

MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The French Consul at Bahia has addressed a remarkable report to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at home, announcing the discovery, at the distance of eighty leagues from that capital, of an abundant mine of diamonds—a source of incalculable wealth to the province. It lies in a desert place, uninhabited, and scarcely accessible,—and was discovered by mere accident. The head of a rich English company has already exported, it is said, nearly 200,000l. worth of its produce; and as the working of the mine is left to any one who will, there is a race at present for its treasures. Eight or nine thousand emigrants, from all parts of Brazil, have already pitched their tents on the savage and unwholesome spot;—and to the inhabitants of a crowded European state, the very thought of a jewel-mine to be ransacked at pleasure—diamonds to be had for the fetching—is a temptation likely, we should think, to attract adventurers, even if the Upas tree stood in the way.—Athenaeum, Oct. 4.

Last week, we gave our readers some account—from a report sent by the French Consul to his government—of a diamond mine which has been discovered in the province of Bahia; and we have since found some details in a Brazilian paper,—which we are tempted to quote, for the singular effect produced by a narrative of facts that can only be given in language recalling the marvels of Oriental fiction. "Some years ago," says the journal in question, "veins of gold were accidentally discovered in the Assuara; and a crowd of contrabandists soon flocked to that desert portion of Bahia—situate not far from the southern banks of San Francisco—in search of fortune. The gold, however, was but the harbinger of more marvellous wealth ere long to be found. The labours of the miner extended on every side; and diamond-strata were soon discovered, of richness incalculable. In every stream and on every hill of these districts, and of the vast plain of Sincara, treasures inestimable, in gold and precious stones, presented themselves spontaneously to the hand of man. Attracted by the rumour, multitudes of emigrants from the town and province of Bahia, from Minas, and even from Rio-Janeiro, crowded thither, to quench the universal thirst at this jewel-fountain. It is scarcely three years since the first ounce of gold was found in this region—then a desert; and it contains already a population exceeding forty thousand souls. It would be difficult, says this journal, to credit all that is told of the product of these new mines, if the letters and reports of trust-worthy eye-witnesses did not confirm the wildest of them. One letter says, "Gold is common and abundant in every brook, and throughout the entire district; but no man regards it—all are gathering diamonds."—Our readers may form an idea," the paper adds, "of the importance of these treasures, when they know that a single packet-ship exported lately, from Bahia to Europe, diamonds to nearly the value of 1,000 contos de reis (upwards of 106,000); although the larger portion of these precious stones are carried first to Rio-Janeiro,—where, because of a greater abundance of capital and better acquaintance with the sort of traffic, they fetch higher prices.—Ibid, Oct. 11.

THE GREATEST RACE EVER KNOWN.—The greatest race the world ever saw is, we write, "coming off," and all mercantile Europe, in anxious expectation, is awaiting the issue. The abettors and originators of the race are the Austrian and French Governments; the latter with its long-organized and highly-perfected system of conveyance at its disposal, the Austrian Government with no other reliance than on the intrepid, enterprising, and enduring Waghorn, whose name history will ever associate with the opening and improvement of the communications with India. Long distant will the racers be from each other in their course, though they will start and terminate in one point. Bombay is to be the place of departure, and London that of arrival. From Bombay to Alexandria both will be in juxtaposition, their speed being regulated by circumstances beyond their control. The true start will be from Alexandria; Waghorn taking his course from that port to Trieste, and the carriers of the French mail pursuing their usual route to Marseilles. One will proceed through Germany to Ostend, the other through France to Calais, thence bending their course both to Dover, and by railroad to London. The time for leaving Bombay was to be the 1st inst., and the appearance of one or other of the contending racers may be daily, perhaps hourly, looked for. We will not venture to state what the odds are in this struggle. Certainly great disadvantages exist against the Austrians, having to traverse a country more uneven and difficult, and having couriers at their disposal less practised and less capable of bearing fatigue, than the French, who have bred in this service a race of men supposed to be in these respects perfectly unrivalled. Austria can, therefore, scarcely lose credit by defeat; her success will in the greater degree confer honour and distinction.—English Paper.

The above terminated in favour of Austria. The Express via Trieste reached the Times' Office on Friday morning the 31st of October; that via Marseilles on Sunday night the 2nd of November. Deducting the 48 hours' detention which the French mail lost at Alexandria, there still remain 14 hours in favour of the transmission through the Austrian States and Germany.

City or New York.—The last census shows the population to be 180,365 males and 190,737 females; in all 371,102; an increase of 68,932 in five years. 95,373 of the above are natives of the British Isles; 43,447 of Germany and 3763 of France.

LORD METCALFE'S DEPARTURE.—As intimated in the last number of the Berean, Lord Metcalfe left Montreal on Wednesday of last week for Boston, there to embark for England. Below will be found His Lordship's address upon resigning the Government of Canada. Although his departure was so sudden, there was a general demonstration of the respect felt for his Lordship's public as well as private character, and of sympathy for his sufferings. The wharf and the streets leading thereto were crowded by citizens of all classes, and an address was presented to His Lordship at the steamboat by the Mayor on behalf of himself and the Council of the city, expressive of their extreme regret at the cause which deprived them of the continuance of his public services; and of their good wishes for his future happiness. While the address was being read, His Lordship was much affected, and after delivering the following reply was so overcome by his feelings that he burst into tears:—

"I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind and loyal address.

"I feel so entirely overcome that I am unable to give expression to my feelings.

"I shall always retain a grateful sense of your kindness, and shall carry the recollection of it with me to my grave.

"May God bless you all!"

At 3 o'clock, P. M., Lieut. Gen. the Earl of Cathcart was sworn in Administrator of the Government pro tem, and issued a proclamation in accordance therewith.

(From the Canada Gazette Extraordinary, Nov. 26)

PROVINCE OF CANADA.

MONTREAL, November 25th, 1845.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL cannot take leave of Canada in the sudden manner which the state of his health renders necessary, without conveying to the Inhabitants of the Province his fervent wishes for their prosperity and happiness. He does not quit his post in pursuit of a cure for a complaint which is supposed to be incurable, nor for the preservation of a life which could not be better disposed of than in the service of Her Majesty, and in the exercise of honest endeavours to promote the welfare of this splendid Province; but solely because the increasing ravages of his disorder deprive him of the power of performing the duties of his Office with the requisite efficiency. Under these circumstances, Her Majesty having most graciously signified her acceptance of his resignation, he is under the necessity of proceeding to a Port of Embarkation without delay, lest the approaching severity of the season should render his removal unsafe in the present state of his health.

Whether the remaining term of his existence be brief or protracted, he can never cease to regard with extreme interest the progress of affairs in this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

In retiring from his station, he has the satisfaction of believing that the prosperity of the Province is rapidly rewarding the industry and Enterprise of its Inhabitants; and that political dissensions and animosities have in a great degree subsided. He trusts that these Blessings will continue and increase.

In repeating the anxious desire which he will ever retain for the welfare of Canada, he cannot refrain from expressing his grateful sense of the cordial support which he has received from the Loyalty and public spirit of its Inhabitants; during the period of his Administration of the Government.

METCALFE.

BANK OF MONTREAL.—The last general statement of the affairs of this Institution, up to the 15th ult., shows the following gratifying results:

Table with 3 columns: Item, Amount, and Unit. Capital Stock £750,000 0 0; Notes in circulation 569,156 13 0; Contingent Fund 75,500 0 0.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Amount, and Unit. Gold and silver on hand £146,625 4 3; Notes and checks of other banks 33,208 18 8; Real Estate 32,173 0 3; Notes Discounted, 1,481,526 12 1.

THE WEATHER.—Since the last number of the Berean was issued, the weather has undergone a very great change, and winter, with the usual accompaniments of frost and snow, has commenced its reign. On Thursday last it rained hard and steadily all day, the wind being from the East; that night the wind shifted to Westery, and there was a very severe frost, the mercury being as low as zero. On Friday, all the vessels in port, which were ready for sea, took advantage of the fair wind and got under weigh. The extreme cold continued all Friday and Saturday; on Sunday the wind again changed to the Eastward, and snow began to fall. On Monday a snow-storm, with a violent gale from the eastward, such as is not often felt even in Quebec, rendered the streets almost impassable from the drifts with which they were choked, while the furious gusts of wind, whirling the snow before them, made it no easy matter for pedestrians to face the storm even in town. It is almost needless to add that the season of navigation is now over; the last vessel for sea having left on Saturday, and all the steamers having gone to their winter quarters. The river is very much choked with fields of ice, rather unusually so for this time of year.

The Montreal Mail due on Tuesday morning was not able to reach town until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, on account of the state of the roads from the storm; yesterday the mail from the same quarter did not arrive until half-past 4 o'clock, p. m.; it brings nothing new from the seat of Government.

A horse was found dead in a snow-drift on the Charlesbourg road not far from Dorchester bridge last Tuesday, and it was feared that the man who owned him had perished. He, however, escaped. The Mercury mentions that a woman and child were discovered, in an exhausted state, on the Beauport road, and rescued from destruction by a person returning home.

Doubtless many other disasters will be announced from other parts of the country; but we fear the worst news will be from the vessels in the ice below, when full and authentic accounts are received. Such particulars as have already reached town will be

found in their appropriate place in another column: meanwhile Sergeant Brady of the Police, and three canoes with seven men each, have gone below for the purpose of obtaining information as to the situation of the vessels below, and of rendering the necessary assistance to them. About £100. have been subscribed by the merchants in the Lower Town, to furnish the means for this charitable and praiseworthy enterprise.

CASUALTIES.—The Rev. C. E. Belanger, R. C. missionary at Somerset, District of Three Rivers, while returning home from one of his stations on Sunday the 23rd ult., and two men with him, unfortunately lost their way in crossing a swamp, and all perished from cold. Mr. B. was only 31 years of age and much esteemed.—On Wednesday the 26th ult., a man engaged in blasting at one of the Coves was severely injured by the explosion. At the last accounts he was in a critical state.

FIRE.—On Saturday evening the premises of Mr. Scott, Inkeeper, St. John Street, (which narrowly escaped destruction in the same way only a few days before) were again found to be on fire, but it was again speedily extinguished. Workmen had been engaged in repairing the premises, and the fire is supposed to have taken in some boards left by them.

A prisoner named Thos. Cain, confined in the Jail on a charge of murder, tried to escape on Sunday evening last, but the attempt was discovered and frustrated by the sentry on duty. The insecure state of the Jail has been frequently noticed in the public journals, and ought to receive the attention of the proper authorities. It is manifestly unfair to commit prisoners to the custody of a person who is held responsible for their safe keeping, while at the same time he has not the means to prevent their escape.

Q. C. FIRE-WOOD SOCIETY.—The Wood Yard of this useful Society was opened on Monday last, for the season: subscribers can procure their tickets upon application to Mr. Sinclair, the Secretary, at Messrs. T. Cary & Co's office.

COUNTERFEIT COIN.—A number of well-executed counterfeit dollars and half dollars are in circulation, and persons receiving payments in specie will do well to examine carefully the coins offered to them, and, if suspicion attaches, to institute an enquiry, so that the individuals, who, it is feared, are flooding the country with base coin, may be punished.

APPOINTMENTS.—By His Excellency the Governor General (25th November)—Alexander Stewart Scott, Esquire, to be a commissioner Per Devisus Potestatem, for the administration of all Oaths hereafter to be taken by persons holding or hereafter to be appointed to any Office under the Crown within that part of the Province heretofore constituting the Province of Lower Canada. By His Excellency the Administrator of the Government (27th November)—James Macaulay Higginson, Esquire, to be His Excellency's Private Secretary.

QUEBEC GAOL CALENDAR, 1st Dec. 1845.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Number, and Unit. Number of prisoners under sentence by the Courts 17; Do. under the Police Ordinance 62; Military prisoner 1; Detained as witnesses in a case of felony 2; Debtors 4; Total 86.

QUEBEC MARKETS.

Corrected by the Clerks of the Markets up to Tuesday, 21 Dec., 1845.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Unit. Beef, per lb. 2 a 0 5; Mutton, per lb. 0 3 a 0 6; Ditto, per quarter 0 0 a 0 0; Lamb, per quarter 1 6 a 4 0; Veal, per lb. 0 3 a 0 6; Do., per quarter 1 0 a 5 0; Pork, per lb. 0 5 a 0 6; Eggs, per dozen 0 0 a 0 9; Potatoes, per bushel 1 6 a 2 0; Maple Sugar, per lb. 0 3 a 0 4; Oats, per bushel 1 8 a 2 0; Hay per hundred bundles 25 0 a 35 0; Straw ditto 17 0 a 20 0; Fire-wood, per cord 10 0 a 13 6; Cheese per lb. 0 43 a 0 5; Butter, fresh, per lb. 0 10 a 0 0; Ditto, salt, in tinnets, per lb. 0 5 a 0 7; Pot Ashes per cwt. 21s. 0d. a 21s. 6d.; Pearl do. 22s. 6d.

MARITIME EXTRACTS.

The bark Montreal, for London, brig. Elizabeth, for Glasgow, ship Sir Richard Jackson, barks Jane, Ceylon, and Jane Morrison, for Liverpool, sailed last Friday morning, with a fine westerly wind. The barks Crusader, Mary Sharp, and Syria, for Liverpool, sailed in the afternoon. The ship Laurel, also for Liverpool, sailed that evening.

The bark Maria, was hauled out from the Cule-Sac on Thursday evening.

The steamer Pocahontas, and the Light-Ship, have been hauled up on the Patent Slip at Pointe Levy.

The steamer Rowland Hill proceeded to winter quarters at Black's Cove on Friday.

The steamer Canada, left for Sorel, on Wednesday night with seven barges.

The bark Zealous, Douglas, hence for London on the morning of the 10th instant, discharged her pilot on the following morning at 6 o'clock,—wind fresh at W. N. W.—several sail in company.

Mr. Brown, pilot, who took down a vessel, returned on Sunday morning, and states that on Monday last, he saw a Schooner inside of Basque Island, broken up. Tuesday, saw the bark William, riding at anchor at the west end of Green Island, but she afterwards bore up for River du Loup, owing to the great quantity of ice. Wednesday, saw two barks at anchor at the Brandy Pots, wind easterly. Thursday saw three ships lying abreast of Cape au Diable, and Friday a bark off the Pillars. Saturday, saw six vessels lying off Crane Island, apparently endeavouring to get under weigh, wind south-west, and a great quantity of ice; one of them, a ship, brought up at the west end of the Island. In the afternoon of the same day saw a ship and a bark at anchor off Grosse Isle.

wind, from Tuesday to Thursday night, did not leave that place, it is said, till Saturday morning, having been unable to weigh their anchors.

Mr. Gourdeau, pilot, who took down the bark Stendfast, arrived here Sunday night, and reports having left his vessel on Tuesday last, below Green Island, all well, wind westerly. He came up to the Island of Orleans in his boat, and states that he was at Grosse Isle on Saturday morning last, and saw several vessels pass that place with a fine westerly breeze, and in the afternoon a bark and a ship also passed Grosse Isle, and saw them until they were off Crane Island, and that there were no vessels above that place at that time. Saw no ice in the river until Saturday evening.

Accounts have been received from Capt. Barclay, of the ship Sarah, hence on the 21st ult. for Liverpool, which state that he discharged his Pilot the following day, off Basque Island, a fine westerly breeze blowing at the time.

The steam ferry boat Dorchester, had a narrow escape on Saturday night. She was proceeding down to bring up the Trinity Yacht, which was lying off St. Michel, and when off the upper end of the Island of Orleans, she was stove in by the ice, and leaked so fast that they had to run her on the Beauport Shoals, where she remained until they were enabled to stop the leak, and she was run into the Cule-Sac.

The Trinity Yacht, succeeded in getting up on Sunday from St. Michel, where she was at anchor, and has got in at Martin's Wharf.

The steamer Charlevoix was carried away from her moorings at the Napoleon Wharf, on Sunday by the ice, and drifted up the river, but succeeded in getting into a place of safety in one of the coves.

The Schooner Inden with wheat, belonging to John Thompson, Esq., which broke away from the North America steamer, on Friday evening, off Point-aux-Trembles, has been taken into the River Carouge.

Mr. Firth, passenger in the bark Covenanter, hence for Liverpool on Tuesday the 25th ult., returned yesterday, and makes the following report: The Covenanter having anchored at Patrick's Hole during the easterly wind last week, got under weigh on Friday afternoon, but a leak being discovered which gained upon them, the ship was put back and run ashore at Goose Island. Mr. Firth and Capt. Patterson left the vessel on Sunday afternoon and landed on the south shore, from where they saw a vessel off the Pillars, supposed to be at anchor, and another at the upper end of Crane Island, but no others above that place at that time. Four vessels passed Patrick's Hole on Friday, while they were at anchor, supposed to be the bark Montreal, ship Sir Richard Jackson, and barks Jane and Sur. The ship Sir Robert Peel passed on Saturday forenoon, off Crane Island, with a fine westerly breeze, and no ice.

Mr. Firth reports the roads almost impassable, and had to walk through the snow for several miles.

MARRIED.

About the 29th Oct., at O'Hara Hamlet, Gaspé Basin, Geo. Farra, Esq., M. D. late of Hillsborough, County Down, Ireland, to Margaret, youngest daughter of Henry O'Hara, Esq.

At St. Luke's Church, Wellington Square, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. J. G. Geddes, Rector of Hamilton, Hugh Cassart Baker, Esq., eldest son of Captain G. W. Baker, Bytown, late of the Royal Artillery, to Emma, eldest daughter of Henry Wyatt, Esq., late of Surrey, England.

DIED.

In the University of McGill College, on Monday, the 24th Nov. after four days' illness, James Park, Esq., of Simcoe, Talbot District, (C. W.) Student in the Faculty of Medicine, in the 23rd year of his age.

Otyphus fever, on Friday, the 25th ult., the Rev. J. G. Beck Lindsay, Rector of Cornwall. At Bytown, on the 22nd ult., Mary Clara Caroline, youngest daughter of Joseph Amund, Esq., aged 2 years 2 months and 14 days.

ENGLISH MAIL.

LETTERS for the above Mail will be received at the Quebec Post Office, till WEDNESDAY, the 10th DECEMBER. PAID Letters to THREE o'clock, and UNPAID to FOUR, P. M.

NOTICE.

ALL persons in Distitution or Special Distress, in consequence of the Fires of the 25th of May and 28th of June last, are requested to Register their Names, Trades or Occupations and Places of Residence, in a Book kept for that purpose by the undersigned, in the room occupied by the Committee of Distribution at the City Hall, in order that they may be visited and obtain such relief as they may require.—All respectable persons may register the names of Distressed parties known to them, from ELEVEN until ONE o'clock daily, from the 1st to the 15th DECEMBER next, when the Book will be closed.

Those persons whose names are registered will be visited, but to save unnecessary trouble to applicants and to the visitors, it is to be understood that the following Classes of Sufferers do not fall under the scope of the present inquiry—

- 1. The ordinary poor of the City; for these, if sufferers by the Fires, assistance is otherwise provided.
2. Tradesmen in full employment, at wages equal to or higher than before the Fires, who have already received relief.
3. Persons still possessing the means to carry on their ordinary business.

EDW. H. BOWEN, Secretary. City Hall, Quebec, Nov. 25, 1845.

CHAMBLY CANAL TOLLS TO LET.

NOTICE is hereby given, that TENDERS will be received until Monday, the TWENTY-NINTH day of DECEMBER next, from parties desirous of LEASING the TOLLS of the CHAMBLY CANAL, possession to be given on the 1st January next ensuing.

Tenders to be sent to the Commissioner of Customs, Montreal, marked on the outside, "Tenders for the Tolls on the Chamby Canal." Security will be required in the sum of Five Hundred Pounds for the proper tending of the Locks of the Canal, providing a sufficient number of Lock Tenders therefor, tending the lamps, and furnishing the oil necessary for the same, and for the protection of all property belonging to the Board of Works placed under the charge of the Lock Masters or Lessee.

All information respecting the revenues of the Canal can be obtained, by application, at the Inspector General's Office. Montreal, November 18, 1845.

COALS.

NEWCASTLE, Wallsend, Grate & Smith's Coals, for Sale by H. H. Porter & Co. Porter & Co's Wharf, Late Irvine's. Quebec, 29th May, 1845.

JUST PUBLISHED, Price—1s. 3d. LINES COMMEMORATIVE OF The awful Conflagration OF ST. ROCH'S. A few copies for sale by T. CARY & Co. and at the office of this paper. Nov. 25th, 1845.

NEW BOOKS, Just received from England, and for Sale by GILBERT STANLEY, No. 4, ST. ANN STREET.

An assortment of beautifully Illustrated ANNUALS, In morocco and crimson silk bindings, AT VERY LOW PRICES. CHILDREN'S BOOKS, In great variety, plain and coloured. A Catalogue is in preparation, and will be ready in a few days. Quebec, Nov. 13, 1845.

F. H. ANDREWS, ORGAN & PIANO-FORTE TUNER. NATIONAL SCHOOL, Nov. 1845.

Receiving ex "Choice," for Sale, TOBACCO PIPES, Black Lead, Shot, Paints, Spades and Shovels, Bar Iron, Anvils, Vices, Patent Cordage, Patent Proved Chain Cables and Anchors. ALSO—400 BOXES TIN PLATES. C. & W. WURTELE, 1st Oct. 1845. St. Paul-street.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned has been appointed Agent for the AETNA INSURANCE COMPANY, of Hartford, Ct., and is now prepared to take risks against Fire.—This office has now an Agency in Montreal, which has been in operation for the last 20 years, has been always prompt and liberal in settlement of losses. Such being its character, the undersigned looks for a portion of the public confidence and patronage. DANIEL MCGIE, Hunt's Wharf. Quebec, 7th July, 1845.

SIGHT RESTORED. NERVOUS HEADACHE AND DEAFNESS CURED. BY THE USE OF

Advertisement for Grimstone's Eye Snuff, featuring a circular logo with the name 'GRIMSTONE' and 'EYE SNUFF'.

THE FORCES, 14th Dec., 1844. This Scientific Medical Reviewer made the following critique on GRIMSTONE'S EYE SNUFF, demonstrating its powerful influence on those delicate organs, the Eye and Ear.

GRIMSTONE'S EYE SNUFF.—Perhaps there is no one thing that has effected so much good, and that in so pleasant a manner, as Grimstone's Eye Snuff; and we are really surprised that it has not commanded more attention from the medical profession, for although we are aware that some eminent professors of the medical art have taken advantage of its usefulness, there are many who, however they might be convinced of its utility, prescribe it not because it is a simple remedy that might, on a future occasion, be resorted to without their aid. Independently of its usefulness in removing pains in the head and inflammations of the eye, it is a pleasant stimulus to the nose, so that those who use it combine pleasure with profit, and we can scarcely understand how snuff-takers can forego its advantages for compounds that in many cases possess only the recommendation of being foreign. We would recommend every one requiring its aid to try Mr. Grimstone's Snuff, and we feel convinced that they will be grateful to Mr. Grimstone for the talent he has displayed in forming his excellent compound, and to ourselves for calling their attention to it. Other Testimonials can be seen.

The Wholesale and Retail Agent for Canada has just received a fresh supply per Zealous. THOMAS BICKELL, Grocer and Importer of China, Glass and Earthenware. St. John Street, Quebec.

Mutual Life Assurance. SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, HEAD OFFICE, 141, BUCHANAN-STREET, GLASGOW.

THE Constitution and Regulations of this Society insure to its Members the full benefits which can be derived from such sums as they are willing to devote to the important duty of LIFE INSURANCE. The whole profits are secured to the Policy holders by the Mutual System on which the Society is established, and their allocation to the Members is made on fair, simple, and popular principles. It is provided by the Rules, that the whole Directors, Ordinary and Extraordinary, shall be Members of the Society, by holding Policies of Insurance for Life with it, of more than three years' standing. This rule secures to the Public that those Noblemen and Gentlemen who appear as Directors of the Society, have practically approved of its principles. For further particulars, with tables of Premiums, apply to R. M. HARRISON, Agent for Canada. Quebec, August, 1845.