The Weekly Observer.

Established in 1818, Under the title of "The Star." } Whole No 1584.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1849.

VOL. XXI.—NO. 33.

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.*

Stoves! Stoves!! Stoves!!!

Just received per 'Widow,' from New York:

A LOT of fancy Air-Tight Parlor STOVES, for burning coal.—Also, a lot of Diamond Empire Cooking STOVES, Charcoal Furnaces, Water Urns, Hollow Ware, &c. &c.—For Sale low by JOHN S. WESTLOTORN,

Sept. 12. *King's Square*

New and Cheap

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

JUST RECEIVED—A well selected Stock of PAPERS, in Foolscap, blue and yellow, Fine and Superfine POTS, large and small POSTS, ditto NOTE, with ENVELOPES to match; CAP and POST, Ruled; Blotting, Tissue, Cartridge, Music, Crayon Drawing, Wall, Wrapping, and other PAPERS.

BIBLES, Testaments; Prayer, School, and Miscellaneous BOOKS.

Steel Pens, Quills, Inks and Ink Powders, Slates and Pencils, Lead Pencils, Sealing Wax and Wafers, India Ink, Indian Rubber, Red Tape, &c.

LEDGERS, Journals, Day Books, Cash Books Pass, Memorandum, and other Blank Books.

COPY LINES and BOOKS, ruled and plain.

Bills of Lading; ditto Exchange.

☞ *Book-Binding carefully attended to.*

A. FRASER.

DOCK STREET, *Saint John,* 13th June, 1848.

BRASS'S HOTEL, WINDSOR, N. S.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the travelling public, that he has taken the premises known as BRASS'S HOTEL, in Windsor; and trusts that by strict attention to business, he may receive a share of the public patronage. His larder and hall will be well supplied with such as the season and place can afford—his bar with the best wines and liquors—and he will endeavour at all times to give travellers such satisfaction as may be required.

JAMES GILDRED,

Sept. 26.—3¶ *Windsor, N. S.*

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having this day assigned unto his Son, ROBERT NISBET, all his Stock of Furniture, Materials and Tools, &c. &c., the Cabinet Making and Upholstery Business heretofore conducted in the name of THOMAS NISBET & SON, will in future be carried on by the said ROBERT NISBET, on his own account, upon the same premises.

All the outstanding debts due to and owing by the late firm of THOMAS NISBET & SON, will be collected and settled by the Subscriber.

THOMAS NISBET.

Saint John, N. B. 1st Sept. 1848.

☞ NOTICE.

HAVING occasion to be absent from the City for a short period, I have, by Letter of Attorney, fully empowered Mr. GEORGE F. THOMPSON, of this City, Painter, to adjust claims, make payments, and transact my business during my absence; and any arrangements made with Mr. THOMPSON, on my account, will be equally effectual as if made with myself.

JOHN J. HOGAN.

November 27th, 1848.—[Cour.]

NOTICE.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing between the Subscribers, under the Firm of THOMAS BARLOW & COMPANY, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All Debts due to and by the late Firm, will be received and paid by THOMAS BARLOW, and all persons indebted to the late Firm, or having unsettled Accounts with them, will please call at their office at an early period and adjust the same.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING,
JOHN STEWART.

St. John, January 1st, 1848.

THE Subscribers tender their grateful acknowledgments for the patronage received by the late Firm, and beg to intimate to their friends and the public generally, that the Business will be continued in all its branches, at the PHŒNIX FOUNDRY, where they solicit a continuance of the patronage hitherto enjoyed.

☞ Any orders for *Castings, Machinery, Mill-Work, Engines, &c.,* will be promptly attended to.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING,

January 1st, 1848.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of JOHN ROSS, late of this City, (formerly of Grand Manan,) deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are required to make immediate payment to JOHN M. ROBINSON, Esq., Barrister at Law, who is hereby authorised to receive the same.

MARY PADDOCK, *Executrix.*

St. John, Oct. 31st, 1848.

☞ NOTICE.

ALL persons having any legal demands against the Estate of VALENTINE C. TROOP, late of this City, Grocer, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within six months from the date hereof;—and all persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to REBECCA TROOP,

Sole Executrix.

Saint John, June 24th, 1848.

PALE SEAL OIL.

LANDING ex "Charles" from Halifax:—20 Casks PALE SEAL OIL,—for Sale by

October 24. JARDINE & CO.

Boston-made Stocks.

SELF-adjusting SATIN STOCKS;
Long-end ditto ditto;
French Bombazine STOCKS, with bows,
Do. Plain Satin and Bombazine ditto,
Do. Plaited with Silk Velvet ditto,
Do. Fancy imitation Handkerchiefs do.

The above are superior to the English make in fit, durability, and appearance.

GARRETT & SKILLEN.

Pantechnetheca, Dec. 12.

Ladies' Shoe Store,

GERMAIN STREET.

Just received per ship *Portland:*—

LADIES' Superfine Black Cloth BOOTS,
Do. do. Grey (Queen's Pattern) do.
Do. French Merino BOOTS—a beautiful article,
Do. *Rich Black Satin Dress BOOTS,*
Do. White and Black Satin SLIPPERS,
Do. Fancy SLIPPERS—new styles,
Do. Kid and Enamelled Opera SLIPPERS,
Do. French SLIPPERS—various patterns,
Do. Fashionable Bronze Opera Kid Slippers.
Girls' Cloth BOOTS, and Pruncella Walking Boots,
Do. white and black Satin, black and bronze Kid SLIPPERS.

Together with a great variety of BOOTS and SHOES of the Finest description, and Warranted.

—ALSO—

A very large assortment of the Cheapest BOOTS and SHOES for sale in this City.

Dec. 5, 1848. S. K. FOSTER.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

—ON HAND—

12 BARRELS fresh ground OATMEAL;
10 cwt. Prime CHEESE;
200 firkins Cumberland BUTTER;
20 barrels PORK;
10 barrels Nova Scotia CIDER.

FLEWWELLING & READING,

Dec. 19. *No. 10, King Street.*

STOVES, &c.

Received this day per Brigt. "Jane Allison," from New York—

A LOT of Ornamented Hall and Parlor STOVES; Cooking ditto, various sizes; Bed-room Franklins; Hollow Ware, &c.

JOHN S. WESTLOTORN,

Nov. 21. *King's Square.*

Boot and Shoe Store.

Just received at the *Brunswick* Shoe Store, per ship Peruvian, an assortment of Ladies', Gentlemen's, Girls, Boys' and Children's WARES, of the latest Fashion, *Patent Leather,* manufactured expressly for this climate.

LADIES' CLOTH BOOTS, Patent Leather golosh'd, lined with shammy,
Do. all cloth Boots, lined with shammy, very neat, scolloped button piece,
Do. cloth Boots, patent leather vamp'd, do. top pieced,
Do. pruncella Boots, patent leather and cordovan Adelaide golosh'd,
Do. all pruncella Boots, sizes from 1 to 9,
Do. Slippers, do. do. do. do.
Do. Kid Opera, black Satin Slippers, and Armazine Silk do.
Girls' Pruncella BOOTS, thick soled,
Do. ankle strap Shoes, do.
Infants' golosh'd Boots; patent cap'd do.; leather do.
Women's tie Shoes, single and double sole,
A great variety of Women's cheap Web Slips.—All of which will be sold cheap for CASH.
A good assortment of Men's BOOTTEES, which will be sold very cheap.

FAULKE & HENNIGAR.

Corner Germain and Princess streets, Nov. 7.

FALL GOODS.

Just Received per Ship "Themis," from Liverpool.

THE Subscriber is just opening his Fall Stock of Winter Goods, consisting of West of England Broad, Beaver, and Pilot Cloths.—Also, a large quantity of Fancy Trowsers' Stuffs, and Vestings, which he offers at reduced prices, for Cash only.

J. H. has also on hand a large Stock of Winter Clothing, which he offers at the lowest Cash prices.

JAMES HOWARD,

October 10. *King Street.*

Fall and Winter Goods!

Received per "Themis," from Liverpool—

PLAIN and Figured ORLEANS, Satin Striped and Check'd ditto, Black and Coloured COBOURGS; Grey, White, and Printed Cotton Furnitures; Linens, Lawns, Hollands, Ticks, Moleskins, BLANKETS, FLANNELS, Serges, Rugs, Muslins, Silesias, and Rolled Jaconets, Gimps, Fringes, Tailors' Trimmings, Small Wares, Cotton Warp, &c. &c.

Per *Kent* from London—

SILKS, SATINS, Fancy Bonnet RIBBONS, Black and col'd Silk Velvets, Flowers, Hkfs., LACES, GLOVES, HOSIERY, MUFFS, BOAS, CAPES, CUFFS, &c. Broad Cloths, Buckskins, Doeskins, Kerseymeres, PILOT and BEAVER CLOTHS, FUR CAPS, Gent's Silk, Paris & Beaver HATS, Which are offered low for Cash.

J. & H. FOTHERBY.

Market Square, Oct. 17, 1848.

28th October, 1848.

MORRISON & CO.

have received per *Columbus,* a further Supply of

New Fall & Winter Goods,

in addition to those ex Queen, Bethel and Kent.

PILOT, BEAVER and BROAD CLOTHS, Cassimeres, Doeskins and Tweeds,
Gala and all-wool Plaid CLOAKINGS,
SHAWLS, Scarfs, and Handkerchiefs—in plaid woo, Maude, Cashmere, Cloth, &c. &c.
Coburgs, Orleans, Mohair and Silk Stripes, with a variety of other *New DRESS Materiel,*
Black and Colored Silk and Cotton VELVETS,
Linen, Lawn, Diaper, and Holland,
Towelling, Duck, Canvass and Osnaburg,
Chemizettes, Habit-Shirts, and Collars,
HOSIERY, GLOVES, RIBBONS, LACES,
Men's Lambswool and Merino Pants and Vests,
An extensive assortment of Gent's SCARFS,
MUFFLERS, HKFS., in Silk, Satin, Thibet, Cashmere, and Plaid Wool,
Stocks, Operas, De Joinvilles, &c. &c.
A new and select Stock of FURS, in Boas, Muffs, Cuffs, Cardinals, and Victorines,
BLANKETS, FLANNELS, Baize and Serge, Grey, White, and Printed COTTONS,
COTTON WARPS and BATTING;
With a general assortment of Tailors' and Milliners' TRIMMINGS, will be sold at very low prices—ONLY FOR CASH.

LONDON HOUSE,

MARKET SQUARE,

NEW FALL GOODS!

SEPTEMBER, 1848.

Per "THEMIS" from Liverpool—

BLANKETS, FLANNELS, Swanskins, Serges, *CLOAKINGS,* Various Materials for DRESSES, Camlets, Velvets, Paramatta, Linens, Lawns, Diapers, Linings, Moleskins, Kerseys, Kerseymeres, Doeskins, VESTINGS, Mufflers, Canada Cloth, Lastings; Grey, White and Printed COTTONS; Jeans, Aprons, Moreens, Bed Ticks, and a Stock of Haberdashery, &c. &c.

—ALSO—

Per 'Bethel,' from Glasgow, and 'Kent,' from London:

An assortment of Shawls, Woollen and Gala Cloakings, Muslin de Laines, Cashmeres, Velvets, Silks, Satins, Gloves, Hosiery, Ribbons, Lace, Neck Ties, Silk and Satin Cravats, Scarfs, Stocks, &c; Pilot, Beaver, and Broad CLOTHS, Kerseymeres, Doeskins, Vestings, Braces, Carpets, Hearth Rugs, Russia Crash, &c. Also, a variety of MUFFS, Boas, Victorines, Cuffs and Cardinals, with a Stock of Fur and Cloth CAPS.

Oct. 10. T. W. DANIEL.

The Garland.

THE WINDS.

BY MISS H. F. GOULD.

We come, we come, and we feel our might,
As we are hastening on in our boundless flight,
And over the mountain, and over the deep,
Our broad, invisible pinions sweep,
Like the spirit of Liberty, wild and free!
And ye look on our works, and own 'tis we;
Ye call us the Winds, but can ye tell
Whither we go, or where we dwell?

Ye mark, as we vary our forms of power,
And fell the forest, or fan the flower,
When the hare-bell moves and the rush is bent,
When the tower's o'erthrown, and the oak is rent,
As we waft the bark o'er the slumbering wave,
Or hurry its crew to a watery grave;
And ye say it is well, but can ye trace
The wandering Winds to their secret place?

And whether our breath be loud and high,
Or come in a soft and balmy sigh,
Our threatenings fill the soul with fear,
Or our gentle whisperings woo the ear
With music aerial, still 'tis we;
And ye list, and ye look, but what do you see;
Can ye hush one sound of our voice to peace,
Or waken one note when our numbers cease.

Our dwelling is in the Almighty's hand,
We come and go at his command,
Though joy or sorrow is in our track,
His will is our guide, and we look not back;
And if in our wrath ye would turn away,
Or win us in gentlest airs to play,
Then lift up your hearts to HIM who binds
Or frees at his will the obedient Winds.

DRINKING SONG.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

DRINK friends, drink deep—the noon is nigh;
Drink, and forget your care;
The sultry summer suns are high—
Drink, and your strength repair:
The deer, that from the hunter flies,
The warrior red with slaughter,
The camel 'neath the burning skies,
Quaff deep the crystal water!

Our father Sun, the example's given,
Our mother Earth, also;
He, jocund, drinks above the clouds,
She, blushing, drinks below;
Pledge high, pledge long the friends you love,
To absent wife and daughter,
Or blooming maid who rules your heart,
Drink deep—but *only water!*

Miscellaneous.

NEW-ORLEANS.

This already important, and rapidly increasing emporium of commerce, the principal port of entry in the state of Louisiana, forms the subject of an article in the November number of that peerless Commercial Miscellany—"Hunt's Merchant's Magazine," from it we condense the following information; and as our trade with this great city will at no distant period be vastly increased, any thing connected with it must necessarily prove interesting.

The city of New Orleans is situated on the banks of the Mississippi, 92 miles from its mouth, and is in the latitude 29 57 North, longitude 90 8 west; 953 miles below the mouth of the Ohio, 1149 below the Missouri, and 1397 south-west of New York. The present site of the city of New Orleans was fixed on by Bienville in 1718, who left 50 men to clear the ground and erect the buildings. The following year the river rose to an extraordinary height, and as no dykes had been erected the place was overflowed, in consequence of which the site was for some time abandoned. In 1721 a survey of the passes of the river was completed when it was found that the bar at its mouth was a deposit of mud, 500 feet wide, 600 feet in length, and having the depth of 11 feet of water. The principal deposite was in 1722 removed to New Orleans according to orders. The next year Charlevoix came to New Orleans from Canada, and found 100 cabins, a wooden warehouse, and two or three dwelling houses with a population of less than 200 souls. A negro was at this time worth 126 dollars, rice $3, and a quarter cask of brandy $30. At this time a company of Germans were induced to settle on the present site of the city; and in 1721 the Jesuits and Ursuline nuns arrived. The property allotted to the latter becoming very valuable was sold in 1824. In 1763 Clement XIII. expelled the Jesuits from the dominions of the Kings of France, Spain, and Naples; and their property in Louisiana was seized, and sold for $180,000. The same property is now worth $15,000,000. In 1764 British ships first traded in the river; they used to make fast to a tree and trade with the people on its banks.—New Orleans during its last year's subjection to France, exported $250,000, and its population was 3,100. The Spanish government revived the trade; and the city continued to progress rapidly notwithstanding a fire occurred in 1788 which consumed 900 houses. The first newspaper was published in 1794; and the following year the citizens of the United States got liberty to deposit their goods in the city for a period of ten years. In 1796 the Carondolet canal was completed. In 1801 Louisiana was ceded by Spain to the French republic, and in April 1803, Bonaparte, as first consul, sold it to the United States for $15,000,000. The population of the province at the time was 42,000, and of the city, only 8,000. In 1804 New Orleans was made a port of entry and delivery, and a city charter was granted the following year. The first steamboat descended the river in 1812, in 259 hours from Pittsburg.

The city of New Orleans is preserved from inundation by a levee, or raised bank, which extends a considerable distance. In 1816 the levee about nine miles above the city broke through, and the back streets were inundated three to five feet. The city proper takes the form of a parallelogram, and the whole including the suburbs and Lafayette, is five miles in a line with the river, with an average width of half a mile. The houses are of brick, and no wooden houses are allowed to be built within the fire limits. The houses are described as generally handsome, and the public edifices numerous and elegant. The city is abundantly supplied with water from the river, and by means of steam power is forced to its remotest limits. Gas was introduced in 1834. In 1844 a disastrous fire occurred which consumed seven blocks of buildings. The population and wealth of New Orleans after its cession to the United States increased rapidly. The former were in 1810, 24,000, in 1820, 41,000, in 1830, 50,000, in 1840, 102,000, and it is thought that at the next census in 1850 it will exceed 160,000. The business season is from the beginning of November to the last of June; and during this period the river in the vicinity is crowded with ships from all parts of the world, and steam boats from the interior.

The position of New Orleans as a vast commercial emporium is at once apparent. It is already the depot of the mighty "west," and is probably destined at no far distant day to be the half way house of the trade of the world. It has been estimated that if the Mississippi valley was as densely populated as England, it would contain *five hundred millions* of inhabitants. The regions known as such are bounded by the Rocky Mountains and Mexico on the West, the Gulph of Mexico on the South, the Alleghany Mountains on the East; and on the North by the lakes and the British possessions. The whole contains as many square miles as continental Europe, with a soil at once rich and variable, to suit every variety of product. The Mississippi is navigable 2100 miles—and 3000 may be acheived; the Missouri stretches 3900 to the Great Falls—five thousand miles from New Orleans; and the Yellow Stone, Ohio, as well as a dozen other rivers are all tributary, and all pour their wealth into the main artery—the Mississippi, which floats their inexhaustible supplies to the great reservoir—New Orleans. The Mississippi valley has at the present time a population of about *ten millions.*

It is not necessary to enumerate the immense quantities of cotton, tobacco, sugar, flour, pork, lard, &c. &c., which are received at, and exported from this vast depot. But a statement of the number of arrivals at New Orleans is indispensible to convey an idea of its importance. The year ending August 1848, shows the following as the result: Ships 955, Barks 509, Brigs 462, Schrs. 795, Steamships 206—total 2,927 arrivals from sea. The number of steamboats which arrived from the interior, during the same period, were 2,977. The Census of 1840 gave eight Commercial, and 375 Commission houses in foreign trade; 1,881 retail stores; 32 Lumber yards; six Iron furnaces; and tanneries, tobacco manufactories, cotton factories, &c. &c., of considerable importance. Three sugar refineries produced to the amount of $700,000. The newspapers of the city employ a capital of $162,000. The total capital employed in manufactures, was $1,774,200. All the above property and growing importance has been the result of American enterprise seizing hold of unsurpassed facilities for foreign and domestic commerce; but with education at an extraordinary low ebb, viz., two colleges, 105 students; 10 academies with 440 students, and 25 schools with 975 scholars.—*Halifax Times & Courier.*

CALIFORNIA.

(From the Sandwich Islands "Polynesian.")

It is impossible to foretell the final results of the recent gold discoveries in California. Doubtless many of the reports which have reached here are exaggerated; but that the placera yields the greatest profits of any mines yet discovered, there can be no doubt.—The Russian gold mines are now annually producing a large amount. Veins of golden sand were first discovered in Ural in 1819, and in Siberia in 1829. The product of these mines for the first few years was not large; but for the last four or five years the most brilliant results have been experienced. The gold taken from the Russian mines in 1846 amounted to $20,000,000, and for 1847 greatly exceeded that amount. If the placera discovered in California is as extensive as it is reported to be, immense quantities of gold will be thrown into market. In Russia the mines are under the control of the Emperor; but in California every man stands an equal chance. If the product is as large as reported to be here, every man engaged in digging will soon amass a fortune; and thousands will flock into the country. Some idea of the effect which the news will produce in the United States may be formed by the excitement which it has caused here. The idea is prevalent here that the government of the United States will take possession of the gold region. Such portions of it as is included in the public domain, they have a right to exclude the diggers from, they occupying the position of trespassers. Land owned by private individuals they are bound to protect; but it is doubtful whether there is sufficient force now on the coast to do so. The U. S. Ship Ohio, Commodore Jones, was to visit San Francisco and on his arrival there it will be known what measures will be adopted by the government in relation to the gold region. Although it would be an easy matter to blockade the river and stop supplies, it would be difficult to march a force up the river and drive the trespassers off. Many here feel a deep interest in knowing what course will be pursued in relation to this matter. A set of desperate fellows have collected there ere this, and an attempt to stop the operations will result in bloodshed. Owing to the utter neglect of agricultural operations, provisions will be scarce and probably command high prices. If the emigration is large this fall, suffering must ensue.

A large body of Mormons left the Old Bluffs in May last, for California, and probably the body encamped at the Salt Lake settlements will come into the valley which will centre there; but probably not less than of the Sacramento on the receipt of the news of the gold discoveries. It is impossible to calculate the number, 20,000 will be in California by the 1st of next January. Another year will witness an emigration of 50,000. This immense throng will arrive in the country entirely destitute, and food must be imported to feed them until the next harvest. The effect will be a rapid increase in the commercial transactions of the Pacific. A cash market will be afforded for the produce of Oregon and Chili. A practical demonstration of the importance of producing an export here is now given by the great opening in California.

It would be impossible to form any correct estimate of the immense mineral wealth of California; it will need time to develope its resources. Gold, quicksilver, iron, copper, lead, sulphur, saltpetre, and numerous other mines, have been discovered in various sections of the country. The water power facilities are numerous, and the climate is represented as being very fine.—The true El Dorado, the long looked-for place, has at length been found.

Besides the minerals with which California so richly abounds, she possesses other valuable resources, which, when properly attended to, will be a great source of wealth to the country. She possesses a varied soil, capable of producing every description of vegetable substance necessary for the consumptive use of her own inhabitants, and for exportation.—Wheat, it is said, produces from forty to fifty fold, under very imperfect cultivation, and a hundred and eighty fold have been obtained. Wild oats and mustard cover the country. Grapes of very fine flavor and in great profusion, grow in various sections. Apples, pears, peaches, and quinces, are common all over the country; and in some parts, limes, oranges, and figs are found. Cotton and tobacco are capable of being reared there.

The growth and prosperity of California will open a more extensive market for the staple articles of export of the Sandwich Islands, such as coffee, sugar, &c. Let the more general cultivation of the coffee plant and sugar cane be encouraged by government, and it will eventually prove a great source of national wealth. These staples are capable of being produced here in great abundance.—California may for the present be the great place of attraction, but eventually these islands will still be, as they now are, the centre of civilization and business operations in the Pacific. We predict that in twenty years' time, or less, Honolulu will be a flourishing city.

THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

The following description of the city, known abroad only by the above name, but by its inhabitants by the name of YERBA BUENA, is copied from the California Star, a paper now discontinued, because its conducters have found more profitable employment than the income of their publication afforded. It is apparently the description of a careful observer, drawn upon the spot, and therefore may be regarded as an original authority:—

Yerba Buena, (San Francisco) the name of our town, which means "good herb," is situated on the south west side of the principal arm of San Francisco bay, about five miles from the ocean, on a narrow neck of land, varying from four to ten miles in width—the narrowest place being sixteen miles southwest of the town. It is in lat. 37 45 N. This narrow strip of land is about sixty miles in length, extending from the point formed by the bay, and the ocean, to the valley of San Jose. The site of the town is handsome and commanding—being an inclined plane of about a mile in extent from the water's edge, to the hills in the rear. Two points of land—one on each side, extending into the bay, form a crescent, or small bay, in the shape of a crescent, in front, which bears the name of the town. The points afford a fine view of the surrounding country—the snow-capped mountains in the distance—the green valleys beneath them—the beautiful smooth and unruffled bay in front and on either side, at once burst upon the eye. There is in front of the town a small island, rising high above the surface of the bay, about two miles long, and one wide, which is covered the greater part of the year with the most exuberant herbage of untrodden freshness. This island is about three miles from the principal anchorage. Here vessels of all nations rest in safety and peace, and their flags are displayed by the aromatic breeze. Two hundred yards from the shore, there is twenty-four feet of water, and a short distance beyond that as many fathoms. The beech immediately in front of the now business part of the town is shelving, but it will no doubt in a short time be filled up and become the most valuable part of the place.

The climate here is, in the winter, which is the rainy season, damp and chilly. During the balance of the year it is dry, but chilly, in consequence of the continual strong winds from the North and North West. There is but little variation in the atmosphere throughout the year; the thermometer ranging from fifty-five to seventy degrees Fahrenheit. Yerba Buena is one of the most healthy places on the whole coast of the Pacific—sickness of any kind is rarely known amongst us. The salubrity of the climate—beauty of the site of the town—its contiguity to the mouth of the bay—the finest harbor on the whole coast in front—the rich and beautiful country around it, all conspire to render it one of the best commercial points in the world. The town is new, having been laid off in 1839, by Capt John Vieget; and notwithstanding all the troubles in the country, has gradually increased in size and importance. It now contains a population of about five hundred permanent citizens. Two years ago there were but about two hundred. Three miles South is the Mission Dolores on Mission creek, surrounded by a small valley of rich and beautiful land. The water from this creek can easily be brought by means of aqueducts to any point to supply vessels. For the supply of the citizens the best of well water is obtained in every part of the town, by boring the distance of forty feet. In going South from Yerba Buena, the traveller passes over this narrow neck of land; a most delightful region, interspersed with hills, valleys and mountains—the valleys rich and beautiful—the hills covered with tall pines, red-wood and cedar, that have withstood the tempests and whirlwinds of a century, and the mountains rising in majestic grandeur to the clouds. In passing out, the valley of San Jose opens to the view in all the loveliness of the climate of Italy and beauty of the tropics.

The valley is about sixty miles in length and ten in width. The Pueblo, which means an incorporated town, is the principal place of business for the valley, and is about five miles from Santa Clara, the landing, on the bay, or as it is termed here, "the embarcadaro." Passing on from here north-east, the traveller in a few hours ride, reaches the Straits, which separate the Susisun bay, formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers from that of San Pablo. Here it seems that the accumulated waters of a thousand years had suddenly rent the opposing mountains asunder, and flowed with tremendous force to the great bosom of the deep. On the north side of the bay, from the straits to Sousilito, is one of the finest districts of country in all Upper California. Next to Yerba Buena, Sousilito is the best point on the whole bay for a commercial town. It is seven miles a little east of north from this place, on the opposite side of the bay, and has long been a watering point for vessels. An attempt has recently been made to lay off and build up a town at the straits, to supersede the two last mentioned places. It will, no doubt, however, be an entire failure. San Francisco bay being the safest and most commodious harbor on the entire coast of the Pacific, some point on it must be the great mart of the western world. We believe Yerba Buena is the point, commanding as it does now, all the trade of the surrounding country, and there being already a large amount of capital concentrated here. The town of Yerba Buena is called in some of the old maps of the county San Francisco. It is not known by that name here, however. The town takes its name from an herb to be found all around it, which is said to make good tea; and possessing excellent medicinal qualities, it is called good herb, or Yerba Buena.

California is bounded by Oregon on the North, the forty-second degree of north latitude being the boundary line of the two territories; on the East by the Rocky Mountains, on the South by Senora or Lower California, and on the West by the Pacific Ocean; its extent from North to South being about the same. The Sacramento and Jasquin rivers have each a course of from 300 to 400 miles; the first flowing from the North and the last from the South, and both emptying into the Bay of San Francisco at the same point. They water the large and fertile valley lying between the Sierra Navada and the coast range of mountains. This noble valley, the first in California, and one of the most magnificent in the world, is about 500 miles long, and 50 wide.

A letter from Commodore Jones, commanding the U. S. fleet in the Pacific, dated San Francisco, states that much anarchy prevailed on board the ships, the officers and men having been attacked with the gold fever, many of the petty officers of the Ohio, flag ship, and other vessels, having deserted, and fled in search of gold.—Merchant ships are deserted by their entire crews, and impossible to procure men at any rate. A perfect gold mania prevailed.

COLUMBUS.

As scarcely anything relative to this wonderful man when alive is without interest, so even that which befel him after his death is not the least curious or remarkable part of his history. He died at Valladolid in 1506, and his funeral obsequies were celebrated with much pomp, and his body deposited in the parochial church of Santa Maria de la Antigua of that city. In 1513 his remains were transported to the Carthusian monastery of Las Cuevis, at Seville, in the chapel of St. Ann, in which chapel were also deposited those of His son Diego, who died in the village of Montablan, on the 23d February 1526. In 1536 both bodies were removed to Hispaniola, and interred in the principal chapel of the cathedral of the city of San Domingo.—Here they were permitted to remain undisturbed until 1795, when on the occasion of the Island of Hispaniola being ceded to France by treaty, the Spanish authorities wishing to pay honors to the memory of that "*general of the seas,*" the remains of the Admiral were exhumed and conveyed to the Island of Cuba.

On the 20th December, 1795, the most distinguished persons of San Domingo, the dignitaries of the church, and civil and military officers, assembled in the metropolitan cathedral. A small vault was opened above the chancel, in the principal wall. Within were found the fragments of a leaden coffin and the remains of a human body.—These were carefully selected and put into a case of gilded lead, secured by an iron lock, the key of which was delivered to the archbishop. The case was enclosed in a coffin covered with black velvet, and ornamented with lace and fringe of gold. On the following day there was another grand convocation at the cathedral. After this a funeral sermon was preached by the archbishop. At four o'clock the same afternoon, the coffin was transported to the vessel, with state and ceremony, with a civil, religious and military procession, banners wrapped in mourning, chaunts and responses, and discharges of artillery. The most distinguished persons of the several orders took turns to support the coffin, which was received on board a brigantine called the Discoverer, which, with all the other shipping, in the port, displayed mourning signals, and saluted the remains with the honours due to an admiral.

From St. Domingo the coffin was conveyed to the bay of Ocoa, and there transferred to the ship of war, San Lorenzo, which arrived at Havana, island of Cuba, on the 15th January, 1796. The principal authorities repaired on board the ship, accompanied by the superior naval and military officers. The remains were removed, and were conveyed to land in the midst of a procession of three columns of boats. Two followed, in one of which was a marine guard of honour, with mourning banners and muffled drums. In the other were the commandant general, the principal minister of marine, and the military staff. In passing the vessels of war in the harbour, they paid the due honour to an admiral and captain general of the navy. On arriving at the Mole, the remains were met by the governor of the island, accompanied by the generals and military staff. The coffin was then conveyed between files of soldiers which lined the streets, and formally delivered to the governor and captain-general of the island, the key given up to him, the coffin opened and examined, and the safe report of its contents authenticated. This ceremony being concluded, it was conveyed in grand procession, with pomp, to the cathedral. Solemn ceremonies to the dead were performed by the bishop, and the mortal remains of Columbus deposited in the wall on the right side of the grand altar.

Since the above date, no further mention is made on the subject of the mortal remains of the discoverer. It were to be hoped that they might henceforth be permitted to rest in peace until the hour when both quick and dead shall be summoned by the sound of the trump of the Archangel of Heaven.

International Communication.

The Rev. Mr. Churchill, a gentleman well known in the provinces generally, has recently delivered an interesting lecture at the Mechanics' Institute in Quebec, upon International Communication. The following is an extract from the lecture, published in the Morning Chronicle of that city:—

"As an illustration of our meaning, let us observe that one great reason of the prosperity of the neighbouring Union, even amidst political and social elements of opposing force, has been the general information possessed by all classes of the community, even from their childhood, of the geographical position and natural capabilities of the several States. It has been to them the study *of their world.* We have seen it in the very atlas of the boy, and while we have been deprecating in these books, the apparently undue prominence given by them to the several states of the Union, compared with other parts of the world—we have overlooked the fact that this has been one great element of their success. The minds of their youth have been made well acquainted with the world in general, but particularly intimate with every feature commercial, political, national, and social, in their great confederacy. It would have been well for Great Britain if its wide spread colonies on which the sun never sets, but through which the morning gun and the roll-call of her bugles form an invisible belt of communication round earth and sea; if, I say, its colonies had been placed less as a *terra incognita* before the youth of the last generation; and it would have been well for her colonies, if a geographical prominence and precision had been secured for them in their books and Atlases of elementary instruction, and their rising youth had been better instructed in the knowledge of our British Colonial possessions. It is true that some of these have only lately developed their importance, but there are others that are venerable in this history of their connection with Great Britain, and yet but little known, even to their immediate neighbours.

Newfoundland was a possession of the British Crown in 1583, and yet still but little known. The youth of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick know little of Canada; and the rising generation of this Province, little of these, its immediate neighbours. Even the governmental departments, and the merchants themselves, have been limited in the knowledge of each other's resources and interests. It is only a very short time since the produce of these colonies was permitted to be brought duty free into this Province, while the claims of free trade were heard above the clamour of protectionists over every part of the world.

There was a day when a literary protective duty, if I may use this expression, seemed to exist in the high price of books, as though it were to act as a barrier against the acquisition of knowledge by the poor. What a wonderful revolution has been witnessed in this department. One cheap publication alone—Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, has done more by the diffusion of cheap, useful, and interesting information, for the people to break down this monopoly of knowledge by the higher classes during the last fifteen years, than the previous literature of a whole century has done. And with this acquired momentum, what a host of auxiliaries has started into existence. There has been a complete revolution in the whole extent of the educational department, and our province is largely sharing in the boon; while to fill up interstitially the required amount of information suited to the age, the establishment of literary societies, public reading rooms, Mechanics' Institutes, and popular lectures, have been the supply created by the demand."

HER MAJESTY'S CHRISTMAS BOUNTY TO THE POOR.—On Monday the Royal alms were distributed by command of her Majesty, by the Rev. Mr. Goodenough, the sub-almoner, at the Almonry Office, Middle Scotland Yard, to poor aged men and women, who received the royal Christmas Bounty of 5s. each. As early as two o'clock in the morning the recipients began to assemble, and at five o'clock about 400 had collected in the vicinity of the office, which opened at six o'clock, and continued paying till nine o'clock at night, between 500 to 600 receiving the bounty, all being above sixty, a great many ninety, and three upwards of a century old.—*London paper.*

TRUTH AND KINDNESS.—In the minds of the best of men there is, always has been, and always will be, some difference of opinion as to what is true; but everybody knows and feels what is kind.