money to the credit of the Crown than he had received!—and yet, Mr. Editor it would appear that in the teeth of all this—in the utter disregard to Mr. Baillie's repeated demands for a public trial—in despite of the rights and interests of myself and many others, and more than that, to the discredit of any body of men however high their station may be, a course is persisted in by the Executive Council not to be paralleled in the history of any other colony where the flag of England waves—It may be; that in doing so, I disclaim my own stupidity, but I am free to confess my entire inability to discover by which measure of equity, by which rule of English Law, or by what standard of British feeling, the just creditors of a man in this Colony are to be so unfairly treated by an unenglish and repugnant decision, pronouncing a person guilty without a trial. I intend this letter Mr. Editor only as an outline to be filled up at leisure, but cannot forego at this place one query:—Can the following observation be true, which I am credibly informed was publicly made in the streets of Fredericton, not long since, by a member of the Assembly, and one too, who has no little to do with the *small ropes* as the yankees would say, viz. "*That this Crown claim against Mr. Baillie never would be tried, that the Executive Council never intended it should be, and that it was got up, and talked of purely for the purpose of preventing Mr. Baillie's getting a retired allowance.*" Am I Mr. Editor to be denied justice, because forsooth the Hon. Mr. S. or Mr. this or Mr. that may, from personal, or any other improper feeling, choose to think "*Mr. Baillie was not entitled to a public trial, as the Commissioners had been paid £700 for their Report and therefore it ought to be conclusive*" ?!! *It cannot, must not, shall not be*, so long as common sense and fair play have a resting place in the land—The same reason which has influenced some of the Assemblo-Executive in concealing from their constituents certain *public accounts* of recent and ex-officio notoriety, may induce them to withhold from an open investigation the ground, upon which their infallible judgment has been come to in this instance; for as in the former case so in the latter, the *purity* of their motives *might not sustain* the fervid heat of the crucible when in the hands of that great alchimist a Court of Justice.

It shall be my duty if I can obtain a copy of the Report of the Commissioners to set forth for public view its contents. Is it not strange—is it not a curious fact in the present history of the colony when "concealment" is the watchword to Executive perfection? I say Mr. Editor is it not to a design mysterious, that for the last three years past the accounts of the expenditures of public monies upon certain Public buildings in Fredericton, have been carefully and studiously concealed from the people of this Province by their *Representatives*!!! Yes, Mr. Editor, the accounts were even refused to you at your recent Trial, when you wished to shew the world that your paper contained not Libels, but fair comments upon the secret acts of a Public body; and will it be believed that if these accounts would have borne the trying glare of daylight they would have been refused! No! no! Mr. Editor, such is not the policy of the present men in power—I will not say that the following is the case, for I confess that I write under feelings of irritation, but I will submit it for public decision whether a palpable and cunning design and intention of warding off public enquiry in reference to these Accounts and other lavish expenditures and extraordinary proceedings, might not be involved in this Executive outcry of pretended defalcation in a public officer whose *Accounts have been audited* and laid open to the scrutiny of all concerned since the year 1831, from which period is dated his first transgression in the monetary line. Is it I would ask a principle of *responsible* government, that those very persons who refuse to give notoriety to their own acts and to such Accounts as are most certainly public property, should in their character of Public Censors, call upon other officers to account twice for transactions concluded three years since, and which at that time received the approval of the proper authorities?—Here let me contrast such conduct with the letter of the Colonial Minister (Lord Glenelg) remaining on the Journals of the House of Assembly for 1837—"It only remains for me to declare my conviction "that the Assembly of New-Brunswick cannot have "entertained the desire which Mr. Baillie attributes "to them, of denying the full benefit of the Audits "through which his Accounts have already passed, "and of the acquittances which he has already re-"ceived. In whatever extent the House of Com-"mons may be bound by the decision of the Lords "of the Treasury founded on the Report of the "Auditors of Public accounts in reference to the "revenues of this country, to the same extent the "Assembly of New-Brunswick will doubtless ac-"knowledge itself to be bound by similar decisions, "founded on similar reports, in reference to the re-"ceipt and expenditure of the land revenue of the "Province as formerly administered—*To that ex-"tent Mr. Baillie has the most decided claim on His "Majesty's Government for protection and support, "because if the former system of Audit was imperfect "or unsatisfactory, the responsibility rests not with "him but with them.*"

I have already Mr. Editor exceeded the limits which I had intended to confine myself to in this letter, and must therefore defer such remarks as I may make in regard to this subject to another time.

OPEN SESAME.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Messrs. Durant & Co.

Gentlemen,—My friend at Bermuda having sent me the Royal Gazette of that place of the 1st inst. I beg you will please accept of the same, and copy into your widely circulated journal, the Editor's remarks on the sentiments of your paper and on the late trial for Libel. The Conservatives of New Brunswick have always considered the Chronicle as the only consistent political Newspaper in the Province, and in these views, you and the public will find that they are borne out by the opinions given by Conservatives in Great Britain and throughout the whole of the British Colonies in every quarter of the globe.

St. John, Dec. 21. A MERCHANT.

"Libel case in New Brunswick.—The publisher of the St. John Chronicle, Lewis W. Durant, and the supposed editor, Anthony R. Truro, have been brought before the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, and tried on ex officio information, filed by the Attorney General for an alleged libel on his Excellency Sir John Harvey. We may inform our readers that the "Chronicle" has, from its infancy, been what may be termed the opposition paper in that province: *if, by that term be understood opposition to the views of a majority of the Assembly*. The Chronicle warmly supported the views and policy of Sir Archibald Campbell, and when he was succeeded by Sir John Harvey, who supported *different principles*, the Chronicle *was consistent*, and immediately laid siege to his political fortress—*although it was guarded and defended by the voices of a majority of the people and their representatives*. For one of the Chronicle's attacks, therefore, this prosecution was commenced: the result we extract from our New Brunswick exchanges:

The *Observer* says the trial of Mr. Durant's cause commenced at Fredericton before His Honor Mr. Justice Parker, on Thursday, October 29th, and continued till the following Saturday at half-past 2, P. M., when the Jury retired, and at half-past 5, returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

The St. John Herald says that the above case 'excited great commotion in York and the adjoining counties; many of the inhabitants of which flocked to hear a trial, on the issue of which depended the credit of the government and the political existence of the Chronicle. We hope, however, for the future, that men high in office will not again hazard such a result as this has been—but in all their thoughts, words and deeds, keep aloof from even the slightest suspicion: while we at the same time trust, that no journal will give publicity to any article that may in any manner tend to lower the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, in the respect which he is entitled to receive from the people. We regret much that this trial should ever have taken place: because the decision has placed Sir John Harvey and his advisers in a position decidedly unenviable and unpleasant: opening a wide space for the remarks of the opposite party, and exposing the Government to the annoyance of the factious.'"

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, DECEMBER 25, 1840.

CHRISTMAS.

We hail with great delight the approach of the Festival of Christmas. It is a happy period of the year, and one which brings with it some of the most pleasing recollections of our life. Every thing that relates to the season is calculated to make a deep and lasting impression on the young mind. The inspiring declaration of the '*glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people*;' the affecting account of the lowly birth and glorious welcome of the new-born King; and then, the proofs of heartfelt joy among friends, and in families—the glad exchange of kind wishes—the cheerful liberality to humbler people—the comforts of a peaceful fireside:—these are the things which each succeeding Christmas happily renews to many, with a relish confined to no particular time of life. The child rejoices in Christmas; and, in addition to the pleasure of the passing hour, he has some holiday before him. The father rejoices in Christmas; although the mirth of former days may have given place to the more quiet feelings of rational and steadfast joy, upon the occasion of such an anniversary. And who shall doubt that the old rejoice in Christmas? Surely to see those around them, and those a step or two below them in age, smiling and happy, is a happiness to the old—not to mention that especial source of happiness opened to them in the event commemorated at this season, to the contemplation of which, those whose years are leaving them, may turn with increased comfort and joy.

As nothing which relates to the observance of this festival can be out of place at the present time, we shall lay before our readers an account of some of the ancient Christmas customs.

On Christmas-eve, as soon as it was dark, candles of an uncommon size, called Christmas Candles, were lighted up, and a log of wood, called the Yule Log, or Christmas block, was laid upon the fire, to illuminate the house, and as it were, to turn night into day. Yule is supposed to mean Christmas. Furmety was common on this eve for supper. It consisted of *boiled wheat*, mixed with milk, plenty of sugar, &c. The candle, the yule, and furmety, are kept up in some parts of the country, particularly Yorkshire, at this day. The burning out a ponderous *ashen-faggot* is still observed in some of the farm-houses in Devonshire. A foolish notion formerly prevailed, that, on this eve, oxen knelt in their stalls and moaned.

There appear to have been many whimsical customs belonging to different countries, and to various parts of this country, on Christmas-eve, a full account of which would be tedious:—we therefore proceed to describe some of those of Christmas-day.

The Yule, or Christmas feast, is of great antiquity. The lords kept the feast of Christmas chiefly with their king. Barons feasted the whole country, and a whole boar was sometimes put on the table, richly gilt, by way of brawn. But it was a soused Boar's head which was carried to the principal table in the hall, with great solemnity, as the first dish on Christmas-day. Dugdale, speaking of this day, as observed at the Inner-temple, says, "Service in the church ended, the gentlemen presently repair into the hall to breakfast, with brawn, mustard, and malmsey." And at dinner. "At the first course is served a fair and large boar's head, upon a silver platter, with minstrelsy." At one of the feasts, mention is made of "a *shippe of silver* for an almes-dish." The Christmas-pie of minced meat, and various sweet ingredients, was formerly made in the form of a *cratch*, or cradle. The bakers, at this season, used to present their customers with the yule-dough, and paste images, as the chandlers gave Christmas candles. Plum-porridge was also usual. In the north of England *yule-cakes* are still made.

We now come to Christmas-carols. The word carol may be derived from a Greek word, signifying *joy*. It was, probably, an imitation of the hymn sung by the angels, which, as Bishop Taylor observes, was the oldest Christmas carol. Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good-will toward men.

It was usual, in the ancient feasts, to single out a person, and "place him in the midst, to sing a kind of carol to God." We need scarcely add that the custom of singing carols, &c., at Christmas, still prevails all over England: and, although a few may be good, yet some of those carols put forth under the head of Divine Mirth, are wanting, not only in piety, but in good sense.

The following anecdote, given by a clergyman, describing the practice of singing at this season in Devonshire, may be interesting. "The first time of my coming to live in this parish (in the South Hams of Devon), happened to be *Christmas-eve*. In the middle of the night, I was suddenly awoke by the sweetest music I think I ever heard. It was the sound of many voices, accompanied by instruments, all in harmony. I soon began to account for this most agreeable interruption of my night's rest, and concluded that it was a Christmas carol, or hymn, to welcome in the glorious and happy morning. The music, which had been under my window, gradually died away; and, after a pause, I heard it again, but more faintly, from a distance. On the following (Christmas) morning, on attending to perform the service, I recognised, to my surprise in the choir of the church, the same voices, singing the same hymn, beginning, '*Hark, the herald angels sing*.' The circumstance made an impression upon me, which it would be difficult to remove."

Nor must we pass by the ancient custom of decking churches and private dwellings with evergreens. It has been thought, by some, to have been adopted in order to record the circumstance of the people cutting down branches from the trees, and strewing them in the way, crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Others have considered it merely a sign or symbol of gladness: and, when we thus look at the laurel, misletoe, and bright-berried holly, green and flourishing in the depth of winter, when other plants have departed with the summer and autumn, a very natural emblem it seems. Again, it has been said, that evergreens were used, the laurel being, among the Romans, the emblem of joy, peace, and victory; and that, in the Christian sense, it may be justly applied to the victory gained over the powers of darkness by the coming of Christ. The misletoe, which is also a part of Christmas decorations, is supposed to have been adopted in consequence of the respect paid to it by the Druids.

Stow (in his *Survey of London*) says that, "against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivy, bays, and whatsoever the season of the year *afforded to be green*. The conduits and standards in the streets were also garnished in the same manner."

In a curious tract, published about a hundred and thirty years since, entitled, '*Round about our coal fire, or, Christmas Entertainments*,' is the following passage: "The rooms were embowered with holly, ivy, cypress, bays, laurel, and misletoe, and a bouncing Christmas log in the chimney."

Gay has an allusion to the subject:

When rosemary and bays, the poet's crown,
Are bawl'd in frequent cries through all the town,
Then judge the festival of Christmas near,—
Christmas, the joyous period of the year!
Now with bright holly all the temples strew,
With laurel green, and sacred misletoe.

Christmas presents appear to have been very general. Among others, we find gifts of toys, clothes, fruit, &c., presented by parents to their children in honour of the day. To these gifts, a *rod* was frequently added, that they might be more easily governed, by the prospect of correction, in the event of their doing wrong.

Christmas Sports were various, according to the humor and taste of the people. *Morris-dancers* and *Mummers* are still found in some parts of the country; but their performances are probably like those of ancient days, in name only.—*Saturday Magazine.*

The December Mail, per Steam Ship *Acadia*, arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, in 14 and a half days, and reached here on Wednesday morning, bringing Liverpool dates to the 4th instant.

The most important intelligence received, is the joyful announcement of the safe and happy delivery of our Most Gracious Queen Victoria of a Princess, heiress presumptive to the Throne of Great Britain, which was born on the 21st of November. Congratulatory Addresses from all parts of the United Kingdom have been forwarded to the Queen and Prince Albert.

Egypt.—The latest intelligence from this quarter brings the particulars of the bombardment and taking of St. Jean d'Acre by the British Forces. It is also stated that Mehemet Ali had at last consented to the terms proposed by the five European Powers to surrender up the Turkish fleet, and to receive Egypt hereditarily.

Cambridge University Election.—The election for High Stewardship terminated in favour of Lord Lyndhurst, who received 973 votes; his opponent, Lord Lyttleton, received 487 votes, giving Lord Lyndhurst a majority of two to one.

We regret to state that much and continued boisterous weather was experienced on the coasts of Great Britain and Europe during the last month; several melancholy shipwrecks with great loss of lives had taken place, and a vast amount of property destroyed.

We would recommend to our readers the perusal of a series of letters of importance; the first of which appears in our columns of to-day, under the signature of "Open Sesame."

The merry peal of Christmas is now ringing in our ears. To each and all our patrons we present the compliments of the season, and trust that no adverse circumstances may intervene, to interrupt their happy Festivals.

The usual semi-annual examination of Mr. E. Fitzgerald's Classical and Mathematical School, took place on Tuesday the 22d inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M. On which occasion the following young gentlemen, pupils, obtained premiums for superior merit in their respective classes, viz:

Master Merrit, Sen., in Horace; Daveber, Jun. in Xenophon; Fitzgerald, in Horace; De Veber, Jun. in Sallust; Simonds, in Virgil; Blatch, in Eutropices; Merritt, Sen., in Natural History and Science; Robinson, in use of the Globes; Kirby, in English Grammer and History; Burns, Jun. in Geography; De Forest, in Arithmetic 1st; Gilbert, in do. 2nd; Johnston, Jun. in do. 3rd; Crookshank, in do. 4th; Robertson, in Writing, 1st; Kirby, in do. 2nd. For general good conduct during the half year, Master Robinson.

The Rev. I. W. D. Gray, and the Rev. R. Wilson, Examiners, who signified to the Committee of the school, their satisfaction with the proficiency of the pupils generally. The Ladies and Gentlemen (some of the latter professional) who visited the school during the examination, a very severe and strict one, all seemed to be much pleased with the result; having expressed themselves to Mr. Fitzgerald in terms of the highest gratification.

African School.—We would draw the attention of the public generally, to the advertisement in our columns of to day, of a public Lecture on Education to be delivered by Mr. V. H. Nelson, for the immediate benefit of the African School, which is now supported by voluntary subscription. The praiseworthy intentions of Mr. Nelson are highly commendable, and we have no doubt, will be cheerfully responded to by our kind hearted citizens.

New Brewery.—Mr. George Younger (late of the firm of Keltie & Younger,) has just completed his extensive Brick Brewery, in Dock-street:—connected with which is an elegant steam engine, with every necessary apparatus—now in full and complete operation. Mr. Younger is a young and enterprising Scotchman—whose character for industry, as a so or brewing the best of Ale, has long since been fully established; and whose many friends have been only waiting for his re-commencement in business, in order to bestow upon him that patronage, which his abilities and his exertions deserve.—*Herald.*

Accident.—On Friday afternoon, a fireman by the name of M'Cushen, while in the act of oiling the Paddle Wheels of the Steam Ferry Boat *Victoria*, was crushed in such a manner as to cause his death in a few hours after. The machinery was set in motion without knowing the man was performing that duty.

"*The Caroline.*—McLeod who was arrested a few weeks ago, and subsequently discharged for want of identity, has been arrested again at Lewiston and confined in Lockport jail.

It is now asserted that persons can be found who can prove his guilt beyond a question.

On this subject the Niagara Chronicle says:

"It would be I nice day's excursion for the 93rd regiment to march to Lockport, and release him from prison, *vi et armis*."

Better wait awhile neighbor, until the sledding is improved. It would go *hard* with the troops at present."—*Buffalo Journal.*

We have received a letter from our old friend McLeod, unjustly and barbarously confined in Lockport jail; as the Anniversary of the destruction of the Caroline is so near, we think he should be liberated before that period arrives, and we trust that Government will make some effort to effect his release. Our people are so fond of order that we should hope they will wait the decision and action of the Government on the subject. Mr. McLeod fears that his incarceration will continue until April next, we think he may make himself contented that it will not be thus prolonged. It is high time that the legality of the destruction of the Caroline was determined; for although Mr. McLeod was not present on that occasion, others who may have been, cannot, under existing circumstances, travel with safety in the State of New York until that question is settled and set at rest.—*Toronto Patriot.*

The News from Madawaska. The Mail from the East brought us nothing last night in addition to the intelligence we published yesterday.—We learn however, from a gentleman who traveled from Bangor with Captain Miller, the English Messenger, that the regiment arrived at Madawaska previous to the 10th instant, from Quebec, having been ordered there by the Governor General, without the knowledge of Sir John Harvey. The messenger *was despatched by Sir John Harvey to Gov. Fairfield* as soon as he was apprised of the arrival of the regiment, *Sir John believing it to be his duty to inform Gov. Fairfield immediately of the fact*, in consequence of the arrangement made between himself and Gen. Scott. At Bangor and Portland, the cause of the movement was enveloped in mystery—the more so from the circumstance that Sir John Harvey, as Capt. Miller stated, knew nothing of the intended movement until he received official information that it had been made. Capt. Miller left this city yesterday morning for Montreal, taking the road through Vermont, to carry the despatches in return from Sir John Harvey to Governor General Thomson.—*Boston Atlas.*

The West Indies. Advices received at New Orleans from Jamaica, mention the arrival of fourteen colored emigrants from the United States, being the first fruits of Mr. Barclay's mission to this country. A much larger number was expected soon.—Various applications for their services had been received from respectable parties.

The New Orleans papers represent the accounts from St. Lucia and Trinidad as unfavorable to the working of the new system. The products of the soil are stated to be much reduced from former years.

Boston, Dec. 16.

Body of Napoleon.—The ship Calumet, Capt. Shreve, which arrived at this port yesterday from Canton, left St. Helena Oct. 21. On the 18th the ceremony of exhumation of the remains of Napoleon took place with great parade. The body, which on his death was embalmed by French chemists, was found in a state of complete preservation the features being preserved. It will be remembered that Napoleon died May 5, 1821. The body was conveyed on board the Belle Poule which with the Favourite, sailed for France on the 19th. These ships sailed from France July 7, and arrived at St. Helena Oct. 8.

Promotion and Appointment.—Mr. E. A. Glynn, Mate of H.M.S. Ringdove, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and appointed Flag Lieutenant to Vice Admiral Sir T. Harvey, K.C.B., vice Lieut. T. Harvey, promoted to the command of the Racer.—*Bermuda Royal Gazette.*

By the Royal December Mail.

HALIFAX, December 19.

Latest from England—Arrival of the steam ship Acadia—Accouchement of the Queen—Capture of St. Jean d'Acre, &c.

For two days past the Acadia has been anxiously expected. She arrived this morning at 10 o'clock, bringing London dates to the 3d, and Liverpool to the 4th instant, and 86 passengers. Immediately after her arrival we were politely supplied by Capt. Miller, and the Hon. George Smith of Pictou, one of the passengers, with several of the latest London journals. Although the intelligence we thus obtained is twenty seven days later than we had previously, we learn nothing very important besides the birth of a Princess Royal, and the successful result of an attack upon St. Jean d'Acre by the British Fleet under Admiral Stopford. The official accounts of these events are given below.—Nothing later from China than we have received by way of New York. A disastrous storm occurred on the coast of England, on 13th ult. Parliament was to meet on the 10th inst. Major General Sir John Harvey, it is said, is ordered to Syria.—The strength and speed of the Acadia have been severely tested during her present voyage; she left Liverpool at 4 p. m. on the 4th inst. and has had to encounter westerly gales and squalls, very high seas, thick hazy weather, and heavy showers of rain and hail—but in spite of all, she has been out only 14 days and 18 hours, and brought the news of her arrival home.—*Recorder.*

ACCOUCHMENT OF THE QUEEN—BIRTH OF A PRINCESS ROYAL.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

Buckingham Palace, November 21, 1840.

This afternoon, at ten minutes before two, the Queen was happily delivered of a Princess. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, several Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the Ladies of her Majesty's Bedchamber being present. This great and important news was immediately made known to the town by the firing of the Tower guns; and, the Privy Council being assembled as soon as possible thereupon, at the Council chamber, Whitehall, it was ordered that a Form of Thanksgiving for the Queen's safe delivery of a Princess be prepared by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be used in all churches and chapels throughout England and Wales, and the town of Berwick upon Tweed, on Sunday, the 29th of November, or the Sunday after the respective ministers shall receive the same.

Her Majesty and the young Princess are, God be praised, both doing well.

The following official bulletin was issued during the afternoon, a copy of which was forwarded to the Lord Mayor:

"*Buckingham Palace, Nov. 21, 1840.*
Quarter past three o'clock.

"The Queen was safely delivered of a Princess this afternoon at ten minutes before two o'clock.

"Her Majesty and the royal infant are both doing well.

(Signed) JAMES CLARK, M. D.
CHARLES LOCOCK, M. D.
ROBERT FERGUSON, M. D.
R. BLAGDEN."

Immediately after the birth of the young Princess, summonses were issued for holding a Privy Council at the Council office at four o'clock. The Council sat nearly an hour, and was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Melbourne, Lord John Russell, the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and several other Privy Councillors.

At the Council, we understand, the form of prayer for her Majesty's safe delivery was agreed upon.

Up to six o'clock her Majesty and the royal infant (we are informed) were going on very favourably. The Princess, it is said, is a fine healthy child.

The park guns were not fired this afternoon, it being imagined that the noise might disturb her Majesty. The bells of St. Margaret's Church and the other churches in the metropolis communicated the happy event by ringing merry peals during the evening.

The intelligence of her Majesty's safe accouchment, and the birth of a Princess Royal, spread like wildfire through the metropolis, and the crowd, which for an hour or two before had assembled round the gates of the Palace, was soon augmented by the numbers who came running from all directions to ascertain the fact.

During the afternoon the bells of the Royal parishes of St. Martin in the fields, St. Margaret, Westminster, and those of St. Clement Danes, St. Giles in the fields, and St. Dunstan in the West, with St. Bride's and other churches in the metropolis, rang merry peals. At Kensington, the birth-place of the Queen, within ten minutes after the arrival of a messenger at the apartments of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in Kensington Palace, with the gratifying intelligence, the news got circulated through the town, and within an hour after the occurrence, the bells of the old church, which were the first to welcome the birth of the Royal mother, were pealing forth their joyous strains on the occasion of the birth of her illustrious daughter.

The Royal Nurse.—The Isle of Wight has the honour of being the spot from which the person who is to suckle the young Princess has been selected. A royal messenger was sent off express on Saturday to Mr. Charles Day, surgeon, of Cowes, to announce to Mrs. Jane Ratsey, wife of Mr. Restell Ratsey, of Medina terrace, West Cowes, that she had been appointed wet nurse to the Queen, and to desire that she would proceed to London immediately. She arrived in town by the Southampton mail train on Sunday morning, to undertake her high and honorable office. A person apparently more admirably suited for the situation could not possibly have been selected. Report says that it was her Majesty's particular wish that a wet nurse should be chosen from the vicinity of Cowes, from observing the very healthy state of the women and children during her residence in the Isle of Wight, and from the very great benefit her own health received from her visits to that beautiful Island.—*Sun.*

That the first offspring of the royal marriage should be a female no one will regret; the constitution of this country has so provided for the transmission of the royal dignity, that it becomes a matter of slight importance indeed, to the nation. The young Princess becomes the heir presumptive, and in default of male issue succeeds to the Crown, as did her mother. From the moment of her birth she takes the style and title of Princess Royal: and as next in succession to the Throne, she enjoys, as a matter of right, all the immunities and privileges of that exalted station. In the event of male issue, however, her claim, is at once superseded: and she then subsides into the station of the first female of the royal family, still retaining the title of Princess Royal, of which nothing can deprive her.

London, December 3.

Extraordinary and Mysterious Occurrence at Buckingham Palace—a Stranger Apprehended in Her Majesty's Dressing Room.—The greatest excitement prevailed in Buckingham Palace shortly after 12 o'clock last night, in consequence of a stranger being discovered under the sofa in her Majesty's dressing room. The police were instantly called in, and immediately secured the daring intruder, who turned out to be the identical boy who was discovered in the Palace about two years since. His name is Edward Jones, he is 17 years of age, and the son of a poor tailor in Derby-street, Westminster. The police conveyed Jones to the station house in Gardener's lane at 2 o'clock this morning, when he was given in charge of Inspector Haining, with instructions to keep the prisoner in safe custody until he received instructions from the Home office.

To-day at 12 o'clock a Privy Council was held at the home office to investigate the circumstance of this most extraordinary and mysterious affair. The inquiry, however, was so strictly private that the following are all the particulars our reporter was able to collect. There were present at the Council, the Marquis of Normanby, the Earl of Errol, Lord Duncanon, the Hon. Mr. Murray, Comptroller of the household, and the Earl of Uxbridge. Mr. Hall, Chief Majistrate of Bow street and Colonel Bowan, were also in attendance.

Shortly after 12 o'clock instructions were sent to the police office to bring up the prisoner. He was in a few minutes afterwards taken before the Council, and interrogated as to his mysterious and extraordinary conduct. We understand he was strictly questioned as to his mode of obtaining admission into the Palace, but that he prevaricated in his answers. His father was then sent for, and he stated that he was of opinion that his unfortunate son was not in his right mind. After a short investigation, the Council directed that the police should take the prisoner to Buckingham Palace, as he promised to describe to them the mode and way by which he effected his extraordinary entrance, and which under the circumstances, might have had a most dreadful effect on her Majesty, who, we are informed, had been in the room where the lad was discovered only a few hours before.

After giving the above instructions to convey the prisoner to Buckingham Palace, the Council adjourned until half past four o'clock (we understand) this afternoon.

When the prisoner was discovered in the Palace nearly two years since, he was prosecuted and tried at the Westminster Sessions, on an indictment, charging him with secreting himself for the purpose of committing a felony. On that occasion, he was defended by Mr. Prendregast, and acquitted. Since then we hear that he has been in the employ of Mr. Kendall, chemist, in the Broadway, Westminster, and that there has been no fault found against his general character and conduct. He is very short, for his age, but has an old surly look. His dress was of the meanest description, and he altogether is an ill-looking lad.

We rejoice to state the extraordinary circumstance which occurred last night has had no unfavorable effect on her Majesty, who (with the Princess Royal) are going on most favorably.

Nothing has transpired to show that any blame was attributable to the domestics. The affair has produced a great sensation in the neighbourhood of St. James's.

Latest particulars—Committal of the prisoner.—The Privy Council reassembled at half-past two o'clock, at the Home office, when after a short examination the prisoner Jones was committed to the House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, for three months, and to be kept to hard labour.

'The members of the Council were of opinion that the prisoner was not insane, but that he was actuated like Oxford to obtain notoriety.'

From the London Gazette, Dec 1.

CAPTURE OF ST. JEAN D'ACRE.

Foreign Office, Nov. 30.—A despatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received at this office, addressed to Viscount Palmerston, G. C. B., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by Colonel Sir Charles Felix Smith, C. B., commanding the forces in Syria:— *St. Jean d'Acre, Nov. 25.*

My Lord,—On the 29th ult. it was finally determined between Sir Robert Stopford and myself that the siege of Acre should be undertaken. I accordingly detached Omar Bey for the purpose of advancing from Sidon with 2000 Turks upon Tyre, and thence to occupy the Pass of the White Mountain, to the northward of this place; and the 31st the Admiral made sail from Beyrout roads, having previously embarked in the squadron 3000 men, under the immediate command of the Pasha Selim, and small detachments of Royal Artillery and Sappers, under Major Higgins, of the former corps, and Lieut. Aldrich, Royal Engineers.

Omar Bey, reached the position assigned to him at the same hour on the 2d inst, that the fleet appeared off Acre.

Owing to the light winds the ships did not get into action till 2 p. m. on the 3d, when an animated fire commenced, and was maintained, without intermission, until darkness closed the operations of the day. About three hours later the Governor, with a portion of the garrison, quitted the town which was taken possession of by the allied troops at daylight the following morning. The moral influence on the cause in which we are engaged that will result from its surrender is incalculable.

During the bombardment the principal magazine and the whole arsenal blew up. By the explosion two entire regiments, formed in position on the ramparts, were annihilated, and every living creature within the area of 60,000 square feet ceased to exist, the loss of life being variously computed at from 12,000 to 20 000 persons. Those who may have been inclined for doubt the fighting qualities of the Egyptian troops, might acquire a lesson from the example of their endurance, if they could but contemplate the devastation and scene of horror by which this once formidable fortress is enshrouded.

To the Royal Navy I should be guilty of great injustice were I to attempt to record services that will be so much more ably detailed by their gallant and respected Commander-in-Chief. Whilst the early departure of the despatch vessel for Malta, and the labour that has devolved on me within the walls, alike deprive me of the means of transmitting returns of ordinance, ammunition, treasure, &c., that have fallen into the hands of the captors, and of giving your Lordship an approximation even to the amount of prisoners (over 3,000,) as many are still coming in, and others are dragged in numbers from their places of refuge and concealment.

To Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I have reported the measures I have adopted for the temporary administration of the Pashalic of Acre, pending the pleasure of the Sulta[n].
I have the honour to be, &c.,

C. F. SMITH, Colonel,
Commanding the Forces in Syria.

The Viscount Palmerston, G. C. B., &c.

Princess Charlotte, off St. Jean d'Acre, Nov. 4.

Sir,—You will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the town and fortress of Acre were taken possession of by the allied forces under my command this morning, in the name of the Sultan.

The circumstances which led to this result occurred on the 3d, when a heavy cannonade from the ships and vessels, beginning at 2 p. m., and ending at 5, completely demolished the town, and materially damaged the fortifications, inducing the Egyptians to evacuate the place in the night. A tremendous explosion of a large magazine of powder took place about 4 p. m. on the 3d.

The attacks were made upon the west lines, and the south face of the works, the former composed of the following ships,—viz.: Princess Charlotte, Powerful, Bellerophon, Revenge, Thunderer, and Pique, under the immediate command of Commodore Napier (as I thought it advisable to accompany Colonel Sir Charles F. Smith in the Phoenix steamer, to be ready to take advantage of any breach that might be made in either of the two sea faces of the walls of the place for an immediate assault.) The south face being a more contracted anchorage, was occupied by the Edinburgh, Benbow, Castor, Garysfort, Talbot, Wasp and Hazard; the destruction caused by the fire of the ships on both sides sufficiently proves its rapidity and precision.

Rear-Admiral Baron de Bandeira, in the Austrian frigate Medea, and the Guerriero, under command of his Imperial Highness the Archduke Frederick, with the Arabian corvette Lipsia, rendered much assistance. Rear Admiral Walker Bey, in the Sultan's ship Mookuddimay-i-hive, of 74 guns, took up a most favourable position opposed to the south face, and did good service.

The steamer Gorgon, Vesuvius, Phoenix, and Stomboli fired shot and shells into the town with much precision, and it is generally supposed that shells from the Gorgon occasioned the destruction of the powder magazine.

A flag of truce having been offered by the Turkish Admiral and rejected a short time before I did not think it necessary or becoming that the summons should be repeated, particularly as hostilities had already commenced, and the ships and steamers had been fired upon as they approached the walls.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of troops in the town of Acre at the commencement of our fire; they have been estimated at 4,500, besides a body of cavalry outside the town of 800. Many lives were lost by the explosion of the magazine. 700 Egyptians and two officers of rank came in this morning with their [illegible], and surrendered themselves as prisoners.

To Colonel Sir Charles Smith devolves the task of putting the town and fortifications into a posture of defence, and I am happy to find that his health enables him to perform this duty with his usual intelligence.

A great quantity of arms and ammunition was found at Acre, and the fortifications were fast getting into a state of preparation against attack.

I am much indebted to Captain Edward Boxer, of the Pique, and to Captain Codrington, of the Talbot, for the excellent surveys which they made of the shoals round Acre, which enabled the ships to go in without risk of getting ashore.

The success of this enterprise, so important in its results, has called for my acknowledgments in general orders to the officers and men of the combined squadrons, whose united exertions had so much contributed to its attainment.

I have the honor to be, &c.
ROBERT STOPFORD, Admiral.

R. More O'Ferrall, Esq. &c.

ORDER FROM THE ADMIRALTY TO RAISE SEAMEN.

The Admiralty have transmitted an order to the Board of Customs, to aid them in immediately raising additional seamen for the navy.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having signified their opinion that men may now be obtained at the several ports, in consequence of the Baltic traders, whalers, and other ships having returned, and requested that instructions may be given to the Officers of the Coast Guard on the coasts of England and Wales, in the Friths of Forth and Clyde, at Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Cork, Waterford, and Dublin, to use their best exertions to raise able and ordinary seamen for the Royal Navy, on the terms and regulations set forth in the instructions therein inclosed and their lordships having further requested that the collectors and comptrollers of the revenue at their several ports, may be desired to give information to the chief officers of coast-guard, or to the officers in charge of the Rendezvous, where there is one near them, whenever they are of opinion that good seamen can be obtained at any particular port.

Minute Board of Customs, Nov. 11, 1840.—That the officers of the customs are desired to put themselves in communication with the principal officers of the coast-guard within their district, with a view of giving effect to the intentions of the lords commissioners of the admiralty.

A brother in-law of the Mayor of Limerick is appointed to a Lieutenantcy in the 64th Regiment.

Col. Maxwell, 36th, has arrived in England from Halifax, Nova Scotia; also, Capt. Western, 64th, and Dr. Loyd, 36th.

General orders have issued from the Horse Guards to raise a regiment in Canada, to be called 'the Royal Canadian Regiment.'

The daily papers are filled with accounts of injury to the shipping on the coasts and hair-breadth escapes, during the storm which raged on Friday, the 13th. The new docks at Portsmouth were flooded, and the progress of the works will be impeded; though the damage is not so great as it was at first supposed to be.

The distillation of spirits in Ireland for the year ending 10th October last was less than the preceding year by 3 500,000 gallons, and the consequent loss of duty to the revenue has been £466,600.

John Thorogood has been released from Chelmsford gaol by an unknown hand. He was allowed to walk out of his cell on Thursday, after twenty-two months of incarceration.—*Examiner.*

It is worthy of remark that notwithstanding the great quantities of military stores recently shipped from the Royal Arsenal for China, Syria, and other parts of the world, the supply has been so well kept up that there is actually at present a greater quantity on hand than there was at the commencement of the year, when the stock exceeded 28,000 large guns, and upwards of 4,000,000 of balls and shells.

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager has forwarded £50, towards the erection of the monument to the late Sir Walter Scott, Bart.

The receipt of the customs revenue at the port of Waterford for the year ending the 10th October, 1840, was close upon £200,000; the increase over the previous year being upwards of £31,000.

Government has resolved on introducing gas into all the dockyard establishments, and an estimate is to be made of the expense.

Customs Duties.—It is proposed by the committee appointed to revise the Customs' duties to make the following alterations:—The present rates on clayed sugar, which are now 63s to be reduced to 50s and Muscovado to 20s. British plantation, clayed or refined, to be reduced to 20s and Muscovado to 15s. Refined sugar, rated at £8. 8s. to be reduced to 50s. per cwt. Coffee and cocoa, which are at present rated 1s. 3d., per lb., to be reduced to 9. and British plantation to 5d. per lb. Wheat to be admitted at a duty of 8s. per quarter, and other articles of food, including butcher meat at proportionate low rates. Raw materials, at present subject to various duties, to be reduced generally to 2½ per cent. Cotton wool, and other materials of manufactures, reduced to 1 per cent. Manufactures of silk, leather, linen, and other similar articles, to be reduced to 20 per cent., and minerals to 1 per cent.—*Times.*

London, Dec 2.—We have heard that Her Majesty was so far recovered on Monday as to affix her signature to the official documents sent from the different public offices.—*Standard.*

Lieut-General Sir Howard Douglas, Lord Commissioner of the Ionian Island, is recalled by Government, and Mr. Stewart Mackenzie, Ex-Governor of Ceylon, succeeds him at Malta.

Major-General Sir Thomas Pearson now in command at Belfast will proceed it is said to New-Brunswick, in the room of Major-General Sir J. Harvey, ordered to Syria.

The London Gazette of Nov. 13, has twelve Rear Admirals transferred to the active list of Flag-Officers.

The successor of the late Admiral Flemming, as Governor of Greenwich Hospital, has not yet been determined on by the Government. Sir Edward Codrington is generally referred to.

The Duke of Rutland has given the princely sum of £1000 towards the fund for restoring the venerable church at Bakewell, Derbyshire. The other subscribers are the Duke of Devonshire for £500, Mr. Wm. Evans, M. P. £100, and the Rev. H. Dudley Ryder £100.

Lord Lyndhurst will give a grand entertainment to a party of twenty-four noblemen and gentlemen, to celebrate his election as High Steward of Cambridge.

Portsmouth, Dec. 1.—The *Blazer* steamer, L[...] Steane, will proceed on Wednesday to Plymout[h] on her way to the West Indies, to relieve the De[...] ordered home to be paid off. She has despatch[es] for Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Harvey.

Total Wreck of the Grecian.—We regret to hav[e] to announce another disastrous shipwreck, with th[e] loss of all hands on board; that of the brig *Grecia[n]* Capt. Buckley, which left this port on Friday mo[r]ning, for Cardiff, laden with flour and oats. Durin[g] a severe gale on Saturday she struck on a reef [...] rocks to the eastward of Hartland, near Bidefor[d] Devon, and immediately went to pieces; unhapp[i]ly the crew perished. A small part of her carg[o] consisting of sacks of flour, have been taken ou[t of the] water. The *Grecian* belonged to this port, and w[as] owned by our worthy fellow citizen, Mr. Lauren[ce] Forristal, of Ferrybank. She was uninsured.—*Waterford Chronicle.*

The Army.—The first division of that high[ly] distinguished Regiment, the 42nd Royal Highlan[d]ers, embarked yesterday on board one of the riv[er] steamers, and was afterwards transferred to t[he] troop ship *Sapphire*, at Cove, for service in the M[ed]iterranean. The baggage and one company e[m]barked the preceding day by the same conveyanc[e].

Four Non-commissioned officers have been p[ro]moted to Ensigncies without purchase, in the l[ast] week, one of these a color Serjeant of the 45th.

The Scots Greys are ordered percussion carbi[nes].

Le Presse publishes a letter from Beyrout, wh[ich] states that the British Government had obtain[ed] from the Sultan a mortgage of the island of Cypr[us] as a guarantee for the repayment of her advan[ces] in her service, and calculating on the inability of [his] Highness ever to reimburse them, regards that [is]land as the property of the English.

Letters from Rome of the 10th, and from Mil[an] of the 19th inst. state that the overflow of the Po a[nd] the Tesino had caused great alarm, and already [se]veral casualties. The road to Genoa was cove[red] with water and rendered impracticable.

The sons of the Duke of Wellington voted [for] Lord Lyndhurst in the contest for High Stewart[ship of] Cambridge, also Sir Lucius O'Brien, Bart., & [...] Hon. G. O'Callaghan. Lord Monteagle and [...] son, the Hon. C. Spring Rice, voted in the mi[nor]ity for Lord Lyttleton.

A letter from Venice, dated the 4th instant, sta[tes] that her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambri[dge] (travelling under the title of Baroness Cullode[n]) accompanied by the Princess Augusta and M[...] and Prince George (travelling under the title [of] Lord Tipperary), had, with a suite of eleven p[er]sons, arrived in that city from Verona.

The Emperor of Russia has conferred the or[der] of St. George on the Archduke Frederick of A[us]tria, transmitting to him the insignia, with an a[uto]graph letter complimenting his Imperial High[ness] on his admirable conduct in the Syrian campa[ign] and particularly on the bravery he displayed on [...] exploit at Saida. The emperor at the same t[ime] wrote a flattering letter to the Archduke Cha[rles] the young prince's father.—*Galignani's Messen[ger].*

Admiral Sir David Gould is the only surviv[ing] captain who was present at the battle of the N[ile]. Sir David commanded the *Audacious* on that [me]morable occasion, and also the *Bedford*, one of [the] few ships engaged in Lord Hotham's action. [He] was also Lieutenant of the *Marlborough* in L[ord] Rodney's victory of the 12th April.

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Woolwich, Nov. 25.—The charge preferre[d a]gainst the gunner and driver on whom a court-[mar]tial was held on Thursday last was "for hav[ing] concealed in his breast a ball cartridge, with w[hich] he intended to do some bodily injury to some p[er]son or persons unknown."

The finding of the Court was, that he should [be] committed to the Millbank Penitentiary for 29 d[ays] and be kept in solitary confinement during [the] whole period.

ROYAL ARSENAL.

On Saturday a considerable quantity of pow[der] was removed from Waltham Abbey to Purflee[t to] be ready for service.

The guns of the *Rhadamanthus* steam frigate h[ave] been fitted with percussion locks.

Preparations are in progress, the mould be[ing] laid, for the casting of 10 12-pounder brass gun[s in] the foundry. The casting is expected to take p[lace] in about a fortnight. In every department of [the] Royal Arsenal the hands are all actively emplo[yed] and extensive orders are proceeding with the [ut]most despatch towards completion in the labora[tory] department.

Wreck of the City of Bristol Steamer and t[wenty]seven persons lost.—We regret being obliged to [an]nounce that the above fine first class steamer w[as] on her passage from Waterford to Bristol founde[red] about six o'clock in the evening of Wednesday, [the] 18th inst. on the sands at Llangenith near [...] Holmes, in consequence, it is thought, of the C[ap]tain (John Stacey) mistaking the Worm's Head [for] those dangerous sands the Helirieks. There w[ere] 29 persons on board, including 7 passenger[s ...] men, 2 ladies and 1 child) all of whom with the [ex]ception of two, a seaman named William P[...] and Thomas Austice, a carpenter, were drown[ed]. These contrived to save themselves by swimm[ing] and clinging to parts of the wreck. 72 pigs an[d ...] head of cattle swam ashore. Four bodies have b[een] picked up, one a gentleman in a frock coat [and] boots with two sovereigns in his pocket. 400 d[...] pigs and 18 horned cattle have also drifted ash[ore.] —*Brighton Guardian.*

London.—Between London Bridge and Bl[ack]wall Reach a number of ships broke adrift f[rom] their moorings, and one large vessel lately arri[ved] from Quebec with timber ran ashore off Deptf[ord]. A great number of barges, lighters, and other c[raft] were sunk; but fortunately no lives were lost. [The] storm on Tuesday was as bad as that on Fri[day] and much damage was done on the river among [the] barges and watermen's boats.

Dublin.—A terrific gale from the west; the [...] on the coast is anticipated to be dreadful.

St. Ives, Nov. 21.—At 2 p. m., on Sunday, [the] 22d inst. as the British and Irish steam compa[ny's] packet *Devonshire* was off the east buoy of Mar[...] Sand, a boat was observed at some distance [...] with people; Captain Mills immediately ord[ered] the vessel to be kept away for them, and by his [...] and seamanlike conduct he succeeded in sa[ving] nine men from a watery grave: they proved t[o be] the crew of the brig *Equivalent*, from Picton, M[...] master, to Newcastle, and were completely w[orn] out when taken on board the *Devonshire*, w[here] they received every attention.

HALIFAX, Dec. 1[...]

Melancholy.—A fine little girl called Hen[...] son, about seven years old, whose parents resid[e in] Prince street, during the absence of her mother [on] Thursday morning last, caught her clothes on [fire] and ran into the court of the house, where she [was] discovered wrapped in a blaze, by Mr. Gilfoy [who] was passing, and who with great presence of m[ind] caught her in his arms and extinguished the fla[mes]. Medical attendance was procured, but the c[hild] was burnt in such a dreadful manner, that she [died] on Friday night.

A similar accident happened to another child [na]med McCarthy, in Albermarle street, but it is [hop]ped that this case will not terminate fatally. Par[ents] should be very careful in going from their ho[uses] not to leave fire within the reach of their little o[nes]. Full many accidents have taken place, from c[are]lessness in his respect in this town since the wi[nter] set in.

Singular Case of Suicide.—David Black, [for]merly master tailor and corporal in the 64th R[egt.] and who had been reduced to the ranks for mis[con]duct, committed suicide on Saturday aftern[oon]. The mortification arising from his disgrace pro[...] upon his mind, and he declared his intention to [poi]son himself. Having purchased arsenic, he [...] into a public house, near the barracks, and exh[ibit]ed it, when a struggle ensued on the part of a [...] in the shop to get it from him. Finding howe[ver] that Black was too strong for him, the man ra[n a]cross the street to the guard house, and retur[ned] with two soldiers, when he found the deceased c[...] *ing the poison and the paper together!* He was ta[ken] to the sergeant-major's room in the barrack, wh[ere] the soldiers left him for a few moments with [the] shopkeeper, who begged him to spit out the poi[son] but he immediately swallowed it, paper and all. From thence he was hurried to the hospital, wh[ere] remedies were administered, but he expired on [Sa]turday morning without expressing the sligh[test ...]

POOR CO[...]