

At New York, U. S., on the 20th, the thermometer was 10° below zero.
 At Lowell, U. S., on the 20th, the thermometer was 10° below zero.
 At Salem, U. S., on the 20th, the thermometer was 20° below zero.
 At Toronto, U. C., on the 20th, the thermometer was 10° below zero.
 At New Orleans, U. S., on the 20th, the thermometer was at 15 degrees.

At New York, on Tuesday, the 20th January, was the coldest day recorded, undoubtedly the coldest for 20 years. On the south side of Long Island, the Atlantic Ocean itself was frozen out as far as the eye could reach. The lowest temperature reached by the mercury in each year from 1840 to 1849, inclusive, ten years, was as follows :—

In 1840, lowest temperature, on January 17th, was	9 degrees.
In 1841, lowest temperature, on January 4th, was	6 degrees.
In 1842, lowest temperature, on January 24th, was	14 degrees.
In 1843, lowest temperature, on February 18th, was	9 degrees.
In 1844, lowest temperature, on January 29th, was	6 degrees.
In 1845, lowest temperature, on February 1st, was	11 degrees.
In 1846, lowest temperature, on February 27th, was	8 degrees.
In 1847, lowest temperature, on January 24th, was	13 degrees.
In 1848, lowest temperature, on January 11th, was	8 degrees.
In 1849, lowest temperature, on January 11th, was	4½ degrees.

Lowest temperature, Tuesday morning, Jan. 20, by same thermometer, 3 above; being 1½ degrees lower than in either of the twelve preceding years. The following is the temperature of the three days, commencing on the 18th; and also, that of the three coldest days in January in 1850 and 1851; taken from the record kept by A. J. Delatour, No 25½, Wall Street :—

	1852.			
	7 A. M.	12 M.	3 P. M.	5 P. M.
January 18th,	15	24	26	17
January 19th,	12	20	23	20
January 20th,	3	13	11	8
	1851.			
January 19th,	16	26	20	27
January 30th,	14	18	18	15
January 31st,	10	23	25	23
	1850.			
January 1st,	17	21	23	16
January 6th,	24	29	30	27
January 28th,	25	32	34	29

On most of the American Railroads the trains ceased running, owing to the immense drifts of snow. On the New York and Erie Railroad six engines were sent (on the 21st of January), from Dunkirk, to force a passage to Hornellsville, but could not get through. The snow between Dunkirk and Dayton, (Ohio), was from five to seven feet deep. In New Orleans, the snow was six inches deep—a most remarkable occurrence. At Matajorda, in Texas, the cold weather had killed large numbers of cattle; and in consequence of the excessive cold which has recently prevailed at Stockholm, in Sweden, a great number of dogs have been seized with madness. The Hamburg *Borsenhalle* says they ran about the streets and attacked several persons.

The following is a brief summary of the coldest winters which have been experienced during the last two centuries :—

In 1664 the cold was so intense that the Thames was covered with ice sixty-one inches thick. Almost all the birds perished.

In 1695 the cold was so excessive that the famishing wolves entered Vienna and attacked beasts and even men. Many people in Germany were frozen to death in 1695, and 1696 was nearly as bad.

In 1709 occurred that famous winter called by distinction, the cold winter. All the rivers and lakes were frozen, and even the sea for several miles from the shore. The ground was frozen nine feet deep. Birds and beasts were struck dead in the fields and men perished in their houses.

In the South of France, the wine plantations were almost destroyed, nor have they yet recovered that fatal disaster. The Adriatic Sea was frozen, and even the Mediterranean, about Genoa; and the citron and orange groves suffered extremely in the finest parts of Italy.

In 1716 the winter was so intense that people travelled across the straits from Copenhagen to the provinces of Sema in Sweden.

In 1726, in Scotland, multitudes of cattle and sheep were buried in the snow.

In 1740 the winter was scarcely inferior to that of 1792. The snow lay ten feet deep in Spain and Portugal. The Zuyder Zee was frozen over, and thousands of people went over it. All the lakes in England were frozen.

In 1744 the winter was very cold. Snow fell in Portugal to the depth of twenty-three feet on a level.

In 1754 and 1755, the winters were very severe and cold. In England the strongest ale, exposed to the air in a glass, was covered with ice one-eighth of an inch thick.

In 1771, the Elbe was frozen to the bottom.

In 1776, the Danube bore ice five feet deep below Vienna. Vast numbers of the feathered and finny tribe perished.

The winters of 1774 and 1775 were uncommonly severe. The little Belt was frozen over.

From 1800 to 1812 also, the winters were remarkably cold, particularly the latter in Russia, which proved so disastrous to the French army.

In February 1817, the East River at New York, was so frozen across that persons passed over to Brooklyn on foot.

In January 1821, the East River was similarly frozen.

In January 1852, it was also frozen across.

EFFECT OF SEVERE FROST AT THE NIAGARA FALLS

Empires are said to crumble away. A little more than a year since that portion of Her Majesty's Dominions at Niagara Falls, represented by Table Rock, gave us a specimen of this crumbling, and last week, Brother Jonathan, who never permits himself to be beaten, gave us an exhibition of the same kind, with an improvement. On Sunday afternoon last, a portion of the precipice, near the Tower, on the south side of Goat Island, fell with a mighty crash. This portion extended from the edge of the Island toward the Tower, being about 125 ft. long, and about 60 feet wide, of a somewhat elliptical shape, and reaching from the top to near the bottom of the fall. The next day, another triangular piece, with a base of about 40 feet, broke off just below the tower. But the next great performance was the most remarkable. Between the two portions that had previously fallen, stood a rectangular projection, about 30 feet long, and 15 feet wide, extending from top to bottom of the precipice. This immense mass became loosened from the main body of rock, and settled perpendicularly about eight feet where it now stands, an enormous column two hundred feet high, by the dimensions named above. It is most probable that this column will also fall when the weather becomes warmer. The severity of the winter, and the long continuance of the intense cold, have produced these results. They are splendid exhibitions of the slow, persevering, resistless power of the venerable, white-haired Mr. John Frost. By his freezing process he disengaged these great masses of rock from the kindred stratum, then held them in his cold hand until the genial south wind induced him to relax his hold, and they were precipitated into the chasm below.—*Niagara Falls Paper*.

ACTUAL EXTENT OF THE BRITISH METROPOLIS.—Its present area, according to the census returns, is 44,850 square acres, or about 70 square miles. Upon it are erected 324,611 houses, of which 16,889 are uninhabited; and on the 31st of March, of the year 1851, there were 4,817 houses in the course of erection. In 307,722 houses, there resided 2,361,640 people, or at the rate of 77 persons per house, and the estimated value of property rated for the relief of the poor is about £9,000,000. To have a better idea of the magnitude of the metropolis, compare it with other places or countries. The population of the whole of Ireland, by the last census, was 6,515,794; Scotland had 2,870,784 inhabitants; and Wales, 1,188,821. The great manufacturing counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire contained a population respectively of 2,059,029 and 1,785,680. So that the metropolis contains within its boundaries a population more than one-third as great as that of all Ireland, four-fifths as great as all Scotland, twice as great as all Wales, one-seventh more than Lancashire, and one-fourth more than the entire county of Yorkshire. By the income-tax returns, it appears that the assessed rental of the metropolis amounts to the enormous sum of £12,186,508; but any attempt to estimate the wealth of the metropolis would be useless, and there are no sufficient data whereby to judge. If, however, any one will look at the shipping in the Thames, the immense range of warehouses, the enormous capital of our different insurance companies, the £17,000,000 of bullion in the Bank, the almost incalculable amount of merchandise, the income derived by our several gas and water companies, the number and magnitude of our charitable and benevolent institutions, some faint idea of the wealth of the richest city in the world may be formed, but not realised.