

It is asserted that gunpowder was employed in an early age by the Chinese and Greeks. About the middle of the fifteenth century it was known to Roger Bacon. Guns are mentioned in a work written during the reign of Edward the Second. The Bishop of Ratesbon, who died in 1280, describes gunpowder. Some old chronicles ascribe the invention to Schuarg, a German monk who lived about 1329. The Flemings were noted at that period for excellence in the arts, and it is supposed that they employed this powerful agent for warlike purposes. Edward the Third used this species of artillery, efficiently. A Scotch writer called them the "crakys of war," and says that they were used by Edward's army in his expedition against the Scots in 1327.—The earliest cannon of which any account remains, were constructed similarly to those found at Walney. Before the close of the fourteenth century, it was supposed that cannons were cast, of brass and other metals. Such were not uncommon in the early part of the fifteenth.

Cannons were used at the siege of a castle in Auvergne, in 1388. They were supposed to be introduced into France about fifty years previously. In 1340 French and English used cannon and bombards, in attack and defence. In 1346 Edward the Third used pieces of ordnance, according to general opinion, at the battle of Cressy. Mention is made of a cannon fifty feet in length, which was said to be employed at the siege of Oudenarde. In 1359, Peter, King of Arragon, had a bombard on board his ship, with which he dismasted an enemy. Cannon are spoken of as familiar to warfare, about the same period. The French had an officer, similar to the master of the Ordnance, in 1368. An antique piece of ordnance was fished up off the Goodwin Sands in 1776; it was believed to be lost about 1370. A very large cannon in Kent, had upon it the date of 1354. In 1372 Augsburg had three cannon which threw bullets of stone of 50, 70, and 127 lbs. In the same year the French were armed with cannon. A piece was ordered for Frankfort, in 1377, whose bullet was to weigh 1000 lbs. In 1378 the English had 400 cannon when they besieged St. Malo. At the same time the Venetians used cannon against the Genoese; the renowned Peter Doria was killed at the siege of Chioggia, by a stone bullet weighing 195 lbs. Repeated mention is made of the use of cannon in several engagements. Cannon became numerous in and about the year 1400. A Master of the Ordnance is first spoken of, in the reign of Henry the Fifth.

From these and other data, Mr. Archibald concludes that the pieces of ordnance found at Walney belonged to the earliest periods of the use of such articles.

Mr. Archibald then goes on, with an ingenious enquiry, respecting the means by which these articles were deposited where they were found, and inclines to the supposition that they were part of an expedition designed for Britany, or Ireland, fitted out between the years 1377 and 1399.

The engravings consist of representations of the articles found at Walney,—and of ancient ordnance copied from old illuminated manuscripts.

In to-day's number will be found two articles on English language and literature, from that highly respectable periodical, the New York Knickerbocker. The subjects are of much interest, to those who delight in written exhibitions of talent and genius, for the English language is a mine of finely expressed thought, as rich, according to the admissions of those who make languages their study, as any that exists or ever existed.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On our sixth page is the Report of the Committee of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute, made at the annual meeting as noticed in our last. The following scraps from this week's *Novascotian*, show some progress of those institutions elsewhere:

A Mechanics' Institute has been recently organized at Montreal. We rejoice at the spread of this excellent feature of modern times. If the calm and dignified delights of the Academic grove are not brought down to all grades of the people, the people are lifted up to them, and may share in sources of enjoyment and improvement, which, some time ago, were considered sacred to the fortunate few. The *Montreal Courier* has the following scrap, on the subject of the Institute, in that city:

"The Governor General has made a donation of Ten Pounds to this Institution.

Readers, who have long purses, go and do likewise.
Readers, who have short purses, give what you can spare.
Readers, who have nothing in your purses to give, give your best wishes, and your best assistance to this noble Institution."

In St. John, N. B. the Institute appears to have just closed a most useful session. The *St. John Courier* says:

"Preparations, we are pleased to find, are being made, for laying the Corner Stone of the Building, about to be erected by the Mechanics' Institute in this City, with due ceremony, in about ten days. It is proposed to have a Trades' Procession on the occasion, and, we understand, his Excellency Sir John Harvey has signified his intention of being present and taking part in the interesting proceedings of the day."

This is highly creditable to all concerned. The population, with the Governor of the Province at their head, co-operating to found a "local habitation" for one of those popular establishments. Halifax is in the rear, on this point.

The St. John Institute has had an Initiatory School in operation during the past winter, of which reports speak favourably. The branches taught, we believe, were, Writing, Mathematics, and Drawing.

ADMIRALTY.—In last Pearl some remarks were made respecting a recent case in this court. On Tuesday last the party most concerned was discharged, as the prosecutor had failed to take the steps requisite for trial. On the same day, the Judge of the Court, C. R. Fairbanks, Esq. required the attendance of the writer of the letter which brought the case before the public, and of the Editors of the *Journal and Pearl*. His Honor found much fault with the articles published on the subject, as being calculated to bring the Court into contempt, and as being unfounded in their statements of facts. His Honor said that the person was not confined on account of costs,—that the steps necessary for his release did not involve expense,—that the case had not terminated and should not have been made subject of comment,—that the prisoner was not free from the charge although the prosecutor had left the country,—that the fees of the Court were regulated by law, and were moderate,—that the Court had full power to support its authority, and that the newspapers were not a court of appeal.

To this we may say, very briefly,—that nothing in the Pearl was written, with the most distant wish to show disrespect to the head, or any of the members, of the Court, but solely with reference to what were understood to be its forms;—that the statements were made on what ought to be considered good authority, until contradicted from the highest quarter, as will appear, we understand, by affidavits prepared;—that the case was understood to have closed, as in point of fact it had, the complainant having declined proceeding;—that if the forms of the Court do not involve heavy expenses, it appears odd that merchants should frequently submit to unjust demands, rather than proceed to trial under the penalty of costs;—that if they do this, alteration in the forms of the Court seems loudly called for; and that if the newspapers are not a court of appeal, they are, and, doubtless, will be, frequently appealed to, to give utterance to what are considered cases of hardship, and while careful to state only what is proper, and willing to make correction when in error, such utterance does not seem beyond their proper sphere, whether respecting the courts or less dignified matters.

THE LITERARY GARLAND.—We alluded some time ago to a Magazine of this title, published at Montreal. We repeatedly intended resuming our notice, but something intervened. Sometimes our space was narrow, or haste forbade, or the Magazine was carried away by some book-worm, and when we got hold of it again the proper time for notice had passed by. The number for May came to hand within the week,—it presents its usual, (though extraordinary for a Colonial publication,) supply of original matter, and continues its very respectable appearance. We have not had opportunity of closely examining its contents, but doubt not that former commendations are applicable to this number.

In a notice of periodicals, the *Garland* thus mentions the *Pearl*, and we do ourselves the pleasure of laying such respectable opinion before our readers:

"The *Colonial Pearl*.—This neat and well conducted weekly, we are glad to say, maintains its excellent character. The articles are generally selected, but an occasional original of merit, shews that the genius of Nova Scotia is not confined to the few literary magnates, whose labours are so generally known to the world. The *Pearl* is indeed a gem—would that such were less rare, as well in the Canadas, as in the neighbouring Provinces."

SPRING.—We have had some lovely Spring weather within the week. Notwithstanding the chilling winds which prevailed some ten days ago, the pastures have put on their apparel of delicate verdure, the tender shoots are appearing above the clods of the valley, the buds burst forth in all the delicate beauty of youth, and the swallows dart to and fro in the bright and balmy atmosphere, eager in repairing the houses which they deserted last Fall. Catching at indications, we hope for an early and prosperous season, although a south-east breeze sometimes reminds us, that the ice is still drifting over the great waters.

The town appears busy and prosperous. Mr. Cunard's first steamer will be anxiously looked for, next week; the first of the regular Atlantic line will not leave England, it seems, before the beginning of July. The fortifications of Fort George are slowly proceeding,—when the Hill is completed, it will add much to the attraction of Halifax. The picturesque appearance of the works, may be already anticipated,—although some of the old patches appear most miserable, in contrast with the beautiful work done within the last three or four years.

Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax, 20th May, 1840.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will hold a Levee at the Government House, on Monday next the 25th instant, at two o'clock, in celebration of Her Majesty's Birth-Day.

MARRIED.

At Dartmouth, on Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Prof. Romans, A. M. Mr. John Graham, of Economy; to Sophia Amy, fourth daughter of Mr. John Elliott.

On Tuesday evening, by the Rev. Dr. Twining, George Ferguson, Esq. Royal Welsh Fusiliers, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Charles Hill, Esq.

On Saturday evening, by the Rev. John Martin, Mr. Ebenezer Mosely, to Miss Jane Cummings, both of this town.

On Monday morning, by the same, Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Harrietfields, to Miss Sophia Unlab, of Prospect Road.

DIED.

On Tuesday the 19th inst. Helen, second daughter of George and Margaret Hendric, aged 9 years and 10 months. Caused by the breaking of a blood vessel.

At Falmouth, on Saturday the 16th inst. Mr. Constant Wilson, aged 58 years, a respectable inhabitant of that place—deeply regretted by a numerous circle of friends and relatives. He was enabled during a long illness to bear his sufferings with christian fortitude, and his end was peaceful and happy.

At Liverpool May 3, Alexander, infant son of Mr. Thomas Patillo, aged 11 months.

"This lovely bud, so young so fair;
Called hence by early doom,
Just came to show how sweet a flower
In Paradise might bloom."

On Wednesday morning, Miss Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late Matthew Dripps, aged 22 years.

At Horton, on the 7th inst after a protracted illness, Mrs. Hannah Solmas, relict of the late Thomas Solmas, in the 63d year of her age.

At Garnettshire, Glasgow, on the 21st of March after a short illness, Mr. Thomas Grieve, Merchant of Edinburgh, deeply regretted by his family and friends.

At Aberdeen, North Britain, on the 9th March. William Jamieson, Esq. an eminent Jeweller of that city.

At Lunenburg, on Tuesday, the 12th inst Charles Dolman Esq. Barrister, in the 35th year of his age.

GAS LIGHT AND WATER COMPANY.

HALIFAX, 19th May, 1840.

At a Meeting of the Subscribers to the above Company, hold at the Exchange Coffee House, on the 4th inst. the following Gentlemen, namely, Richard Brown, Esq. the Hon. J. Leander Starr, Andrew Richardson, Joseph Sturr, John Duffus, Andrew McKinlay, and Alexander McKenzie, Esquires, were elected by ballot, to serve as a *Provisional Committee*, with ample powers, until a Board of Directors shall be appointed under the Act of INCORPORATION, passed during the last Session of the Legislature.

The Committee thus appointed, have directed that *One Pound* currency per share, be paid in to W. M. Hoffman, Esq. (acting Secretary and Treasurer,) on or before the 19th June next, and they most earnestly call upon all persons friendly to the objects of the Company, to come forward early, and subscribe for the Stock, so that no time may be lost in acting under the Charter, which requires the whole number of Shares to be subscribed for before any of the provisions of the Act can be availed of.

By order of the Committee,
W. M. HOFFMAN,
Acting Secretary and Treasurer.

MIR. W. F. TEULON,
ACCOCHEUR, &c.

DESIROUS that Professional aid at the Confinements of Mothers (considering themselves at present unable to afford it), might be generally rendered as in Great Britain, and other countries, offers himself to attend such, in any part of the town, at the same rate which obtains there: namely, £1 10 Sterling, visits during the recovery of the patient included.
Upper Water Street, Halifax, opposite Mr. Wm. Roche's Store.
May 16, 1840.

NO. 88 & 89, GRANVILLE STREET.

CALL AND SEE.

THE SUBSCRIBER has received, per recent arrivals from Great Britain, the largest collection of

JUVENILE WORKS

ever before offered for sale in this town, among which are to be found a number of Peter Parley's, Miss Edgeworth's, Mrs. Child's, and Mrs. Hoffman's publications.

He has also received, in addition to his former stock, a very large Supply of Writing, Printing, and Coloured Papers, Desk Knives pen and pocket Knives, Taste, Quills, Wafers, Sealing Wax, Envelopes: and a very extensive collection of Books of every description.

Printing Ink in kegs of 12 lbs. each, various qualities; Black, Red, and Blue Writing Inks, Ivory Tablets, Ivory Paper Memorandum Books, and Account Books, of all descriptions, on sale, or made to order.

He has also, in connection with his establishment, a Bookbindery, and will be glad to receive orders in that line.

May 9. ARTHUR W. GODFREY.

NO. 88 & 89, GRANVILLE STREET.

THE SUBSCRIBER has just received, per Acadian, from

Greenock,
Doway Bibles and Testaments for the use of the Laity,
The Path to Paradise,
Key to Heaven,
Poor Man's Manual,
Missal,
Butler's first, second, and general Catechisms.

May 9. ARTHUR W. GODFREY.

SEEDS—FRESH SEEDS.

BY the Royal Tar, from the Thames, the Subscriber has completed his supply of Seeds, comprising,

RED AND WHITE DUTCH CLOVER,

Swedish Turnip, Mangel Wurtzel, and a general assortment for the kitchen garden. Also, a few choice Flower Seeds: catalogues of which may be had at his store, Hollis street.

May 9. Pearl and *Novascotian*, 3w. G. E. MORTON.

ROHAN AND LONG RED.

FARMERS disposed to cultivate those Potatoes, will be supplied with small quantities of them, on application at the Gazette office.
April 25.