

## NEWS.

**ANOTHER THIRD OF QUEBEC DESTROYED.**—On Saturday evening, the 28th ult., just one month after the great fire of the 28th of May, which destroyed part of St. Valler's and St. John's Suburbs, nearly all St. Roch, and the west part of the lower town to below Hope Gate, a fire commenced in St. John's Suburbs, near the place outside the Glacis, where it stopped on the 28th of May.

On this occasion, the wind was as strong from the northeast as it was to the west on the 28th of May, and the weather very dry. At both times the fire began to the windward of the densest part of the Suburb, and was carried throughout the thickest part of the dwellings to the leeward.

The fire has destroyed nearly the whole of St. John's, and part of St. Louis' Suburbs, from St. John's Gate and the northwest angle of the walls, along the brow of the Coteau St. Genevieve nearly to the Tower No. 4, and up to a couple of streets below St. Louis road. A number of houses in the scattered streets near Tower No. 3, having escaped, and a few near the Cote d'Abraham, and three or four in the vast extent destroyed.

We have heard of only one or two lives being lost. Although it was in the night, most of the inhabitants being warned by the rapid progress of the fire of 28th May, made their escape in time, with a part of their movables.

The scene of desolation, distress and affliction, and the extent of the calamity, are nearly as great as after the former conflagration: the value of the property destroyed probably greater. The population of St. John's Suburbs was about ten thousand, and the population of St. Roch had mostly found refuge in St. John's Suburbs.

Quebec is now reduced to the upper town within the walls, and the lower town from the St. Charles, below Hope Gate, to Cape Blanc on the St. Lawrence, the extent which it occupied, but then more sparingly built, after the destruction of the Suburbs during the siege of 1775. The remaining houses in the Suburbs are about as many as they were half a century ago.

Thirteen hundred dwellings were destroyed, rendering houseless at least six thousand persons, and this in addition to the numbers deprived of a home by the previous conflagration. About thirty streets are in ruins, and the amount of insurances effected is thus stated: Canada office, £40,000; Quebec do., £15,200; Montreal do., £3500; Phoenix do., £1075.

**RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN FRANCE.**—Rev. Mr. Stewart publishes in the *Witness* an interesting letter, his own observations in those departments of France where the religious stir among the Roman Catholic population had recently taken place; in a single town, not less than 3000 persons, out of a population of 10,000, renounced the Romish Church, to attach themselves to the Protestant worship; while in several other places, in addition to those of which we have already heard, the spirit of inquiry, and the disposition to cast off all allegiance to the Church of Rome, is bursting forth.

**THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL LETTER.**—In the late encyclical letter of his Holiness, the adherents of the Pope were warned against reading the History of the Reformation, written by Merle D'Aubigne. One consequence of this notice of the work above named is, that a translation is being made into Italian for the purpose of enlightening the inhabitants of the Italian States upon a subject so deeply interesting to every Christian mind.

**FREE CHURCH.**—In the business transacted in the recent General Assembly of this Church, the *Scotsman* informs us, "that in the short space of two years, 530 churches have been erected, at an expense of 335,000*l.*, of which 235,000*l.* is already paid. There are 70 other churches in progress, which will be completed in the present year; and it is assumed that 140 in addition to these will ultimately be wanted, raising the whole number of congregations in connection with the church to 740. This is exclusive of forty-two *quoad sacra* churches, possession of which is disputed by the Establishment. The whole sum collected for church building is 320,000*l.* Last year the Sustentation Fund produced 62,500*l.*, yielding the ministers then employed about 100*l.* a year each. In the present year the produce of the fund is 75,500*l.*, yielding each clergyman 122*l.*"

**THE DOOM OF THE CORN LAWS.**—The debate on Mr. Villiers' motion on Tuesday, adds one to the many proofs that it is time for those who think their interests involved in the maintenance of the Corn Laws, to be putting their house in order. The agricul-

turists seemed helpless and crest-fallen, and could scarcely make a show of resistance. But the most striking fact was, that both Sir James Graham and Sir Robert Peel, in effect, threw protection overboard, admitting that it was desirable to assimilate our legislation respecting corn to those wholesome principles which were applied to other commodities, and merely craving time to apply the principles gradually. Lord John Russell voted and spoke in favour of Mr. Villiers' motion, though he retains his partiality for a fixed duty. An excellent practical speech was made by Mr. Mitchell. At the end of the discussion Lord Howick called attention to the fact, that not one word had been said that evening by the government in opposition to the first two resolutions of Mr. Villiers, condemnatory of the principles and policy of the present Corn Law. If the last resolution had been thus worded, "That it is expedient that all restrictions on corn should be gradually abolished," the speech of Sir R. Peel would have been an admirable one in support of it.—*Scotsman*.

The projected marriage of the Queen of Spain with her cousin is warmly canvassed in the various Madrid journals. The *Esperanza*, the Carlist organ, has long advocated it, and now speaks of Don Carlos's abdication as of the highest importance, opening the door to a complete reconciliation of all Spaniards. The Progressista journals denounce the idea of a Carlist marriage under any circumstances. The *Heraldo*, the recognised organ of Narvaez, has also declared openly against it. It is said that the union will not be consummated unless there is a total change of ministers. A new civil war is prophesied. Many persons fear that even the throne itself—at all events, the actual dynasty—will be compromised by the measure.

The latest accounts from New Zealand are very gloomy. Governor Fitzroy, who has behaved from the beginning like a madman, has at last produced an open insurrection at the Bay of Islands. He has been obliged to send for a body of troops to act against the natives, and has set a price upon the head of one of the chiefs, Heki, who, in return, imitating what he considers English habits, offers a reward for the Governor's head.

The Railway mania will soon be at a height, and we shall probably have a panic soon. No corner of the world is too remote or insignificant for projectors to pitch upon, and no proposition is so utopian as to deter speculators. We observe a line advertised across the island of Sardinia, which, it is stated, "had long been regarded as a most favourable position for the formation of a line of railway;" the manifold productions of the island are loudly trumpeted forth, and the public are informed that "the line possesses no engineering difficulties." We have no doubt that, so long as the present frenzy for speculation lasts, fools enough would be got to come forward to support a railway across the African desert to Timbuctoo.

Switzerland is almost in as hot a ferment as ever. Hostilities have not yet broken out between the Protestants and Catholics, but they appear to be just on the point of doing so. Dr. Steiger, the free corps leader, is to be imprisoned in a Sardinian fortress, at the request of the Lacerne authorities.

The Emperor of Morocco has refused to ratify the treaty concluded with the French Commissioner, on the ground that Gen. Delardo bribed the Emperor's Commissioners, and thereby obtained the cession of territory to which France has no kind of title. It is said that the French Government do not attempt to justify their commissioner, and that he will forthwith be disavowed.

The state of Western Greece appears to be truly distressing. Bands of Brigands infest the country in every direction, and in many parts life and property are scarcely worth a day's purchase. We fear this is a natural consequence of the false policy pursued by the European powers in giving a free government to the Greeks, who are confessedly a horde of barbarians. Civilization must in every case precede true constitutional freedom.

Commerce and agriculture at Port Philip are rapidly improving, and the hopes of the settlers are most buoyant. At Hobart Town trade is dull, and employment scarce. At Sydney things seem to be slowly but steadily improving. Wool is looking up.

Since the new Sugar Bill, making a distinction between slave and free labour produce, came into effect, it has been discovered that we had treaties with the United States, Venezuela, Mexico, Bolivia, and Columbia, all slave-holding countries, under which we were compelled to admit their produce on the most favoured terms. And now it appears that Spain has a similar right to demand admission for the produce of Cuba and Porto Rico. This discovery has created great excitement, as the Spanish Islands produce more sugar than all our West India Islands together.