The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 8, 1850.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

On the evening of Friday the 4th instant, the Annual Meeting of the New-Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute—His Honor Judge Parker, the President of the Society, in the Chair. This anniversary is always looked forward to with pleasure, and, we have observed, the interest excited by its approach has increased with every succeeding year. This is a matter of congratulation—nay more, it is a state of things which ought to awake in our hearts the deepest gratitude to God; for surely, interest in the Bible Society could scarcely exist without interest in the Bible itself; and we know the more this blessed book is made the counsellor of youth, the guide of manhood, and the delight of old age, the more will Heaven smile upon us, and render us virtuous, prosperous, and happy.

On the present occasion the rush to the Hall was so great that every corner of it was filled long before the hour fixed for the commencement of business had arrived, and hundreds, disappointed in not finding admission, had to return to their homes.

At *seven*, the proceedings were commenced by the President giving out four verses of the 108th Psalm, which were sung in full chorus, by the whole assembly, with the able assistance of Mr. Card at the Organ. A passage of the Word of God was next read by the Rev. Dr. I. W. D. Gray; at the conclusion of which, the President addressed the audience in nearly the following terms:—

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Adopting the practice recommended by the Committee of the Parent Society for the opening of its future Anniversary Meetings, we have read a portion of the Holy Scriptures in addition to our usual course of singing a Psalm of praise; and I trust there are not a few among us who have joined in the solemn and fervent aspiration with which the reading concluded—with especial reference to this occasion—that the words of the mouths of those who are to speak this evening, and the meditations of the hearts of all—those who speak and those who hear—may be acceptable in the sight of Him who is the Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

Abundant causes have we, indeed, for thankfulness, in being permitted to assemble again, so many of us, who have been here year after year; and to bless God that the pestilence which has been so destructive in other countries, and even in that which immediately joins this Province, has scarcely touched our population; but there is another circumstance which I cannot but note on the opening of what may in some sense be counted a year of Christian Jubilee, that so far as we are informed, after all the wars and civil commotions of the last two years, peace again reigns throughout the world. I may be mistaken in this, and the hope may inspire the thought; but I could not but think of the words of the Psalmist:—"He maketh wars to cease throughout the earth"—as a prelude to the sublime apostrophe—"Know that I am God! I will be exalted among the Heathen—I will be exalted in the earth." The Divine Being needs not human agency, and may accomplish this miraculously; but in the ordinary operations of His providence we cannot expect this great event until His holy word is known among the heathen, and spread among the nations and families of the earth—which is the great work the British and Foreign Bible Society, in humble reliance on His blessing, is labouring to promote.

There is a call to us for aid in this work from many of the nations of Europe—from the millions of India, of China, and of Africa—from the mountains of the North and from the islands of the Sea; but even one still nearer, from many secluded and destitute corners, as well as from the more dense settlements of our own Province. We are compelled to solicit the increased liberality of those who take an interest in this cause—in consequence of the wants we have found and have endeavoured to supply by the means of colportage, some of the particulars of which you will hear detailed to you, and which will lend an additional interest to our Annual Report.

The President concluded by soliciting an earnest and patient attention to the Report, much of which must necessarily be omitted in the reading; but would hereafter appear in print—and as he was aware many of the audience looked anxiously for the animated addresses of the speakers on the Resolutions, which would follow the reading of the Report, it had been much condensed; but he could venture to assure all who would allow their minds and hearts to be engaged in the subject, that they would find an ample compensation for the time that would be occupied in its delivery.

The references to the interesting details contained in the Report are so numerous in the addresses that followed its delivery, some of which we present to our readers in the present paper, that we need scarcely make any mention of it. We may state that the Parent Society's labours, under the blessing and leadings of God, have been crowned with abundant success both at home and abroad. The bishops of Chester and Manchester have been added to the list of Vice-Presidents. France, Italy, Germany, and other places where the people have been contending for liberty and freer constitutions, have been well supplied with the Scriptures, which are the best antidote to evils of every shape and kind. India, China, and South Africa, which now are open almost entirely to the reception of God's word, have been supplied to the utmost of the Society's ability. The total receipts of the Society for the past year, were £95,933 6s. 1d., and the total issues 1,107,618 copies of the Scriptures.

Our own Auxiliary is also in a prosperous state. The subscribers have increased considerably in number. The Collectors of the Ladies' Bible Association have met with much to encourage them in their benevolent perambulations. The issues from the Depository have been greater than in any preceding year. Many poor persons, and several Sunday and other Schools have received gratuitous grants. Several of the Branches continue their attachment to the Auxiliary. That at Amherst has

1. Moved by the Rev. Robert Irvine, and seconded by Dr. Botsford:—

That the Report, an abstract of which has just been read, be received, printed, and circulated, under the direction of the Committee.

2. Moved by Rev. Mr. Casewell, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Lawson:—

That this Meeting desires to adopt, with joy and gratitude, the Resolution of the Parent Society, that the extent to which its work has been carried during the past year, especially in some countries which had been heretofore nearly closed against its labours, affords abundant cause for thanksgiving to Almighty God, and at the same time for an acknowledgment of the voice of Divine Providence, calling for undiminished and even larger endeavours to promote the still wider diffusion of the inspired Record.

3. Moved by the Rev. Dr. I. W. D. Gray, and seconded by Rev. Alexander Stewart, A. B.:—

That believing the Bible to be the Book of God, suited to all nations, and addressed to all, and that wherever it is accompanied by the blessing of the Holy Spirit, it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, the conviction should be enough and more than enough to animate our zeal, to quicken our prayers, and to keep alive within us a fervent charity in carrying out the great object of the Bible Society.

4. Moved by the Rev. John Thomson, A. M. and seconded by A. Campbell, Esq.:—

That this Meeting cannot omit gratefully to acknowledge the success which has already attended the recent efforts of this Auxiliary to promote by means of a Traveling Agent the circulation of the Holy Scriptures throughout the Province, and feels, in the success of such an Agency here and elsewhere, fresh motives for renewed zeal to extend thereby the usefulness of this Association.

5. Moved by Rev. Mr. Knight, and seconded by Mr. G. T. Ray:—

That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to the Saint John Ladies' Bible Association, and to such of the Branch Societies as still afford us their assistance and support, especially those of Grand Lake, Milkish, and Amherst.

6. Moved by Rev. Mr. Busby, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Robinson:—

That the following gentlemen do compose the Committee for the ensuing year:—

Samuel Bayard, M. D.	Messrs. James Agnew,
L. B. Botsford, M. D.	Geo. A. Lockhart,
Dr. Radclifie,	A. Campbell,
Messrs. Samuel Hayghue,	John F. Marsters,
John Kinnear,	W. J. Starr,
John Wishart,	James McMillan,
Nathan S. Demill,	Edward Sears,
Gilbert T. Ray,	D. J. McLaughlin.

For Portland—Messrs. John Duncan, James Flewelling, and Moses Tuck.

For Carleton.—Messrs. Geo. Bond and R. Salter.

We observed on the platform, (in addition to the proposers and seconders of the resolutions,) the Rev. Mr. Donald, and the Rev. John Irvine, and in the Hall, the Rev. M. Scovil, the Rev. Mr. Cooney, and the Rev. Mr. McKay. It is pleasing to see the Ministers of the various Protestant bodies rallying round the standard of their common faith—the *Bible.*—The collection amounted to £[illegible] 12s. 6d.

[In furnishing the following remarks by request of the respected Secretary of our Auxiliary, Mr. Irvine begs leave to state to those who may have been present at the meeting, that his absence from the City in the early part of the week, and pressing duties of a professional character on his return, prevented him from preparing a Speech for the occasion. He was therefore thrown on the inspiration of the moment and the suggestions arising from the Secretary's excellent Report. This will account for *some* of the *expressions* differing from those that may have been uttered in the excitement of an extempore address.]

In moving the first Resolution, the Rev. Mr. Irvine spoke to the following effect:—

Mr. Chairman,—I am not insensible of the honor you have done me in entrusting to my advocacy the leading Resolution of the evening, although I should willingly have ceded that honor to some one more capable of doing it justice than I am. The *motion* may be said to contain nothing new, yet the Report to which it has reference, contains things "new and old." In following our worthy and excellent Secretary through the pages of that elaborate and admirable Report, constructed with no ordinary amount of labour and of care, we are compelled to say "the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." In glancing over the Report of the Parent Society, on which our own Report is based, we are forcibly impressed *with the conviction that the God of the Bible is the God of Providence*; and while as a God of Providence he fulfils the prophetic portions of Revelation, in thus fulfilling He graciously awakens a deeper interest in what He reveals. The Providence of God, therefore, not only fulfils his word, but impels men to read, study, and inwardly digest it.—I read in the writings of Josephus, that when Cyrus the Great had become Sovereign of the world, he accidentally discovered an old parchment wherein was written a portion of the prophecy of Isaiah, and that portion which referred to his own conquests and the purposes of the Almighty in raising him up. The prophecy in question had been written 140 years before the destruction of the Temple by the Monarch of Babylon, and therefore long before the birth of Cyrus. On reading it the heathen monarch was awestruck: then he made the discovery that he was unintentionally and unconsciously filling up what the great Author of Inspiration had long ago foretold, and believing that the God who delivered the prophecy was the God who fulfilled it, he immediately issued an Edict for the emancipation of the Jews throughout all his dominions, and gave an unlimited order on the Exchequer of the kingdom to aid them in rebuilding their Temple, and re-establishing their ancient worship at Jerusalem.—In this anecdote I see that God writes in the Bible and interprets in his Providence—that the book of Providence is a commentary on the book of Revelation—and moreover that the attentive peruser of Providence is driven back upon the page of Revelation, and compelled to become a Bible reader and a Bible believer. These thoughts are suggested to my mind by the cheering details of the Report of our Parent Society, when compared with the history of the past year. The operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society on the continent of Europe, during the year 1849, are of the most animating character. They cheer us—they enliven us—they tell us of good things to come—they assure us that God is not only interpreting the Bible in the revolutions, disasters, tumults and bloodshed in European nations, but that by these very commotions, He is preparing a way for the more extensive circulation of the Sacred Scriptures. In France, the country with which the Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Parent Society opens, we have seen during the year much national discord—much political turmoil; we have seen the country in a state of anarchy, a King exiled, a people distracted, a nation in distress; yet we have seen 81 active, efficient, godly agents of the British and Foreign Bible Society wandering the streets and lanes and purlieus of Paris, and travelling the rural districts with the precious word of God in their hands, and thus pouring the precious oil of the Gospel upon the troubled waters of national tumult. Nay more, we see the Frenchman compelled to read in the disasters of his fated country the truths written in the Bible, we see him compelled to interpret the word of God by the history of his own times. Whether the events which have characterized the history of France during the last two years be found in the prophecy of New Testament writ or not, the principle upon which the nation's sufferings may be accounted for is found in every page of the Bible. The principle to which I refer is this "That Righteousness exalteth a nation," the converse of which is true, that national sin is the invariable antecedent of national judgment. When I see the God of the Bible illustrating Bible truth in the history of France, I can see at the same time the God of Providence preparing the French mind by all these tumults and disasters for the reception of the Bible. I have seen the effects of Infidelity in that country for the last half century. The Frenchman has become sick of its horrid operations, its legitimate consequences are anarchy, rebellion, discontentment, political embarrassment, and commercial distress. The Frenchman, convinced of this, and discovering that all this is just what the Bible declares, he is driven back upon the pages of Revelation, and compelled to admit that it is the truth of God. What made Cyrus a Bible reader? Was it not that he saw the surrounding events of his own time Bible interpreters. Why did he become a Bible believer? Because he saw that Providence was a Bible explainer; and if his own brief history was a convincing commentary on prophecy, on Bible truth, surely every Frenchman who will only compare his nation's history during the last half century, with the page of revelation, will find therein a far more convincing proof of the genuineness of Revelation than in all that has been given to the world either by the pen of the learned Mede or the tools of the plodding Newton, or the researches of Dr. Paley. In the midst of all the tumult of the past year, 107,219 copies of the word of God have been issued from the depot of the Society in Paris—pleasing symptoms of the fact that the French mind is becoming fatigued with the load of infidelity under which it has long groaned. If there be any hope for the French nation, I believe it rests not in the consolidation of a National Republic—it rests not in the restoration of Louis Philippe—it rests not in the election of another civic Prince from the house of Bourbon.—No, no; I have far more faith in the Bible and the Colporteur than in all the political skill of the ex-King of the French, or in the diplomatic wisdom of the most talented of those anarchists who have reduced that nation to its present plight. And is it not matter of gratitude to Almighty God that he is compelling Frenchmen, by his Providence, to read his blessed Word?

When from France we follow our esteemed Secretary to Germany, we discover by his Report, that the work is not without its success there. It is a matter of deep regret, and must be felt as such by every Protestant, that the country to which the Reformation owes its birth, should, in three centuries, have merged from the high doctrines of Evangelical, Protestant truth, to the flippant conceits of a modern Neology. As the Cities of Asia Minor, in which Holy Apostles planted the truth of God, have long been deprived of His precious word, and instead thereof, their wretched inhabitants have been overrun with the Caliph and the Koran; so in the Cities and the Universities of Germany, where Holy Reformers lived and laboured, we find their principles sneered at, their teachings derided and ridiculed, their zeal misnamed, and their noble characters slandered; nay more, the very Bible, the *Book of the Reformation* itself, set aside to make room for the silly productions of conceited dabblers in Philosophy. But let us behold the providence of God, interpreting Revelation and demonstrating the truth. "My word shall not return to me void." In the good providence of God, the British and Foreign Bible Society is sending back the Bible to Germany, to tell the sceptic of the 19th century that the time was when his ancestors sought to read the Book which he despises and dare not; that the time was when his ancestors dare no more harbour the Bible than you dare harbour a convicted felon; that the time was when the Bible was a prohibited, a proscribed book: when it was chained in [illegible]

Bible *may*, therefore, be trusted any where.—Would you allay the storm whose fury was awoke by the abdication of Louis Philippe? Let the Bible be trusted in France. Would you banish Neology from the Universities where Luther and his compeers first sowed the seeds of Reformation truth—would you salt the springs of religious learning in those communities where Zuingle and Melancthon toiled with the greatest success? Let the Bible be trusted in Germany. Would you abolish the co-existence of a temporal and spiritual power in the Pontiff of Rome? Let the Bible be trusted in Italy. Would you chase back the followers of the false prophet, the Caliph, and the Koran beyond the Dardanelles? Let the Bible be trusted in Turkey. Would you demolish the temple of Juggernaut—would you purify the blood-stained waters of the Ganges? Let the Bible be [illegible] India. Would you rescue 60,000 infants from the hands of their parent murderers? [illegible] he Bible be trusted in China. Would [illegible] he convict and his children to the real [illegible] a British subject? Then let the Bible [illegible] in New Holland and Van Diemen's [illegible] ould you raise the sable son of Ham to [illegible] of a white man? Then let the Bible [illegible] in Africa. Would you chase Infidelity [illegible] ress of this great and growing country? [illegible] e Bible be trusted in America. Would [illegible] forever the practical Atheism of the [illegible] ry? Then let the Bible be trusted to [illegible] rse!

[illegible] ing the third Resolution, the Rev. Dr. Gray, spoke as follows:

President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

[illegible] st, I think, be admitted by all, whether [illegible] or friends of this Institution, that its success [illegible] been truly wonderful. Its Founders were [illegible] aith and prayer. They hoped for great [illegible] from it. When that excellent man, Mr. [illegible] e of its two earliest Secretaries, communi[illegible] his friend at Berlin, the fact of its formation [illegible] told him, that "a new Society was formed [illegible] on, of which the sole object was to encou[illegible] wider dispersion of the Holy Scriptures [illegible] the British dominions, and, *according to [illegible] ity of the Society*, through other countries, [illegible] r Christian, Mahometan, or Pagan." The [illegible] was a noble one. It could only have had [illegible] th in minds that were illuminated by the [illegible] d discoveries of the Bible itself. Yet the man [illegible] uttered this language, could never have anticipated the rapid progress of the Institution. When [illegible] used the terms, "*according to the ability of the [illegible] ciety*," he could not have foreseen what that ability [illegible] uld speedily become. He could not have cherished the expectation, that ere the century which witnessed its birth had reached its midway-course, would encircle the globe with a zone of light, positing the sacred oracles amidst every shade of [illegible] ror, in all the dark corners of the earth. And [illegible] y, Sir, has the success of this Society been so rapid and uniform? Why in an age like the present, when men grow weary of old Institutions, in some cases, simply because they are old, do we find them gathering round the standard of this Society with augmented zeal? Why, to bring the question home, do we find ourselves cleaving to it with increasing affection from year to year, our friends becoming more numerous, and our hearts warmer in its behalf? Because the principles that animate us, and that lie at the foundation of our efforts, are of a *permanent* and enduring nature; they cannot change with the vacillations of the age; they cannot diminish as time rolls on; but must remain in their full strength, and exert continually a more powerful influence upon us, just in proportion as the truth and blessedness of our religion are realized in our souls. The object of the Society is to circulate the Bible; and what are our convictions in regard to that Book? We believe, Sir, *in the Sacredness of its origin*. We have studied the History and the contents of the Book we circulate, and we know it to be *the Book of God*. We have considered its *prophecies*, and perceive that many have *been fulfilled*, that others are *now fulfilling*. We have examined the *miracles* which it records, and can see the clear marks of distinction between these and all the *counterfeits and impostures* of man. We have weighed its *doctrines*, its *code of morals*, the motives it suggests, the prospects it unfolds, and we find at every step, the evidences of a super-human origin. We are perfectly assured that *man* did not *invent* the contents of the Bible. Bad men would not have written it, and good men, even the holiest and best of men, unless under the guidance of Divine teaching, could never have made the disclosures which the sacred writers have done of the human heart on the one hand and the will of God on the other. In a word, Sir, we believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," that Prophets "spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," and that Apostles preached the Gospel, "with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven," and believing this we have *one great principle* to sustain us, in our attachment to this Society. But further in regard to this Holy Book, we recognise the *comprehensiveness of its design*. It is "suited to all Nations, and *addressed to all*." It is not the Book of one *age*, but of *all generations*, until the pillars of the earth are removed. It is not the Book of *one people*; of the Jew—the Mahometan—or the Pagan, but of all the kindreds of the earth. It belongs to every region, from "Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand," to every tribe and section of the human family. It is not the Book of one *class*, but of every rank and station. The poor man reads it, and becomes rich. The rich man reads it, and sees himself to be poor. The simple listens to it and becomes wise; the learned man peruses it, and perceives himself to be a fool. It belongs to the Cottage, and it belongs to the Palace. The peasant claims it as his heritage, and a Queen Dowager imbibes its heavenly lessons, becomes a blessing to a nation on earth, and then passes peacefully to heaven. And this suggests the main reasons why we cleave to, and love the Institution which circulates *the Book of God*—we believe in the *blessedness of the effects* of that Book—we look upon it, in truth, as "the Power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Not that we think that the mere *written document in itself*, any more than the *oral delivery* of the Gospel Message, can effect the conversion of the sinner's heart. But we regard it as God's *instrument*, and believe that where it is employed in the spirit of faith and prayer, he will *accompany it with his blessing*, and make it effectual to the Salvation of those who read it. And our regarding it in this light, is not *merely* an act of *faith*; it is also the result of *experience*. The Divine Word authorizes the expectation; but *Facts*, palpable and well attested Facts, place the certainty of it beyond a reasonable doubt. How numerous are the attestations we are continually receiving of conversions resulting from reading the Bible, both among nominal Christians and benighted Heathens! How cheering is it to read in the Report of the Parent Society, in reference to *France*, the scene of so many Revolutions and Political convulsions during the past year, that "never were there so many striking proofs of the benefit, the real spiritual saving benefit of distributing the Holy Scriptures!" How delightful to read that the colporteurs of the Society have "frequently discovered in localities, the very names of which were scarcely known, even in solitary houses scattered on heaths and moors, or buried in the midst of forests, individuals who proved themselves to be awakened and converted—true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, rendered such by the power of the Holy Ghost infusing life and vigor into His written word!" How deeply interesting is the petition from the inhabitants of Mainers, stating that "since the New Testament had come among them, they have been brought to see that they are in a perilous condition, and now wish to have a Minister of the Gospel stationed among them!" How pleasing is it to peruse the touching statement in the sixty-ninth page of the Report, of the poor Italian, who, a few days after he had received a New Testament, drew it from the breast-pocket of his coat, pointed out how far he had read, and exclaimed, "It is the treasure of human life!" Another striking testimony is to be found in the affecting narrative of the Brahmin Kant Misser, (page 114,) who, after embracing the Gospel, and affording evidences of a true Christian, has been carried away and concealed by his relations. The native missionary remarks of him, "I know not whether he is confined as a prisoner, whether they have taken away by drugs his senses, or whether they have murdered him, but I have no fear that the prospect of sufferings or death would make him apostatize." Another attestation concerns the New Zealanders, in reference to whom Arch-deacon Williams remarks, "My immediate Parish contains about 2,400 natives of all ages. Of this number more than 600 are communicants, and a much larger number are able to read. Your Testaments have been well read; and although the supply has been larger than we needed, yet you have the satisfaction of knowing they have been the blessed means of building up many in the faith." (page 135.) Sir, to go through the testimonies afforded by this single Report, would be an endless task. In those referred to, we see enough to prove, if proof were necessary, that, place the Bible where you may, in the habitations of men, it produces, under God's blessing, the same happy results. Variations of climate, of human customs, manners, opinions and laws, present to its silent influence no insuperable barrier. Political convulsions cannot in France, Rationalism cannot in Germany, the Inquisition in Italy, the prejudices of caste in India, nor the fierceness of the savage heart among the New Zealanders. My argument is not that these things do not, for a time, impede its circulation; but that when circulated, and placed within the reach of these different classes of men, they cannot prevent its power over the heart. If circulated, it will be read; if read, it will impress; if it impress, it will lead to faith; if it lead to faith, it will become the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Now, admitting these facts, what is the influence which this conviction should have upon us? How should it affect our feelings? How should it sway our actions? Unquestionably it should deepen the affections we already cherish for this noble Institution. It should warm our zeal in its behalf. It should stimulate our efforts to further its vast object in circulating the Scriptures; and, above all, should lead us in the spirit of prayer to Him whose blessing alone can crown those efforts with success. Large, we confess with thankfulness, has been the blessing He has already bestowed; but a larger one, I doubt not, is still in store for it. New friends are bestowing their bounty upon it. New channels are opening for that bounty to flow in, and new plans, more vast than former ones, are forming for extending its usefulness. Witness the noble plan of placing a Bible in the possession of every family in British India. Let us then go, in its behalf, to Him who delights to listen to united prayer. Let us implore Him to extend its operations an hundred fold, that it may carry the volume which the poor Italian justly styled 'the treasure of human life,' not merely to every land, but to every family of every land, and that wherever in the abodes of our fellow sinners, it deposites the sacred treasure, "His power may be present to heal." Before I sit down, Sir, I would make one remark upon the prospects of our own Auxiliary. I think its influence extends, and that its claims are beginning to be more acknowledged, even among some, who in past days were supposed to be hostile to it. It has given me great pleasure to find that many of the pennies that have been contributed from the poorer classes of our community, have this year been given by Roman Catholics; and have in some instances been given, not only cheerfully, but from very scanty earnings, and have been given, too, with a full knowledge of the nature and object of the Institution to which they were contributing. It is sometimes, no doubt, an indication of good when a Society like this meets with opposition; but, on the other hand, it is also an evidence that the Divine blessing is with it, when He who has at His disposal the hearts of all, causes even its enemies to be at peace with it.

[*The other Speeches next week.*]

The Circuit Court for this City and County was opened this morning. His Honor Mr. Justice Parker presides. There are 7 criminal and 50 civil cases for trial.

Mechanics' Institute.—The Rev. Mr. Wishart lectured last evening, to a large and gratified audience, on "Invention."

☞ The collection for the Poor, in St. Andrew's Church, on Sunday last, amounted to £18 4s.

A public meeting was held at Fredericton last week, at which His Worship the Mayor of that city presided, and resolutions passed in favour of taking measures for having the principal streets of that city lighted with gas.

An out-building, in the rear of the house occupied by Mr. Otty Cudlip, Queen's Square, was burnt down between 2 and 3 o'clock on Friday morning. None of the neighboring houses were injured. The fire is supposed to have been caused by hot ashes which had been left in the building.

The ship *James Stewart*, Capt. Kinney, sailed on Friday last for San Francisco, with an assorted cargo of building materials, &c. valued at upwards of £1000, and shipped by the owner of the vessel, C. C. Stewart, Esq. Messrs. N. Milby, and W. J. Bradley, of this city, John Ruddock, of Portland, and J. A. Miles, of Fredericton, went passengers; and several young men of this city form part of the crew.

There was recently an unsuccessful attempt at revolution in Mexico, by the friends of Santa Anna. There had been a large number of persons arrested, including several officers of distinction; thirty-two conspirators are stated to have been shot.

The vessels cleared from Boston for California last year, amounted to 151.

Two young men, named Cameron and Grant, both natives of Judique, C. B., were drowned on the 22d ult., in the Gut of Canso, by the swamping of a small boat during a gale of wind.

Lady Emiline Stewart Wortley, the distinguished English traveller, arrived at New Orleans, Dec. 22, accompanied by her daughter. She was highly delighted with the scenery of the West, and was about to pursue her journey to Mexico.

Sight Singing.—Mr. Bennison's system of Singing and teaching Music is the simplest thing in creation. His success moreover during the last term cannot fail to insure a liberal patronage during the next. His Class opens in St. Stephen's Hall this evening.—The writer having had several opportunities of examining the system, is quite prepared to recommend a trial to all connoiseurs in Sacred Music. The choirs of the different Churches may attend Mr. B.'s present course of Instruction both profitably and cheaply.—*Com.*

Sabbath School Anniversary.—On Thursday last the *Fifth Anniversary* of the Sabbath School connected with the Rev. Mr. Irvine's Church was observed. At two o'clock the children, who, notwithstanding a heavy fall of snow during the whole day, numbered nearly three hundred, met in the large school room in the basement story of the Church, and were entertained by their Teachers with cakes and fruit. At half-past six o'clock the Teachers, with a number of Guests, amounting in all to about 150 persons, partook of tea together in the school room, when the annual report was circulated, and many pleasing and profitable statements delivered by some of the clergymen in town, upon the subject of Sabbath School Education and kindred topics.—*Courier.*

New Vessels.—Launched from the Ship Yard of Mr. James Briggs, on New-Year's Day, a splendid Ship, named the "*Ellen*," of 893 Tons, Register. This fine ship was built in the best manner of the best materials, is owned by the enterprizing builder, and is fully equal to any that he has previously launched.

On Thursday afternoon, the *Albatross*, another splendid specimen of naval architecture, was launched from the building-yard of William Olive, Esq. in Carleton. She is 1026 tons register, and has been built for Messrs. Gibbs, Bright & Co. of Liverpool, who intend her as a regular trader between that port and the East Indies. The Albatross is constructed of hackmatack, pitch pine, and oak, and is thoroughly copper-fastened, and for beauty of model, materials, and superior workmanship, is not surpassed, if equalled, by any of the most splendid vessels built in New-Brunswick.—She is commanded by Capt. W. Geves, and is now loading at the Custom House Wharf, for Liverpool.—*Ib.*

We understand that a number of the principal Grocers of the City are now closing their Stores at 7 o'clock, for the winter months. We hope all respectable shop-keepers will do the same, in order that the young men in their employment may have an opportunity of attending lectures, and otherwise improving their minds.—*Ib.*

The Quebec Mercury of Dec. 27th, says—"The weather, recently, has been very sharp here, thermometer yesterday 15° below zero. There is also, for so early in the season, an unusual quantity of snow on the ground.

The Toronto correspondent of the *Pilot* says it is generally believed that the celebrated W. L. Mackenzie is about to assume the editorship of the *Examiner*. Mr. Mackenzie, he says, is strongly opposed to Annexation, although rather impracticable and *ultra* in his views.

Copper Mine near Quebec.—The Quebec *Canadien* says that a copper mine has been recently discovered at St. Marie, (Nouvelle Beauce,) in the seigniory of M. Perrault, about thirty miles south of Quebec, and three or four miles from the river Chaudiere. Metallic veins, varying from one to four feet wide, have been followed and examined, in the space of a thousand feet in length. There has also been found a vein of argentiferous lead, encouraging the supposition that a vein of silver is not far off. The mine is not far from where gold is found on Mr. DeLery's seigniory.

Fredericton, Dec. 28.

☞ The usual semi-annual Examination of the Collegiate School (under the charge of Mr. Roberts,) took place on Thursday, Dec. 20th. It was conducted by the Lord Bishop, the Venerable Archdeacon Coster, the Master of the Rolls, and Professors Robb and Jack, who at the conclusion expressed their unqualified approbation of the proficiency exhibited by the several classes in all the various subjects of instruction.

The Prize for the best English Essay, of which five very creditable ones were given in, was unanimously awarded to Master G. Sydney Smith, and that for the best translation from English into Latin to Master F. W. Parker. The French Prize was awarded by M. d'Avray to Master J. C. E. Roberts.

The duties of the School re-commence on Monday, January 14, 1850.—*Reporter.*

The *Novascotian* says the news by the steamer Hibernia, from Boston, "comprises accounts from all parts of North and South America, and from the Islands of the Pacific.—The rising interests and the growing importance of the social and political condition of the New World, overtops in importance the every day policy and prospects as exhibited in European affairs."

The Army.—The old colours of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers have been deposited in St. Peter's Church, at Caermarthen, Wales.—The 64th Regiment, stationed at Poonah, in India, was very sickly at last accounts.—The 88th Regt. Connaught Rangers, will probably arrive here early next March, from the West Indies. During the Peninsular war they formed a part of Picton's Division; that gallant officer was wont to declare that the 88th were every thing but cowards!—*Novascotian.*

Montreal, Jan 2.—A declaration is just received from Stanstead county, with 1200 signatures in favor of annexation.

Steamer Senator.—One of the late papers from California says—"The steamer Senator (formerly plying between Boston and Saint John) has made three trips to Sacramento City, averaging 200 passengers each way at $30 each. She runs up or down in 8 or 9 hours—a splendid fortune to her owners. She will clear $80,000 the first month on the river."

The Loss of the Caleb Grimshaw.—*Great Loss of Life.*—Capt. Hoxie, her commander, who arrived at New York on Wednesday in the bark Clara C. Bell, from Fayal, states the melancholy fact that between fifty and sixty of the steerage passengers of the Caleb Grimshaw, who were on one of the rafts, perished during the catastrophe, nothing having been heard of them, he says, after they were cut adrift from the burning ship. Also one of the quarter boats was carried away from the davits by the immense number who insanely crowded into her. These all perished, with others, who sprang from the chains after the boat as she went down. The survivors were to take passage in the bark Sarah, which was to leave for New York in a few days. Upon the arrival of the bark Sarah, Capt. Cook, at Fayal with the survivors, the English consul sent some bread and water on board for them. The American consul, Henry Dabney, Esq., went alongside and on learning the situation of the unfortunate passengers, sent on board 3000 oranges, 20 bushels of potatoes and a cask of wine, beef, fish, &c.

Capt. Hoxie thus relates the rescue of the sufferers by the Sarah:—"After having the boats astern in tow for five days and nights, we espied a sail which proved to be the British bark Sarah, of Yarmouth, N. S., from London, in ballast, bound to St. John, N. B., Captain David Cook, (God bless him,) with a heart as big as Nelson's monument, and that too in the right place. As soon as he discovered our signal of distress, wore ship, took in top gallant sails and courses, double reefed his topsails, and made ready for any emergency. The wind came on so blow and he was not able to get any more than were in the launch and two small boats.—Capt. Cook, sticking closer than a brother for upwards of eight days, and acting under the influence of Divine Providence, has been instrumental in rescuing from a watery grave 399 souls. The Lord be praised.—As soon as the hatches of the Caleb Grimshaw were lifted she was in a blaze instantaneously."

The Caleb Grimshaw was owned by Samuel Thompson and Nephew of New York, and was built in that City in 1848, in a superior manner. She was of 1000 tons burthen; valued at about $80,000, and had a cargo on board worth at least $200,000. The vessel and about two-thirds of the cargo were insured in Wall street. The rest in England.

Memphis, (Tenn.) Dec. 30.—The steamer America was run into a few days since by the steamer Viola, a short distance below Donaldsville in the Mississippi. The latter boat sunk in about two and a half minutes after the collision. The America picked up 21 of the Viola's passengers.

Accident to the steamer Crescent City.—The steamer Crescent City, from New York for Chagres, put into Charleston on the 16th ult., having broke the cross rail to the engine, rendering it useless. No one was hurt. Most of the passengers were taken off by sailing vessels, and forwarded to Chagres.

Commerce of New York.—The number of vessels which arrived at New York from foreign countries, in 1849, was 3227, of which 1973 were American, and 811 British. The number which arrived the preceding year was 3060. The number of passengers last year was 221,799, in the preceding year 191,901.

Banks of Massachusetts.—The present number of banks in this State is 119, of which 27 are in Boston. The aggregate capital is $34,630,011, of which $19,577,495 is placed in Boston. The amount of bills in circulation, on the 1st of October last, was $15,700,935, of which $5,971,371 were bills of Banks in Boston. The amount of deposites was $9,875,317. The total amount of obligations of the banks, including capital, were $68,685,490.

The total amount of specie in the Banks was $2,749,917, of which $2,104,741 was in the Banks of this city. The amount of bills, notes and other securities discounted, and other credits except dues from other Banks, were $56,599,309.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

Ship Building in the United States.—The amount of tonnage built in the United States in the year ending on the 30th of June, was 256,577 tons, consisting of 1547 vessels, of those 198 were ships, 148 brigs, 623 schooners, 208 steamers, and 370 sloops and canal boats.

More than half the entire number of ships, viz. 119, were built in Maine, besides 107 brigs, 105 schooners, 5 sloops and 7 steamers, making a tonnage of 82,256 tons. In Massachusetts, 23 ships, 57 brigs, 65 schooners, 9 sloops and [illegible] ng a tonnage of 23,888 tons. In [illegible] ships, 8 brigs, 64 schooners, 155 s[illegible] boats, and 21 steamers, total 44,10[illegible]

It is estimated that no less than [illegible] lions of pounds sterling of foreign c[illegible] invested in English securities. in [illegible] the disturbed state of Europe durin[illegible] teen months.

Terrible loss of Life.—The So[illegible] boat was upset in endeavouring to [illegible] of two vessels which were driven [illegible] Herd Sands on the 5th Dec., was [illegible] only four out of twenty-four pilots [illegible] were saved. Most of those who [illegible] married men with families, and we[illegible] other. Their names are Jno. Bu[illegible] master,) Jno. Burn, brother, and Ja[illegible] to the first named; Wm. Smith, [illegible] Thomas Marshall, Jno. Donkin, [illegible] (brothers,) Wm. Purvis, James [illegible] Wright, (cousins,) Ralph Phillip[illegible] (brothers,) Ralph Shotten, Geo. [illegible] Tendal, and Henry Young.

New York Markets, Jan. 3, [illegible] firm at $4,88 a 5 for common Sta[illegible] good and straight do, and Wester[illegible] for Southern.

Pork heavy; $11,75 and $8,75 fo[illegible]

January 4. 2 *P. M.*—The flour [illegible] with sales of 2200 bbls at prev[illegible] grain market is quiet, and prices r[illegible]

☞ The total quantity o[illegible] ping, and Timber, Deals, &c [illegible] the Port of St. John, to Ports [illegible] tain and Ireland, in the year [illegible] lows:—183,724 tons of Shi[illegible] 93,137 tons Red and White [illegible] 10,959 tons Birch Timber: 1,[illegible] Timber: 85,055,000 superfic[illegible] 181,319 pieces Railway Slee[illegible] 5,062,000 superficial feet: [illegible] Boards.

Shipped in 1848:—125,[illegible] 8,531 tons Birch: 1,386 to[illegible] 061,000 superficial feet D[illegible] superficial feet Railway Slee[illegible] feet Boards.—*Chris. Visitor.*

[*From the Royal Gazett*[illegible]

Provincial Secre[illegible]

Fredericton, 31s[illegible]

His Excellency the Lieutenan[illegible] ed to direct, that upon the prese[illegible] casion of the death of Her M[illegible] Dowager, all persons do put the[illegible] mourning.

By His Excellency's [illegible]

J. R[illegible]

To the Clergy of the Church of E[illegible] of Fredericton, and Province of [illegible]

Reverend and dear Brethren,

An official communication has be[illegible] Excellency the Lieutenant Governo[illegible] Majesty the Queen Dowager, and o[illegible] Council, agreeable to the provision[illegible] mity, that, in the various parts of [illegible] Royal Family is prayed for, the [illegible] Queen Dowager" be omitted; I h[illegible] that you will make the desired on[illegible] mistakes, that you will, with the pen[illegible] such prayers in your Church Books [illegible] going direction. I also request th[illegible] Church Wardens and Parishioners [illegible] respect to the memory of so gre[illegible] Church and Nation, by all outward [illegible] in the Church on such occasions, [illegible] from the Pulpit as you may deem [illegible]

Commending you to the blessing [illegible]

I am, Rev. and dear Br[illegible]

Your affectionate [illegible]

JOH[illegible]

GOVERNMENT [illegible]

The following Bye Laws, and [illegible] the Mayor, Aldermen and Commo[illegible] John, in Common Council, having [illegible] proved, viz:—

A Law to regulate Auctioneers, [illegible] lars, Carmen, Coachmen, and Po[illegible] John, and to provide for the grant[illegible] Traders and other persons in the [illegible]

A Law to regulate the Public [illegible] for the due ordering of vessels wi[illegible] John, and for other purposes rela[illegible]

A Law to regulate the Public [illegible] of Saint John:

A Law relating to certain Offic[illegible] poration of the City of Saint John [illegible] proceedings under the Charter