane of glass. There were persons in the office at the time, but so rapid were the movements of the "snatcher," that he succeeded in making good his escape before he could be arrested.—Spectator.

The wonderful improvement going on in the western United States, is very clearly shown by the great increase in the tonnage of the vessels employed in the lake trade, and the value of the goods which they carry. The topographical engineers of the United States government make a return every four years, which is of the greatest value. In 1842, the licensed American tonnage of the lakes was 76,352 tons; in 1846, it was 166,836 tons; and in 1850, it was 167,137 tons. The aggregate value of the trade now amounts to the enormous sum of \$176,425,260 or more, by \$40,000,000, than the whole foreign export trade of the United States.—Quebec Gazette.

Extensive preparations are making in Philadelphia, to receive the first steamer of the new line between Liverpool and that port. The city has appropriated \$1,500 for the purpose.

Jack Wade has pleaded guilty to his indictment for robbing the Dorchester Bank, of \$30,000. The Bank has recovered \$11,000.

The steamer Ohio, from Havana for New York, put into Norfolk on the 27th ult. in distress. The passengers were at work at the pumps for three days, in order to keep her up. There were 493 on board, including 254 returned Californians.—The steamer is damaged to the amount of \$30,000.

NARROW ESCAPE OF JENNY LIND.—Accounts from Charleston state that Jenny Lind has had a narrow escape from a shipwreck. She left Wilmington on board a steamer for Charleston, and arrived after much peril, the boat nearly swamping during a gale.

Within four years, about \$15,000,000 have been expended in railroads in Vermont and New Hampshire, and nearly \$70,000,000 in New England.

SLAVE PROPERTY.—The value of all the slave property in the United States is computed to be a thousand millions of dollars. In all the slave States, the blacks increase more rapidly than the whites, in proportion to their numbers. The number of free blacks in the Southern States is about fifty thousand greater than in the North-east.

PROFESSOR OF GREEK AND RHETORIC.—William G. Allen, a coloured young man, law student in the office of Ellis Gray Loring, Esq., has been appointed to the Professorship of Greek and Rhetoric in the Central College, Mt. Granville, N. Y. Mr. Allen is also well known as the successful lecturer upon the Origin, Literature, and probable Destiny of the African race.—Chrontype.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE has 12 editors and reporters, and in all 130 persons daily employed on it. The weekly expenditures are \$2,800. It is owned in 100 shares, the majority of them by the original proprietors, Messrs. Greeley and McElrath, the remainder by five assistant editors and five other persons employed in the establishment. The daily issue is over 18,000, and the weekly 41,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VERIFICATION OF A DREAM.—SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—Not long since, a young lady, residing in Hanover-street, Boston, retired to bed at her usual hour, and in her usual cheerful, happy frame of mind. After having fallen asleep, she

dreamed that her brother, who was in the western part of New York, was killed, and his body horribly mangled in death. This dream seemed so vivid and real, and impressed her mind so forcibly, that she awoke, rose from her bed and walked her room, weeping in great anguish. Another lady, who was asleep in an adjoining chamber, was awakened by her wailings, and in going into the room to ascertain the cause, found her sitting in a chair, weeping, but finally persuaded her to retire to her bed. The next Monday morning the young lady received a telegraphic dispatch, announcing that her brother, Mr. Wise, a brakeman on the Western Railroad, had fallen from the cars on one of the freight trains, near East Chatham, New York, and been run over and instantly killed. The accident happened at about 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, about the time of the dream.—Boston Trans.

NEW USE OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.—The telegraph now gives notice of storms! For example the telegraph at Chicago and Toledo notifies shipmasters at Cleveland and Buffalo, and also on Lake Ontario, of the approach of a north-west storm. The result is practically of great importance. A hurricane storm traverses the atmosphere at the rate of a carrier pigeon, namely, sixty miles an hour. A vessel in the port of New York, about to sail for New Orleans, may be telegraphed twenty hours in advance that a south-west storm is advancing on the coast from the Gulf of Mexico. We are only on the threshold of the real substantial advantages which may be rendered by the electro-telegraph.—Chrontype.

POISONED BY EATING A WORM.—A small boy was poisoned to death in Munson, last week, by eating part of a worm in an apple, dropped in, and complained it did not taste good. In a short time his mouth began to swell, and in two hours he was dead. His parents picked up the apple, and upon examination, found in it a portion of a worm known in common parlance as the thousand legged worm. We did not learn the name of the boy.—Clerigo (Ohio) Dem.

FROM NEW YORK TO EGYPT IN NINETEEN DAYS.—A letter from Wm. Winthrop, United States Consul at Malta, furnishes an instance of the wonderful facility with which communication can be transmitted from one part of the world to another in those latter days. A message from New York, designed for a correspondent in Egypt, was received in London by the Atlantic steamers, and forthwith despatched by telegraph to Trieste, and thence by steam to Alexandria—the entire distance from New York having been traversed in nineteen days.—A. Y. Jour. Com.

RAILROAD IN PERU.—A railroad between the city of Lima and Callao, eight miles, is completed. The President of the Republic, and a number of prominent men on the 8th of November made a trial trip on the road. Before the train had proceeded a mile, the locomotive ran off the track, one man was killed, and three were wounded.

SOUNDING BOARDS.—Mr. Webster, the Professor of Oratory to the Royal Academy of Music, recommends the erection of sounding boards over pulpits, to be formed of strained sheep-skin, by which a great increase of reverberation would be acquired.

FUR CLOTH.—A patent has been taken out in England for a wearing fabric composed entirely of fur. It is adapted to all purposes, either for gentlemen or ladies. The article is lighter, softer, firmer, and warmer than any other material ever worn as a covering to the human body. It is the perfect ideal of cloth. The softest satin is harsh to the touch, and the finest lamb's wool coarse, compared with this beautiful fabric. It is made into cloth composed wholly of fur, and part of silk and part of fur.

WINE CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—From the official returns to the British Parliament, it appears that the average annual consumption of foreign wines in the kingdom is about 6,300,000 gallons. From 1800 to 1824 the yearly average was 5,500,000 gallons. The increase of consumption the last 8 or 10 years is perhaps not equal to the increase of population. In 1795, 8,253,000 gallons were consumed, and for several years about that period the quantity used was not below that mark.

THE HUMAN EAR is so extremely sensitive, that it can hear a sound that lasts only the twenty-four thousandth part of a second. Deaf persons only converse together, through rods of wood held between the teeth, or held to their throat or breast.