FIRES.

[From the Quebec Mercury, May 29.]

AWFUL CONFLAGRATION---Loss of Life.

The 28th of May will ever be a memorable and melancholy anniversary for the citizens of Quebec. It dawned in all the brightness and warmth of the summer season, but ere noon the city was one scene of terror and desolation. Thousands, aye thousands, who rose to their daily labours possessed of the comforts and independence which labour and patient, persevering industry ever ensure, long before nightfall were beggared and houseless. Many exchanged their morning greetings, never again to meet in this world.

Seldom indeed has it become the task of an editor to record a more disastrous and painfully fatal calamity.

About half past 11 o'clock yesterday morning, the alarm of fire was given, when the tannery in St. Valiere street, owned and worked by Mr. Richardson, was discovered to be in flames; originating, as we have heard, in some way from the bursting of a boiler. The day was remarkably warm, and the heat and dryness of the few days previous had rendered the roofs of the buildings in the neighbourhood, and those more remote, highly susceptible of ignition. The adjoining and opposite dwellings were soon involved, and in an inconceivably short space of time the flakes, carried afar by the then rising wind, had ignited some buildings in the neighborhood of St. Roch's Church, a considerable distance from the outbreak of the fire.

The wind gradually freshened from the west, (with a coming storm) and it was soon evident that all human endeavors to arrest the progress of the fire in a locale studded for the most part with wooden buildings alone, would be useless: an impression but too fatally verified. Onwards, and onwards, and onwards swept the flames—street after street fell before them. A species of whirlwind seemed to aid its fatal advances—for in advance, in the rear, on every side, the raging element developed itself with momentarily increasing fury. Spots that to the shrieking and affrighted refugee were now apparently safe, in a few minutes subsequent were wrapped in a vast sheet of flame.

From eleven in the morning until midnight did this dread fire hold uninterrupted sway, until its career was arrested in St. Charles street—nearly one mile from the place of its outbreak!—At the broadest point, the breadth of the burnt district is about one-third of a mile.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 houses are supposed to have been consumed, and it is calculated that 12,000 persons (one-third of the population) are this day houseless! The Church in St. Roch's is in ashes. The Convent is saved. St. Peter's Chapel is also burnt. The large brewing establishments of Messrs. Lloyd and Lepper and M'Callum are consumed, and the line of wharves from Munn's to the foot of Hope Hill. On these were an immense quantity of deals, which were all consumed.

At this point the fire was arrested by throwing down the piles of deals, and on the town side, by blowing up two houses.

The steamer Charlevoix, and the ships on the stocks were all saved.

Various rumours are afloat as to the number of lives lost. We have seen seven crisped and mutilated remains. Of these two were mothers, with their infants clasped to their bosoms; an affecting instance of that clinging affection inherent in woman.

It is feared that many victims as yet unknown will be soon discovered.

A meeting was convened yesterday evening, and the bakers ordered to commence the supply necessary for the relief of those distressed.

This day relief was extended to about 3000 persons.

At an adjourned meeting of that of last night, we are informed that the extremely handsome sum of upwards of $33,000 was subscribed; the list being still open. We also learn that the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese has issued circulars to his Clergy, directing them to collect donations of every description in aid of the sufferers.

Of the pecuniary loss, the estimate is yet equally indefinite. But there can be no doubt that it amounts to a vast sum, and will be the more severely felt from the great number of sufferers, the fewness of insurances, and from the fact that a great proportion of them were in a local Mutual Office, of which both insurers and insured are alike ruined.

The Canadien of Thursday estimates the insurances at £25,000 to £30,000 in the Quebec, £20,000 to £30,000 in the Canadian, £2,500 in the London Phœnix. We have heard of some others, but not considerable.—*Quebec Mercury, 29th.*

(From the Canadien.)

The dwellings of one third part of our population are in ruins, and the greater part of them have lost about all they possessed. From the suburb of St. Valier, where it began, the fire extended (carried by a strong breeze) into the densest part of St. Roche, which soon became an entire sea of fire.—Sparks were carried into the neighbourhood of the Palace, and into the streets adjoining the suburbs of St. Jean, which became the prey of the flames.

The fire caught frequently the houses of both the high and low town, but was as often extinguished, by the efforts and vigilance of the inhabitants. A change of wind from the West to the South West and a heavy fall of rain saved the upper and lower town, and the greater part of the suburb of St. Jean. All the rest of the City, except a part of the suburb of St. Valier and some isolated streets from St. Roche towards the Hospital, are in ashes.

The fire commenced at the steam tanneries of Mr. Osborne Richardson, at the foot of the hill of St. Genevieve, where it destroyed eight houses, comprising the tanneries and seven houses opposite the North side of St. Valier street to the West of Crown street. From there going down Crown street to St. Francis street, there remains but the Convent and two houses, those of Messrs. Normand & Aiard. In St. Francis-street, from Crown street to Ann street, only the Parish Church was destroyed.

From thence to the right, every thing is burnt, following St. Ann street, Richardson street, Craig street, Queen street, and St. Dominick street—this last tending North. All parts of the Parish of St. Roche to the East and South of the above limits, comprehending the building yard of Mr. Munn, are destroyed; the 'Charlevoix' which was on the stocks in the neighbouring yard, escaped by a species of miracle. Every part of the division of St. Peter, from St. Roche street to the Foundery of Port Hope, comprehending the Government Wood-yard and the buildings of the St. Paul Market, with five vessels and boats in the harbour of the Palace, with all the houses except three belonging to Messrs. Puradis, DeFoy, and Langlois, to the East of St. Paul's Market, and one belonging to Mr. Lachance, at the bottom of Palace Hill, have been destroyed.

In the St. John quarter every thing is burnt to the North of Abraham's Hill, from St. George street to St. Oliver street, and from this last to Glacis street, except the house of the Hon. L. Massue, and to the South of Oliver street, the house of the Curate, occupied by Mr. Louis Hunt.

It is reported that there is from £25,000 to £30,000 insured at the Quebec Insurance Office, and £20,000 to £30,000 at the Canada Insurance Office, and £2,500 at the Phœnix Insurance of London. As for the Mutual Insurance of St. Roche, it is annihilated.

The Quebec Freeman's Journal of the 31st May, speaking of the loss of life by the late fire, says—"We are credibly informed that seventeen bodies have been recovered from the ruins, which it is dreaded, and not without good reason, will form only a small portion of those who have perished."

MONTREAL, May 31.—The dreadful conflagration at Quebec is the all-absorbing topic of interest here at present. Every exertion is making in this city to alleviate the distress of the unfortunate sufferers. The Provincial Government sent down by last night's mail £2,000 for their immediate necessities; the Catholic Bishop, Seminary and Hotel Dieu, each forwarded £600, and it is said Lord Metcalfe has sent a donation of £500. Meetings will be held this day of the citizens, clergy, and almost every public body, to devise immediate measures for prompt relief.

The scene of conflagration is described by eye witnesses as having been perfectly awful; men, women, and children, absolutely bewildered by the almost instantaneous combustion of their dwellings, and in their efforts to escape from the flames, as often rushing into the midst of danger and destruction as obtaining safety. The loss of human life must have been very great, but as yet only twelve bodies have been recovered.

One painful incident was the destruction of the Hospital, to which, as being considered entirely out of the reach of the conflagration, numbers of sick persons of all classes were carried, when melancholy to relate, the building became ignited by the flakes of fire carried from the distance by the wind, and the unfortunate inmates, unable to help themselves, perished miserably. The total loss has been variously estimated, from $1,000,000 to $3,000,000.

Neither the insurance companies nor the mercantile houses here will be much affected; the losses have been almost exclusively confined to the French Canadian population, and those dry goods merchants at Quebec to whom the dealers among them were indebted for their spring stocks, consequently the loss will be very little felt here.—*Corr. of Livingston & Co.*

ANOTHER FIRE IN PITTSBURG.—*Sixty to Seventy Houses Burned.*—On Tuesday night Pittsburg was the scene of another conflagration, more disastrous from the suffering it brings on the poor, than the amount of property destroyed. The Ariel says it was first discovered in the stable of Samuel Young, Dryman, on Seventh street, a few doors below Coal lane, from which point the fire spread up Poplar lane (or alley) to Washington street, (two houses, on the corner, saved) in a northeasterly direction, sweeping all the buildings to Prospect street; crossed Prospect street, destroying all the buildings to the brow of the hill at the intersection of Quarry street; down from the direction of Washington street to within a few doors of Fountain street, where by extraordinary exertion, it was stayed.

The amount of ground now covered with ruins is computed at about three acres, more or less, and which was compactly built up with wooden tenements, literally stowed full with poor families, many of whom have lost every thing they possessed in the world, and have neither shelter nor the means of getting it. The dwellings were generally poor and of no great value, many of them double, and in which some two or three families lived.

The number of houses burned will not vary far from sixty to seventy. The loss of property will not, we think, exceed $40,000, perhaps not over $30,000.

It is impossible to tell how many families have been rendered homeless—probably 150 to 200. These will comprise from 700 to 900 persons. In no part of the city could a fire have occurred, by which less property would have been destroyed, or which would have caused more actual destitution. But one brick house, Mr. J. Mackerel's was burned.—*Philadelphia North American.*

Destructive Fire in New York—One Hundred Buildings and twenty-five Horses burnt—Four hundred destitute Families.—About half past 12 o'clock on Saturday night a fire broke out in the stables of Messrs. Palmer & Peters, on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Eighteenth street more distressing in its effects than any that has occurred in the city for a long time. The actual amount of property destroyed is comparatively inconsiderable, although nearly two of those very large blocks between the Sixth and Seventh Avenues were entirely swept, and over one hundred buildings, of all sorts, were consumed—leaving more than four hundred families entirely destitute, many of them even of their clothes. Not fifty dollars worth of furniture or property of any kind, so far as can be ascertained, was saved by any of these poor creatures, and not twenty individuals were insured at all. A great portion of the buildings burnt were poor shanties, occupied mostly by Irish families, and these suffer terribly.

On the corner of the Avenue and Eighteenth street stood the two large stables of Palmer & Peters, only 25 feet apart. These contained one hundred and thirty valuable horses (all belonging to their line of omnibuses,) one hundred and five of which were saved, the half-burnt carcases of the other twenty five lying amid the brands and ashes. Adjoining the stable were a coach-mending and horse-shoeing shop, a number of carriage-sheds, &c., all of which were burnt, and one coach was partially destroyed. The stables were each insured $1250; and Messrs. Palmer & Peters estimate their actual loss at $4000.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

A Fire in Portland, Maine, on the 2d inst. destroyed a number of buildings. Loss about $5000.

A late Fire at Savannah destroyed several houses, barns, &c.

SCIENCE VERSUS PREJUDICE.

We copy the following article from the New York *Courier and Enquirer*. It speaks for and explains itself; so much so, that it is not necessary we should add a single word to it.

From the Courier and Enquirer.

A British surveying vessel is in Boston harbor to run out a meridian line in order to connect Halifax with Boston. The latter being a well settled point astronomically—the purpose is, by scientific observations and calculations, to ascertain with precision facts of interest at once to navigation and to science—which facts as soon as thus ascertained and settled are thus made public with all speed by the British Admiralty.

This praiseworthy object, in which our commerce and our science are even more interested than those of England, has excited the ignorant or prejudiced comments of a portion of the press, to which the Journal of Commerce a day or two since, by publishing without dissent, a communication signed *Foretop*, adds its weight.

Foretop treats as an offence and a wrong and we suppose as a danger, the circumstance whether true or not we know nothing, that while the Warspite was lying here some year or two ago, boats from her, commanded by officers, occasionally sounded our harbor. What then? Could they discover any thing which we ourselves have not revealed? Does the Journal of Commerce or its correspondent suppose that we are to owe our immunity in any way to the ignorance of other nations about our maritime approaches?

Why all the ships in the British navy could not perfect a chart of our harbor and coast superior to or more abounding in minute details, than that which our Government are now publishing as the result of the Coast Survey. The times are past when the lock-up policy which Spain so long maintained in regard to her American colonies, has any influence or imitators. All is now open, and instead of objecting to foreign ships seeking to make discoveries on our coast we should be thankful for them—seeing that such discoveries are made public for the common benefit.

It is in curious contrast with the mean, narrow spirit of this caviller and all like him, that on the very morning when he made his complaint, we had the opportunity of examining a set of charts, most beautifully executed and in most minute detail, of the coast of England and of the entrance into the mouth of the Thames, and of all the British West Indies—transmitted by the Admiralty to Messrs. Blunt, hydrographers of this city, for their use in improving or adding to the charts which they publish.

Nay more—an application from these gentlemen to Capt. Owen, commanding the British surveying vessel in Boston harbor, for a copy of the work he is executing of the survey of the Bay of Fundy, with which his observations in Boston are connected, was most courteously entertained by that officer, and promise given that the copy should be furnished.

Capt. Owen also, at the suggestion of Messrs. Blunt, has undertaken to survey *Cashe's Ledge*, a shoal lying off our Eastern Coast, hitherto imperfectly known or examined.

Yet it is against such enterprises as these, undertaken in the interest of humanity and for the promotion of knowledge, that appeals to national prejudice and resentment are made, which—mischievous and illiberal at all times—are especially mischievous just now, when points of controversy between the United States and Great Britain exist which may, by indiscretion, be sharpened into courses of actual war.—*N. Y. Albion.*

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.—A very novel feature in the maritime intelligence of the present week is the arrival at this port of the American barque Muskingum, 273 tons register, W. R. Wells commander, and consigned to Messrs. J. and C. Kirkpatrick. This vessel was built at Marietta, seventy miles above Cincinnati, on the Ohio. She may literally be said to have been built in the wilderness, Marietta being nearly 2,000 miles from salt water. Her enterprising owner, by great perseverance and enterprise, has overcome every difficulty, both in her construction and the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi. The workmen who built her had never seen a full rigged ship; the construction of her was the work of her able captain and a clever carpenter, whom he took from New Orleans. Their mode of proceeding was most aboriginal, the trees being felled in the forests, were shaped under their direction, and put together. She is built entirely of green wood, chiefly of native white oak, all of which was growing on the 1st of August last, and which, by-the-by, except for felling and carrying to the water's edge, did not cost her owners a cent. In a little more than four months she was built and launched—loaded with western produce of about three-fourths of her tonnage, and carried to Cincinnati, and afterwards to New Orleans, on her way down, going with the flood over the falls of Louisville. She left New Orleans on the 1st of April, with five or six other vessels for this port, all of whom she beat, and arrived here on the 15th of May. Our readers, on referring to the map of the United States, will mark with surprise the vast inland route passed by the Muskingum on her passage down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. Her course lay through the very heart of the vast continent; and we cannot too much commend that ardent spirit of enterprise which has thus overcome every difficulty and perpetuated a remarkable instance of that go-a-head principle for which the people of the western states of America are pre-eminently distinguished.

Upon this subject the "Economist," the organ of free trade news, enlarges:—"Here we have a direct communication opened up, in one bottom, as the nautical phrase is, between the rich plains of Ohio, in the 'far west,' and our manufacturing districts.—*Willmer & Smith's European Times*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1845.

Arrival of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

We copy the following notice of the arrival and subsequent proceedings of his Lordship, the BISHOP OF FREDERICTON, from the *New-Brunswicker* of this morning; and are happy to have it in our power to add, that on every hand we hear expressions of the greatest satisfaction and delight, at the impression produced upon our citizens, and especially on those who are Members of the Episcopal Church, by the dignified yet courteous manner, the kind and agreeable demeanour, the truly spiritual, instructive and apostolical discourses and the general bearing of the Right Reverend Prelate, who has, by the over-ruling ordination of Divine Providence, thus happily arrived at and entered upon the sphere of his Episcopal labours in New-Brunswick. That his Lordship may long enjoy health and happiness in his new Diocese, and may for many years to come prove a comfort and a blessing to the souls committed to his charge, is, we are persuaded, a universal prayer, and a general hope among us.—The Right Rev. Prelate and Family, and the Rev. Mr. King, his Lordship's Chaplain, proceeded to Fredericton this morning, in the Steamer New-Brunswick.

ARRIVAL OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF FREDERICTON.

On Saturday night, about 11 o'clock, H. M. steamer *Columbia* having on board the Right Rev. Dr. MEDLEY, Bishop of Fredericton, and family, and the Rev. Mr. KING, his Lordship's Chaplain, arrived in our harbour from Halifax, and at 8 a. m. his Lordship and Suite landed, and proceeded to the St. John Hotel. Notwithstanding the fatigues incident to a voyage across the Atlantic, and from Halifax to this port, his Lordship preached three times during the day—viz., in Trinity Church, in the morning, in St. George's Church, Carleton, in the afternoon, and in St. Luke's Church, Portland, in the evening. On each occasion, his Lordship was listened to by large and attentive congregations, and but one opinion prevails respecting his desire to be useful to the people, and to improve their spiritual condition. His Lordship has already expressed himself as deeply sympathising with the poorer classes of the community, for whom sufficient Church accommodation does not at present exist, and has intimated his earnest hope that ere long that deficiency will be supplied, so that all classes may equally enjoy the free and universal blessings of the Gospel and the Gospel Ministry.—His Lordship's various addresses to the Congregations on Sunday, were of the most purely scriptural, spiritual and apostolical nature, and were delivered with a delightful impressiveness and affectionate earnestness, which riveted the attention of the hearers, and profoundly affected their hearts. While expounding some of the vital doctrines of the Gospel, in a masterly, energetic and convincing manner, his Lordship also took occasion to allude most feelingly to the *occasion*, as being the *first* meeting of the Bishop with any portion of the Church in his newly constituted Diocese, and affectionately to impress upon all the Members of the Church, that without divisions or differences they should cordially unite with him, in promoting the welfare of their Church, and their own spiritual advantage and happiness, by a unanimity of mind, of spirit, and of practice, springing from a right foundation of Christian Charity and benevolence.

Yesterday, at 1 and 2 p. m., addresses of congratulation on his arrival, were presented to his Lordship by the Lay Members of the Episcopal Church and by the Corporation of Trinity Church, in this City; at the former of which, a large number of the most respectable gentlemen of the City were present, the address being read by his Honor Mr. Justice Parker. We subjoin the address from the Corporation of Trinity Church, which has been handed to us for Publication:—

Address of the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, St John, New Brunswick.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF FREDERICTON.

MY LORD,—As the representatives of the Members of the Established Church of England in this Parish, we hasten upon your Lordship's reaching our shores to tender to you the expression of our high respect for the sacred office you sustain, and our best wishes for your personal welfare and prosperity in this your newly constituted Diocese.

The Episcopal charge of this Province, having been for many years annexed by letters Patent to the Diocese of Nova Scotia, we gratefully acknowledge the benefits we have derived from that connexion, and the zeal and paternal solicitude for the interests of our Church at all times evinced by the Lord Bishop of that Diocese, whose arduous duties in his own extensive charge have been hitherto so greatly augmented by the spiritual demands of this rising Colony.

Impressed with a firm conviction of the truth and excellence of the principles of our Church, and ardently desiring to see them more widely disseminated in this Province, and more deeply rooted in the affections of its inhabitants, we hail with lively satisfaction the formation of our Province into a distinct See under your Lordship's direction, as a measure well calculated to secure those Blessings, by placing its spiritual concerns under the guidance of one, whose talents and energies will be exclusively devoted to the task, and who will henceforth exercise that Episcopal supervision of our scattered Churches, which upon the principles of our Ecclesiastical polity is so essential to their welfare and efficiency.

We gladly avail ourselves of the present occasion to express our deep sense of gratitude for the pious munificence of our fellow Churchmen in the Mother Country, to which, under Divine Providence, we are mainly indebted for the bright and encouraging prospect now opened to our Church.

Permit us, my Lord, while bidding you welcome to our shores, to pray that you may come to us "in the fulness of the Blessing of the Gospel of Christ," and that all your efforts to preserve our revered Church in the purity of her Faith, and in the enjoyment of those forms and usages, with which the pious feelings of Churchmen in this Province have, from its earliest days, been associated, may be abundantly crowned with success.

Cordially desiring for your Lordship and your Family health, happiness, and every spiritual Blessing, we remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's humble and obedient Servants,

J. W. D. GRAY, Rector.

JOHN V. THURGAR, } Church Wardens.
WM. WRIGHT, }

On behalf of the Church Corporation.

By order of the Vestry,

GEO. WHEELER, Vestry Clerk.

His Lordship delivered extemporaneous replies to the addresses, (time not allowing the preparation of written answers,) which, tho' of considerable length, were characterized by a peculiar felicity of expression, elegance of language, and emphatically affectionate and spiritual tone. His Lordship especially expressed his deep sense of the kind and cordial manner of his reception in this land of strangers, of the weighty nature of the office to which he has been appointed, of his need of the sympathies, assistance and prayers of all faithful members of the Church, in the discharge of his episcopal duties, and above all, of the superintending aid and blessing of the Most High. He alluded to the sacrifice he had been called upon to make, in abandoning home and native land, dear friends and accustomed society and scenes, to accept the episcopal charge of a Province so little known in the Mother Country; after observing that he had neither expected, sought, nor wished for the Office, and that even after it had been offered to him, he had wished to decline it, yet that having arrived here, and seen something of the place of his future labours, he was now glad that he had come, and that his lot was cast in a Province, where so ample a field of duty and of usefulness was open before him.

His Lordship also expressly observed, that although it was his duty immediately to pay his respects to the highest authority in the Province, (the Representative of Her Majesty in the Government,) and therefore to proceed speedily to Fredericton; yet that it must be remembered, that although, in accordance with the custom of the British empire, his Episcopal designation was derived from that place, yet he was not the Bishop of Fredericton exclusively, but the Bishop of New Brunswick, that his heart was already full of St. John, and that he should take the earliest opportunity of revisiting it; both to inspect the schools and other matters requiring his official superintendence, and to become personally better acquainted with a population from whom he had received so Christian-like and cordial a reception. His Lordship also stated that he should make it his business to visit every part of his Diocese, as often as his strength would permit; and that he hoped to hold a Confirmation in this City in the course of the summer.

It is impossible for us, without notes, to do more than give the above very few features of his admirable replies to the addresses; but are assured that they produced the most favourable and gratifying impression on all who had the pleasure of hearing them.

The following is a copy of the Address to the Bishop, presented by the Laity of this City; and we greatly regret that his Lordship's most admirable and explicit reply thereto being extemporaneous, we have it not in our power to lay a copy of it before our readers. A few ideas of it, however, are included in the above article from the New-Brunswicker; in addition to which we may observe, that his Lordship, in a most emphatic and feeling manner, tendered his cordial thanks to the Gentlemen present, in behalf of all the subscribers, for (what his Lordship was pleased to style,) "their excellent, well-timed and judicious Address." His Lordship appeared to be much affected, while assuring the Meeting, that he deeply felt the mark of respect and kindness thus tendered to him by the Laity of St. John; and expressed his high approbation of the spirit and manner in which it had been performed, inasmuch as it evinced on their part a right sense of the respect due from them to the Episcopal Office; independently of the *person* by whom that office might be filled; an Office which, his Lordship rightly said, was always entitled to respect, however unworthy might be the person entrusted with it; since, altho' the *man* might be disgraced by his own improper conduct, the *office* could never be so.—We again repeat our regret, that we can only present a few disjointed portions of his Lordship's impressive observations, a full report of which would have been highly interesting to our readers:—

To the Honorable and Right Reverend, JOHN, LORD BISHOP OF FREDERICTON.

We, the undersigned Members of the "United Church of England and Ireland," residents of and in the vicinity of the City of Saint John, beg leave most respectfully to tender our congratulations, personally, to your Lordship, on this the occasion of your safe arrival in the Province, and first entrance into the recently created Diocese of New-Brunswick.

While we express the sincere gratification we feel, at the appointment of a Bishop for the Province, and heartily bid your Lordship welcome, we must also give utterance to our sentiments of gratitude to Almighty GOD, for having put it into the hearts of the Bishops and Members of the Church, in the United Kingdom, to furnish the endowment of the See, and into that of Her Majesty to carry out their pious and charitable intentions; and while, as in duty bound, we acknowledge with gratitude, the Fatherly care of our late respected Diocesan, we cannot but express our anticipations that benefits of great magnitude will arise, out of the possession of a Bishop of our own.

That GOD may bless all your Lordship's efforts with success, and further all your exertions to the good of the Church, is the sincere Prayer of your Lordship's most obedient servants.

[Signed by nearly 400 Lay Members of the Church, in and about St. John.]

SUPREME COURT.—The Supreme Court of this Province, (Trinity Term,) opens at Fredericton today. His Honor, Mr. Chief Justice CHIPMAN, left the city for Fredericton last week, to attend the Court; and His Honor Mr. Justice PARKER left town this morning, for Fredericton, for the same purpose.

LAUNCH.—On Saturday last, a splendid new Ship, called the "*Queen Pomare*," of 800 tons, new measurement, was launched from the Building Yard of Messrs. F. & J. Ruddock, Straight Shore, Portland. She is built of the very best materials, with upper works of Hackmatack and Live Oak, is copper fastened throughout, her model very beautiful, and the workmanship unsurpassed. She is owned by Messrs. Parks & Hegan of this city, and is to be commanded by Capt. Jacob Tell. This is another addition to the large fleet of fine first class ships already belonging to our Port, to the owners of all of which we wish the fullest success.

The Harmoneon Family, having returned to this City from a successful professional tour to Halifax, Newfoundland, &c. gave a Concert last evening at the Mechanics' Institute, to a large and fashionable audience. The performances, as usual, elicited repeated bursts of applause, and gave the most entire satisfaction. They will perform this and to-morrow evenings, as announced in another column. Those of our citizens who wish to enjoy the rare treat of hearing these delightful Vocalists, should give their attendance now, as an opportunity may not occur again for a long time.

Our Weather yesterday and to-day has been extremely warm and sultry, and the earth is dry and parched for want of rain. Yesterday and to-day the air has been strongly impregnated with smoke, arising from extensive fires in the woods, almost in our immediate vicinity, which it is feared will do serious damage to some of the farming settlements, unless soon checked by heavy rains.

We learn that the orders for fittings, pipes, &c. for the St. John Gas Light Company, are to be forwarded to England by the next Mail, and that it is expected some of the principal streets of the City will be lighted with Gas in the course of the ensuing autumn.

Major Blake, Captains Maude and Millman, and Lieutenant Fitzgerald, with two Sergeants and eighty rank and file of the 33d Regiment, arrived in this City on Friday morning, in the steamer *Herald* from Windsor, to join the service companies stationed in this City and Fredericton. The detachment arrived at Halifax recently in the Troopship *Apollo*, from Cork.

In the preceding columns will be found the particulars of the late disastrous and melancholy Conflagration at Quebec. A public meeting had been subsequently held in that city to take into consideration the pressing necessities of the sufferers, at which the following truly liberal sums were subscribed—The Seminary of Quebec, £500; the Nuns of the Hotel Dieu, Quebec, £500; the Quebec Bank, the Bank of British N. America, and the Quebec Branch of the Bank of Montreal, £250 each; James Gibb, Esquire, £500; G. Joly, Esq. £300; Peter Paterson, Esq. £250; Charles Langevin, Esq. £200; the Mayor of Quebec, £150; Hon. Mr. Justice Panet, Hy. Jessop, Esq., George Black, Esq., Wm. Price, Esq., Forsyth, Walker & Co., G. B. Symes, Esq., C. E. Levy, Esq., LeMesurier, Tilstone & Co., Gillespie, Greenshields & co. Pemberton Brothers, H. & E. Burstall, Thos. Froste & Co., William Henry, John Thomson, Thos. C. Lee, Sharples, Wainwright & Co., Patterson, Young & Co., Pickersgill, Tibbits & Co., Edw. Burroughs, Atkinson, Usborne & Co., Julien Chouinard, Hon. Louis Massie, Hon. John Neilson, Hon. Henry Black, Methot, Chinic & Co., Henry Atkinson, Esq. Archd. Laurie, Esq., Christian Wortele, Esq. [23 names] £100 each; T. C. Aylwin, Esq. £75; nine names at £50 each, and a number of sums from £40 down to £5.—The aggregate amount subscribed at the meeting was £7,020.

Lord Metcalfe has forwarded £500 from his private purse; and has sanctioned the appropriation of £2000 from the public purse, in aid of the sufferers.

It is probable that subscriptions will be opened in the principal towns in the Colonies on behalf of their afflicted fellow subjects of Quebec.

EMIGRANTS.—During the last week 966 Emigrants arrived at this port, making a total up to that date of 3527 this season.—The following vessels are now on their passage; ship New Zealand, 301 passengers; Champlain, 165; Henry Patterson, 91; Nom Pareil, 64; Time, 102—all from Cork, except the New Zealand from L'Derry.—There are also several other vessels on their passage, but the number of the passengers is not known.

The Halifax Morning Post contains an Address to the Very Rev. John Laughnan, V. G., Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Halifax, who has just resigned that charge, and is about leaving the Province. He has been pastor of the Church for the last eighteen years. The address is signed by about 500 inhabitants of Halifax, of the Protestant denominations, embracing a large portion of the most wealthy and respectable individuals in that community; the list is headed by the Hon. S. G. W. Archibald, Master of the Rolls. We take the following paragraph from the address:—"Whilst performing the onerous duties of your sacred office among the people more immediately committed to your charge, with unremitted attention, you have uniformly practiced the Christian duties of charity, benevolence, and brotherly love in your intercourse with and towards all other creeds and classes of the community."—The Rev. Mr. Laughnan returned a suitable reply.

Two fine large fat oxen, raised in Cornwallis, N. S. by Mr. Ebenezer Kinsman, were sold in Halifax, a few days ago—their join: weight, on foot, amounted to 3,920 pounds.

General Armstrong, of Tennessee, has been appointed by the President and Senate, United States Consul at Liverpool, one of the most lucrative offices in the patronage of the American Government.

The Rev. Dr. Tyng, of Philadelphia, has received and accepted a call as Pastor of St. George's Church, New York, vacant by the death of the late Dr. Milner.

County of Restigouche.—The Courier from the northward informs us, that extensive fires have been raging in the woods in the upper part of the County of Gloucester, and in a large portion of Restigouche, which have done much damage. A bridge on the main road, within two miles of Dalhousie, has been destroyed, with a number of barns, a dwelling house at Belle Doune, and a large amount of fencing. The towns of Dalhousie and Campbellton, have been several times in imminent peril, and it was only by the most strenuous exertions of the inhabitants that their dwellings were saved from destruction by the devouring element. It was with much difficulty he at times proceeded on his journey.—*Miramichi Gleaner.*

Convicts Returned.—The Montreal papers announce the arrival of David Gagnen, Joseph Goguet, Etienne (Stephen) L'Auglias and Jean Morisetti, who took part in the rebellion and were sent to Van Diemen's Land in 1839.

Dr. Whitney, of Dedham, has made from the skin of the cheek and forehead new eyelids for a young man who had his burnt off eighteen years ago.—*Boston paper.*

Extracts from late English Papers.

CATHEDRAL, NEW BRUNSWICK.—Our government is wisely and steadily pursuing its object of giving stability to the Christian Church in the colonies by the appointment of additional bishops. Dr. Medley, lately consecrated to the diocese of Fredericton, New Brunswick, sails for that country from Liverpool on Tuesday next. We are glad to learn that preparations are making to give due solemnity to the occasion, by the clergy and others interested in the sacred cause, for which he is forsaking home and friends, accompanying him to the ship, after having united with him in sacred worship at St. Peters' Church. But the bishop requires a cathedral, and cathedrals are not to be built, even in these most economical days, without some cost. What has lately been done in this way for the Bishop of Calcutta, inspires us with a good hope that British Churchmen will never rest until they have provided similarly for all the colonial bishops. The probable cost of the proposed building—a view of which has been published, and pretty widely circulated—is about £10,000, of which £1,600 have been raised elsewhere, before the proposal of a subscription was submitted to the town of Liverpool. One object of the contribution is to give encouragement to the colonists' own endeavours towards raising a suitable cathedral church, and we are glad to see that the appeal has not been made in vain.—*Liverpool Mail, May 16.*

TESTIMONIAL TO THE BISHOP OF FREDERICTON.—Yesterday having been fixed for the presentation to the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, of the subscriptions and offerings towards the intended Cathedral of New-Brunswick, the large room at the Clarence Hotel was crowded some time before the hour appointed for the meeting. Among those present we observed almost all the clergy of the city and its neighbourhood, and a number of country gentlemen. There were also a great number of ladies. On the platform were displayed the handsome Prayer Book, (the gift of Capt. Locke Lewis, who has ordered a magnificently bound Bible to accompany it,) altar services, communion plate, and alms box, presented for the use of the cathedral, and there were also several lithographic plates of the intended building, from the design of Mr. Frank Wills. Shortly after two o'clock, the Lord Bishop of Exeter appeared on the platform, accompanied by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, Right Rev. Bishop Coleridge, the Very Rev. the Dean of Exeter, the high Sheriff of the County, Rev. Archdeacon Barnes, Rev. Prebendary Hole, Rev. C. C. Bartholomew, &c. The Bishop of Exeter made the presentations (nearly £1600.) in a complimentary speech, and the Bishop of Fredericton responded in a long and interesting address.—*Western Luminary, May 13.*

B. & F. BIBLE SOCIETY.—The British and Foreign Bible Society held its anniversary on Wednesday. The net receipts for the year ending 31st March, have been £97,735 10s. 10d.; the payments £85,817 15s. 9d.; and the engagements of the Society are about £42,000. The issues for the year have been 915,811 copies, and the total issues since the commencement of the society, 16,860,836 copies. The issues of foreign societies formerly or at present assisted by the British society, exceed a million and a half of copies.

THE OREGON QUESTION.—We copy the following from the Paris Correspondence of the European Times, which will show the opinion of the French papers on this question:—

"The questions relative to Oregon and Texas have naturally excited much of the attention of the press and the public of this capital. On the first the feeling is, upon the whole, *against* America, that is against the pretensions put forth in the President's harangue, which excited such a striking demonstration in the British Parliament. The *Journal des Debats*, the principal ministerial organ, and which is understood to speak the personal sentiments of his Majesty Louis Philippe himself, has declared, in the most express and decided terms, that the demands of the American President to the *whole* territory of Oregon, are unreasonable and extravagant; and it has intimated in, of course, carefully weighed and cautious terms, that in the event of a rupture between England and America, the sympathies, if not the actual interference, of France would be with England. The *Globe*, another ministerial organ, peculiarly under the control of M. Guizot, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has also warmly rebuked what is called the arrogant pretensions of Mr. Polk.—*La Presse* is, like the *Globe* and the *Debats*, of Conservative principles, but it is opposed to the present Ministry, and is remarkable for its bitter hatred of England and every thing English, and its earnest hostility to the *entente cordiale*. But even the *Presse* has declared, on more than one occasion, that the demands of the Government of the United States to the territory of Oregon are *not sustainable*."

The London Morning Chronicle of May 16, in a long editorial on the Oregon Question, has the following paragraph:

"The fairest, the only settlement of the Oregon, would be a division of the territory in dispute, and the Columbia river is the line of that fair division. The sole advantage which the Americans would gain by fixing the frontier at the 49th degree would be to deprive us of the military and commercial advantages of that river, the territory North of it being of small value. The river is, therefore the great point in dispute, and for all the purposes of peace and trade, the possession of one bank suffices. To claim both betrays belligerent motives, being the very last motives to which we should give way. Neither can it be said that England has belligerent views, because, in seeking to preserve half of the Columbia, she has ports farther North, where she may exclusively establish fleets and arsenals. This is contradicted by our very fair offer to the Americans of a portion of territory on one side of the straits of Fuca.

The London Herald of May 15th, says:—

"We have elsewhere collected the opinions of several of the most intelligent of our American contemporaries on the recent declaration of the British Ministry, the tone of which is sedulously pacific. It is needless to add that these sentiments are warmly reciprocated in this country."

Goldsmith's Company.—The most extensive preparations are being made to make the grand banquet which will be given by the Coldsmith's Company to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, on May 24, exceed, if possible, in splendor, the magnificent banquets that have hitherto been given at Goldsmiths' Hall. At the rear of the six windows in the banqueting-hall, and which are composed of splendidly stained glass, scaffolding has been erected and an enclosure of wood-work formed round each window, within which a splendid gas illumination will be placed; the reflection of the light from which, through the stained glass into the hall, will present a most grand effect. With a view to render the arrangements as effective as possible, the masters and wardens have issued an order that the public should not be permitted to view the hall until completed. The Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, and the whole of the cabinet ministers, the foreign ambassadors, and the principal portion of the nobility and gentry have been invited to meet the Prince. In the morning, previous to the banquet, a "Trial of the Pix," will take place, pursuant to an order in council to test the present standard of the coinage."

It was stated that the draught of the convention respecting the right of search, prepared by the Commissioners of England and France—Dr. Lushington and the Duke de Broglie, which had been transmitted from London to Paris for approval, has been returned with an objection to one of its provisions. The exact terms of the proposed convention have not transpired, but it was understood that it contemplates arrangements with the native African chiefs, to prevent the sale or embarkation of slaves; and that if the Chiefs should refuse to enter into such arrangements or should fail to carry them out, that force should be used to blockade their territory, and take possession of their factories.

LONDON, May 20.—The Queen gave a state ball last evening at Buckingham Palace, which was more numerously attended than any former ball given by Her Majesty, nearly 2000 invitations having been issued. From 9 o'clock, when the company began to assemble, until 11, the visitors continued to arrive at the Palace without intermission, filling the suite of state saloons, which were fitted up and prepared in the usual style of regal splendor. The whole of the rooms were opened for their reception, with the exception of the yellow drawing-room, in which apartment the Queen received the Royal Family.

A correspondent in St. Petersburgh writes us, under date 30th ult., that his Royal Highness Prince Albert is expected in that capital in the course of the present summer, to return the visit of the Emperor to Her Majesty Queen Victoria last year. He would be accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge, ostensibly to be present with him at the series of reviews to take place according to the annual custom; but also, it was said at