anabaptists, I see nothing in them but gravity; I hear nothing from them, but that we must not swear; must not do any injury; that all ought to be pious, and live holy lives; therefore I see nothing of evil in them. They use yea and nay in their conversation. They think themselves to be the only true church of Christ; and teach that they who by *anabaptism* are received into their church, ought not to have any communion with the Evangelical and our Christian churches, or with any other whatsoever; for that our churches are not true churches, *no more* than the churches of the papists." Similar testimonies are given by Commenius, Scultetus, Beza, Cloppenberg, Cassander, Heyden, Hornbeck, Cocceius, Bp. Burnet, Dr. Wall, Dr. Haweis, Dr. Lingard, and Sir James Mackintosh.—*Abridged from Orchard's History of English Baptists, in manuscript.*

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

"I Can't Get Acquainted with the Members of the Church!"

So said a lady who had recently been admitted by letter into the membership of a large church, to the pastor.

"I am very sorry my sister," was the reply; "the members are generally considered quite friendly, and there is much pleasant social intercourse among them."

"But scarcely any of them speak to me, or seem to know me when I come to the church, or meet them in the street."

"Do you speak to them?"

"I do not like to speak first. It was so very different in the first church I joined."

"Where you passed the days of your childhood and youth, you were of course more widely known, and when you were baptized it was a more direct introduction to the Christian sympathies and affection of the church. Do you attend the prayer-meetings?"

"No; I have not been yet."

"The best place to form acquaintances among the members is at the prayer-meetings. The Sabbath congregations are so large, and so many strangers attend, that the members can scarcely become familiar with each other if they meet only there. But if you are seen regularly at the prayer-meeting, you will soon be recognized and welcomed. Have you been to the Dorcas Society?"

"Oh no! I did not like to go where all were strangers to me."

"But how are they to become acquainted with you, if you do not give them the opportunity? I hope you have visited the Sabbath-school?"

"No. I should like to take a class, but I have been waiting for an invitation."

"My dear friend, do you not perceive that you are far more to blame for remaining a comparative stranger among us, than the members of the church generally can be? You are waiting for advances to be made by those to whom you give scarcely an opportunity for friendly intercourse. You give them no reason to think that you desire an acquaintanceship. Now my advice to you is, attend the more familiar meetings of the church, manifest an interest in its spirituality and prosperity, kindly recognize any whom you know to be members, dispense with the worldly courtesy that requires a formal introduction to these disciples of Jesus, and then if they remain indifferent to you, the blame will rest with them."—*Watchman and Reflector.*

Missionary Intelligence.

FROM THE MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HOME MISSION RECORD.

Canada.

From the Rev. Robert Boyd, London, Dec., 1849.

I am happy to inform you that the progress of the good cause here is most encouraging. The church continues to grow in numbers, and, what is far better, in moral influence upon the surrounding community. Our congregations are large to overflowing. The attendance at Prayer-meetings and Bible classes, has greatly increased during the last quarter. The people have taken up the subject of building a meeting-house with great spirit, and contributions received for that object have been quite liberal. I am looking for a general revival of God's work among us, and hope that my next report may tell of great things which the Lord is doing in our midst.

Swiss Mission, Canada.

From the Rev. Louis Roussy, Grande Ligne, January, 1850.

The work in my stations furnishes us with encouragment, especially at Grande Ligne, where many persons, hitherto inaccessible to us, are now giving good attention to the Gospel. One among the number, a farmer in easy circumstances, having a numerous family, a man of intelligence and influence, who has heretofore treated the things of God with great indifference, all of a sudden seems seeking salvation. Many others, who have been obstinately opposed to Gospel, exhibit disquietude at the state of their souls, and give serious attention. The hand of the Lord seems also to rest upon a number of young men who now manifest good dispositions towards religion.—These things cause us to hope that the Lord will not leave us to work in vain.

For a long time our hearts were filled with profound grief on account of the people of this place.—We knew not whom to address, without being chilled with the coldness with which they listened; or the resistance which they offered; but now we hope that the Lord is breathing upon these dry bones, to make them live. I propose to hold a protracted meeting about the commencement of next month; which I trust the Lord will bless for good.

From the Rev. C. H. O. Cote, Fort George, January 31.

The station I now occupy is an entirely new one. Although our colporteurs and some of our missionaries have occasionally visited some of the people who showed a disposition to turn their backs upon error and embrace the truth as revealed in the blessed Gospel of Christ, yet no prominent stand had been made among them before last March.

As it is usually the case with beginners, it was my lot to find dark clouds gathering over my head. I was threatened with the torch of the incendiary, and even with distruction of life by the vile and cowardly assassin, if I persisted in establishing a station in this part of Satan's kingdom, where Romish superstition has always had undisputed and complete sway since its establishment. It was my lot to see the priest of St. Gregoire, at the head of a considerable mob, with the avowed intention of pulling down from over my head the dwelling house in which were sheltered my wife and dear little ones; and to avoid this calamity I knew of no other way but to trust in the Lord of Hosts. I had no earthly friends to trust in. The whole population around me was blindly and fanatically attached to the altars of their false gods, and I well knew the wonderful and magical power a Romish priest exerts over his blind followers. My only hope, therefore, was from God, knowing well, from past experience, that His own pleasure would be done, whether my dwelling house and our lives were to be destroyed, or left as a city on a hill, from which the light of his blessed Gospel could be seen. I was well satisfied, that after all, the whole would be to His greater glory. I had found out, many a time, that his ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts: therefore, I resigned myself to God's will and, with my family and the only convert in the place bowed down on our knees in prayer, we calmly awaited the issue, whatever it might be, while the unruly mob, only a few rods distant, where excited by the fiery harangues of the hot-headed and foaming priest. Need I tell you who were conquerers in the fight? The God of Israel heard the prayers of the poor lone missionary family, and sent deliverance.

He sent a lying spirit in the midst of the mob which spread a false alarm among them. A false report was thrown among them, which scattered them to the four winds in a very short time, and that without having offered a single act of violence to us. What the Lord had done in old times to the Syrians, He did to these foes of his blessed Gospel; he caused them "to hear a noise," "wherefore they arose and fled.

You may easily form an idea of our thankfulness and gratitude to the God of deliverance, who had shielded us even in the very lion's den. I witnessed the flight of these evil-minded men, without knowing the cause of it; and when I beheld my dear wife, and my precious little ones, thus delivered from violence. I could not refrain from praising him who had proved himself, in such a wonderful manner, to be the "God of deliverance." "Praise God with me, my dear brother, for what he has done in thus manifesting his approval of our undertaking to plant the standard of the cross at this station, in this most benighted portion of my native country.

Already good results have followed the opposition we met. Several persons have expressed a desire to be instructed in the ways of the Lord, being entirely disgusted with the mummeries of the Popish church. Even one of those who had publicly threatened to be the first to set fire to my house, called upon me a few days ago, to beg me to lend him a Bible, and pressed me to call at his house to read the precious book to his wife. I am happy to say that this has been done.

Except one convert, I cannot positively say that any have passed from darkness to light—from error to truth—but I can say without fear of contradiction, that of all the fields of the Swis Mission this one promises, with the divine blessing, as far as we poor mortals are competent to judge, to yield an abundant and rich harvest in God's own appointed time. The number of anxious enquirers is constantly increasing, and the "Nicodemuses" are not few who come in the dead of the night to receive instruction. May the year 1850 be more fruitful in the cause of truth, piety and the diffusion of biblical knowledge among the French Canadian papists, than any that have preceded it: then it shall be that in "the fulness of our joy" our hearts will be made glad in Him who is the ark of our salvation.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Evangelical Pioneer.

ST. THOMAS, C. W. Feb. 20th, 1850.

DEAR SIR:—

I shall feel obliged by your permitting the following communication to appear in the next *Pioneer*, if possible. A few weeks since, a "circular" signed by brethren H. Fitch, Moderator, and G. J. Ryerse, Secretary, was received by one of the brethren here, from a "convention" held lately at Charlotteville, for the ostensible "purpose of promoting the Home Mission Cause, in Canada West," &c.; requesting the Church at St. Thomas, among others, "to send delegates to meet with the first Church in Malahide, on the first Wednesday in February, &c. The Sabbath previous to the anticipated meeting of Delegates, the church, after the morning service, appointed myself and other brethren to go to Aylmer. Being from home, preaching in other places, that Lord's day, I was informed of the action taken upon the "Circular," on my return. I believed there were various reasons extant, why *I* could not comply with the adopted resolution. Brother Hopkins, who was also chosen a delegate, went; with whom I sent a note, addressed to the Moderator of the Meeting, stating it to be my *firm conviction*, after *mature deliberation*, that should the proposed "plan" be fully *organized*, its *existence* would be but brief, and that upon the whole, the welfare and interests of the Regular Baptists of this Province, would be more securely and effectually enhanced, by all the Churches giving in their adhesion to the *Union* (against which there seemed to me no *valid* objection,) and by co-operating with the comparatively powerful and well-organized "*Home Mission Society*," already in the field, until the Union should become possessed of a more *independent organization*, of which there seems a reasonable prospect.

These are some of the sentiments which I took the liberty of communicating to the brethren, who met with the Malahide Church, to devise "a *plan* for Home Mission operations and the more *speedy supply* of the the gospel among the destitute throughout Canada West;" and as I am fully persuaded that—provided we should be willing to co-operate more unitedly and practically in furtherance of the great objects provided by the Union—objects which have now been for many years, I might say, promoted through the fostering care, and praiseworthy liberality of the American Home Missionary Society—we have already a better plan than any other available one that may be propounded, either separately or conjunctively. I have thought it incumbent upon me, to give publicity to my convictions upon this subject, through your columns, and remain, Dear Sir,

Yours, with Christian regard,

D. W. ROWLAND.

[We have an apology to offer to Mr. Rowland for the delay of a week in the publication of the above letter.—The cause was an entirely accidental one, and the omission was not observed until too late for last number.—Ed. PIONEER.]

THE

Evangelical Pioneer.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1850.

The following sums have been received at this office, and placed to the credit of the Regular Baptist Union of Canada:—

G. Johnson..... 0 6 0.

To Correspondents.

J. Gundry—with $10 from the Juvenile Missionary Society, 2d Baptist church, Simcoe, for the Grand Ligne Mission. The money forwarded by Saturday's mail.

T. G.,—Pickering. His communication has been handed to the party named.

M. McK.,—Zorra, attended to.

G. J.,—Dawn Mills do.

T. L. D. do.

J. A. Peel, do.

A, C.,—Esquesing, His communication will appear next week.

Will brother A. Chute, from whom we have received a letter this week, inform us to what place a letter to him ought to be addressed.

We are indebted to the politeness of George Brown, Esq., Secretary to Provincial Penitentiary Commission, for a copy of their Reports which have been printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. Taken together with the appendixes they make a volume of 331 pages.

The Rev. T. L. Davidson, in a letter received from him, dated on Monday, last week, says:—

"I have just returned this morning from Br. Ratcliff's neighborhood, whither I went yesterday, to preach and baptize. We had a glorious meeting after which I baptized three believers, two of whom had belonged to the methodist church.—Before we proceeded to baptize, one of the candidates gave his reasons publicly for becoming a Baptist, and the effect was good."

We observe in the columns of the *Michigan Christian Herald* that, within a few weeks past, eight or nine members have been received by baptism into the Tabernacle church, over which our friend Mr. Inglis at present presides as pastor.—We feel assured that many hearts in Canada will rejoice to hear that success is attending his labors in his new field.

NOTHING further has transpired in reference to the Gorham case. The *London Record* gives it as its confirmed opinion, that the announcement formerly alluded to was premature, and that the nature of the decision of the Privy Council will not be known until it is promulgated by Her Majesty.

THE United States do not seem to be much nearer a settlement of their internal discords.

Railways.

If there is any one thing which would conduce more than another to the prosperity of the Western section of Upper Canada, it is the formation of a trunk Railroad from the Niagara frontier or the head of Lake Ontario, to the Detroit River or some port near the foot of Lake Huron. Three schemes are now before the public for the purpose of accomplishing this desirable end, for two of which charters are in existence. First we have the Toronto, Simcoe, and Lake Huron Railroad, the Directors of which, having succeeded in introducing the very objectionable system of Lottery gambling into their efforts to raise the necessary funds, are now before the Canadian and United States public, with their proposals. Next we have the Great Western Company, with Hamilton as their head quarters, whose proposed line runs eastwards to the Niagara River at the Suspension Bridge or some other convenient place for crossing to the American territory, and Westward by Paris, Woodstock, and London, to the western extremity of the Province. This company has been in existence 16 or 17 years. Many bright expectations have been held out to the public that the road would soon be in operation, but every representation to that effect has only ended in disappointment. We have very substantial reasons for wishing to see the road, according to the latest survey, brought into operation in preference to its rival line the Niagara and Detroit Rivers road, but, if the Great Western Company is not prepared to go on with the work intrusted to them, they ought not to stand in the way of any other Company who may present to the Legislature and the public a more feasible plan for bringing the United States western travel through Canada. It was proposed at one time, we believe, to complete the two ends of the line first, viz.: from Niagara to Hamilton, and from London to Sarnia—the intermediate transit being accomplished by the planked and macadimized road between Hamilton and London. We observe however, by late announcements that this idea has been abandoned, and that the proposal now is, to do just the reverse of this, and form that portion of the road which extends from Hamilton to London—under the supposition that the construction of this central division will ensure the completion of the whole line. We very much fear that this proposal is also to end in disappointment.

The third scheme is that of The Niagara and Detroit Rivers Railroad, for which a charter was dnied some two or three years ago, on the ground that the traffic would not warrant the construction of two rival lines, and on the understanding that the Great Western was to be brought into operation, or fairly entered upon before a certain specified time. Mr. Woods, of Sandwich, has been lately visiting the principal towns in the Western peninsula, to bring the project again before the inhabitants, and at Woodstock, Brantford, Simcoe, and other places, he has met with great encouragement. It is proposed that this road shall not, as was formerly intended, course along the Lake Erie shore, but take a line commencing opposite Black Rock, or at the Suspension Bridge on the Niagara River, and passing along the mountain ridge, and through Brantford, Woodstock, London, and Chatham, have its western terminus opposite the Depot of the Michigan Central Railroad at Detroit. Mr. Woods has stated in his addresses that this line of road can be constructed for $3,000,000 of which amount the Michigan Central Railroad Company had offered to take in stock $1,000,000, paying the money down. We observe it to be stated also that many of the shareholders of the Great Western Company are supporting this project, because they see no prospect of the former being carried into execution. It is the intention to apply to the next session of Parliament for a charter for this company, and offers are held out to the Great Western Company for an amalgamation of their interests. It is to be hoped that something of this kind will be accomplished, and that by the adoption of a joint line all jealousy between two rival companies may be avoided.

Since writing the foregoing we have perused a very able pamphlet, by Thos. C. Keefer, Esq., civil Engineer, entitled "Philosophy of Railroads" and issued by Messrs. Armour and Ramsay, of Montreal. It has been published at the request of the Directors of the Montreal and Lachine Railroad, and its object is to rouse the inhabitants of Canada from the apathy they seem to feel on so important a subject, and induce them to commence at least the formation of a great trunk Railroad from the Lachine road westward to Hamilton, connecting with the proposed Great Western road. We give some extracts to-day illustrative of the writer's views, and may possibly continue them in subsequent numbers.

The navigation of the St. Lawrence is subject to the great drawback of being occasionally closed when the business is most urgent and most heavy. To obviate the great loss and inconvenience of wintering over large supplies at Montreal, the Portland Railroad has been undertaken. But the scheme will be incomplete, and the St. Lawrence route under great disadvantages, until a Railway is extended from Lachine to Prescott or Kingston, securing to the Western producer the certain transmission of his produce, should frost or accident to the St. Lawrence Canals, (of which we have had no less than two instances in the last summer) detain it at Prescott.

The necessity for this step will soon be so apparent, that the Government will be compelled to lend every possible assistance to the project. Our shipping being limited, a sudden rise of prices produces a corresponding rise of freights and want of vessels, and as the result, a portion of our exports will be sent through the more numerous and better supplied channels of our neighbors. In these critical times of high prices, shippers cannot risk delay, and will take the route that offers the most chances of getting on; moreover they want the means of communicating with their produce and business depots after the suspension and before the opening of navigation.

Perhaps the impression exists that a Railway upon this route could not compete with the river; but for through passengers up, and all business passengers down, mails, all the winter travel and freight and all *way* passengers and freight, the River would offer no competion to the Railway, because the cars from Montreal would reach Kingston almost while the steamer was passing through *one* of the Canals; while in the spring, autumn, and in case of accidents, the latter becomes a necessary auxiliary to the former.

The Hudson River Railroad has been undertaken upon the most substantial and expensive scale, by the side of a river where water transport has been brought to a perfection unequalled in the world, *because* New York can no longer do without a winter communication with the interior. The New York Railroads, situate along the line of canals, transported in the fourteen months, ending December, 1848, 57,188 tons of freight, paying the canal tolls, which amounted to $107,785. The Albany and Schenectady—the last link with the Hudson—received from this source alone $14,000 in the months of May and April, 1848.

It is the assertion of the best authorities, and the result of the best experience, that freight and travel upon every highway are quadrupled in a remarkably short space of time, by the construction of a Railway.

Canada loses every year, by the want of Railroads, and a winter market, enough to construct fifty miles of Railway. If we look at the price of flour for the last six years, we will see that it has been highest in the winter months (from October to May); and we have not forgotten when, in 1847, we, with nearly half a million of barrels of flour for exportation, in Montreal alone, were regaled with accounts of winter sales, at double the usual rates, in Boston, New York, and other Atlantic ports, from which, *for the want of Railways alone*, we were shut out; not even having the privilege of paying the American duty.

As soon as the Western farmer secures his crop, his whole time is required to get in the new one before the frost,—for he sows fall wheat. Necessity alone makes him thrash out and take a portion of his grain to market. The winter is his idle season—then is his most convenient time for thrashing and bringing his produce to sale. The Eastern farmer sows spring wheat, but as the snow forms his best and cheapest road,—the winter is also his proper time for coming to market. The same is the case with the farmer in the back Townships who has no summer road; he must wait for the snow and frost to bring out his grain to the best advantage. The chief part of their produce, therefore, lies on their hands, with that on those of the miller, until the ensuing season. Our mills must therefore stand still, because, like the bees, we are sealed up in the winter, idly consuming the fruits of our summer's industry. With a Railway, we could make flour in winter of a better quality, and cheaper proportionally, because we have more time, cooler weather, and cheaper transport of the wheat, while our chances of high prices would be better, and risk of souring less.

Nothing would tend more to the extension of manufactures, particularly the numerous and valuable ones of wool,—the only description we would for some time export,—than the existence of Railways; nothing would more rapidly build up, what every country should have, *a home market*—place the consumer near the producer—keep our surplus population at home—promote the growth of wool, the cultivation of hemp, the settlement of waste lands, the employment of our unlimited water-power, and the expansion of national enterprise.

If we would *now* have manufactories, (cotton for instance,) we must lay in our winter stock of raw material in November, and allow our manufactures to accumulate until April or May before they can be distributed: while in New England, the train which takes up the wool to the water power upon Monday returns with the manufactures of that wool in the same week. These quick returns beget small profits, with which, under our system, it is vain to attempt competition. When we consider the amount of unprofitable capital "winter killed,"—the loss of winter prices on the seaboard, the cost of transport by wagons, the feeding of horses, and the rate paid in the towns for a scant supply of articles, valueless in the country, we repeat again,—Canada loses by the want of Railroads and winter markets enough to build fifty miles of Railway every year!

Mr. Wettenhall.

We regret to announce that Mr. Wettenhall is laboring under very serious indisposition, caused by the excitement which he has had to undergo of late in connection with his previously existing delicate state of health. We trust soon to hear of his convalescence.

THE Monthly Union Missionary Prayer Meeting, was held in the Free Church on Monday evening, the Rev. Dr. Burns presiding. The usual exercises were engaged in and the Dr. gave some interesting intelligence from India and Hungary. There was a rather fuller attendance of the laity than on the two last occasions, but there was little evidence of the Clergy taking a greater interest than hitherto, and it was some time after the hour of meeting before any of them made their appearance.

WE are glad to perceive from late British papers that the Sabbath question assumes increasing prominence. A petition has been got up in Glasgow, headed by the Banking Companies—Lawyers—Medical Men and Merchants of that great commercial city, praying for an entire cessation of Mail service on Sunday.

"Witness for Truth."

The number of the above periodical for February, has been sent us. In remarking upon an article which appeared in the *Pioneer*, a few weeks ago, the Editor of the *Witness* refers to a call which a friend of his made at the *Pioneer* Office, and professes to give a detail of what passed on the occasion. Any one reading the remarks would lay the blame at our door. All we have to ask of the *Witness for Truth* is, that in his next number he will have the goodness to state (which he can do on *the very best authority*)—that his friend did not see the Editor at all, and that for what then passed the *Pioneer* is not responsible.

The European News.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

The European mails which reached Boston in the America, at 11 a. m. Monday, were received at our Post Office early yesterday morning.

The Canada, from this port, arrived at Liverpool February 4th, after a passage of eleven and a half days.

The Queen's Speech presents no pledges of reform, besides that implied of persistance in a free trade policy.

On the proposed amendment to the Address, in answer to the Speech, the Protectionists were beaten even in the House of Lords, their former strong-hold by three to two.

FRANCE.

In France, the spirit of disorder appears to prevail, both in the Capital and the Provinces; and grave apprehensions of revolution are entertained.

M. Drouyn de l'Huys quitted Paris on the 3d for England, as ambassador from France to the Court of St. James's.

M. Edgar Ney, the Bonapartist candidate, has been elected for the department of the Charante.

The antagonism which has so long existed between the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Louis Napoleon, has been expressed by a vote of 335 against 250, leaving the ministry in a minority of 75. The subject was the bill for making St. Etienne the chief town of the Loire, instead of Montbrison, and the attempt to erect the Government staff of Prefects, &c., in the rising manufacturing district, failed. General Changarnier voted with the majority.

After a fierce and protracted debate, the bill for the deportation of the June insurgents to Algeria has been carried by a majority of 416 to 204, and the bill relating to the Garde Mobile has been decided upon by a still larger majority.

On the 14th inst., the French Assembly passed by a large majority, the bill for allowing the sequestration to be taken off the property of the ex-royal family, and the remaining debts paid by a loan of 20,000,000f. on the security of the property.

ENGLAND.

In the British House of Commons of February 1st, the debate on the amendment to the Address was renewed by the Marquis of Cranby. Lord John Russell believed that the people were quite satisfied with matters as they stood, and there was no chance for a restoration of protection. The numbers were—For the amendment, 192; against it, 311; majority, 119.

Mr. Hawes, in reply to a question from Mr. Adderley, stated that the order in council for the removal of convicts to the Cape of Good Hope had been revoked; that the Neptune convict ship had been removed from the Cape to Van Dieman's Land; and that there was no foundation for the rumor of the recal of Sir Harry Smith.

In the Peers, February 4th, Lord Stanley asked the Government, whether the accounts which he had seen in the public journals relative to the blockade of the ports of Greece by a British fleet were correct?—The Marquis of Lansdowne said that those accounts were in substance correct; but every demand made by the British authorities was founded in justice. Repeated efforts had been made to obtain compensation for injuries sustained by British subjects at the hands of the Greek government, but, after repeated delays, that Government had at length refused to give any redress.

In addition to a statement that England has accepted the mediation of France in the Greek question, it is understood that the French Minister of Foreign Affairs has declared in private, that he hopes to be able to announce to the Assembly in a very few days, that the misunderstanding between England and Greece has been amicably settled.

In the Commons, Lord Palmerston made a similar statement respecting the affairs of Greece, and added that the relations between this country and Austria were of the most friendly character—that the relations between Russia and Turkey were of a satisfactory character, and he felt persuaded that there was not any ground for an apprehension of hostile operations being contemplated on the part of Russia against Turkey.

In the Commons, February 5th, the interesting announcement was made by Sir F. Baring, in reference to Sir John Franklin and his companions, that, in addition to the expedition which has just sailed for Bhering's Straits to make a search, to the westward, another will be sent out to repeat the eastward exploration through Lancaster Sound.

In the Commons, February 7th, Mr. Hume asked the Premier whether the rumor was true that he was contemplating an extension of the franchise; and receiving, as every body expected, a reply in the negative, he gave notice of a motion on the 21st inst., for leave to bring in a bill to amend the national representation, by enlarging the constituency, by the introduction of the ballot, and by the adoption of triennial Parliaments. Mr. Anstey having moved for leave to bring in a bill for the repeal of the penal acts against the Roman Catholic religion, the motion for leave to bring in the bill was rejected by 77 against 72.

In the Commons, February 8th, Lord John Russell proceeded to move a resolution upon which to found a bill for the better government of the Australian colonies, and made his promised explanation of the general policy which the government had proposed to adopt towards the colonies. With regard to this colony he proposed to give it a representative government, to consist of an Elective Council and a Legislative Assembly, the constituency to consist of persons of a certain amount of property. The Legislative Assembly to be re-elected every five years, and the Council every ten years. Similar changes would be extended to New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land.—Power would also be given, on the requisition of any two of the Australian colonies, to convene an Assembly of the different provinces upon the tariff, or any other matter for the benefit of all. With respect to New Zealand, it was intended to extend to that colony the advantages of a representative government. The noble lord described the measures he should propose with respect to several other colonies, and observed that they would be founded on an analagous principle. He then entered upon the question of emigration, and gave but little hope of any very extensive government aid. He concluded a speech which occupied 2½ hours as follows:—

"I do anticipate, with others, that some of the colonies may grow in population and wealth, that they may say—'Our strength is sufficient to enable us to be independent of England. The link is now becoming onerous to us—the time is come when we think we can, in amity and alliance with England, maintain our independence.' I do not think that that time is yet approaching. [Hear, hear.] But let us make them, as far as possible, fit to govern themselves—let us give them, as far as we can, the capacity of ruling their own affairs—let them increase in wealth and population, and whatever may happen, we of this great empire will have the consolation of saying, that we have contributed to the happiness of the world."

APPALING CATASTROPHY AT THE LIMERICK WORKHOUSE—TWENTY-SEVEN FEMALES KILLED.

A fatal casualty took place at Clare street auxiliary workhouse, by which twenty-seven human beings lost their lives, and twenty-eight were seriously injured. Between eight and nine o'clock, shortly after the inmates, five hundred families, had retired to rest on the lofts of the store set apart for sleeping apartments, a false alarm of fire was given by one of the women.

The females on the first loft leaped from their beds, and in the darkness, rushed in a body to the staircase or ladder, leading to the ground floor, and numbers were precipitated to the ground, from a height of not more than ten feet. *Twenty-seven females were killed*, or rather suffocated from falling on top of each other!!

The Crown Prince of Sweden is to be married to the Princess Louisa of Holland.

DEATH OF LORD JEFFREY.

We have, just on the eve of going to press, received intelligence of the death of Lord Jeffrey, which took place on Saturday afternoon. We cannot on the moment give expression to the feeling with which we make this announcement. The accomplished scholar, the brilliant rhetorician, the acute and profound philosopher, the amiable and benevolent being who availed himself of the high position, chiefly to encourage the young aspirants after fame, who came under his notice, in their honourable career,—is now no more. Many will deeply deplore his loss, who have not the means of expressing publicly the depth of their affection for him, and many more will feel bitterly the want of a kind patron, under whose fostering influence they have hitherto toiled with some spirit up a thorny and rugged path, but whose hope of such assistance, as he so willingly afforded, must now be abandoned.

Our Edinburgh correspondent adds:—This distinguished man died, somewhat suddenly, on Saturday evening, at his residence in Moray Place, Edinburgh. He has, for some years past, been in a delicate state of health; so much so, indeed, that it was not expected that he would have again taken his seat as one of the Judges of the First Division of the Court of Session, after the expiration of the last term.

This cannot be regarded otherwise than as a national loss; as the name of Francis Jeffrey has now been prominently and honourably identified with the history of British literature for the long period of half a century.

He was called to the bar in 1794, and after a most distinguished career, was elevated to the bench in 1834. He was Lord Advocate in the administration of Earl Grey, and, in that capacity, introduced the Scottish Reform Bill in the House of Commons; and as a mark of the public estimation in which he was held, he was elected to represent the metropolis of Scotland in the first Reformed Parliament.

He was one of the originators of the *Edinburgh Review* in 1802, and became its editor in the subsequent years. He occupied that elevated and responsible situation for about 25 years; and during that period contributed some of the most brilliant articles that have appeared in its pages. He has been truly styled by the author of the Irish Melodies to be "the most gifted critic of the day;" and with whom, by the bye, he fought a duel near London, in 1806. He was one of the parties that Lord Byron so unmercifully lashed in his satire of English Bards and Scotch Reviewers; but the censure thus expressed was afterwards honorably withdrawn by his Lordship, who, in his poem of Don Juan, thus alludes to him:—

"And all our feuds, at least all mine,
Dear Jeffrey, once my most redoubted foe,
* * * *
Are over; Here's a health to Auld Langsyne.
* * *
I would rather take my wine,
With you, than aught (save Scott) in your proud city."

Lord Jeffrey, in 1814, married Miss Wilkes, the daughter of Mr. Wilkes of New York, and grand-niece of the famous John Wilkes, who still survives him; and by whom he has a daughter, who is married to Mr. Empson, the present editor of the *Edinburgh Review*.—*Glasgow Herald.*

THE REV. JAMES SHORE.—The committee appointed to conduct the case of the Rev. James Shore, on the prosecution of the Bishop of Exeter, have just brought their labors to a close. The total amount placed at their disposal by the public was £614 2s. 7d.; of this amount £525 15s. 10d. (including £310 16s 4d, paid to the Bishop of Exeter, the cost of the proceedings in the Court of Arches), has been expended, and the balance, £88 6s. 9d., handed over to Mr. Shore.—*London Paper.*

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

A letter from Pesth of the 22d ult., in the Swabian Mercury, states that three executions had just taken place in that city; one of the persons was Kolossy, accused of being the murderer of Count de Lamberg; the crimes of the other two were not known, but it was said that during the war they had killed a Russian courier and an Austrian officer. These three executions had caused profound sensation at Pesth.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss minister in Paris has addressed a letter to the *Journal des Debats* in answer to some remarks of that paper on the subject of Switzerland. The minister states that on the 16th of July last, the Swiss Federal Council, of its own accord, ordered the expulsion of all the refuges who had been civil or military leaders, and who had abused the asylum granted to them in Switzerland. Among those expelled were MM. Struve, Hemzen, Mierosanwsky, Ravaux, Siegel, Willich, Blenker, Brentzno, Doll, Metternich, and others.

United States.

Western Navigation.

DETROIT, Feb. 27th, 9 A. M.

The steamer Arrow is fitting up for Buffalo and the intermediate ports, with every prospect of getting through. Boats are now plying regularly from the Western termination of the Central Railroad, to Chicago and Milwaukie.

The Free Soil Convention.

BOSTON, Feb. 27.

The State Free Soil Convention at Faneuil Hall, is now in session, and the attendance is very large.

Hoar, Phillips, and other great guns are present. Mr. J.G. Palfrey occupies the Chair—previous to the taking of which he delivered a lengthy address on the question of slavery.

He said he was opposed to any compromise that would satisfy Foote and his friends.

SECOND DESPATCH.

BOSTON, Feb. 27—6 P. M.

The Free Soil Convention at Faneuil Hall, continued crowded during the whole day, and excited considerable interest. Mr. Palfrey, in the course of his remarks, said:—The telegraph brings us a report that the Senator from Mass. (Mr. Webster) had proposed a compromise that would be satisfactory to the South. He could not believe it—and if true, there was no man, however distinguished, who would not wither under it like Jonah's gourd. Several others of the Free Soil party addressed the convention, one of whom asserted that our representatives in Congress were cowed by fear; and another, in reference to the proposal to pass new laws for the return of fugitive slaves, declared his determination to give fugitive slaves welcome, and not become the jackall of Southern slaveholders. An address to our representatives in Congress, exorting them to stand firm in the Free Soil doctrine, was reported, soon after which an adjournment was moved and carried.

An Interesting Scene.

SIGNING OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION.—The following scene is described by Bayard Taylor:—The signing of the New Constitution, whose protecting ægis covers so mighty an empire on the Pacific, was an occasion of the most impressive interest. This land of gold almost seems like the land of magic, in the rapidity of changes in the brief lapse of months. Two years ago, how little was California thought of—now it is the promised land of the world. Its constitution, fortunately, too, is worthy of its mighty destiny, and California is clearly destined to exercise not less influence on Asia, than the Atlantic States of our Union have on Europe.

"The members proceeded to affix their names to the completed Constitution. At this moment a signal was given—the American colors ran up the flag-staff in front of the Government building, streamed out on the air. A second afterwards the first gun boomed from the fort, and its stirring echoes came back from one hill after another, till they were lost in the distance.

"All the native enthusiasm of Captain Sutter's Swiss blood was aroused—he was the old soldier again. He sprang from his seat, and, waving his hand around his head, as if swinging a sword, exclaimed:—'Gentlemen, this is the happiest day of my life. It makes me glad to hear those cannon; this is a great day for California!' Then, recollecting himself, he sat down, the tears streaming from his eyes. The members, with one accord, gave three tumultuous cheers, which were heard from one end of the town to the other. As the signing went on, gun followed gun from the fort, the echoes reverberating gradually around the Bay, till finally, as the loud ring of the thirty-first was heard, there was a shout—'That's for California!' and every one joined in giving three times three for the new and glorious star added to our Confederation."

The Grinnell Expedition.

The following, from the *Evening Post*, expresses so exactly what we take to be the true feeling, touching this high-spirited enterprise, that we copy it without further comment:—

"The noble conduct of Lady Franklin has been creating the greatest interest among those who have had the pleasure of reading her beautiful and affecting letters upon the subject of a further search for the lost Sir John. These letters have had much influence upon the merchant princes of our city, and in, particular, have induced Henry Grinnell, a distinguished merchant here, to subscribe largely towards fitting out a private expedition for the desired object. Mr. Grinnell, it is understood, has put down fifteen thousand dollars, which amount has been increased to thirty thousand dollars. Any amount can be obtained in this city for this object. Two small vessels will be purchased, to proceed with all judicious despatch to the arctic regions. The government has not been dilatory in the matter, either; Commodore Morris having communicated on Monday last to the Navy Yard Brooklyn, the intention of the administration to furnish these vessels with officers and men for the public service.

An intense excitement already prevails, and hundreds are anxious to be of the number of those who are to cover themselves with the honor that will attach to the enterprise. Every nerve will be strained to obtain a berth, and much speculation exists as to who will be made the commander of the expedition. This is all very natural. Our officers and men are ever ready, when action, by any possibility, can rub off the rust of idleness. They love excitement, and delighted, revel in the luxuries of an exploring voyage. Besides, there is a lofty chivalrous sentiment mixed up with this matter—one that always animates the American heart. An intelligent and lovely lady has made an appeal, through a personal friend in this city, to the sympathies of Americans, to aid her in her noble and hope-winged endeavours to succour a lost husband; and where, upon the face of the earth, can be found a larger number of public spirited gentlemen than among the enterprising merchants of this city, and the officers and men connected with the navy of the United States?

The expedition will go forth with the hopes and prayers of thousands; and, if successful in finding Sir John Franklin, will repay in some little measure, the debt owed to that distinguished navigator, whose labours have been directed to making discoveries upon an almost inaccessible portion of this continent. It will do more than this. The information obtained will add to the treasury of our cosmical knowledge, and the records of it will be placed, side by side, with those produced by our other expeditions, which have been of so much service to science and the world—enlarging the sphere of geographical and hydrographical facts, and tending to complete the great circle of observation so necessary to a thorough investigation of the laws of nations.—*Home Journal.*

Melancholy Death in California.

The last steamer brought intelligence of many afflicting incidents, but none have caused more grief in a family circle, perhaps, than the one about to be mentioned. An accomplished, amiable young man, Josiah Savage, whose parents reside in Middletown, Conn., graduated at Yale College, in 1846. He became a member of the Law School New Haven, and subsequently removed to this city, where he entered a law office in Wall street. The California excite-