

OUR MONTHLY GOSSIP.

Among the topics of Provincial interest the subject of Railways for Nova Scotia has lately held a prominent place. An act for incorporating a general Railway Company, after being discussed in all its aspects, has at length passed the lower branch of the Legislature and received the concurrence of the Legislative Council. A Bill, giving power to the Executive to construct Railways, in the alternative of failure on the part of the Company to organize and proceed with the undertaking, has also passed a similar ordeal.

Other Legislative doings in this and the adjacent Provinces have not been of sufficient importance to call for special remark, if we except the proceedings with reference to the Fisheries and reciprocal trade with the United States—but which have so far only resulted in leaving these questions as they were.

With regret we record the occurrence of a disgraceful riot in the streets of Halifax on the 3rd of March. The American Ship Winchester, Briggs, Master, with passengers from Liverpool, G. B. for New York, put into this port from stress of weather. Certain charges of improper conduct during the voyage by a portion of the crew, having been lodged with the Magistrates, the supposed offenders were brought up for examination. An excited mob assembled during the investigation, and notwithstanding the reading of the Riot Act, assaulted both the sailors and the witnesses on their departure from the Court House—when one of the latter, Dr. James Hartford, was seriously injured, and only rescued from the hands of his savage assailants by the timely interposition of James Dunning, a private in the Corps of Royal Artillery. It was found necessary to obtain the aid of a Military guard to escort the accused seamen to a place of safe keeping. The leading rioters, however, were not arrested, although it is understood that the requisite steps were taken to identify them by evidence.

The newly elected President of the United States, Franklin Pierce, delivered his inaugural address, as usual, on the 4th of March. His Cabinet is composed as follows: W. L. MARCY, Secretary of State; JOS. GUTHRIE, Secretary of the Treasury; R. McLELLAND, Secretary of the Interior; JEFFERSON DAVIS, Secretary of War; J. C. DOBBIN, Secretary of the Navy; CALEB CUSHING, Attorney General; JAMES CAMPBELL, Post Master General.

The health of Vice President King, is such as to unfit him for assuming the duties of his office. He has consequently declined taking the usual oaths.

The Caloric Ship Erierson, returned to New York on the 14th from her late trial trip to the South.

Late accounts from California, mention that Benicia has finally been fixed upon as the Capital of the State.

Murders were frequently being committed in the vicinity of the mining regions, and daily accounts were received of outrage and robbery.

Several vessels have been lost, by fire and shipwreck, between San Francisco and other ports.

By recent arrivals from England we gather the subjoined summary of news.

Since the re-assembling of Parliament, several important debates have occurred. One in the House of Lords with regard to the war in Ava. The Earl of Ellenborough moved for the production of a letter, written in 1829, by the directors of the East India Company, giving instructions as to the course to be followed in any future war in Ava—he also wished to know what view