same journey; for the robbers will be robbers still. Have patience! The word of God never returns "void," but will accomplish that which He pleases. But to proceed.

The Captain had himself received a New Testament; and, as he was one day strolling through the woods, he took the book out of his pocket and read it, to pass away the time. He was astonished at what he saw there, and he read on and on. He had never heard such things before. His conscience

darker and darker to his mind. He became uneasy. Every day he separated from his comrades, and wandered about the wood. To them such conduct appeared somewhat suspicious, and they began to whisper among themselves. But he became every day more alive to the misery of his sins; the judgment of God was to him fearful, and the love of Christ burned in his bare heart; he could no longer belong to the band. But how could he leave it? Should he run away. Now we should not think it wrong; but our Captain would not break his oath, even with robbers. For a long time he struggled thus with himself; but at last he assembled the band. They hastened together, in the hope that he was going to lead them out again on some profitable expedition. But they were not a little astonished when the Captain addressed them as follows:—

"Comrades!" he cried, "hitherto I have been your leader; henceforth I am so no more. This book here shows me that we are on the way to ruin. A fearful oath bound me to you; but my resolution is taken. I am in your hands. If you wish to kill me, you can do it; but never again can I bring myself to lead the cursed lif of a robber!"

In mute astonishment the comrades listened to their leader. A murmur of rage ran through the company; but soon anger gave place to sympathy. After long consultation, they came to the determination of letting the Captain go quietly away.—Once more he raised his warning voice to his old companions, reminding them of the wrath of God, whose commandments they had broken, and of the great love of the redeemer if they repented, and urged them earnestly to quit with him their life of sin. The leaven worked. Soon afterwards the band broke up. Many of its members followed their Captain, and were converted: and the Society which first sent their Missionary into the wood has received several of them as companions of its labours. —*Berlin Paper.*

From Late English Papers.

From the Army and Navy Register and Woolwich Gazette.

NEW THEORY OF THE EARTH.

We expressed in a former number our opinion that the discovery of the open water in Victoria Channel would ultimately lead to a new theory of the earth, which we have long entertained, although it so contrary to all hitherto credited notions on that subject. Our impression is, that the universal creation is one system of harmony, from the minutest living creature, that requires the aid of the microscope to discern it, and the circulation of the life that exists in all its parts up to the great monster of the earth itself, ever in motion round the sun, and turning on its own axis, and having the waters of life ever circulating above and through every part terrestial globe.

Our opinion is, in a great measure confirmed, when we consider it is possible that the earth possesses the same functions as created beings, having life, which we will endeavour to illustrate by comparisons, although they may appear odious at first sight in the eyes of some. History tells us that the first astronomer who advanced the theory, that the earth revolved round the sun, had much to contend with before his theory was generally believed. We have also been told that HARVEY, when he advanced his theory of the circulation of blood in the human body, only met with contemptous sneers from those to whom he endeavoured to explain what is now generally admitted to be an indisputable fact. We have no doubt, that our new theory of the earth will meet with a similar reception to that of the theories above alluded to, but we will have the satisfaction of placing it on record, if it should be doubted, or even be found to be incorrect, according to the future discoveries that may be made through the aid of steam, which is yet in its infancy, and destined to overturn many of the hitherto admitted theories on many subjects.

We wish it to be understood, however, that in endeavouring to convey an idea of our theory of the earth to our readers, we can only do so in general terms, as we have not made the necessary minute calculations to give the details with any degree of certainty; but we may enter into them more fully on a future occasion. In the meantime we may state that we look upon the earth as being as full of animation as is possessed by any human frame. Let us also suppose that the water, on the same principle as HARVEY's circulation of the blood of a human being, passes through the heart of the earth at a certain period, to be again set in motion by some hidden cause or subterraneous fire, driving it with great force to the extremities or poles of the globe, again to return to the heart of the earth to be again circulated with never ending regularity.

We will also suppose, that the heart of the earth is under some part of the Mediterranean sea, and that the immense quantity of water constantly rushing into that tideless ocean through the gut of Gibraltar, passes into the bowels of the earth, and by subterranean communications under Mount Vesuvius and Mount Etna; and we have a far better mode of accounting for the disappearance of the waters of the Mediterranean than the generally admitted theory, that the waters again come out by an under current in the gut of Gibraltar. If it is admitted, for the sake of argument, that the waters of the Mediterranean rush into the bowels of the earth, it would be easy to imagine that when heated by subterranean fires the fluid would be forced through the centre of the earth to its utmost extremities and come out quite warm at the true North Pole, and that the great icy barriers of the Adamantic Pole is a wise provision of the Great Creator of the universe, to moderate the temperature before it passes over the surface of the earth in its progress to its original channel. That the water in the centre of the earth is extremely warm there is every reason to believe, as when the Artesian wells are made the water forced up through them, by an operation not unlike blood vessels in the human body, is found to be extremely warm, and it is even found to be increasingly warm the earth is boring down to the Polar regions of Iceland.

If we admit the fact of subterranean fires in the earth, we will find many other phenomena to prove our theory, such as the great quantity of nitrous gas, which is found in the atmosphere, and which is generated by the electricity, passes through this tube every four minutes.

If the earth is a monster endued with life, the tides would be its pulsations, and the period required for the whole of the water on the surface of the globe to pass through the earth would be two years. Not only do we imagine that we can trace a similarity between the pulsations of the sea, but we are also of opinion that the spring and neap

pulsation is caused by the respiration of a human being. As near as we can calculate the respiration of a human body is between fourteen and fifteen times in a minute, and about that number of spring tides take place in six months, or from equinox to equinox, which is comparatively equivalent to one minute of time in the pulsation and respiration of the human body.

Many of our readers will naturally conclude that our theory of the earth has no foundation, except in our own imagination, because they cannot perceive the utility of a warmer or more general climate in the extreme northern regions, where, according to the present generally admitted theory of the earth, six months darkness occurs every year. We would ask them, however, to consider how circumscribed human knowledge was in geography before the discovery of America, and, we would suppose, that there may be yet undiscovered continents even on this terrestial globe on which another sun may shine to give life and animation, where nothing is created in vain. If we look at the horizon in a north-west direction in a clear evening at the present period of the year, the reflection of another sun is clearly visible in the sky, although astronomers attribute the light to other causes. If the existence of another sun shining upon a portion of the earth were admitted, the cause of the Aurora Borealis would be early explained, without that admission no satisfactory theory has ever been advanced to account for the beautiful coruscations which so often appear in the heavens under that name, although they apparently emanate from some other sun, we, in this quarter of the world have never heard of.

[*From the London Times.*]

THE LAST PUBLIC DAY OF THE EXHIBITION.—Just before five o'clock struck, the feathery jet of water from Osler's crystal fountain suddenly ceased, and the silence of the vast assemblage became deeper and more intense. The moment at last came. Mr. Bradshaw appeared at the West corner of the transept gallery on the South side, bearing a large red flag in his hand. This he displayed as the clock struck, and instantly all the organs in the building were hurling into the air the well-known notes of the national anthem. At the same moment the assembled multitude uncovered; and those who saw this act of loyalty from an advantageous position will long remember the effect which it produced upon the minds. Where just before nothing was visible but a mass of black hats stretching away until lost in the distance, immediately there appeared a great sea of upturned animated faces, and to the solemn silence of expectancy succeeded a volume of sound in which the voices of the people were heartily joined.

As soon as the anthem had closed there arose such cheers as Englishmen alone know how to give. These were continued for several minutes, and when the last of them died away there passed over the entire building, and with an effect truly sublime, a tremendous rolling sound, like that of thunder, caused by thousands of feet stamping their loyalty upon the boarded floors. Under this demonstration every part of the edifice trembled, and as it swept from west to east, many an eye was raised with anxiety to the girders and pillars, which in long perspective were stretched out before them. And now the time had arrived for the death peal of the Exhibition to be rung out. Some one hung out from the gallery of the transept a piece of calico, on which was inscribed the well-known passage from Shakspeare's Tempest, &c.:—

"Our revels now are ended: these our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air;
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud capped towers, the gorgeous palaces"
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,—
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this unsubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind."

A minute or two was allowed to elapse before the fatal signal was given, and during this brief interval the assemblage remained silent and motionless. At last it came, and a perfect storm of bell peales broke over the building. The committee seemed to have collected all their strength for a last effort in this department of their duties, and we do hope that to the other statistics of the great undertaking now closed may at once be added the number of tympanums broken on the final day. Ireland has sent the most powerful bells to the exhibition, but these resources, added to the bells of all nations, were deemed insufficient, and China had to come to the rescue with her gongs, and India to strike up some fine savage notes from her tom-toms, before the signs of an intention to depart were unmistakably manifested. The concourse of people for a long time remained massed together, as if no power could separate or fuse them; but at last small currents and ripples of human beings might be seen setting towards the exit-doors and these gradually increased in volume & rapidity as the shades of evening fell. One by one the gas lamps were lighted, and the building, divided between the empire of day and night, assumed an aspect curiously in harmony with its defunct character.

The crowds flowed out faster every minute and first the Western, and then the Eastern portions of the nave, began to show vacant spaces. In the meantime, the singing of the bells was occasionally suspended, and in the intervals hearty cheers were given for Prince Albert, for the Prince of Wales, for Mr. Paxton, for Mr. Fox, for the exhibitors, and upon various other grounds. An attempt, too was made by some vocalists to get up a musical performance, but their efforts were instantly drowned by the revived energies of the ringers. Some one proposed to cheer for Kossuth, but it met no response, except some derisive laughter. The galleries and the Eastern and Western naves had now been completely cleared, but a dense body still clung round the crystal fountain, many filling bottles with water from it as a memento, and others struggling in vain to approach it for that purpose. The police and the sappers appeared on the scene first in small knots, and then, when they had moved the people on a little, in extended line. By gently pressing on them they at last induced them to go, but it was dusk, and half-past six o'clock before the building was completely cleared, and the bells finally ceased tolling.

RIFLES.—Mr. Robert Adams, of London, gun-maker, has taken out a patent for making rifles with protections in the interior of the barrel instead of grooves. These ridges are like those in rifles after the grooves are cut. The bullets are cast with grooves on them. This appears to be as different from the common rifles as one needle is different from another, but, nevertheless, it has been patented. The forming of the bullet with grooves appears to be a good idea.

Another improvement of this inventor consists in furnishing the breech of a gun with a conical chamber of such a size as will contain the charge of powder, and projecting it into the bore of the gun in the central line of it. The bullet to be used is formed with a cavity at the back part, corresponding to this conical chamber and fitting upon it; but a bad idea.

The sum of £2858 has been collected for the Roman Catholic college at Belfast.—The total amount required is £5000.

Almost all the horses of the royal horse artillery and the 4th dragoon guards, in military barracks at Dublin, have been attacked with an epidemic resembling influenza.

The Railway over the Isthmus of Suez is to be commenced immediately.

The Chronicle.

Saint John, December 12, 1851.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Some portions of the President's Message are of great interest to us, while the major part relates solely to the republic. Mr. Fillmore says:

of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada and other British posessions near our frontier. Overtures for a convention upon this subject have been received from her Britannic Majesty's Minister, but it seems to be in many respects preferable that the matter should be regulated by reciprocal legislation. Documents are laid before you showing the terms which the British government is willing to offer, and the measures which it may adopt, if somearrangement upon this subject shall not be made."

When we read this we naturally prick up our ears and reflect on its import. The British Ambassador has evidently, in our behalf, demanded certain reciprocal privileges, but of their nature nothing is said; but it is clear that he has threatened to withdraw certain other advantages now given to these states by Britain, if his demand is not complied with. As we do not believe that the United States will open a trade with us, different from what they hold with other communities, we hope Sir Henry Bulwer has given them to understand that the Fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Bay of Fundy, granted them without any equivalent, will be withheld in future. Their markets are principally supplied from these quarters, and if they were forbidden to fish, then our Fishermen would have some chance of getting adequate prices in their markets, notwithstanding their Tariff and Bounties. If they should feel necessitated to buy our fish, they would themselves have the duties to pay! at present our fishermen pay them out of what should be their profits.

That the United States will not reciprocate with us, besides the opposition of the Southern States, whether on a free trade or moderate parallel duties, appears evident to us for two principal reasons.—In the case of a free-trade reciprocity, we would have to raise our revenue on English manufactures; and it is highly improbable that England will suffer this, and in the case of moderate reciprocal duties, as well as on the free-trade system, if these States are inundated, in the face of their high Tariff, with British goods, how could they stand the importation, through these Provinces, of these manufactures either in one case or theother. It is very likely that Sir Henry Bulwer has had this very thing in view when he proposed reciprocation in either the one form or the other. The action of Congress on this point will open our eyes to what the proposition may have been.

We may take a lesson from the state of the commerce of the United States at this moment.—There is a ballance of trade against them of no less a sum this year than 24 millions of dollars; which ballance they have paid to other countries, principally to England, in coin and bullion. The President says:

"The total imports for the year ending 30th June, 1851, were $215,725,695
Of which there were in specie, 4,967,901
The exports for the same period were $217,517,130
Of which there were of
domestic products, $178,546,555
Foreign goods re-exported, 9,738,695
Specie, 29,231,880
$217,517,130

The exports of specie to liquidate our foreign debt during the past fiscal year have been $24,263,979 over the amount of specie imported. The exports of specie during the first quarter of the present fiscal year have been $14,651,827. Should specie continue to be exported at this rate for the remaining three quarters of this year, it will drain from our metallic currency during the year ending 30th June, 1852, the enormous amount of $58,607,308."

The free-traders, it is true, allege that coin and bullion are but commodities, and may be exported like others. We do not deny this common-place truth; but we need not, we dare say, point out nevertheless, that, independently of the pressure it must cause in the money market, the States would be 24 millions of dollars richer now had they managed so as to keep their coin and bullion at home. A few, a very few years of such exportation of the precious metals will leave them as poor as church mice. We should not be surprised if they were soon obliged to borrow this very money and to pay for it annually 4 per cent interest, forming another drain on their Treasury.

The President continues to insist upon the principle, which England has never yet conceded, that the flag covers the goods; that is to say that the goods as well as the seamen and soldiers of a foreign nation at war with another, are to be carried free from molestation by a neutral; and that, as growing out of this principle, England must not look for her subjects, when at war, while they are under the American flag. The law of nations is otherwise, and if America succeeds in changing the present law, we guess it will be, on some future day, at the expense of much blood and treasure.

The President, like a man of sense recommends a change, where practicable, in the Tariff, from advalorem to specific duties, on the very principles our protectionists urge in this Province. But let us give the honest President's own words!

"In my last annual message, to which I respectfully refer, I stated briefly the reasons which induced me to recommend a modification of the present tariff, by converting the ad valorem into a specific duty, wherever the article imported was of such a character as to permit it, and that such a discrimination should be made, in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own country, as to encourage home production without excluding foreign competition.

"The numerous frauds which continue to be practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and undervaluations, constitute an unanswerable reason for adopting specific instead of ad valorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodity does not forbid it. A striking illustration of these frauds will be exhibited in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the custom house valuation of articles imported under a former law, subject to specific duties, when there was no inducement to undervaluation, and the custom house valuations of the same articles, under the present system of ad-valorem duties, so greatly reduced as to leave no doubt of the existence of the most flagrant abuses under the existing laws. This practical evasion of the present law, combined with the languishing condition of some of the great interests of the country, caused by over importations and consequent depressed prices, and with the failure in obtaining a foreign market for our increasing surplus of breadstuffs and provisions has induced me again to recommend a modification of the existing tariff."

If these facts and arguments do not open the eyes of the people of the United States it will be wonderful, as for our eyes in these Provinces they are hermetically sealed to all such truths.

The *Freeman* is quite weighty with us for his chiming in with his scheme of Universal Suffrage. As the Editor records so minutely and graphically the feats of his countrymen, as displayed by the Police Office interference in their concerns, he naturally expects, should the universal suffrage system be adopted, he will command all their votes for his allies and co-adjutors. His boastful magnanimity consists solely, when divested of its colering of patriotism, in endeavoring to clear the path for Messrs. —— & ——, and perchance Dr. ——, should they incline to become Legislators. We, who do not consider his friends destined to change the tone of affairs, he rates as little-minded personages. But it will not do; jail birds and disturbers of the public peace are not the men on whom to rest even the secondary trust of choosing our lawmakers. We have no prejudice against our Catholic fellow-colonists if left to themselves; but as they are ever swayed either by the Priesthood on the one hand, or a disaffected Press on the other, we cannot pretend to be in love with their attempted ascendency.

It is curious to remark the airs of superior patriotism assumed by these (so-called) Liberal Journals. They hear of a Mazzini or a Kossuth risking his all for the liberation of his countrymen from a degrading despotism under the name of Liberals, and they forsooth, in a country, where oppression is unknown, and despotism a thing only read of, must set up also for Liberals and Reformers. What the Reform is to be none of them can tell, or why do they not do it. Vote by ballot and universal suffrage are only means to an end: we demand then what are the ends they aim at introducing; for mayhap even our own present legislators, inferior as these writers will have them to be, may be induced to adopt them; or if not we may feel called upon to change these legislators for those who will if once satisfied of the correctness of these views. Again we call upon them to come forward with their platform of principles promised, that the public may take them into consideration. Alas, they have no principles in common. They would pull each others ears, if the attempt should ever be made.

CENSUS RETURNS.

The returns of the population, &c., in this City and the several Parishes in the County, have been completed and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace. By these the total population of the City is set down at 22,934—of this number, 11,062 are males and 11,872 females. 13 of the males and 20 of the females in King's Ward are colored. In Sydney Ward the colored population consists of 15 males and 20 females. King's Ward contains 9180 inhabitants, and Sydney Ward 1892. In 1840, the total population of the City was 20,716; the increase therefore, in eleven years is only 2218. The births in the City during the year preceding the time of taking the census was 767, and the deaths 242.

In taking the census in 1840, the City on the Eastern side of the Harbour was divided into two districts, without regard to the Wards, so that we are unable to compare the population of the several Wards then with what it is now, when the dividing lines of the Wards have been observed in apportioning the districts to the two census-takers.—In Carleton, however, which comprises the two Wards (Guy's and Brooks's) on the Western side of the Harbour, the account at both periods has been kept separate, and shows an increase in the population during the last eleven years of over one hundred per cent.—the numbers being 1435 in 1840, and 3052 in 1851. There were thirty-four births in Carleton during the last year, and eight deaths.

The Parish of Portland contains a population of 8429, and is almost evenly divided as to the sexes—there being only five more males than females. In 1840 the population of this Parish was 6207—increase, 2222.

The Parish of Simonds contains 3425 inhabitants—of whom 1784 are males. In 1840 the population was 2459—giving an increase of 966.

The population of Lancaster Parish is 1897—904 males and 993 females—an increase over the population in 1840 of 294, the number then being 1603.

St. Martin's Parish, which includes the old settlement of Musquash, contains 1361 inhabitants—688 males and 953 females. The return for 1840 states the population to be 1073—which would shew a decrease since that period of 42.

The total population of the City and County of St. John is now 38,616—shewing an increase of only 5657 since 1840, when the number of inhabitants was 32,957. The births during the year preceding the time of taking the census, amounted to 1377—(nearly one-fourth of the whole increase in eleven years) and the deaths to 481.

A mass of valuable statistical information on upwards of fifty subjects accompanies the returns of the population of this City and County. From these we find that the births in the City during the preceding year exceeded the deaths by 525—the number of the former being 767, and of the latter, 242. There are in the City 2055 inhabited houses, occupied by 3870 families, being less than an average of two families to each house; 926 stores, barns, &c.; 56 houses now building, and 97 houses uninhabited. Of the inhabited houses, 835 are in King's Ward and 200 in Sydney Ward.

In the Parish of Portland there were 395 births and 122 deaths during the preceding year. Portland contains 733 inhabited houses, occupied by 1616 families,—296 stores, barns, &c.; 22 uninhabited houses, and 38 houses now building.

In the Parish of Simonds, which contains 540 families, there were 91 births and 97 deaths during the preceding year. In the Parish of Lancaster, containing 305 families, 67 births and 9 deaths; and in St. Martins, containing 343 families, 57 births and 13 deaths.

The number of children returned as attending Schools in King's Ward, is 1231; in Sydney, 303; and in the Parish of Portland, 844.

In Portland there are eight Saw Mills, at which 264 hands are employed. In Carleton the number of Saw Mills is four, and the hands employed 206.

In Portland, under the head of "other factories," the number of Ship Yards and hands employed at the time of taking the census are given. The number of yards was eleven, at which 465 workmen were employed in the construction of eleven vessels, the aggregate tonnage of which was 10,220 tons.—In King's Ward there was one Ship Yard, at which ninety men were employed, and one in Sydney Ward, employing twenty men. Since that time, work has been resumed at another Yard in King's Ward.

Tanneries.—In King's Ward there are twelve Tanneries, which employ 38 hands—in Sydney, three Tanneries, employing 13 hands. In Queen's and Duke's, there is one Tannery, with four hands. Value of Leather manufactured in King's Ward, during the year preceding the time of taking the census, £12,150; in Queen's and Duke's, £300; in Sydney, £5,000.

Foundries.—In King's Ward, two, employing 70 hands, and manufacturing Iron Castings to the value of £7225; Duke's, two Foundries, employing 33 hands,—value of Castings, £2,000; in Sydney, one Foundry, 20 hands,—value of Castings, £2,000; in Portland, one Foundry, 70 hands,—value of Castings, £6,000.

Number of other Factories and hands employed.—In King's Ward, twenty-four, employing 200 hands; in Queen's and Duke's five, employing 17 hands; in Sydney Ward, five,—35 hands; in Portland, twenty—133 hands.

The following is given as the value of various articles manufactured in the districts stated:—

Boots and Shoes.—In King's Ward, £12,240; Queen's & Dukes, £9920; Sydney, £7635; Parish of Portland, £3652.

Candles.—In King's Ward, £6885; in Queen's and Duke's £250; in Portland £3000.

Soap.—In King's Ward, £3900; in Queen's and Duke's, £1,000; in Portland, £3,000.

Hats.—The value of Hats manufactured in King's Ward, ward £3240.

There are three Breweries in King's Ward, which manufactured 38,900 gallons of malt liquor the preceding year; in Portland, one, at which 16,000 gallons were made.

In Portland there were 3,350 casks of Lime burnt during the year.—*Courier.*

The *Church Witness* of Wednesday says:—It is matter of common rumour that a little more than a month has been already sufficient to make good the minors for places of emolument, more than sufficient, that numbers have 27 in view, and 20 in reality, which amounts to something more than double the number of the latter, and yet the steady fire can grow in vigour. It will be observed, that in many instances, the minors of the Province have nominated themselves, and in numerous instances, the Ministry have acted on the nomination just tendered. The Ministry have in many instances, gone out of their way to meet the wishes of the minors. If the minors have a fair claim, the Committee have a fair claim, and we hope they will account in some manner for the fact that every office of any importance in this Colony is filled by a native.

COTTON OR FLAX.—We are informed by a correspondent at Richibucto, that a return of the recent Census in the County of Kent, shows that, in that county the Ellis's are numerous.

The population in the county amounts to 15,000 souls; in 1840, it only amounted to 12,000 souls, it has therefore had an increase of 3,000 souls in ten years, being a little over fifty per cent.

A comparison of the returns for 1840 and 1851 shows the following results:—

	1840.	1851.
Inhabited houses,	1149	1694
Number of families,	1158	1732
Houses building,	62	100
Do. uninhabited,	111	108
Quantity of cleared land, acres,	20,413	35,495
Number of horses,	881	1507
Do. of cattle,	4611	6030
Do. of swine,	4925	6036

The crop of 1851, is thus stated:—Hay, 8,086 tons; wheat, 25,266 bushels; barley, 4,418 bushels; oats, 101,120 bushels; buckwheat, 11,576 bushels; Indian corn, 3,224 bushels; peas and beans, 1,166 bushels; turnips, 22,602 bushels; potatoes, 365,619 bushels; other roots, 1,050 bushels. The quantity of butter made, 83,171 lbs.; the quantity of woollen cloth manufactured in families, 46,191 yards.

It appears that there are twenty-one places of public worship, and 38 school-houses; with 13 grist mills, 11 saw mills, and 9 tanneries. There were 345 births in the County in 1850, and only 97 deaths.

Altogether this return affords very satisfactory proof of the flourishing condition of the County of Kent, which appears to have advanced very steadily for the last ten years.

In 1848, Major Robinson estimated the population of this County at 9,679 souls, which must have been somewhat below the mark.—*N. Bruns.*

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

Four persons killed and several wounded by a Lunatic.

A frightful tragedy was enacted on last Sunday morning, at the Long Reach, King's County, where a lunatic named Kerrigan killed his wife and two children and his aunt, and wounded several others dangerously. The particulars as far as we could learn them are as follows:—Kerrigan who has long been a resident on the Reach, has, for many years, been subject to periodical fits of insanity. He it was who was committed to the Penitentiary towards the close of last summer, by Mr. Allen, of Portland, and conveyed thence after some trouble to the Lunatic Asylum, from which he was soon after discharged. On Sunday morning he invited his father-in-law and several others to his house, and soon after they were assembled proposed that they should have prayer. While the rest were so engaged Kerrigan suddenly laying hold of a shingle-maker's knife—a dreadful weapon—struck his wife on the head, killing her at a single blow, and then with a second blow killed one of his children. The others terrified rushed from the house and were pursued by the madman. A second of his children was killed as he was scrambling over the fence, the head being cut from the body. The old man was dreadfully wounded on the head and arm, and a school-master who had accompanied him to Kerrigan's house, was also wounded. The madman next rushed on his aunt (Mrs. M'Closkey, if we mistake not) and she too fell a victim to his frenzy, the dreadful weapon wielded by the maniac doing its fearful work rapidly and unrelentingly. A son of Mrs. M'Closkey's had armed himself with a gun from the house, and tried to save his mother by shooting down the murderer, but the gun misfired. He then, using the butt end, broke his arm and so put a stop to the slaughter. Kerrigan finding himself powerless fled to the woods where he was found shortly after. He is said to be much frost bitten.

He was observed, on the previous day, sharpening the knife and on being asked why he did so said he wanted to prepare an axe-handle.

Such are the particulars of this sad occurrence as we have been able to gather them. There are, probably, many inaccuracies and additions, as it is hard to seperate the truth from the many rumours and exaggerations afloat; but we believe that in the main this account may be relied on.

DEATH OF THE MURDERER.—It is reported that the lunatic, Kerrigan has died from the effects of exposure to cold and of the injuries he sustained at the time of his capture. After the perpetration of the frightful massacre finding himself disabled he took to flight and was exposed all night, and was severely frost bitten. On being discovered he offered an obstinate resistance and was overpowered with difficulty, and not until he had sustained the serious injuries from the effects of which, combined with the exposure to the cold, he is said to have died.—*Freeman.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Monday, evening, between 6 and 7 o'clock, Mrs. Boucher, Stewardess of the str. Fairy Queen, was unfortunately drowned, while going from the wharf to the steamer, the weather at the time being very dark and stormy.—She appears to have fallen over the gang-way leading from the wharf to the steamer, as it was found to be turned over shortly after, and search was made for the body, which was discovered at the corner of the wharf, floating on the water. She leaves a husband and seven small children to mourn their loss.

NEW ENGINE.—The new Engine for the Faugh-a-Ballagh Volunteer Fire Company, No. 6, arrived here on Tuesday last, in the barque Amelia, from New York. This Engine has been constructed in the most thorough manner by the best makers, and will no doubt prove a valuable acquisition to the already efficient Engines of which our City can boast.

The amount of duties collected in the Port of Fredericton, for the current year, by the Deputy Treasurer, is £2,770 besides enough in bond to make the whole duties on importations exceed £3,000.—*Reporter.*

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—We learn that at the meeting of the Executive Council on Wednesday last, it was ordered that the Legislature should assemble, for despatch of business, on Wednesday the 7th day of January next.

☞ Capt. Hamilton, of the 71st. Highlanders, has been appointed A. D. C. to the Governor General, vice Lord Mark Kerr, who has joined the 20th Regiment.

☞ A destructive fire occurred lately in St. Thomas, Canada West, destroying the Distillery of James Blackwood, Esq., containing 7,000 bushels wheat, 15,000 barrels of flour, besides all the whiskey in the distillery.

STEAMBOAT CONVENTION.—On the 11th of Nov. a meeting of Steamboat owners will take place in Kingston (Canada) to consider on the arrangements of next season. There are now about first class vessels sufficient to form a Daily Line from Montreal to Hamilton; another Daily Line from Belleville to Montreal; and a third daily Line from Ogdensburg to Hamilton. To form the first Line, there are the Cataract, Magnet, Maple Leaf, Passage, Arabian, Highlander, New Era, and Queen, one two and—all steamers, and [illegible] to unite with the previous number of Lake Steamers. To form the second Line, there are the Ontario, St. Lawrence, Eagle, and Cobourg; and to form the third Line, there are the Princess, Royal, City of Toronto, and, perhaps, the Chief Justice, with the Canada to spare.

MARYE INCORPORATION.—Benjamin Stillings, a wealthy citizen of South Boston, Virginia, has been held to bail in the sum of $10,000, charged with the crime of arson. John S. Pendleton, a resident of Richmond, obtained their bail. The indictment charges that one John Pace, to whom the defendant was owing money, by forgery, obtained from their place of business, a quantity of goods, and then set fire to the premises, in order to conceal the crime. The defendant is charged with having procured the forgery to be committed, and then with having set fire to the premises, in order to conceal the forgery. The property destroyed was valued at $[illegible]. The defendant is a man of wealth, and has been prominently connected with the business of the place for many years.—*Richmond Intelligencer.*

A MORMON PROPHET.—In Indianapolis, intelligence to the effect of Parley P. Pratt's having been killed by the Indians, is received. It appears that Pratt, with a company of Mormons, was passing through the Indian country, on his way to California, when he was killed by the Indians. Pratt was one of the first Mormon Elders, and was a man of great talent and influence among the Mormons. He was the author of several works in defence of Mormonism, and was a man of great energy of character. He was, we believe, the first Mormon who ventured into England, and he was very successful in his mission there. He was, we believe, the author of the Mormon doctrine of the plurality of wives, and was himself the father of a large family. He was, we believe, the first Mormon who ventured to publicly avow the doctrine, and who, by his talents and energy, made it a prominent feature in the Mormon faith. We can hardly suppose that the news of his death will be received by the Mormons with any regret, for he was, we believe, the chief of the Mormon hierarchy, and, according to Brewster's theory, passes through this tube every four minutes.

THE LYCEUM.

The fact of a DEBATING SOCIETY under the above title having recently been organized by the young men of this City, is now going the rounds of the Newspapers. From what we can glean from our co-temporaries, it is a society for the "free and open discussion of all subjects, Political, Historical, Philosophical, &c., which may submit themselves in a *constitutional* way:" while subjects calculated religious animosity, or petty jealousy, or call forth discussions on any controverted point in theology, are wholly unsanctioned and totally disallowed.

The beneficial results which already have, and are destined to accrue from such societies, are of permanent importance; and were such institutions more largely patronized by *the people* when in the flower of their lives, we would not daily hear and be unhappily the eye-witnesses of such uncouth and such an entire loss of self-confidence exhibited by those who may be called upon to take active parts in Public Assemblies, while the individual himself would not be placed in the humiliating position of being compelled to acknowledge his utter inability for either "*to fill the Chair*", or discuss the merits or demerits of a "*Platform Revolution*," merely because he is grossly ignorant of the first rules of Debate.

One other point. It has been painful to us to read the many articles which have appeared in the public journals prior to the organization of "the Lyceum", calling for such an institution as the one under consideration, and also the well justified demand of the young Clerks of our Mercantile establishments for time and opportunity to attend the meetings of such, as well as other intellectual entertainments; we do therefore indulge the hope that those who have felt the need of such societies, will prove their sincerity, and the young clerks the due appreciation of the kindness of their "Foster Masters" recently exhibited; and let them attend and become connected with the "St. John Young Men's Lyceum," or any other such society, being assured that *only listening to a Lecturer* will not prove the substitute in after life, for no confidence or no ability *in themselves.*

Youth has truly and well been characterised the *season for improvement.* Young men improve the time, and now in the prime of life do all that lies in your power to be "brought past the wearisome bitterness of learning" with all expedition, knowing full well that a life ill spent entails in its unhallowed path sad old age, and well knowing the real and startling truth of the brief tho' comprehensive Latin ejaculation TEMPUS FUGIT."—*Com.*

ARRIVAL OF THE "*NIAGARA*"

(*By Telegraph to the News Room.*)

The Mail Steamer *Niagara* arrived at Halifax at midnight on Wednesday, 10th inst., having sailed from Liverpool at noon, on 29th ult. She brought 31 passengers, 3 for Halifax. She experienced very heavy weather, and strong head winds, nearly all the passage. The steamer City of Pittsburgh sailed from Liverpool the same day. The steamer Franklin from New York, arrived off Cowes, 27th November, at 9 o'clock, p. m., on her way to Havre.

The Cotton Market was animated; prices of ordinary and middling qualities had advanced from 1-8d to 1-4d. per lb.—demand good. Sales of the week, 59,240 bales.

The Corn Market was brisk; for Flour a fair demand existed, and prices were fully maintained; the same remark applies to Wheat.

Indian Corn dull, declined.

Sugar Market more animated; prices well supported.

Coffee improving; sales more extensive.

Tea remained unchanged.

Money continues abundant, a reduction in the rate of Interest at the Bank of England is expected. Bullion in the Bank had increased four hundred twenty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds. English funds firm—Consols closed on Friday at 98 3-8 to 98 3-4 and opened on Saturday morning with a steady feeling. Freights to the United States lower.

Timber Market.—Pine, Quebec Yellow, three cargos sold at 14 1-2d. per foot—Red at 16d. a 17d. —Birch, one parcel at 18d.—St. John Yellow Pine timber, a cargo 19 inch average at 19d. per foot.—Birch at 14d.—Spruce Planks at £8 5s. per Standard—Pine £9 to £9 5s.—Scantling £8.

SHIP NEWS.—Sailed from Liverpool, Nov. 27th Eudocia, for New Orleans. Arrived from St. John, Nov. 21st, Albion, at Aberdeen; 22nd. Zaratan, at Dublin; Gipsey Queen, at Dublin; Odessa at Dublin; Irene, at Liverpool; 23d, Alexander, at Deal; Olive, at Liverpool; Sterling, at Dunbar; Humber, off Dover; 24th, Mary Ann, at Bristol; Sophia, at Liverpool; Londonderry, at Clyde; 25th, Rover's Bride, at Gravesend; Faside, at Gravesend; Vesta, at Fleetwood; 26th, Connecticut, at Liverpool; Sachem, at Liverpool; Belmont, at Liverpool; Elizabeth Holderness, at Deal; Probus, at Gravesend; Acanthus, at Gravesend. Arrived from Quebec, Nov. 26th, Robert A. Lewis, at Gloucester.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MR. EDITOR,—As an inhabitant of West Isles, and one of the sufferers by the late impolitic law, prohibiting the taking of Herrings during the spawning season, I beg to request the favor of your inserting in your paper the following facts relative thereto, as I feel convinced that with the present number of Protectionists in the Assembly, it is only necessary to lay before them a true statement of the case, to have the grievance under which we labor removed.

The law as it now stands has the effect of destroying the business of nearly all the fishermen, except those of the Bay of Chaleur, in this Province, unless they (those engaged in it) go to Newfoundland or some distant parts, in larger vessels, thereby rendering their present outfits useless. The prohibited ground on the Southern head of the Manan, is the only good fishing ground in the Bay of Fundy, with the exception of the ground on the Eastern side of Campobello, which is so much exposed to the weather, that it is impossible for a fisherman to go there in a small vessel, and keep the fish he takes, fresh, for the market. Now, Sir, I ask, is it just, that our fishermen should be prohibited from fishing on the only good ground they have, for the benefit of those who live two hundred miles west of Fundy, and who have the whole Bay of Chaleur, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to fish in, and who can go there in vessels of any size they please, and remain there the whole summer. The parties who passed the law, I believe, intended it for a good thing for the fishermen, but they have, by their law, prevented them from taking other fish in the Bay of Fundy, which is, consequently, to a great extent, lost to them. I hope, Sir, that the Parliament, this year, will pass a law, to repeal the present law, and place the fishermen on the same footing they were before the passing of the present law; and I hope, Sir, that the Parliament will not be so much in the power of the Protectionists, as to refuse to do this, because it may, perhaps, be said, that it will be a great hardship on the manufacturers, to have their Herrings taken from them, for the benefit of the fishermen, who live so far to the Eastward. I, Sir, am one of the Protectionists in the Assembly, and I, Sir, am one of the sufferers by the present law, and I, Sir, am one of the fishermen who live so far to the Eastward, and I, Sir, am one of the fishermen who have to go to Newfoundland, or some distant parts, in larger vessels, to fish, and who have to lay their fish, when they get them, in salt, and have to keep them there, for want of a market, for the whole summer. The parties who passed the law, I believe, intended it for a good thing for the fishermen, but they have, by their law, prevented them from taking other fish in the Bay of Fundy, which is, consequently, to a great extent, lost to them. I hope, Sir, that the Parliament, this year, will pass a law, to repeal the present law, and place the fishermen on the same footing they were before the passing of the present law; and I hope, Sir, that the Parliament will not be so much in the power of the Protectionists, as to refuse to do this, because it may, perhaps, be said, that it will be a great hardship on the manufacturers, to have their Herrings taken from them, for the benefit of the fishermen, who live so far to the Eastward. I, Sir, am one of the Protectionists in the Assembly, and I, Sir, am one of the sufferers by the present law, and I, Sir, am one of the fishermen who live so far to the Eastward, and I, Sir, am one of the fishermen who have to go to Newfoundland, or some distant parts, in larger vessels