THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1847.

ARRIVAL OF THE JANUARY MAIL.

The Steam Ship *Hibernia*, Capt. Ryrie, with the January Mail, arrived at Halifax on Friday last, after a boisterous passage of 17 days from Liverpool. The mail, with dates to the 5th instant, was received in this City at about ten o'clock last night.

His Excellency the Earl of Elgin, the new Governor General of British North America, and Suite, came passengers in the Hibernia. His Lordship landed at Halifax and proceeded to Government House, where he was waited upon by the Legislative Council and Assembly, now in session, with Addresses, to which he made a suitable reply. A sketch of the proceedings will be found in another column. His Excellency was to leave Halifax in the Hibernia, for Boston, on Saturday morning, *en route* for Montreal.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 5.—The condition of Ireland continues to be the absorbing object of attention.—Day after day the distress continues to increase, and famine is doing the work of death in various parts of the country. Immense numbers of poor half-starved creatures find their way across the channel, and beg and exist as best they can, by appeals to the feelings of the inhabitants in the great towns of England. The number of those poor creatures in Liverpool, Manchester, and the manufacturing districts, natives of the sister country, who have fled from the wretchedness of their homes, is adding seriously to the local taxation of the places named. The parish of Liverpool feels the pressure so painfully, that they have memorialised the Government on the subject, but any measure to be effective must be general in its application, and the hands of the Government are too full of Irish misery to pay much attention at the present moment to *ad misericordiam* appeals from other quarters.

The distress is so overwhelming, that the Irish landlords have become alarmed for the safety of their estates, and are combining to devise measures to arrest the ruin which seems pending over their heads. The policy of the Government is adapting itself to the new state of things, and more enlarged views have been promulgated from Downing street.

The last West India mail brought the resolutions of the Jamaica House of Assembly, on the subject of the late change in the Sugar duties; and this document, in connexion with the feeling of dissatisfaction which has made itself apparent in the West India Islands at the step-motherly way in which they have been treated by maternal cupidity, has been elaborately canvassed and commented on.

An impression prevails in some quarters that the Government will introduce, in the forthcoming session, a grand scheme of national education, and a few remarks which fell from Lord Morpeth at a Diocesan meeting in Yorkshire a few days ago, is construed to favour the belief.

The question has been again mooted about prohibiting the use of grain in distillation. In the present food prospects of the country, all such suggestions receive attention and deserve them.

Lord Stanley, it is now declared, is to take the post of Conservative leader in the upper, and Lord George Bentinck will doubtless have a similar distinction in the lower house of Parliament.

The last message of President Polk, which was received in this country a few days ago, has been fiercely assailed by the whole of the press, and ugly names have been given to the process of reasoning in which the President accounts for the Mexican war. One passage has been strongly commented upon, that in which he states that the war was not undertaken with a view to conquest. —We call to mind no similar document during our time which has been less favourably received in England. From this it may be inferred that the annexation of California, of which Commodore Stockton has taken possession, as a territory of the United States is even less popular in England than was the annexation of Texas.

The weather since our last has been very changeable—alternate frost and rain. The winter, as far as it has progressed, is the most severe which has occurred for years.

The Hibernia which sails from this port, on the 5th inst., will carry out a large quantity of specie—upwards of half-a-million. Insurance has been done at 15s per cent.

FLOUR.—A considerable advance had taken place in the price of Bread Stuffs of all descriptions. Canadian Flour (sweet) is quoted, duty free, at 58s 9d to 39s. and United States at 38s 6d to 40s per barrel; and Indian Meal at 68s to 72s per 480 lbs. —Cotton Wool is also looking up.

IRON.—The new year has commenced with a decided improvement in the value of Iron. Pig Iron may be considered as 5s per ton, and Merchant Bar Iron 10s per ton higher than the prices in the beginning of December last. This improvement seems likely to be of some continuance, and there seems little doubt, that before the end of the present month prices will be still higher. It has been ascertained that the stock of Pig Iron on the 1st January, 1847, is about 100,000 tons less than the quantity held on the 1st of January, 1846, and that the make at present is incapable of any considerable extension, as there is a deficiency of colliers and skilled workmen. The make of Bar Iron is reduced in a still greater ratio, in consequence of the continued demand for rails, which has induced many of the Iron masters to diminish or extinguish their make of bars, and to turn out a greater quantity of rails; the demand for other descriptions of Iron is fair, but not excessive, hence the improvement on these descriptions has not kept pace with that on Pig Iron and Merchant Bars. Without reference to a foreign demand for Iron, we see in the requirements of Great Britain and Ireland, and the East and West India and Canadian dependencies, full employment for the English Ironmasters for some time to come, and should no other counteracting cause intervene, we believe that the prices for 1847 will be above the trade average. The following are the present quotations delivered in Liverpool:—Scotch Pig £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; Merchant Bar £9 10s to £9 15s; best rolled £10 15s to £11; Hoop Iron £11 10s; Sheet £12; 1 C charcoal Tin Plates 32s per box.

LEEDS.—On Saturday there was one of the best markets we have had for a long time, but only for low goods, such as blues and common wool-dyed black suitable for the American market, and which have been dead stock in the manufacturers hand since the agitation of the tariff, in the United States, last year. In goods of any other description there was little done.

MANCHESTER.—We have to state again that the cloth market is so unsteady in prices as to make it quite impossible to quote the value of any description of goods.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.—The Earl of Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, takes his departure this day in the Hibernia for the seat of his government. He is accompanied by two aides-de-camp, Lieut. the Hon. Arthur Egerton, and Lieut., the Hon. Egremon Lascelles. His amiable and accomplished bride will not embark till the ensuing spring. We anticipate a brilliant career for his Excellency in our North American provinces, and have no doubt but his mild and benignant sway as ruler thereof will be both popular and satisfactory to all parties concerned.

GOVERNOR OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Queen has appointed Sir J. G. Le Marchant, Knt., Lieut-Col. in the army, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the island of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

THE STEAM SHIP GREAT BRITAIN.—A report from Mr. Brunel, the engineer, to the directors of the Great Western Steam-ship Company, on the subject of floating off the Great Britain, has just been published. After observing that he had found the Great Britain less damaged than he had expected, Mr. Brunel states that it is utterly impossible to complete the requisite means for floating her in less than three months. He proposes to launch and bring her to Liverpool or Bristol.

Captain Claxton, R. N. passed through Liverpool on his way to Dundrum Bay, with the intention, we understand, to remain there until the experiments shall have been tried for the floating of the Great Britain.

IRELAND.—In no former period of her history has this part of the United Kingdom exhibited such a miserable and alarming aspect as at the present time. Starvation of the most dire description stalks throughout the length and breadth of its provinces—disease and death are hurrying their victims from off the stage of time, and millions of a brave but misguided people know not how, and where, to brave the awful misery which haunts their noonday walks and midnight visions. So great and unparalleled is the amount of destitution now prevailing, that the efforts of Government to abridge and mitigate the sufferings of the distressed prove unequal to the emergency. Private benevolence starts back at the horrifying picture of misery which daily demands relief. In fact, in many instances the Irish cabins are little better than charnel houses, where the dead, uncared for, unburied, lie festering by the side of the dying. Day after day are the details of wretchedness and suffering laid before the public through the medium of the Irish journals. Liverpool has a practical proof of these statements. Her charitable finances have been swallowed up of late in awarding temporary relief to the innumerable number of Irish paupers who frequent the port. The accounts which have reached us since the sailing of the last packet, state that the labourers in the neighbourhood of Skibbereen are mowed down by famine, and those who are yet able to brave starvation look gloomily forward to the day not far distant, as they believe, when they will be found either on the fields or on mountains without the consolations of clergy or the comfort of friends." A magistrate of the county Cork has addressed a letter to the Duke of Wellington, which contains a dreadful catalogue of the familiar horrors of the time. We should save Ireland from starvation now, and by developing her numerous resources, governing her people with justice, and rendering them obedient to the laws and industrious in their dispositions, compel her to avoid a similar catastrophe hereafter.

We feel a pride and gratification in awarding to the Government of Ireland our humble meed of praise, for having at length complied with the earnest request and frequent remonstrances of the Irish landlord to afford facilities for reproductive works and the employment of the poor.

No reconciliation has yet taken place between the Old and Young Irelanders. Every effort made by Mr. O'Connell to bring the physical-force advocates to subjection fails.

THE FAMINE.—Increased alarm pervades many wide districts in the South and West. The people see the corn stacks daily diminishing in bulk, and, before many weeks supplies from distant parts must come, or hundreds will die of starvation.

Extract of a letter from the county of Galway:—What we want here is food, not soldiers. The fact is that one half of the population is starving, the frost has made things ten times worse. The public works have stopped, mills cannot grind, and if this frost continues a few days longer, I think they will begin helping themselves.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 7th Hussars and 70th Foot, stationed in the Athlone district have subscribed a day's pay for the relief of the Irish poor.

AWFUL DESTITUTION IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.—The account from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland are truly awful. The labouring population of Sutherlandshire, Rossshire, Invernesshire, Argyle-shire, and of the Hebrides and the Zetland Islands, are at this moment threatened with starvation in consequence of the total failure of the potato crop. Already have many of these poor people perished from cold and hunger, and, horrible as are the sufferings of the destitute Irish, we believe they are quite equalled by those of the poor inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Edinburgh Committee for the Relief of Destitution in the Highlands, have determined to appoint a deputation to proceed to London for the purpose of holding a public meeting, and laying the claims of the suffering population of the Highlands before the people of England.

THE WESTERN ISLANDS.—A population of fully 50,000 is bordering on starvation. The number of deaths from dysentery and cholera is increasing with fearful rapidity among the cottar class; and the small crofters are fast exhausting their small stores of corn.

The total amount of the free church collections in Scotland, for the relief of the distress in the highlands and islands, is £4.364 10s. 7½d.

The Government mills at Plymouth are employed night and day in grinding Indian corn for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

Great distress prevails among the silk weavers of Spitalfields for want of employment. A fund for their relief has been opened under the auspices of the clergy and influential inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Great misery exists in many parts of France.

The misery existing in Flanders is immense.—Not fewer than 13.000 persons emigrated last year for America from that province, and in the ensuing year the number will be still greater.

The Gazette of Tuesday, Dec. 22, contained a notice of the prorogation of Parliament from the 12th of January to Tuesday, the 19th of January, when it is to meet for the despatch of business.

It is said that Miss Susan Cushman, of America, the celebrated Juliet to her sister's Romeo, has found a real Romeo, in the person of a young gentleman of Liverpool, to whom she will be shortly united.

ARRIVAL OF THE 31ST REGIMENT FROM INDIA.—Sunday Dec. 6, witnessed the triumphal entry of this regiment into their head-quarters at Chatham. Preceded by the Marine band, and headed by their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Spence; they marched through the high streets of Rochester and Chatham, the band playing, "See the conquering hero comes," to the barracks, amidst cheers, greetings, and waving of handkerchiefs.

Lieut. Waghorn has stated that the Pope knows more about the condition of England than half the people who talk by the hour in the House of Commons.

More tea is annually consumed in Great Britain than by all the nations of the earth together, except the Chinese.

The cost of the overland route to India for first-class cabins will be reduced, at March next, to £127.

It is said that Government intend to shorten the term of the soldier's enlistment, to ten years.

The Pope has reduced the duty on the export and import of grain into the Roman dominions.

Mr. O'Connell is looking feeble, and is said to be fast assuming the characteristics of exteme old age.

The rite of *suttee* has been prohibited in the Rajpoot, state of Jeypore, by a unanimous vote of the Regency.

A pension of £100 a year has been offered by the Government to Father Matthew.

The suffering population in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland is estimated at 100,000.

The number of male adults convicted of crime in France was, in the last returns, as 23 in every 10,000.

DICKENS'S NEW CHRISTMAS BOOK.—The first impression of the "Battle of Life," consisting of 20,000 copies, was speedily subscribed for by the trade, and another 20,000 have been printed.

The Tagus steamer, on her last voyage from Lisbon, having run short of coals, had to sacrifice to the devouring element two tons of chesnuts, part of her cargo, to keep up the steam.

A piano has been made in London for the use of Tom Thumb, on a scale suited to the capabilities of the diminutive. hero.

It is reported that Mehemet Ali has manifested a desire to establish a railroad from Suez to Cairo.

It is generally understood that Lieutenant-General Sir William Gomm, Governor and Commander-in-Chief at the Mauritius, will succeed Lord Gough in the command of the army in India.

A circular is abroad, signed by Mrs. Cowden Clarke—to whom we are indebted for our "Concordance of Shakspere,"—calling upon the women of England to unite in a ladies' monument to that poet, on account of the honour which he has done to womanhood by his exquisite pourtrayal of the sex.

It is rumoured that there is to be an increase of the army, fifteen regiments it is said, or 12,000 men.

The Naval and Military Gazette announces that a decoration is to be conferred on the veterans of the war with the French.

On the 9th instant, Major Eames, of the 47th Regiment, shot himself at the Prince Albert Hotel, in London.

New Year's day at the Tuileries is always an event. The *corps diplomatique* assembled to congratulate the King, and the Pope's Nuncio was the speaker. The compliments were in the usual style of court phraseology; and, according to the addresses delivered by the representatives of the ambassadors, the King of the French is amongst the best of the earthly sovereigns. To avoid further umbrage to England, there was no allusion to the Montpensier marriage in the addresses of the Nuncio, or in the reply of the King.

In the Scinde army 143 of our young countrymen, in three regiments only, appear to have perished of cholera in a few days.

Very extensive importations of iron are at present taking place, especially from Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Gefle, the produce of Sweden.

It is a remarkable fact in the history of France that, since the time of Louis XIV., who succeeded his father, Louis XIII., there has not been a single instance of the crown descending directly from father to son.

The cholera was still raging at Tabreez, in Persia, at the end of October. It is said that from the 11th to the 27th of that month, 10.000 persons had died, and that the number of deaths daily, when the account left, was 200.

INDIA.—There is nothing of striking interest by the last overland mail.

CHINA.—The news from China is interesting. A conflict had taken place between the Chinese and Portuguese at Macao, in relation to fiscal and general regulations, in the course of which several of the Chinese "fast boats" had been burned and sunk. Order had been restored in consequence of the firmness of the Portuguese Governor.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, January 4.

The arrivals during the last month have been large from British America, consisting of 72 vessels, 38.698 tons, exceeding same month last year by 19,335 tons, and causing the aggregate of the year, since 1st February, to reach 228,867 tons, which, compared with the previous year, to same date, 231,423 tons, shows that it has nearly overtaken it, the largest import ever known; and, as some vessels destined for this port have still to arrive, will probably, before the period for making up stocks, fully equal if not surpass it; it must, however, be borne in mind that a portion of the tonnage has been occupied with railroad sleepers—a comparatively new feature in the trade, and quite exclusive of any other application, so that as regards the general stocks of Timber, an allowance should be made for such extra tonnage. The sales of the month have been very difficult and at constantly declining rates, for the certainty of a very large stock here, joined to that of an unprecedented wintering stock at Quebec—(the stock of White Pine being three times greater than that of last year)—the timber merchants have been disinclined to take their usual supply, and very many cargoes have been yarded, buyers being only induced to come forward by great concessions on the part of the importers. Taking to account the local difficulties of storing, (almost peculiar to this place,) we think it probable that these concessions will be found to have been well judged, for this year has shown the power of the tonnage employed in the Timber trade, at almost any period of the year, however late, of pouring in a supply to this market, so that no safe calculation can be founded on the supposition that high spring freights will abate the aggregate annual supply; and while a stock here equal to many months' consumption will stand over, no fair prospect of an advance in price presents itself, likely to remunerate the importer for yarding and holding over.

The import since 1st February, compared with last year, is—

From 1st February to 31st December, 1846:—Quebec, 147 vessels, 96,928 tons; St. John, &c., 276 vessels, 131,939 tons; Baltic, 135 vessels, 32,702 tons.

From 1st February to 31st December, 1845:—Quebec, 214 vessels, 125,636 tons; St. John, &c., 249 vessels, 105,701 tons; Baltic, 107 vessels, 32,202 tons.

AMERICAN PINE TIMBER.—Of St. John, one cargo of 19½ inches average was sold at 18d, two of 19½ inches at 17¾d, one of 18½ inches at 17½d, one of 18½ inches at 16¾d, and one of 17¾ inches at 16½d per foot.

RED PINE.—A parcel of poor quality St. John was sold at 15½d per foot.

BIRCH.—St. John, with cargo, has been sold at 16d. Apart, St. John of good quality has been sold at 19d per foot.

NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA FIR PLANKS AND BOARDS.—St. John, with cargo, have been sold at 2d to 2¼d, and a part in lots at 2¼d to 2¾d per foot; one cargo was sold by auction at 2¾d to 2⅞d per foot of 2 inches, and boards at 1½d to 1d 5-16ths per foot of inch; one cargo by private at 2½d, and one, poor quality, at 2¼d per foot.

RAILWAY SLEEPERS.—A parcel of St. John double at 8s. 3d, and two parcels of St. John, irregular sizes, at 3s 7d each.

STAVES.—St. John Ash hhd. have been sold at £5 10s per M.

LATHWOOD has been sold, with cargo, at 30s to 40s per fathom, and a part at £4 to £4 10s per fathom.

HALIFAX, January 23.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.—At about noon yesterday, it was announced that the Steamer from England, after a long and stormy passage, had arrived, and had borne to our shores Lord Elgin and his suite. His Lordship was received on the wharf with military honors, and duly escorted to Government House.

The necessary previous arrangements having been made, at 4 o'clock, the Members of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Assembly, directed their steps towards Government House, to address the noble Representative of Majesty. The assemblage was really a pleasing sight. There stood His Excellency Sir John Harvey, with the Right Honorable Governor General on his right hand. On one side were ranged the members of the Legislative Council, on the other, the military and governmental Staff, and in the centre, "Her Majesty's faithful Commons." Assuredly the scene was no disgrace to our country. The Speaker, Chaplains, and Clerks, full robed, added to its interest. But of course the grand attraction was his Lordship the Governor General. His Lordship, we may as well say in passing, is a middle sized, dignified personage, probably some five feet seven in height, rather inclined to corpulency, apparently under 40 years of age, and getting considerably grey. His countenance bespeaks with intelligence and firmness, and he evidently enjoyed the scene to which he had been suddenly and unexpectedly introduced.

The Addresses of the Legislative Council, and House of Assembly, to the Governor General, congratulating him on his safe arrival in British America, &c., were read by the Hon. Mr. Robie, and the Speaker of the Assembly.

His Lordship having heard the Addresses with considerable attention, drew from his pocket, and read his reply to them both in one document. His manner is very easy and free, his voice melodious, and his tones eloquent. His reply to the portion of the Assembly's Address touching the late Earl Durham, was very pathetically and emphatically pronounced.

Having finished his official reply, his Lordship delivered a short address extempore; saying that he had not been at all prepared for the very kind manner in which he had been received on these shores, and that he really had not had time to obtain copies of his Address for the two bodies to whom he spoke, to whom they should be forwarded as soon as possible. He added that he had intended to say here a few days, and to have proceeded to Montreal by way of New-Brunswick, but the long and rough voyage, and the state of the roads, had led him to determine to take the most direct route. He hoped, however, that the intercourse now so happily commenced, would be continued and perpetuated.

Each Member of the two bodies having been introduced to his Lordship, after a short conversation between him and the Honorable Speaker, the pleasing interview was brought to a close.—[Acadian Recorder.

UNION-STREET CHURCH.—The Annual TEA MEETING in aid of the Building Fund of this place of Worship, was held, agreeably to notice, last Wednesday evening. The Meeting presented a very animated appearance. More than four hundred persons, connected with various religious denominations, were present, and all seemed much gratified with the arrangements and proceedings of the evening. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. C. Gallaway, A. M., who stated that the entire debt on the premises had been reduced, without resorting to the plan of selling any of the Pews, from £3,500 to £1,500. Mr. G. feelingly alluded to the altered circumstances in which he found himself placed on that occasion, compared with his position about three years ago, when he entered the City, a perfect stranger to all in that Meeting. He expressed his sincere thankfulness for the kindness which he had received, not merely from his own Congregation, but from Ministers and Members of other Churches in the City.

The Meeting was then respectively and efficiently addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Daniel, Lawson, Rice, Robinson, Sutcliffe, Wishart, and Stavely, and Mr. Duval.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of this Province are to assemble at Fredericton, for the dispatch of business, on Thursday next, 28th instant. An interesting and important Session is anticipated.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—We understand that a communication has been received by the Chamber of Commerce of this City, from the Directors of the Company recently formed at Quebec for the purpose of establishing a Telegraphic line between that City and Halifax, and that a Deputation from the Company may be shortly expected to arrive here.—We think this a matter of great importance and well worthy the attention not only of the commercial community, but also of the Provincial Legislature.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia was opened on Thursday last. The speech of his Excellency Sir John Harvey is called a "non-committal" one.—There is nothing in it regarding the union of the Provinces.

The thermometer on Friday morning last, in this city, stood at 16 to 17 degrees below zero—the coldest weather experienced here this winter. At Fredericton, several days last week, the thermometer ranged from 23 to 25 degrees below zero.

Capital Punishment.—Calvin Russ, convicted of the murder of his wife, in New York, has been sentenced by Judge Edmonds, to be hung in that city, on the 12th day of March next.

The largest Painting in the World.—There is now exhibiting in Boston, a panoramic View of the Mississippi River, painted on *three miles* of canvas, exhibiting a view of country and scenery, 1200 miles in length, extending from the mouth of the Missouri river to New Orleans.

The Earl of Elgin's personal Staff is composed of the following officers:—Lt. Col. the Hon. R. Bruce, Military Secretary, and Principal A. D. C.; Lord Mark Kerr, 20th Foot, A. D. C.; Lord A. G. Russell, Rifle Brigade, ditto; Extra ditto, not yet appointed.

Staff of Lt. General Sir B. D'Urban, the new Commander-in-chief of the Forces in Canada, &c. —Major Talbot, 43d Light Inf., A. D. C.; Capt. Kirkland, Military Secretary.

QUICK.—A telegraphic communication from Buffalo to Pittsburgh, via New York and Philadelphia, was had, and an answer received, including all detentions, in two hours. Distance 900 miles.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The General Annual Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Commercial Bank Parlour on Thursday, 21st January, 1847, pursuant to public notice—The Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Report, as adopted by the Committee at their meeting this day—also the account of the state of the funds of the Chamber, showing the subscriptions, this year, to be £49 10s., and balance in the Bank of British North America £48 19s. 2d. to credit of the Chamber.

On motion of T. L. Nicholson, Esquire, seconded by Mr. R. Jardine—

Resolved, that the Report now read be accepted and published with copies of the Petitions alluded to in the Report.

The Members having proceeded to ballot for a Committee for 1847, the following Gentlemen were found to have a majority of votes—

John Robertson, John V. Thurgar, A. Smithers, R. Jardine, Edward Allison, John Wishart, Thos. Daniel, John Duncan, E. L. Jarvis, William Parks, Wm. H. Street, W. H. Scoyil, and John Pollok, Esquires. *Adjourned.*

JOHN ROBERTSON, *Chairman.*

I. WOODWARD, *Sec'y.*

At a subsequent meeting of the Committee on Monday, the Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON was elected Chairman, JOHN DUNCAN and J. V. THURGAR, Esquires, Vice Chairmen, and Mr. R. JARDINE, Secreary and Treasurer.

REPORT.

The time having arrived at which it becomes the duty of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to make a Report, and submit to a General Meeting the subjects that have come under their notice, and such action as may have been laid on matters connected with the Trade and Commerce of the Province; they respectfully submit the following Report:—

At an early part of the past season, the subject of the contemplated Sailors' Home for this Port was brought under notice, discussed, and a Committee appointed to make enquiry and report to the Board their views as to the best mode to be adopted for the accomplishment of this most desirable and benevolent object. At the suggestion of the Committee, a petition was prepared and presented to the Legislature, at the last session, soliciting aid in furtherance of the object, on which a Grant of £500 was made from the *Sick and Disabled Seamen's Fund*, in aid of individual subscription, for this purpose. It was too late in the season, before Commissioners were appointed by the Executive, under the Grant, to commence any building operations. A subscription list in aid of the purpose is now in course of signature; and, from the sums already put down, it is confidently expected that a large amount will be obtained. It is thought desirable to petition the Legislature for a further grant, and also for an Act of Incorporation, which last, they think, will be required for the purpose of the better management of the Institution, from which, when in successful operation, your Committee anticipate the most beneficial results to the Sailor, and to the community at large.

The conveyance of the Mails arriving at Halifax by the Steamers from England, to this Province, has, as last year, had the serious attention of the Committee. The Legislative Grant of the last session, of £200, together with £100, collected from private subscription, has only been sufficient to provide for bringing the Mails by express for seven months, or from the 20th April to the 17th November last.

Without in the least intending to blame any officer in the Post Office Department, they cannot resist the belief that by some more judicious arrangement the amount alluded to would have provided for the transport of the Mails for a longer period. Since the expenditure of the amount put at the disposal of the Post Office for the aforesaid purpose, the Mails have to remain at Halifax, until the departure of the regular Mails, by which at times a period of seven days elapses from the time of their arrival at Halifax until the letters are delivered in this city.—It is most fervently to be hoped that the Legislature will take up this important subject, and provide a remedy for this most serious inconvenience to the community at large; and they would strongly urge upon their successors in office to persevere in bringing this grievance before the proper authorities, until the evil is remedied.

The subject of a well-regulated News-Room and Merchants' Exchange, has has the attention of the Committee, and early in the year negotiations were began with Mr. Chubb for the purpose of providing them; but when the arrangements were nearly completed, circumstances intervened over which neither party had control, and prevented the carrying of them into full operation. The Committee having fixed certain preliminaries, feel confident that their successors will be able to accomplish and complete these desirable objects at an early period.

At a Port like that of St. John, to which so great a number of vessels resort,—as well those belonging to other parts of the empire, as the tonnage owned here,—it becomes a matter of sound policy, to have the Port charges and other burthens bear with as little pressure as possible, thereby to encourage the trade, rather than, by an opposite course, drive vessels to seek other ports in preference to this for freights.—Among many of the evils to which vessels are subject, is the inducement for the sailors to desert, for the purpose of obtaining higher wages, caused by the demand for them to man the many new vessels annually built here.—In the opinion of the Committee, this would be in a degree remedied, if the owners of vessels belonging to this Port would agree to discharge their crews on their arrival here: this would leave the men at liberty—and not as at present, in the power of the boarding-house keepers,—and they would come out and be freely in the market for those who require their services. Yet this difficulty can only be partially remedied, until the owners of new ships are required by Legislative enactment to procure from other ports a large proportion of the crews required for them; for which the Committee recommend application be made to the Legislature.—A Stipendiary Magistrate, with a salary sufficient, before whom all cases of complaint by sailors might be heard and disposed of without expense, would be most desirable, to prevent the suspicion which now exists, that injustice is frequently done to the captains and owners of vessels, by decisions in cases manifestly unjust, and from which there is no appeal, and by which the sailor is seldom benefited.

As regards also the Light Dues, it is a matter of question whether this is a charge that should, either as a matter of right or policy, be altogether borne by a direct Tax on Tonnage, as at present, and whether the commerce and trade of the country has not a right to a participation in the general Revenue, in keeping the highways for ships lighted, as well as that the agricultural and other interests have their roads and bridges, and other advantages, paid for from that source.—Surely it cannot be denied that the former contributes, in a great degree, to the general prosperity, and in particular to the agricultural interests. Under this view of the subject, they have prepared a Petition to the Legislature, praying for enquiry into the matter, and to adopt such measures as may to them appear most beneficial to the general welfare.

Recent circumstances have pressed upon the attention of the Committee the necessity of Buoys and Beacons being placed at certain points at the entrance and along the channel leading into this Harbour. On this subject they have prepared a petition to the Common Council, praying that, as conservators of the Harbour, they should attend to this important matter, as well as to other necessary improvements for the accommodation of shipping, the more especially *as a large amount of money is annually collected from the vessels arriving here, avowedly for the purpose of improving the Harbour.*

The Legislature being about to meet for the despatch of business, any communication that the general meeting may think necessary to be made to that body, can be stated to the Committee to be appointed, who will have sufficient time to prepare and forward any measures they may be requested to attend to;—such being the case, this Committee have refrained from touching on the subject of Duties or any other matters than these before adverted to.

The Magnetic Telegraph is an object of great importance; and the erection of a line in Canada appears to have been taken up in that Province with much spirit.—We would recommend that public attention should be called to it in this Province, in order that if it be practicable, it would be very desirable that a communication between the Lower Provinces and Canada should be had, in preference to a communication between Canada and the Atlantic, through the United States.

The Committee have much pleasure in congratulating the public on the highly satisfactory state of the Trade for the past year, and they sincerely trust that nothing may arise to mar the anticipation of its continuation for years to come.

JOHN ROBERTSON, *President.*

I. WOODWARD, *Secretary.*

PETITIONS.

To His Excellency Sir W M. G. COLEBROOKE, K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c.

To the Honorable the Legislative Council;

To the Honorable the House of Assembly, in General Assembly convened.

The Petition of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE of the City of Saint John,—

Respectfully Sheweth—

That your Petitioners, deeply impressed with the expediency of removing as much as possible all taxes and burthens that bear upon the general commerce of the Province, with the view of encouraging and facilitating that source of the general prosperity, beg leave to bring under the consideration of Your Excellency and Honors, the heavy charges now paid by Ships and Vessels trading to this part of the Province, under the head of Light Dues.

Your Petitioners are fully convinced that the Trade and Commerce of the Province would be greatly benefited, by the removal of this duty, and that the Light House service should be supported from the General Revenues of the Province, on the principle that this interest has a right to participate in the appropriation of the Revenue, as well as others that are now provided for from that source—particularly as hitherto the whole expense and cost of erecting, maintaining, re-erecting and improving from time to time, the whole and entire Light House establishment, has been provided for by a direct tax on Tonnage, which, under the view of its being an unequal tax, and one that bears hard upon this branch of the general interest, they hope will be removed.

Your Petitioners therefore earnestly request that Your Excellency and Honors will take the premises into your favourable consideration, and grant such relief as the case requires. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray. St. John, N. B., January, 1847.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, in Common Council convened.

The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the said City, *respectfully sheweth*—

That the Committee of the Chamber have long felt the great danger to which small ships are exposed in making this harbour in boisterous weather when they cannot be boarded by a Pilot, from the want of the Channel being properly buoyed out, a melancholy proof of which occurred lately, accompanied by loss of life and property, which your Petitioners are of the opinion would have been avoided had there been a Buoy on the Foul Ground.

In such cases Ships bound in must either run the risk of being wrecked on the coast by keeping out, or else attempt to run into the Harbour without a Pilot, which cannot at present be done by Masters of Vessels not acquainted, without incurring the most imminent danger, but which might be materially lessened in the day time, if the Channel was properly buoyed out.

Your Petitioners respectfully beg leave to bring to the notice of your Worshipful Body, that you are Conservators of the Harbour, and as such are authorised, and have, and do levy a Tax on all Vessels arriving at this Port, as Anchorage, amounting every year to a large sum, for the benefit and improvement thereof, which is not appropriated for that purpose.

Your Petitioners therefore respectfully request that Your Worshipful Body will be pleased to make enquiry into this matter, in order that some remedy may be applied whereby life and property under such circumstances may be rendered more safe than at present. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray. By order of the Board.

St. John, N. B., January 16, 1847.

PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last contains a comparative statement of the Revenue for the quarter ending 31st December, 1846, and the same period of 1845, and also for the two last years. For the quarter ending 31st Dec. 1846, the total amount collected was £33,992 14s. 11d.; for the quarter ending 31st December, 1845, it was £33,516 8s. 3d.—The revenue of last year shews a falling off of £416 2s. 11d as compared with that of 1845—the total amounts being, in 1846, £127,336 18s. 10½d. and in 1845, £127,753 1s. 9½d.

SURGERY.—AN operation for partial removal of the hand, was successfully performed yesterday, by David Miller, Esq. Surgeon, of this city. The patient, previous to operation, was placed under the influence of Morton's Letheon, administered by Dr. S. Adams, from the United States. The effect of the Letheon in mitigating the sufferings of the patient were marked, and quite satisfactory to several professional and other gentlemen present on the occasion.—*Courier.*

MELANCHOLY.—We regret to learn that a man named James Johnston, formerly a resident of this city, was found frozen to death on Mondoy week, at Petersville, County of Queen's. It appears that he left his residence on Sunday morning, the 17th inst., to attend Divine Worship; after which, he was present at a funeral; and on the same evening, about 9 o'clock, set out for his own home, when he was found the next morning as above stated. Mr. J. was an honest, industrious man, and has left a father, mother and three sisters, to lament his melancholy death, of whom he was their only support.—*New Bruns.*

LATE LORD METCALFE.—A meeting was held at Montreal on the 28th of December, to consider the propriety of erecting a Monument, to testify the gratitude which so many feel, for the benefits conferred on the Province by the late lamented Governor, Lord Metcalfe. A Committee was appointed to prepare Resolutions to carry out the object of the meeting.

High Water at Otaheite.—At the Island of Otaheite, it is high water precisely at noon and at midnight all the year round.

MEETING OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

On Thursday evening last, the Anniversary Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society was held according to appointment, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute. The Lecture Room was crowded by a highly respectable audience, who appeared much engaged in the interesting proceedings.

We have been favored with the following sketch of the opening address of the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, by a professional gentleman, who took short hand notes of the whole proceedings at the meeting. The reporter, however, requests us to state, that his report is necessarily imperfect, as he was not only suddenly and unexpectedly called upon (after entering the Hall, and by special request of influential parties on the platform,) to take notes of the proceedings; but the very brief time before publication and the pressure of other avocations wholly precluded a full transcript of his notes. —*Courier.*

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Fredericton having taken the chair, his Lordship, in opening the business of the evening, congratulated the meeting on so numerous and respectable an assemblage, for the purpose of countenancing and supporting the objects and operations of the Society of which they were members, viz: *The Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick.* The great advantages of such a society must be apparent to all; the superiority of its objects, and of the pleasures to be derived from promoting those objects, to all others of a mere worldly nature, were obvious and undeniable. The gratifications to be derived from the production or possession of mere works of art or human skill, were but temporary in their duration, and must ever be confined to comparatively few persons; pictures and statues, and costly furniture and buildings, and all other such objects of mortal enjoyment, endured but for a time, and afforded pleasure to a very limited number of human beings; but this society embraced all classes of men, and all objects of the highest and most permanent importance; and although the individual efforts of Christians in promoting those objects might be small and trifling in themselves, yet the effects of such efforts had lasted and would last to the end of the world. The lasting character, therefore, of the objects of such a society, was an inducement for supporting and extending its means of utility. Again, such efforts stimulated and encouraged others—promoted christian benevolence and activity—extended the spirit of christian charity and union, and thus possessed a principle of self-increase. The giving towards building a Church, or to any other mode of spreading religious privileges, encouraged others to follow the good example;—it strengthened the hands and hearts of all interested in the project: it promoted active industry in the cause; it excited generous and pious emulation; and thus Christian charity multiplied itself. The carrying out of such an object; the erection of a church where none before existed, might be the means of diffusing comfort and happiness throughout thousands of hearts, which otherwise, perhaps, would never have known those blessings.—Another point of contrast was to be observed: all our works of mere worldly design and intent, had in themselves a principle of self-destruction and oblivion; but all works of charity and piety contained in themselves a principle of perpetuity and enduring good. At one time, in ancient days, the wealth and labour of a whole nation were devoted to the rearing of an immense and magnificent temple; at another time, thousands of the human race were employed for a long succession of years, in rearing stupendous sepulchres for the remains of those tyrannical monarchs. But what had become of those vast and gorgeous buildings? Of some of them, only heaps of rubbish remained, and their sites were now but the lair of the robber and the wild beast; while others still reared their gigantic heads to the skies, only to point out the vanity and folly of those who erected them: But works of Christian charity continually increased and extended their influence and effect; they embraced in their operations the whole human race, through all ages, and endured for all time. This was no colored nor exaggerated view of the matter; but was the reasonable evidence of truth and experience; and its correctness might hereafter be proved by the operations of this society. Hitherto the church in this Province had principally depended on the benevolent efforts of churchmen in the Mother country; but the time might come ere long when this colony might pay back a portion of its debt to the mother country, by assisting in diffusing the blessings of christianity in other and more distant and newer colonies. The funds raised by churchmen in this Province, might, in process of time, be partially devoted to the general promotion of the interests of the church and of religion throughout the world; and who could tell, but that hereafter, the missionary efforts and labours promoted by means of contributions from this Province of New Brunswick, might take good root and flourish, and become an everlasting benefit to the souls of many, in other and more distant regions of the British Empire; and thus would this Province discharge a portion of its debt to the mother country, by contributing religious assistance to other portions of its widely-extended population.—But charity had alas a higher object connected with it. Hitherto he had been