

netrable rampart of hammocks, sails, &c; the guns were loaded with triple charges of grape, cannister, musket balls, pieces of iron, nails, and other missiles of the like kind; and with these the underwood was severely scourged, and the American troops scampered off without their expected prize! Napier, however, did not go scotfree. Disdaining all cover, he jumped on some elevation on the quarter-deck to see "the fun," and received a musket-ball in the back part of his neck, one of the effects of which severe wound, is a forward inclination of the head, thereby increasing the peculiarity of the gallant captain's personal appearance. His subsequent exploits are well known, not the least distinguished of which was his capture of the whole of Don Miguel's fleet, an operation completed in about twelve minutes. He has entered upon his present service in a similar spirit. He was among the first to go on shore, and there he might be seen in his shirt sleeves digging in the trenches. (by way of example,) and tugging at the heavy guns. Such a man at the head of British seamen, and mariners, can accomplish whatever is in the power of man; and, should the French venture upon the experiment of another struggle for naval superiority, depend upon it, that Napier's name will be again heard of, and he will always be found in the van in the thick of the enemy, regardless of the numbers, and victorious too; for his boldness is tempered by skill and upheld by an unconquerable resolution.

The Princess Sophia is said to possess the most splendid and valuable casket of brilliants in Europe. It is valued at £140,000.

## THE AMARANTH.

In presenting to our readers the first number of THE AMARANTH, we feel happy in being able to announce to them that the patronage already obtained has warranted us in proceeding with our

Magazine. Our subscription list is daily increasing; the very *low price* of the work renders it necessary that the circulation should be extensive. From all parts of the Province we have received considerable numbers of subscribers by the exertions of our Agents.—We earnestly solicit them to continue their efforts on our behalf.

To our friends in the city who have so materially assisted in procuring subscribers, we offer our warmest thanks.

Our supply of Magazines and other periodicals for December, arrived by the mail steam-ship *Acadia*. They are filled with interesting articles; but previous to our receiving them, the greater part of the present number had gone through the press, which has prevented the insertion of many choice articles.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF SAINT JOHN was formed on the 25th of November, 1838, and obtained a Charter from the Province bearing date 15th of March, 1839. Previous to the former period, the propriety of establishing such an Institution, had been acknowledged; and a few individuals held a meeting for the purpose of bringing the matter before the public. Since that time, its prosperity has been extremely rapid, and its usefulness is now generally admitted by all classes of our citizens. Its early meetings were held in the Long Room of the Saint John Hotel, but the steady increase in the number of members, rendered that place too small for the accommodation required, and the Theatre was opened as a place for scientific instruction. Many will recollect a Lecture delivered there on Steam, and the little locomotive engine, that instead of Hamlet or Macbeth, travelled around the stage bearing the flag of Old England. During the first Lecture Season eight lectures were delivered on Natural Philosophy, by Mr. GRAY, at that time Professor of Mathematics in King's College; from whom the members received much pleasing information. During the same season and the following one, twenty-two lectures on Geology, Chemistry, Steam, and other subjects, were given gratuitously by a gentleman in this city; whose labours have been unceasing for the welfare of the establishment since its commencement. Other gentlemen also kindly volunteered their services; notwithstanding this was the day of trial for the Mechanics' Institute, from the scarcity of lectures.—Subsequently and since the Hall of the Institute has been erected, a number of persons have kindly volunteered their services, and lectures are given twice in each week with great regularity. It was soon found necessary, in order to accommodate all the members and their families, to erect a building for the purpose. With the greatest spirit and alacrity, the Hall of the Institute was commenced early in the past sum-