From Papers received by the English Mail.

O'CONNELL AND DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—The flagrancy of the proceedings in Ireland, in collecting money for O'Connell at a season like the present, has struck with astonishment, even his ardent admirer, the *Paris Presse*. +In speaking of the O'Connell tribute that paper says—"It appears that the amount collected this year exceeds that of the past. It is inconceivable how a man who has a private income which would enable him to live in a princely manner, can have the heart to receive every year a sum of 500,000f. or 600.000f., extracted sous by sous from the wretched earnings of the poor, who cannot every day procure a meal of victuals. The population which pays this tribute is one of the most wretched in Europe, scarcely ever tasting either bread or meat, and living in dens rather than houses. Thousands of families would consider themselves fortunate if they were treated half so well as the hounds kept by Mr. O'Connell at his manor of Derrynane abbey. But at the present time the collection of this tribute has something particularly revolting in it. Ireland is threatened by, or rather is actually suffering from, scarcity. The potato crop, the common food of the lower orders, has in many districts completely failed; and it is at such a moment as this that Mr. O'Connell, who lacks no luxury, permits the agents of 'the association' to plunder those wretched creatures for the purpose of swelling his civil list. How can he expect that his adversaries should place any faith in his sincerity, and allow themselves to be gulled, when he deplores in eloquent terms the sad situation of his country? Had O'Connell, whan the Protestants, forgetting their religious prejudices, came forward and subscribed large sums for the relief of the suffering poor, renounced the rent which he has hitherto received, he would have acted a noble part, and would by so doing have proved to the most incredulous that his sympathy for his countrymen was capable of influencing him to make real and substantial sacrifices. To harangue for hours together in Conciliation-hall is an excellent thing, no doubt, but the Irish people require something more substantial at the present moment than his eloquence."

Lord Primate Beresford has declared his intention of bestowing £1,000 bn each of the three provincial colleges, towards the foundation of divinity schools for students of the Established Church.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—The movement of the Bank of England, for the week ending on the 15th instant, presents the following results, compared with the week ending on the 8th instant:—In the issue department the notes had decreased £927,680 which had been produced by the abstraction of £191,352. in gold coin or gold bullion, and £36 328 in silver bullion. On the debit side of the banking department the *rest* had increased £10,138; the public deposits had increased £1.184.103; the private or other deposits had decreased £235,113; and the 7-day and other bills had decreased £31,971; making the total liabilities £33.323.046. On the credit side the government securities had remained the same; the other securities had increased £806,959; the notes had increased £45,380; and the gold and silver coin had increased £74 819, which equalized the account. The bullion in both departments of the bank had decreased from £13.722.948 to £13,570,086, being a difference of £162,862. The paper in actual circulation, including the seven day and other bills was £23.592 934 against £22.897,955 being a decrease of £305,031. The directors of the Bank of England gave no further notice of a change in the rate of discount at their usual weekly meeting on Thursday. The practical principle the bank is acting upon is, except in special cases, to restrict their discounts to paper arriving at maturity on or before the 8th of January, and loans made are generally within the same limits as to time. In the meanwhile there is far from being a scarcity of money in the market, but there is a very general repugnance amongst the bankers to lock it up for any lengthened period. Money is to be had in abundance by the discount houses, returnable on call, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, whilst long da- paper has been in many instances refused dis- even at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

. Carter, the lion king, has become possessed enormous Northampton horse, which he is exhibiting. The animal is 20 hands high, 2,500 lbs. and is altogether a most distinguished brute, for his symmetry and beautiful condition.

Royal pleasures are very costly things. It appears from a recent case before the law courts, that not less than £320 were paid by Louis Philippe for one night's performance of the Vaudeville company during Queen Victoria's visit to the Chateau d'Eu.

A Constantinople letter in the *Augsburg Gazette*, states that the Porte has agreed to give an indemnity of 70.000 piastres to France for the pillage of two convents, during the late insurrection in Syra, and and also an indemnity for the expenses of the French, who were compelled to quit the Lebanon by the order of Chekib Effendi.

HUMAN V. HORSE POWER.—Considerable sensation was created last week in the neighbourhood of Airdrie, by the appearance of a large carriage drawn by no less than three hundred men. In front of the carriage a person was stationed, who seemed to direct this mighty Juggernaut and on its near approach it was found to contain an anvil block, weighing seventeen tons, which was on its way from Monkland Ironworks to Gartness Ironworks, for one of Naysmith's steam-hammers, about to be erected there. The carriage weighed three tons, making twenty tons in all; and as it had to be let down a steep and rather awkard road, it was found necessary to apply *intelligent* power for the purpose.—*Glasgow Courier.*

Not many days ago, a French nobleman, having brought the remains of some of his ancestors from a place in Belgium for re interment in the family vault, had the pain of seeing the coffins weighed, and, deduction made for the wood, their contents charged for as *old bones* at so much a pound, by the custom house authorities!

ENGLISH MANUFACTURE OF IRON.—The value of iron for manufacturing purposes is, it seems, considerably deteriorated by frequent changes in the mode of transport and exposure to the atmosphere: a proportionate oxidisation ensues, and when it reaches its destination, it is so much per cent. less valuable than if conveyed at once, and almost uncooled, from the furnace to the workshop or factory. What can be done with it in this condition is illustrated by the following remarkable fact:—*Thirty-one pounds of Shropshire iron* has been made into wire upwards of one hundred and eleven miles in length; and so fine was the fabric that part of it was humorously converted, in lieu of the usual horse hair, into a barrister's wig! In order to effect this extraordinary tenuity, the process consists of heating the iron and passing it through rollers of eight inches diameter, going at a rate of four hundred revolutions per minute, down to No. 4 on the wire gauge. It is afterwards drawn cold at Birmingham or else where down to the extent of 38 on the same gauge, and so completed to the surprising length of 111 miles.

Mr. Hearder, at a late lecture in Wales warned people to be cautious in the use of lucifer matches. If kept in warm places they were liable to take fire spontaneously; and if left about in the way of children instant death would follow from sucking them. Two children had been poisoned in Plymouth in this way; and each lucifer match contained poison enough to kill a man.

During the month of October, the vessels of different nations that passed the Sound, were 376 English, 53 Hanoverian, 113 Danish, 196 Swedish, 127 Norwegian, 274 Prussian, 78 Russian, 74 Dutch, 3 Hamburgh, 3 Bremen, 25 French, 9 Mecklenburgh, 13 Lubeck, 11 American, 12 Oldenburgh, and 2 Italian. No Belgian, Spanish, or Portuguese vessels passed during the above month.

Captain Smith, R.N., the originator of the "target-gun practice," and the inventor of those useful boats—"paddle box boats," has, we are told, submitted the model of another description of boat, very light and possessing great buoyancy, for the use of screw steamers. Each vessel he proposes to carry two. They have shifting thwarts, and ship in each other, one being rather smaller than the other, whereby they only occupy the room of one when stowed on deck.

Lord Morpeth has sent £5 to the Anti-Corn Law League at Leeds. Mr. Cobden says this is worth any £5,000 that has previously been sent; and he predicts that the adhesion of his lordship to the cause of free trade will strike terror into the hearts of the ministry and the Corn-Law monopolists.

The *Univers* states that some masons in demolishing a house in the Rue St. Nicholas d'Antil discovered nine human skeletons. It was the opinion of the professional men who have inspected those remains, that the remotest crime (for the skeletons were those of murdered persons, no doubt) must have been committed 15 years since, and the most recent 15 months ago.

A report has been for some days current of an intention on the part of her Majesty's government, not to rely so fully as it has hitherto done upon the Chelsea pensioners in case of any occasion for their services, but to call out the militia for a short period of training. It is said that the expediency of forming a better school of recruits for the army will be put forward as the ground for this measure.

The *Gazette de Magdeburg* states that a person at Berlin has discovered so perfect a method of imitating writings of all descriptions, including bank notes, that it is quite impossible to distinguish the copies from the originals, and adds that the invention has been exhibited in presence of the King of Prussia and his ministers, who were so much astonished and alarmed at the result, that they are in treaty to buy the secret.

The Emperor of Russia has sent in a claim for the Oregon territory, and has just given notice to all American vessels not to frequent any of the creeks, bays, and harbours north of the latitude of 54 degrees 40 minutes.

An official notice has been published in France, stating that a great quantity of ornaments and other articles, gilt by the galvanic process, have been sold for pure gold. They are made in Paris in such perfection as to deceive even the most experienced eye.

Mr. Bass, the brewer of Burton-on-Trent, has written a letter to the *Globe*, in which he states that he has stopped the rot in potatoes by merely cutting them in two, and thus allowing the surplus moisture, which is the chief cause of the evil, to escape.

A letter from Berlin, of the 8th inst., in the *German Universal Gazette*, states that all the Protestant princes of Germany have resolved in their quality of chiefs of that religion to convoke deputies to deliberate on the affairs of the Protestant church.

The British government have determined to establish a naval and military station on the island of Borneo.

Lady Holland left Lord John Russell an annuity of £2000 as an expression of her ladyship's esteem.

Two gentlemen have paid £100 a-piece, rather than fill the office of Mayor of Stockton during the ensuing year.

During recent violent tempests off the coast of Norway, eleven pilots have lost their lives in attempting to board vessels in want of their aid.

The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, and the officers of the Russian men-of-war, are highly popular at Plymouth and Devonport.

The military authorities at the Horse Guards have determined to raise the battalions of the Royal Regiment of Artillery one company each.

The wire gauze ventilator, introduced by Commander Denham for the ventilation of the Avon, engaged on perilous duties in surveying the Coasts of Africa, has attracted the attention of some of the large Railway proprietors, and the windows of the first class carriages on several of the lines have been fitted with wire gauze to exclude the dust and smoke emanating from the engines. The introduction of wire gauze in Railway carriages will not only prevent the annoyance of smoke and dust, but we feel convinced it will, if applied to all classes of carriages, do more to prevent travellers being attacked with colds, tending to bring on consumption, than any other plan ever submitted for public approbation, and we trust it will be universally adopted.

According to news received from Iceland to the 12th of October, the eruption of Mount Hecla still continued with the same violence; the lava ran from the south west crater without intermission, and had already covered a space of three miles, and heaped up a mass in a plain at the foot of the mountain 30 to 40 cubits in height. This river of lava presented on a clear night a spectacle at once magnificent and imposing.

EARTHQUAKE IN SMYRNA.

On the 15th of October the city of Smyrna was visited at about 5 30 a.m., which was repeated more violently at 11 20 a.m. A third shock took place a little while after, and some other slight ones in the course of the day. On the 16th some slight motions were felt, and at 10 40 p.m. another severe shock was felt, but this was nothing in comparison to the sad accounts received from Mitylene, where the earthquake occasioned much damage, and threw all the population into great consternation.

MITYLENE, Oct. 15.—On the 6th at daybreak, two slight shocks of an earthquake were felt in succession; shocks, more or less weak, continued all that day and the following. On the 11th at 1 p. m. a strong shock was felt; at two, a second, stronger, followed by a third very violent. These threw all the city into consternation. The inhabitants ran in crowds to the marina, their hands stretched out to Heaven in the attitude of prayer, in such a state of fear as is difficult to describe. It was expected the city would fall to the earth, and in fact if the second shock, which was a short one, had only lasted ten seconds longer, Mitylene would at this very hour have been a mass of awful ruins. We passed the remainder of the day and night of the 11th and 12th in a state of mental anxiety.—the shocks were repeated every half hour. During the 12th we felt four slight shocks. On the night of the 12th and 13th, five shocks, the last of them so strong as to shake the bed. On the 13th we were free from them until two p.m., when we felt two slight shocks. On the night of the 13th and 14th there were five shocks. The 15th was quiet, but in the night we felt continued shocks. It is to be remarked that the rain had not ceased since 9 a.m. on the 13th.—Fear was at its height. The shops were shut, prayers were offered up in the churches, and in the mosques. The following is what we have been able to ascertain respecting the damage done. In the city, a house divided asunder, and several others less important half ruined. The house of the English consul very much damaged. Two great walls of a coffee house removed from the rest of the building. In the village of Ploumari eight houses have been overthrown. 40 are much damaged and the church split. At Vibari several houses and half of the church in ruins. Two men and a woman perished. Of the seventy or eighty houses which compose the village of Liskoli, only two remain. It is said that in Koli and Parakilla the damage done is considerable. At the moment of writing the shocks are again felt. To give you an idea of the force of the principal one of the 11th, I only tell you that in the square of the arsenal there stood two enormous trees, which are wholly thrown down, and their branches broken and torn from the trunk. The spring of mineral water, which for some weeks had been dry, has again given water in a greater quantity than formerly. The water exhales a fetid smell of sulphur which is felt all around.

SMYRNA, Oct. 24.—Letters from Mitylene of the 22d mention that the earthquakes have not entirely ceased, but that they are much weaker. On the 18th we had a heavy rain, which lasted a long time. The streets were two feet deep in water. Many damaged houses fell down. A thunderbolt grievously wounded a woman.

HORRIBLE ATROCITIES.—A letter in the *Morning Herald*, dated Athens, Oct. 20, says:—Within the last ten days atrocities have been perpetrated which will scarcely obtain belief in civilized Europe. At Tchourke, a village about ten miles distant from Athens, some brigands seized an old shepherd, stripped him, and lashed him to a wooden spit, which they had placed on two wooden forks driven into the ground before a large fire. They turned him round on the spit, roasting him alive, for the purpose of forcing him to tell where he had hidden some money, of which they believed him to be possessed. After a few turns, unable to support the agony, the old man told them that at the foot of a tree he pointed out they would find all the money he had saved buried. They dug, and found a bag containing fifty dollars. They then returned to their victim, accused him of having deceived them, insisted that he must have more money, and notwithstanding his prayers for mercy, and protestation that he had resigned to them the savings of his whole life, they barbarously replaced him before the fire and roasted him to death. His boy was witness of the whole horrible scene, but the barbarians have no fear of the law. This fearful scene has been already surpassed in horror by another that has occurred at the village of Kakapalissa, near Thebes. About six months ago the murderer of an inhabitant of that village had been denounced by the villagers and were imprisoned at Athens, but obtained their liberation without trial through the influence of Grivas, whose protection they had found no difficulty in procuring. Thirsting for revenge, and resolved to deter all others from appeal to the laws, they bent their way to the village, and seized upon four persons who had given evidence against them, bound them to wooden spits, and roasted them at a large fire, till they believed life was extinct. One of the unhappy victims died at the fire, another soon after he was removed by his friends, two others, who were still breathing and able to make a statement of the atrocious treatment they had endured, and to denounce the criminals are still lingering in torments, but are not expected to live.—Not many days since a company of merchants, who were proceeding to Patras to make purchases of merchandize, were beset by brigands, in a pass between Kravin and Lepanto, and before they were aware of their danger three of them were killed. The survivors however, immediately stood upon their defence, and having shot one of the robbers, the others fled. Sacrilege is now added to their other crimes. The day before yesterday reports were received here of the attack and plunder of a monastery in the Phthistide, and the murder of the abbot; at the same time intelligence arrived of another murder, accompanied by circumstances of most atrocious cruelty, near Livardia. All minds are agitated by terror, while there is a universal feeling of indignation against the government which takes no measures to repress these enormities.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

We can state as a fact, that a naval officer, high in command, has been privately engaged in taking measurements of the large steamers under mail contract service with her Majesty's government, and with orders to report immediately to the Admiralty on the capabilities for carrying guns of the largest calibre.

The large steamers, forming the fleet of the West India Royal Mail Company; also the vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Company; together with the Great Britain, and Great Western, are said to have been quietly but *officially* inspected. A naval officer, well acquainted with the coast of America, has been summoned to London, to give information to the Admiralty.

Such a combined force as these numerous and powerful ships would form, independent of the regular steamers of war, would be one of the strongest ever seen on the ocean. The West India Company's ships alone are 12 in number, and of about 1,200 tons burthen each.

The following second class steam sloops are ordered to be got ready with all despatch. Alecto, commissioned by Commander Austen; Phœnix, 206 horse power, fitted with a screw,—quite ready; Scourge, mortar-steamer, having an additional magazine fitting for the use of the 56 pounder gun—she will be completed in a week or two; Mede, Geyser, Ardent, Devastator, and Growler, all under repair, and, with one or two exceptions, in a forward state; and, lastly, there are several small iron steamers nearly ready for launching.

The Cumberland, 70, in dock at Chatham, fitting for an advanced ship, is expected to be completed this month, and Raleigh, 50, frigate, also fitting at Chatham for an advanced ship, will be completed next month.

The Meander, 44, and Calypso, 20, have been for some time ready at Chatham for the pendant, but are not yet commissioned.

The President, 50, Capt. Stanley, flag of Rear-Admiral Dacres, sailed on Sunday morning from Spithead, to take the command of the Cape of Good Hope station, vice the Winchester, 50, Admiral Percy whose period of service has expired.

The Grampus 50 guns, Capt. H. B. Martin, C. B., is fast progressing towards being ready for sea, and is expected to sail when completed for South America.

The Electra, 18, Snake, 16, and Ferret 10, are ordered for immediate commissioning at Sheerness. The Caryefort, 26, and Harlequin, 16, are getting ready at Portsmouth; and the Ringdove, 16, and the Rapid, 10, are ordered to be held in readiness to hoist the pendant at Devonport.

The following vessels have been ordered to be commissioned immediately, the under mentioned commanders having been appointed to them:—The Nimrod, 18, sloop at Devonport, commander James Richards Dacres; the Scourge, bomb steam sloop, at Portsmouth, commander James Crawford Caffin; the Lizard, one of the six new iron contract built steam vessels at Woolwich, Lieut. Edwd. H. Beauchamp, Proctor.

There is a strong report prevalent at the West end, and in military circles, says a contemporary, that the army is to be increased by twenty thousand men; ten thousand to form second battalions.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse Guards, 20th November 1845.

The commander-in-chief having considered it his duty to order a court of inquiry to assemble, in order to inquire into the transaction which occured in the 4th Dragoons on the 28th September last, desires that the Report of the court may be published in the General Order of the Army.

He intrests the commanding officers under their command, respectively, to the evil consequences resulting from the practice of gymnastic exercises after the Mess Dinner.

The Mess Dinner of the Officers of a Regiment cannot be deemed a private convivial meeting, considering the interest which has been manifested by the public authorities in promoting its comfort and respectability, and considering that it is not unusually attended by Officers and private gentlemen of character, and respectable on account of their rank and station (whether professional or social) or age, it is desirable that conduct or practices should be avoided in which men of that description cannot take part, and that nothing should pass which is otherwise than usual in the societies of persons of that description, and, indeed, that at all times, and under all circumstances, gymnastic exercises, wrestling, and boxing by Officers, and such practices of youths in colleges and schools, rather than of men entrusted with the command of Soldiers, by commission of their Sovereign, should be discontinued, excepting strictly in private; and that no Officer or Gentleman should ever think of raising his hand against another.

The commander-in-chief has been informed that the practice of smoking, by the use of pipes, cigars, or choroots, has become prevalent among the officers of the Army, which is not only in itself a species of intoxication occasioned by the fumes of tobacco, but undoubtedly occasions drinking and tippling by those who acquire the habit; and he entrests the Officers commanding regiments to prevent smoking in the Mess-rooms of there reveral regiments, and in the adjoining apartments, and to discourage the practice among the Officers of Junior Rank in their Regiments.

Lieutenant Kirwan is released from his arrest and to return to the performance of his Duty.

By Command of Field Marshal.
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
Commander-in-Chief
JOHN MACDONALD,
Adjutant-General.

War-Office, Nov. 8.—Memorandum—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve on the 74th regt resuming the appellation of 74th (Highland) Regiment of foot, and of its being clothed accordingly; that is, to wear the Tartan trowse, instead of the Oxford mixture; plaid cap, instead of the black sbaco; and the plaid scarf, as worn by the 71st Regiment. The alteration of dress is to take place on the next issue of clothing.

INDIA AND CHINA.

(By the Times' Express from Marseilles.)

Our extraordinary express in anticipation of the Bombay mail of the 15th of October, reached us on Nov. 21. It brings intelligence of the butchery by the Sikh soldiery of Jowahir Singh, the Wuzeer. His death was the result of a deep laid plot, and effected in the most deliberate manner. From the beginning of Sept. the troops had begun to throng towards Lahore, where their demands forced the Queen-Mother to quit the fort and to take the boy-King Dhuleep into their camp.—The Queen-Mother and her brother, the Wuzeer, had endeavoured to appeazet their violent clamour, but on the 21st Sept. the Queen got into a well protected planquin, went to the camp, and was treated with respect by the soldiers. The boy-King, with his uncle the Wuzeer, followed on a state elephant. On reaching the camp the division formerly commanded by General Court received the King and led him near the tent in which his mother was resting. They ordered the elephant's guide to cause the animal to kneel, and because he did not instantly do so, by a shot in the side severely wounded him. The elephant knelt, some soldiers approached and took the boy-king off, and sent him to his mother. The elephant was then forced to rise, and when the animal stood up, several shots were fired at Jowahir Singh, who was still on its back. The affrighted Wuzeer attempted to parley and made great promises, but the soldiers were irritated at his reported death, by one of the Wuzeer's agents, of Peshora Singh, and they speedily killed the Wuzeer. Two of his favorites were soon after slain, and the three bodies were burned. The Queen-Mother, and her son, the King, remained prisoners in the camp for one night, but on the following day were permitted to return to the palace. The troops wish Gholab Singh Singh should become their leader, but he has declined the dangerous honor. They are bewildered who to trust the Government to, they have been obliged to request the Queen-Mother to perform the duty until they can find a man that will satisfy their demands. They have several times threatened to depose Dhuleep (whose legitimacy as the son of old Runjeet they stoutly deny,) and to raise Dewa Singh, to the throne. One of their sources of hatred to Jowahir Singh is stated to be a rumour, which was believed, that he had applied for aid to the British Government of India.

It is said, that this atrocity committed by the Sikh soldiers, is calculated to have some influence on the decision of the Governor-general, who was to have reached Agra on the 20th of October.

Burmah is likely to be productive of some remarkable events within a short time, in consequence of Tharawaddie's wishing to name a favourite successor.—His other sons object to this arrangement; the chief opponent is the Prince of Prome. Tharawaddie sent for him, but he would not attend his father's court.—Tharawaddie asked for one of his own chiefs, named Woon, lately Governor at Rangoon, and upon the chief's appearance Tharawaddie accused him of having visited the Prince of Prome, and then speared him to death. The Prince of Prome assembled forces, and was preparing to depose the bloody tyrant Tharawaddie, who has already caused several of those whom he suspected to be executed.

Among the deaths may be mentioned that of Schah Zemaun, of Cabul, whose threats of invading India filled Asia with hopes and fears 48 years ago. He was afterwards dethroned by his brother and blinded, and lived many years a dependent on British generosity. He died of Cholera at Loodiana last month.

The intelligence from China extends to the 1st September. It is principally confined to the dissatisfaction of the colonists at Hong Kong, who complain of being treated with injustice, and who have appealed for redress to the home Government.

This mail brings also news of a third repulse of the British force by the New-Zealanders, in which Lieutenant Philpotts, of Her Majesty's ship Hazard, and Captain Grant, of her Majesty's 58th regiment, were killed. Lieutenant Beattie of the 99th regiment, died of his wounds. The action, took place on the 1st of July, in an attempt to take John Heke's pah by storm. The force was commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Despard; it consisted of nearly 500 men, one-fourth of whom were either killed or wounded.

The Mauritius papers of the beginning of September give a report of the trial of James Dixon, master; John Thrope; first mate; Benjamin Brittany, second mate; John Watson deserter from the St. Helena regiment; and two deserters from Her Majesty's steamer Penelope, for having feloniously and piratically run away with the brig Comet, from St. Helena.—They were found guilty at a special Court of Admiralty, and sentenced—the master and the soldier to transportation for life, the two mates to 15 years' transportation, and the other two to three years' imprisonment, with hard labor.

☞ Blanks, Handbills, and Job Printing of all kinds, executed at the Chronicle Office at lowest prices.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, DECEMBER 26, 1845.

On Tuesday morning the English Mail of 4th December arrived in this city. It was brought to Halifax in the mail steamer Acadia, in 12½ days from Liverpool.

The news by this arrival is of consequence and goes to show that Mr. President Polk's Message will be roughly handled in England. Considerable excitement was shewn in the public mind there on the arrival of the Washington *Union*, newspaper, understood to be the organ and give the sentiments of President Polk's administration, in which the American claim to the *whole Oregon territory* was broadly set forth: subsequent arrivals there furnished more pacific views on the subject from Daniel Webster and other principal American statesmen.—But we opine the Message itself will not only astonish the British Cabinet, but the whole of Europe:—and the January mail from England will consequently be looked for with great anxiety. It is certain that England is preparing for WAR, and it is equally certain that she anticipates contending with no ordinary foe: there is likewise little doubt, that if it should fall to the lot of England to chastise America, her old enemies, the French, would soon have "a finger in the pie," and for this, more than any, extra preparations required to protect and enforce her rights on this continent, that those warlike demonstrations are made.

Much contrariety of opinion is set forth in the different British journals as to "short crops" and a "threatened famine." Some exhibit the prospect as most alarming and frightful, while others give an almost direct contradiction, ascribing the excitement to political jobbers and hungry speculators. The *Glasgow Courier* says—

"The provision markets have been ruling more moderate during the past week. In a former number we noticed the *reduction of a penny on the 4lb. loaf*, and have to add that *oatmeal has also fallen from 2d to 3d. per stone.* Oatmeal ground from the best Carrick oats, sells at 2s. 4d. per stone; inferior Irish may be had at 2s., or even under, but the very best Lothians meal brings 2s. 8d. per stone. The grain and meal markets *are also falling* in Dalkeith and Edinburgh."

The *Liverpool Mail* states:—"We defy any man to maintain by any indication from facts, from official, market, or Custom house returns, that real grounds exist for apprehending a scarcity of corn. If the famine, so industriously talked of, if not actually prayed for, by interested and avaricious gamblers were a probable, even a probable event, the price of corn would at this moment be nearly double its present price. Upon this fact alone, if there were no others bearing on the same point, we should rely."

"The potatoe crops in the most part of Scotland are not only uninjured but unusually abundant. In some parts of England also there has been no visitation of the watery rot."

CHRISTMAS.

Come bring with a noise, my merry, merry boys,
The Christmas log to the firing,
While my good dame, she, bids you all be free,
And drink to your heart's desiring.

Drink now the strong beare, cut the white loafe here,
Yet while the meat is shredding,
For the rare mince pie, and the plums stand by,
To fill the paste that's kneading.

[*Herick's Hesperides.*

Friends and relations, with fond salutations,
And warm gratulations, together appear,
While lovers, and misses, with holiday kisses,
Greet merry Christmas, and happy New Year.

Now is the time when youth bursts into boisterous enjoyment. Manhood forgets its cares and its troubles, and behold only the brightest and the best—to allure and to enliven. Old age relaxes its wrinkles, and benevolently smiles with internal approbation. This is truly the season for edible and potable celebrations, indeed, as is the case with many of our ancient festivals, these constitute the main portions which are observed with any thing like the ancient zeal. These accessories have in fact become principals.

Now, may we indulge the hope, that many, very many, at this festive season, are truly happy.

Observe the throngs of merry children that we encounter in the streets, whose little smiling faces look almost blue with the cold, but whom wind and weather cannot restrain from sallying out to spend their holiday finances at the nearest toy shop. The heartfelt greeting of "a merry Christmas to you," that salutes our ears, and for saying which the urchins expect a return, but not in kind: and the peculiar nature of the amusements and sports around the evening fireside, where a moral sunshine diffuses itself, bright in proportion to the bleak and disagreeable state of external nature; all are so many evidences of the undecaying spirit with which this festive period of the year is still observed. It is to young and old, to the reflecting and the thoughtless, to all who depend for their felicity upon the only true source of temporal happiness—SOCIAL INTERCOURSE—it is, to such, a season of real pleasure. The lively tale around the blazing hearth: the sprightly jest, not meant to conceal some bitter taunt, but flowing from the hearts' fulness; the song, the dance, the jocund laugh, are but so many modes of evincing that, "all is sunshine in each jovial breast."

"Oh happy love! where love like this is found!
Oh heart-felt raptures! bliss beyond compare!"

* * * * * *

Alas! what dire desolation amongst—the fatted turkies. Behold! with shame and sorrow, the meagre remains of, what was once—a Barónial sirloin. Just look at that pitiful remnant of an eighteen inch diameter—plum-pudding. Observe that comical old blade, "who shoulders his crutch, and shows how fields were won." Now, listen to that well told tale;—what joyous bursts of laughter reward the narrator, and—poor human nature—the speaker himself, laughs the loudest and the longest. But do mark that roguish young fellow—in the happy fulness of his heart—his mischievous eye fixed upon the pretty blushing damsel in the far corner—his clay well moistened by more than one "gill stoup," and spite of temperance rules, it is gravely asserted that he "feels all the better for it;" he is now merrily chaunting.

"Gie me a cannie hour at e'en,
My arms about my deary, O;
And warldly cares, and warldly men,
May a' gae tapsalteerie, O."

Listen to the Babel-like chorus—but "a concord of sweet sounds," to the thrice happy mortals, met to partake of the evening's festivity. And now,

"The young urchins to their beds repair,
But first the stocking from each little leg,
Must be suspended to a hook or peg,
That *Santaclaus*, who travels all the night
Might, in the dark, bestow his favors right.

To our Patrons, one and all, we heartily wish "a merry Christmas and a happy New-Year," and may their joys be pure, and without a single shade of care to abridge them. And may, for them, and all—

"A week of festive pleasure roll,
Till New Year's happy morning crowns the whole."

ORDINATION.—The Lord Bishop of Fredericton held an Ordination in the Cathedral Church of that City, on Sunday the 21st instant, on which occasion Mr. Thomas W. Robertson, of the University of King's College, Windsor, N. S., Mr. H. W. Tippet, and Mr. H. V. Stuart, Students in Divinity, were ordained Deacons. His Lordship was assisted by several of the Clergy. The Candidates were presented by the Venerable the Archdeacon, and the Sermon was preached by his Lordship's Chaplain, from the words—"And when they had prayed they laid their hands on them." Acts vi. 6.—The first Rev. gentleman is appointed to the Parish of Lancaster; Rev. Mr. Tippet to the Curacy of St. Stephen; and Rev. Mr. Stuart to the Mission of Stanley. We wish them God speed.—*Observer.*

Melancholy Disaster.—Schr. Mary Ann, Meloney, left Tynemouth Creek, for St. John, on Monday, 11th inst. and when off Mispeck, lost her sails in the gale; she then became unmanageable, and drove nearly to Grand Manan; shipped a heavy sea, which carried away the rudder, and filled her with water. Two men perished. Capt. Meloney was saved, his feet being but slightly frozen.—The schr. drifted ashore at Long Island, Grand Manan, on Tuesday night, where she now lies safe.

SACRILEGIOUS ROBBERY.—Some unprincipled wretch broke into the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel in this City last night, and took away seven or eight Pounds in money, which had been left by the Stewards in one of the closets, inside the communion table. They were so scrupulous as to the coin, that a pile of coppers not current here were conscientiously left upon the floor; and so hasty in their pillaging, that a pair of silver Cups, presented to the Wesleyan Society by the late John Ferguson, Esq., and used on Sacramental occasions at this Chapel, escaped their searching eye.—They had visited the School Room last week, and stole of the children's money about six Dollars; having made a second seach there, fruitlessly, and being very needy, they forced their way to the upper part of the edifice, violently breaking open the doors with no tender feelings as to the damage they were doing to the moldings.—We have heard of several other night robberies of late People should be on the alert to detect the burglars.—*Ob.*

CORONER'S INQUEST.—An Inquest was held in the Parish of Kingston, King's County, on the 9th instant, before Isaac Haviland, Esquire, Coroner, on view of the body of Leveret Bradley. It appeared in evidence that on the day previous he had been skating on the Belliste Bay, and fell through the ice and was drowned. Verdict of the Jury—"Accidental death by drowning."

Mr. B. was about 30 years of age, and was unmarried. His remains were interred at the New Church Burying Ground, on the Long Reach, on Thursday the 11th inst.—*Courier.*

UNION STREET CHURCH.—We regret to learn that the above Building was forcibly entered last night by some evil disposed person. Several cupboards were broken open, and some of their contents were removed.—*Ib.*

THE ST. JOHN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—The semi-annual Examination of this highly useful Institution took place on Friday. There were present the Rev. the Rector of the Parish, His Honor the Chief Justice, His Honor Judge Parker, Dr. Paddock, J. H. Gray, Esq. and Alfred L. Street, Esq. The Pupils were examined in Greek, Latin, Euclid, History, and Geography; and in all, they acquitted themselves greatly to the satisfaction of the Examiners. Specimens of their various weekly Prose and Verse Exercises in Greek, Latin, and English, and several well executed Maps of the World were inspected and obtained approbation. The Grammar Class, consisting of very young boys, who had, mostly, entered upon their classical *curriculum* at the commencement of the present term, by answering all the questions put to them with admirable ease and dexterity, called forth a particular meed of applause. The Rev. the Rector, the President of the Board of Directors, at the close of the Examination, said, it gave him much pleasure to observe, that a very marked improvement had been made by the Pupils generally since the Examination in July last, and pressed home upon them the duty of close application to their studies, assuring them that the way to acquire a radical and grammatical knowledge of their own language, was to make themselves fully acquainted with the Latin and Greek Grammars.

From a printed statement laid before the Directors by Dr. Paterson, the Principal, we find, that the number of Pupils at present is Forty,—that they *all* study Latin, Geography, History, Arithmetic and Writing,—that *ten* of them are in Greek, and *fourteen* in Euclid; and that all the younger boys are daily exercised in Recitation, Reading and Spelling.

The Christmas holidays now commence and will continue till Monday, the 5th of January, when the classes will resume their duties.

WESLEYAN ACADEMY.—The usual semi-annual Examination of this Institution was undergone on Monday and Tuesday last, before a respectable attendance of its friends and patrons. The Examination commenced at 9 o'clock on Monday morning with two classes of 42 pupils in English Grammar; three classes of 54 were then examined in Arithmetic, one of 11 in Book-keeping, and one of 13 in English History. In the afternoon, the Examination was resumed with one class of 21 in Geography; one of 8 on the Use of the Globes; and four of 50 in the French Language. In the evening a class of 12 was examined in Chemistry, and one of 10 in Intellectual Philosophy. At 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the Examination was again proceeded with. Four classes of 40 were examined in Latin; three of 18 in Greek; one of 13 in Plain Geometry; one of 14 in Algebra; and one of 11 in Land Surveying and Navigation. In the evening 24 of the Students joined in Rehearsing Exercises in Declamation, consisting of English pieces, and English and French Dialogues. The Examination, throughout, was most strict and satisfactory, and afforded the highest gratification to the visitors. The number of pupils in attendance during the Term has been 85, of whom 80 were present and examined.—This Academy is situated at Sackville, in this Province, and appears, from its central situation and methodical system of instruction, to have attracted pupils from almost every portion of the lower Provinces. We find it the subject of a lengthened and highly commendatory notice in the published Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Public Schools, where it is described, from "its pleasant, healthy, and retired situation, the comfortable and commodious condition of the building, the religious, parental, and moral character of its government, and the moderate price of board and tuition," as, perhaps the very best educational establishment in the Province. We are glad to learn that the prospects of the Institution were never more encouraging than they are at the present time, almost all the rooms being already engaged for the next term, which begins on Thursday the 8th January next.

We copied an account lately from an English paper, that bells could be made of steel. A mechanic in Ohio, seeing the statement, undertook the enterprise and succeeded. A bell weighing fifty pounds, made of steel, will cost about $30, and can be heard two miles or more. The advantages of this invention are said to be two fold: first, it is so cheap that every church may have a bell of a clear, brilliant and musical tone: second, it is so light, and being stationary, that even a slight belfry will sustain it. This newly invented bell is rung by a crank, and any boy can do it as well as a regular parish bell-ringer. For about $200 a chime of seven bells can now be had.—*Philadelphia paper.*

SLAVER TAKEN.—The British steamer Penelope captured, off St. Helena, a slave steamer called the Cacique, rigged as a three-masted schooner. She fitted out at Pernambuco, and was off the coast waiting for *fifteen hundred negroes* to be got ready for her cargo. On board this slaver were forty-five persons as crew, amongst whom were four Americans, (two engineers and two stokers.) The commander of the Penelope intended to take the four Americans back to the coast, and deliver them up to the American Commodore. The above vessel