

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

We regret to learn that on Saturday night last, a Grist Mill belonging to Mr. Alexander Moore, at the Mechanics' Settlement, King's County, was destroyed by fire, with all its contents. The mill contained between 400 and 500 bushels of grain belonging to the people of the settlement. Mr. Moore's loss is very heavy, as there was no insurance on the mill, and as it was the only one in the settlement, the loss will be severely felt by the whole neighbourhood.—*New Brunswick, 21st.*

THE WEATHER this week has been the coldest we have experienced this season, the thermometer on Tuesday morning standing at 7 degrees below zero. We learn that the thermometer at Fredericton on the same morning was as low as 21 below zero. On Thursday night snow commenced falling, which covered our slippery streets to the depth of a foot or upwards.

The *Miramichi Observer* says, that the weather in that section of the Province has been intensely cold during the whole week.—*ib.*

We learn from the Woodstock Sentinel that a fire broke out in the Iron Foundry at the Upper Village last Friday, but was fortunately discovered in time to prevent any serious results.

Canada.

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.—After stating the bill of an application to the Gentlemen of the Seminary for the purchase of a portion of the property pertaining to the Seminary as a site for erecting a Merchants' Exchange, the Montreal *Gazette* says,—We are informed that since the above determination was made known, several proprietors of the next most eligible lot, have come forward, offering to sell on reasonable terms, and to invest part, if not the whole proceeds, in Stock. We doubt not, our citizens will be glad to learn, that a measurement of the site in question, has been made, and that the plans of buildings, not to be equalled in British America, are being prepared. A magnificent Arcade forms part, City Corporation Chambers; a spacious Assembly Room; Insurance and Brokers' Offices; from thirty to forty handsome Shops, forming the sides of the Arcade; large fire proof vaults, for bonding Wines, &c.; one large Auction Room; one of the Shops to be especially fitted up for a Chop House.

Montreal will now have an opportunity of showing what she can do—the business of the past season evinces her prosperity—better days are ahead. We hope shortly to see a list, containing the names of all our wealthy citizens, followed by all, according their abilities, interested in the welfare of the city.

We understand that about £50,000 will be required. Shares £25 each.

Yesterday afternoon, as a band boy of the 20th Regiment was skating on the River, nearly opposite the Bonsecours Market, he fell through the ice. An Officer of the same regiment, who was close at hand, seeing the perilous situation of the boy, went immediately to his rescue; but not succeeding in saving him, both were in much danger of being lost, when John Jordan, a ferryman, succeeded, after much difficulty, in saving the Officer; while the bystanders threw a rope to the boy, by means of which he was safely drawn on the ice. Much praise is due Mr. Jordan for the promptitude with which he risked his own life to save the lives of his fellow creatures—and to the officer, who, forgetting his own personal safety, rushed to the rescue of the boy from the imminent danger with which he was threatened.—*Montreal Transcript, 12th inst.*

We learn that the Hon. John Beverly Robinson, Chief Justice of Queen's Bench, U. C., is about to be created a Commander of the Order of the Bath.—*Quebec M. Chronicle.*

Prince Edward Island.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORSHIP OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Alexander Bauman, Esquire, late of Burmiesboole, Aberdeenshire, who is stated to have been appointed to this situation, vacant by the death of Sir Donald Campbell, the late Lieutenant Governor, has been, we are informed, for many years a Merchant, Shipowner, and Banker, in Aberdeen, during which time he has been much respected among his fellow-citizens. In 1832, after the passing of the Reform Bill, he was elected to represent the City of Aberdeen in the House of Commons, which honourable position he occupied for the subsequent fifteen years, to the satisfaction of his constituents, among whom he was highly popular.

Bermuda.

BERMUDA, Dec. 17.—The Am. Steamer Sea Bird, Capt. F. Z. Tucker, 8 days from New York, bound to San Francisco, California, put into St. George's on Tuesday last, having broken several parts of her engine. She was so disabled as to require the aid of H. M. Steamer Kite, to tow her into port. She was 220 miles South-east of Bermuda when the starboard water-wheel crank broke; and the larboard crank broke when in sight of land. It will be necessary for the vessel to remain here while the machinery is taken to New York for repairs.

UNITED STATES.

CURIOUS AFFAIR.—The correspondent of the Tribune, relates the following singular police incident as occurring recently in Philadelphia:

A newspaper carrier found the front door of Mr. Emily Quinn's house, in Green st., below Broad, open. The carrier suspecting that burglars were in the house, he informed John W. Young, of the Police Marshal's Office, of his suspicions. Mr. Y. obtained the assistance of Isaac Hulsehart, watchman, and James Whitaker, citizen, and entered the house, after ringing the door bell. While grouping their way up stairs in the dark, a pistol in the officer's hand was discharged.

By this time the inmates of the house, consisting of a number of females and two men, named William Gest and Thomas Fitzpatrick, were aroused by the noise, and supposing that the house had been invaded by desperate thieves, they endeavoured to escape. Five females sprang from the second story windows of the dwelling into the yard in their night clothes, while Gest, making his exit in the same manner, ran with all speed to the station house to secure assistance. Upon the arrival of Gest and the officers at the dwelling, the officers and citizens who first entered the dwelling were found industriously engaged in searching for thieves. The result of the above singular and unfortunate transaction is that one female is very seriously injured, another is confined to her bed from the effects of the fright, and that Young, Hulsehart and Whitaker have been held to bail in \$100 each to answer the charge of misdemeanor.

Navigation is closing upon the lakes, rivers and canals in the United States. The river Hudson was not navigable above Hudson on the 14th inst. The Connecticut is also frozen, and there is good skating on the Kennebec.

An ingenious mechanic of Cincinnati has recently invented a churn, which is said to excel anything of the kind now in use. It is capable of making butter of the best quality in from four to five minutes.

The total receipts of Jenny Lind's four concerts in Baltimore were \$40,000. She is now in Washington.

THE WRECK OF THE JACOB PERKINS.—The ship, from Manila, which went ashore off Nantucket last week, has become a total wreck, and nothing of her cargo has been saved but forty bales of hemp. The cargo was a very valuable one. State street insurance offices lose about \$51,000 by the disaster.—*Boston Mail.*

THE U. S. CONGRESS.—The Washington correspondents say there is apparently no disposition to renew the slavery agitation. Mr. Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, and Judge Butler of South Carolina have taken their seats. Both unhesitatingly declare that their States will secede, and that one of their motives for returning to their places in Congress is merely to get the recognition by Congress of the right of a State to vote herself out of the Confederacy.

By reports made for the various collection districts to the United States Senate, it appears that the number of known wrecks of United States vessels, in the year ending June 30th, 1843, was 585; crews of these vessels, 1916; passengers, 1969; lives lost, 477; value of the vessels, \$2,021,495; of the cargoes, \$2,501,771; making a total of \$4,523,176. Amount of losses paid by underwriters on vessels, \$1,570,492; and on cargoes, \$1,221,827; total, \$2,792,319. The largest number of wrecks at any one place was on the Florida reef, 20.

THE HAMILTON WOOLLEN MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.—Loss \$175,000.—The extensive seven story stone and brick woollen mill, belonging to the Hamilton Woollen Company, in Globe village, South bridge, was wholly consumed by fire on Sunday morning about 7 o'clock, together with its contents. The loss is estimated at about \$175,000. The building was burnt out in about three hours. By this destructive fire some 700 persons are suddenly thrown out of employment, and deprived of means of subsistence at this inclement season of the year. The origin of the fire is unknown. Total amount of insurance \$139,000.

A man named King has just been pardoned from the Ohio State Prison, after having been confined there six years. The death bed confession of the real criminal proved King's innocence.

Within a circle of twenty miles from Cincinnati there are 743 acres of vineyards, planted with Catawba and Isabella grapes.

DOMESTIC.

UNOBTENTATIVE PHILANTHROPY.—Among the numerous sufferers by the recent fire, perhaps none experienced more hardship in consequence of the calamity than the poor soldiers' wives and children. The community might, however, have inadvertently lost sight of their distress but for the Hon. S. Cunard and A. M. Umacke, Esq. imposing on themselves the office of representing to the inhabitants and soliciting donations from the benevolent towards relieving it. We are happy to state that the energetic efforts and influence of these gentlemen were amply successful, a sum amounting to about £200 having been obtained for the object of their task in the first two or three days of this week; the individuals who responded so readily to the application also merit lasting honour for their liberality in thus extending relief to a class to whom they are entire strangers.—*Recorder.*

We understand that Messrs. Hare & McAuliff, Agents for the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of London, have subscribed £12 10s. towards the relief of the Poor Women and Children who

suffered by the last fire at the North Barracks, in addition to their own liberal subscription of 25s.—*Sun.*

WILLIAM M. HOFFMAN, Esq.—It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of this much lamented gentleman—our fellow townsman and friend—who, by Electric Telegraph from York, is reported to have fallen a victim to the Asiatic Cholera in San Francisco, California.—We have not learned any further particulars.—But most sincerely do we sympathize with his afflicted parents and family, in the untimely decease of one on whom the honours and emoluments of the world were rapidly descending in his new and far distant home. Peace to his memory.—*Chronicle.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

HONOURS OF AVARICE.—The Cincinnati papers give us some singular facts connected with an old beggar woman named Elizabeth Morelock, whose death recently occurred in that city. She died in the night, and in the evening a lighted candle was placed upon a stand beside the bed, her idiot daughter, a frightful looking hunchback being the only attendant—though for a part of the time the physician was present. The old woman opened her eyes, and perceiving the burning candle, ordered it to be blown out, saying that she could not afford to pay for it. When first taken sick she ordered the chest which was, after her death, found to contain nearly four thousand dollars in gold; to be placed beside her bed, and she kept it within reach of her arms during the whole of her sickness; and when the death struggle came on, and she was told that she must die, she flung herself upon the chest, and clawed at it in her wild avaricious frenzy until she tore the very nails from her fingers, and thus embracing the ill-gotten treasure, her spirit took its flight. An old stove in the room was found after her death to contain a considerable amount of silver and copper ore, carefully stowed away. The money and effects have been placed in the hands of an executor appointed by the court. In 1840, when small change was scarce, this woman made a handsome speculation by selling five hundred dollars worth at one time to a single individual. This money was accumulated by beggary, by herself and her idiot daughter. The latter was generally flogged upon her return home at night when she did not make a good day's work of it, and was always whipped before she was sent out in the morning. The cries of the poor creature, while under the lash of her avaricious mother, have frequently excited the indignation of the neighbourhood. The poor idiot herself was afterwards under an attack of the cholera, and is probably numbered with the dead.

A CALIFORNIA INCIDENT.—The Placer Times relates the following story, as having occurred in the land of gold:

Not long since, an emigrant arrived over the Plains in a sickly and destitute condition, which excited the commiseration of his friends in the upper part of this country, who, to place the man in a position to make a living, elected him Justice of the Peace. In the early part of this month, a stranger, thinking that the price of beef in this city would justify the act, took it into his head to drive an ox from off the rancho of one of the said Justice's friends, towards Sacramento; he was pursued, overtaken, and brought before the Justice. When the case was heard and the mitimus made out, the Judge adjourned the case for one hour, and took the prisoner into his faithful care and keeping. After the crowd had dispersed, the honest Judge enquired of the prisoner how much he would give him if he would release him. All the money I have was the reply. The sum reached \$120, which the Judge took, and told *oroniano* to 'vamos the rancho,' which he readily did. The Judge then destroyed the papers in the case, and awaited the expiration of the hour of adjournment.

On the re-assembling of the other parties, the escape of the prisoner was announced by the court with deep regret. Pursuit was made at once, and the thief traced to the American Fork, into which he had plunged, holding on to a grape vine to keep his head above water. In this situation he was discovered and brought back to the Justice's office, where the above facts were divulged, proving that the course of rascality as well as love, doesn't run smooth. The crowd, incensed at the judicial conduct of the Judge, formed a court for the occasion, put the ox driver on his trial and acquitted him; then summoned the head of the *legal tribunal*, whom they tried, found guilty, and ordered to be lashed to an oak tree, and there to receive a sound whipping from the hands of his friend, the former prisoner.—The *one* hide was applied vigorously by the ox thief, much to the gratification of the temporary court and joy.

HAVANA.—THE SUGAR CROP.—A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, writing from Havana, speaks as follows of the crop of that island which supplies one half the world with sugar:

With regard to the crop of 1851, I shall be better able to advise you in the course of a fortnight, contenting myself with remarking at present that of sugar there will be a still larger growth than the present year, and you will perhaps give me some credit for accurate 'guessing,' when you find, as you will, that our exports by the Custom House books for 1850, reach the sum of 1,436,000 boxes; and if you add 70,000 more for the difference between the official and actual weight of muscovadoes, the total will reach the million and a half of boxes which I ventured to suggest a year ago; an estimate which some few dissatisfied planters almost talked me into withdrawing! Of the surplus 300,000 boxes this year, the United States have taken about one half, notwithstanding the large crop in Louisiana; and yestock are somewhat reduced and prices high in Europe. It is said the consumption of luxuries is an indication generally of prosperity in nations; if so, people in Europe and the United States must be 'getting on' well in the world, to consume so much more of an article which, although comparatively of necessity, is in reality a luxury.

EXPLORATION OF AFRICA.—Late advices from Europe state that the two German travellers, Overbeck and Barth, who accompanied the expedition of Richardson to the interior of Africa, have been heard of. A report received at Berlin, dated the 16th of August, left them 300 miles south-east of Tripolis, where they intended to await the termination of the rainy season; they were preparing canoes, which can be carried by camels, and used to cross the rivers. The travellers are assisted by contributions both from the king and the Geographical Society of Berlin.

TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER BY RUBBING.—An eminent physician of Washington City, Harvey Lindley, has recommended the following treatment for scarlet fever, practised by Dr. Schaeemann, Physician to the King of Hannover, as contained in a recent number of the London *Lancet*:—

From the first day of the illness, and soon as we are certain of its nature, the patient must be rubbed morning and evening over the whole body with a piece of bacon, in such a manner that, with the exception of the head, a covering of fat is every where applied. In order to make this rubbing some what easier it is best to take a piece of bacon the size of the hand choosing a part still armed with the rind, that we may have a firm grasp. On the soft-side of this piece sits are to be made, in order to allow the oozing out of the fat. The rubbing must be thoroughly performed, and not too quickly in order that the skin may be regularly saturated with the fat. The beneficial results of this application are soon obvious, with a rapidity bordering on magic, all, even the most painful symptoms of the disease are allayed; quiet, sleep, good humour, appetite return, and there remains only impatience to quit the sick-room.—*Scientific American.*

Late advices from Turks Island report that there was no salt to be obtained either at Grand Turk or Salt Key, owing to the heavy rains. It was supposed no more would be made before March or April.

A sad accident occurred in the city of Mexico on the 15th ultimo. A powder mill, situate at No. 11 Santa Anna street, took fire and exploded with a tremendous crash, involving itself and the neighbouring houses in promiscuous ruin. Seven dead bodies were found; but, as the greater part of the inhabitants of the houses were overwhelmed, it is thought that many more were destroyed.

FROM DEMERARA.—By the Lady Chapman, we are attentively placed in possession of Demerara papers to the 29th ult. These papers contain dates from Barbadoes to the 22nd ult, but nothing is said in any of them with respect to the cholera before reported as appearing among the soldiers at St. Ann's; the last case reported was on the 15th.

There has been two arrivals of African immigrants at Demerara: 388 in the *Barque Fame* from St. Helena, and 162 in the *Ship Clarendon* from Sierra Leone.

A further extension of the Railway had been opened. It now reaches Victoria, a distance of 16 miles from Georgetown.

Some seasonable and more favourable weather had been experienced, and the canes were beginning to revive from the effects of the long drought.

A large Tiger has been trapped at Plantation Nonpareil by a Mr. Keirnan; it was to be sent to England.