

A memorial to the United States Congress has been prepared, for aid in making a *ship canal* across the *Isthmus of Darien*. The project is spoken of as one likely to be completed. It would save, in navigation, a voyage of about 12,000 miles,—would bring the inhabitants of the continent who reside on the Pacific, into comparatively contiguous communication with the United States and Europe,—would vastly extend the influence of British language, laws and institutions, and be, every way, a work of stupendous consequence.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—The twenty sixth Congress of the United States had been seven or eight days in session, without having chosen a Speaker or other officers. A difficulty occurred respecting some members whose seats had been objected to, and the clerk of the late House, who officiated, decided on the subject, and refused to put any question except that of adjournment. A chairman pro tem, was appointed, which set aside some of the embarrassment experienced.

A dispute between the proprietor of tracts of lands in Albany County, and his tenants, has caused some very awkward proceedings. The lands were held by a kind of feudal tenure, rent being light and in produce. On the death of the former proprietor, the tenants refused to continue the system,—the authorities were appealed to, but a posse led by the Sheriff were resisted, and retired without accomplishing order. At last accounts, a body of troops, amounting to 2000 men, with artillery, were ready to proceed from New York, to the scene of insurrection. The refractory tenants mustered strong, and were well armed.

A despatch from Lord John Russell, has been published by order of the Lt. Governor of Upper Canada. By this it appears, that Colonial officers, such as heads of departments, members of Council, &c.—shall hold office during pleasure only, and may be removed from motives of public policy and when a successor to a Governor takes office. The justice of compensating persons so removed, is suggested. The practice now, is, not to remove except for direct misconduct.

SCRAPS.—A steam boat explosion occurred at New Orleans on Nov. 22nd. The boilers, engine and upper works were carried away, as far aft as the cook house; several were killed and wounded.

Manufacturing establishments in Philadelphia had discharged several hands, and distress during the winter was anticipated.

Several of the children in the Philadelphia Alms-house have become partially blind, and some entirely so, from the ophthalmia which prevails in that establishment.

The cost of the London and Birmingham rail road is stated at nearly £5,000,000,—estimate about half that sum.

The citizens of Helena, Arkansas, had determined to drive out of that town, ever gambler who should make his appearance.

A *Whilabee* paper of Nov. 20, says that the Indians are so bold in approaching that town, that every man should be on the alert prepared to defend himself.

The inhabitants of Wolverhampton, presented Mr. E. Hill with a silver candelabrum, in testimony of their sense of his services, in founding and advocating the plan of a universal penny postage.

A recent *Montreal Courier* says,
“A gentleman, some years since, left Quebec, and on its highest battlement, perched in mid-air,—was seen the English sentinel, treading his lonely way;—he traversed the wide Atlantic,—and, on the batteries of Gibraltar, was seen the English sentry, with his burnished bayonet, glistening in the sun-beam; he sailed again, and his course, for months, was on the bosom of the deep;—Asia lay before him,—and, in a *déluge*, he ascended Gunga's holy-stream,—passing Garden-Reach, a bright object caught his eye, glistening like a brooch on a lady's bosom,—it was the bayonet of an English sentinel, marching with measured tread and slow, on the parapet of Fort-William! He said nothing, for when the brain, or the heart, is full, the tongue is quiet;—but, he thought, “Are we not a wonderful nation?” And now, what think ye, British Canadians! Are we not a wonderful people?”

McKenzie had memorialized the President leave to quit his prison, and go to Texas.

CHINA.—From N. Y. Times, Toon Koo, July 16th.—All the English vessels, (of which there are a great number about, in the various snug harbours,) have been ordered by

a special decree of His Celestial Majesty, to arrive immediately at Whampo, or to leave forever the Chinese waters; neither of which they intend doing. I have not the slightest doubt that before long there will be a fracas. We are all anxious to leave the Chinese Empire—only detained for bread, and the bakers are very slow.

The *Columbian* has 130 on her sick list, which is increasing daily. Her crew have petitioned the Commodore to sail—saying that they will be satisfied with half allowance of bread, or potatoes in lieu thereof. He, himself, is anxious to sail, and I have no doubt will before next week.

There are a number of American vessels here, who are receiving cargoes, and will shortly sail for the United States.

The last *Montreal Courier* has the following scrap on Chinese difficulties.

“The Chinese authorities are exhibiting an example which it would be no great stain upon us Barbarians, were we to imitate it. Thus it is, men often laugh and ridicule people who are their superiors in every respect worth naming, superior in talent and virtue. Before Christians open their mouths to chatter about the *Celestials*, and laugh at the veneration of Confucius, it would not be amiss for them to demolish gin-palaces, grog-shops, distilleries, and such material abominations, and proscribe the venders, not of the black mud, i. e. Opium, but of the black-broth alcohol.”

FOREIGN. Intelligence from S. America by way of New York states that Montevideo was in great confusion and excitement, preparing for an expected attack of General Rivera. 500 French sailors had been landed to assist in the defence, and several armed French launches were in the harbour. From Gambia dates, Oct. 21, it appears that the epidemic on the Coast of Africa had been very fatal during the late season. About one third of the Europeans had fallen victims to the climate, at Gambia and Sierra Leone. The Governor at Gambia was among the deceased.

The Small-Pox exists in Boston. According to a Medical Report the cases up to December were 148. The deaths from the distemper are thus stated, in Sept., 2,—Oct., 2,—Nov., 16,—Dec. to 9th, inclusive, 11.

Flour was offered in Baltimore on Dec. 9th, at \$5.75.—Wheats had fallen to \$1.10 and 1.12 best reds.

Cross Island Light, at the entrance of Lunenburg, has been in operation since the first day of December.

HALIFAX LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.—At the last Meeting the following Resolution was passed—

Resolved—That the Members of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, be invited to attend the Meetings of this Association during the ensuing Session of the Legislature.

Question for discussion on Monday evening next, 30th inst.—“Ought any crimes to be punished with Death?”

The second yearly Report of the Master Mariner's Society, states,—that the Society's credits amounts to £68 10s.—its members 30.

ST. JOHN, N. B. The Mechanics' Institute of St. John, makes respectable progress every way. Its lectures were well attended.

CHRISTMAS.—This delightful festival, peculiarly marked by glory to the Highest, and peace to man, has once more passed away. The weather was unusually mild; at night some snow fell and gave the aspect, though not the temperature, of winter. During the day the places of worship were well filled,—the new organ in St. Paul's was played for a first time in public, and proved of excellent tone and power. We heartily wish, to all our readers, the blessings of the season,—particularly these treasures of morality and piety, without which other possessions are empty as a tinkling cymbal.

TEMPERANCE.—On Monday evening last, a meeting of the Halifax Temperance Society, was held in the Old Baptist Chapel. Some conversation occurred on the evils which intemperance has caused, and on a suggestion respecting the