The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, DECEMBER 25, 1849.

This being CHRISTMAS DAY, we respectfully tender to our patrons, in town and country, the usual compliments of the season—wishing them all many happy and prosperous returns of the same.

GALE.—The weather for some days past has been of a stormy character. On Saturday evening, a gale, or hurricane, of greater violence than has been experienced here for a number of years past, set in from the South East, and continued with tremendous fury from that quarter, accompanied alternately with snow and rain, till about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, when the wind veered to South West, and blew with equal violence from that quarter till Sunday afternoon, with occasional showers of snow—the outer harbour and Bay presenting all the white a grand but terrific scene of furious billows and foam. Considerable damage was done on the land during the gale—an enclosed frame of a new Cottage in course of erection by Mr. A. Martin, on the East side of Courtenay Bay, was blown down, and also a large part of the rope walk on the Marsh, belonging to Messrs. W. Carvill and T. Wallace; sundry porches, fences, trees, &c., were damaged; and many of the houses in the City shook considerably during the gale. Two coasting schooners were driven on shore near Manawagonish, one from Shediaky, is a total wreck, master's name Wells—no lives lost. A small schooner was driven on Navy Island.—Brig "Daring" for Barbadoes, which sailed on Saturday, put back to port yesterday; Brig "B Bo" which sailed at the same time, was in sight of the D. when she hore up. No intelligence of the other outward bound vessels.

Another Southerly blow, with a mixture of snow and rain, commenced last night, and still continues.

SAD ACCIDENT.—We learn that the Halifax Mail coach, which left this City on Saturday afternoon, was overturned the same evening, four miles beyond Caldwell's, Norton, by the violence of the wind and the icy state of the road, and that the coach was dragged on its side several miles before the horses could be stopped, the driver having been thrown off. Mr. Jardine, of Richibucto, who was on the box, had one of his wrists dislocated. The inside passengers were a Mrs. Armstrong, and child of four months old—the child was killed, and the mother considerably injured; the others, S. Binney, Esq., Master Joseph Scammell, and two sons of the Hon E. B. Chandler, escaped with slight bruises. These are all the particulars we have been able to learn.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—By Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in the last Royal Gazette, the Provincial Legislature is prorogued to Thursday the 7th day of February next, *then to meet for the despatch of business.*

By Telegraph, Dec. 24th.—Mr. Howell Cobb, of Georgia, has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, by a majority of two votes over Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts. Chosen on Saturday last, the twentieth day after the assembling of Congress—The Southern or Slavery party has thus, after a hard contest, gained the point.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Professor JOHNSTON gave an abstract of his Report on the Agricultural capabilities of the Province, on Friday evening last, to an overflowing and highly gratified audience. He commenced by exhibiting and explaining a Geological Map of the Province, which had been prepared under his directions, from Dr. Gesner's Surveys, the returns in the Crown Land Office, and his own and Dr. Robb's observations. He next exhibited an Agricultural Map, showing, as far as our present knowledge extends, the various kinds of soil in the Province—these he divided into five classes; they form, however, *three* great divisions, which may be classified as good, middling, and bad,—each class containing Five Millions of acres. He then went on to compare the returns of produce, the weight, quality, and market price of the various articles raised in the Province, with like returns from Canada, New York, and Ohio, and found that in each of *these particulars ours excel the others.* The returns being in each case derived from the same sources, viz., Reports of Agricultural Societies, and statements from intelligent Farmers from different localities, there is no reason to suppose that they do not equally approximate to the truth. We must confess that we were not prepared to expect such a favorable result; but, in such hands, the investigation was necessarily conducted on correct principles, and impartially. We must, therefore, bow to the decision, and we feel quite pleased that our own New Brunswick has been pronounced by a competent judge as entitled to take a front rank among the nations, as an Agricultural country.

There has been a good deal of talk about *annexation* lately. If there is to be annexation, we go for annexing the United States.

Notes of the lecture were taken by Geo. Blatch, Esq., and an able and correct Report may therefore be expected. It will probably soon be published.

Last evening, Dr. Dow delivered the second of his interesting course of lectures on the human system; and will give the third and last on Wednesday (to-morrow) evening.

PENMANSHIP.—We learn from Mr. BENNISON that, in addition to his Singing Classes, he intends giving lessons in Ornamental and Practical Penmanship, (to commence on Wednesday, 26th inst.) by which Ladies are taught an elegant and fashionable hand for epistolary writing, and Gentlemen a bold Mercantile style, in the shortest possible time. Mr. B. has shown us a specimen of Visiting Cards, penned in elegant style, with a silver pointed pencil.—Terms moderate.

The steam ship *Canada*, after a splendid run of 50 hours from New-York, arrived at Halifax on Friday 14th inst., and left for Liverpool before the arrival of the New-Brunswick mail at Halifax. To obviate any such disappointment in future, the mails for England, (as will be seen by an advertisement in another column,) are hereafter to be closed here about twelve hours earlier than formerly.

The Royal Mail Steamer Europa arrived at Halifax on Friday last from Boston, and sailed again same day for Liverpool. She had 7 passengers from Boston for Halifax, and 20 for Liverpool.

The steam ship *America*, with the English Mail of the 15th instant, being now ten days out, from Liverpool, the intelligence by her may be expected by the latter part of the week.

PUBLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—The semi-annual Examination of this Seminary took place, pursuant to public notice, on Wednesday the 19th instant. There were present—the Rev. Dr. Wm. Gray, the President of the Board of Directors; His Honor the Chief Justice, an old and faithful friend of the Institution; William Wright, Esq., the Advocate General; Robert F. Hazen, Esq. and John H. Gray, Esq. Members of the Board; the Rev. Mr. Stewart, of the Episcopal Church; the Rev. Mr. Donald, of the Presbyterian Church; Dr. Paddock, Gustavus R. Jarvis, Esq.; several of the Parents, and other visitors. His Honor Judge Parker, who always attends when at home, had gone to Westmoreland on official duty.

A printed *programme* of subjects for Examination was laid before the Examiners, which shewed that there were under the special tuition of the Principal, three classes in Greek, eight in Latin, two in French and one in German, one class in Roman History and one in English Chronology, several classes in Euclid and one in Recitation, and that to the Assistant was allotted the charge of Geography, Arithmetic, Writing and Reading in which the whole school engaged, as well as classes in English Grammar, Algebra and Mensuration.

The Examination, which occupied five hours, commenced with the lowest of the eight Latin Classes, and ascended in regular order to the highest,—next came the three Greek Classes in the same regular order—and then the higher of the two French Classes. The Books in which the examination took place, were the Eton Latin Grammar, Stoddart's New Latin Delectus, Cornelius Nepos, Cæsar, Ovid, Virgil, Horace, Cicero de Amicitia, Valpy's Greek Delectus, the Greek Testament, Xenophon's Anabasis, and Poinet's First French Reading Book. The Greek Classes did remarkably well, as also did the great majority of the pupils in the Latin Classes. The highest class ought to be particularly mentioned, as consisting of young men of high promise and very studious habits. The Mathematical Examination embraced questions in Algebraic Simple Equations and Demonstrations of Propositions from the 4th, 3d, 2d and 1st Books of Euclid. In this department, too, the pupils acquitted themselves in a manner worthy of students. The Penmanship was examined and pronounced excellent.

In his closing address, the President of the Board, after expressing general satisfaction with the whole Examination, earnestly and properly endeavoured to impress upon the Pupils the necessity of paying particular attention to the instructions they receive in Grammar, as the Grammar is the foundation of every solid literary superstructure, and cautioned them against a very specious fallacy, which prevailed in his own school-boy days, as well as at the present time—that the study of Latin and Greek is useless, except to Professional men—assuring them that no one, whatever his profession in life may afterwards be, can go through a course of Greek and Latin study, without deriving from the mental discipline connected with it, great, solid, and permanent benefit to the powers of his own mind.

In comparing the present Programme with that of the preceding Examination, which is the proper way of judging of the progress of the Pupils, it is pleasing to observe the advancement which the whole School has made in the right direction, and highly gratifying to find here and there among the Classes, a youth, by means of more unremitting application and ardent study, shooting by his compeers, and taking his position among those who were lately much his superiors. Examples of this kind (and they are not few in this School,) have a very salutary effect upon others who may be less ardent in their pursuit of learning.

The Principal, we understand, has engaged the services of a talented gentleman, of excellent Classical attainments, to assist him in the Classical Department for a limited period; and if the measure, which will unquestionably redound to the benefit of the Pupils generally, from allowing the Principal to devote the most of his attention to the higher Classes, receive the encouragement and support of the public, the engagement, with the approval of the Board, will be rendered permanent.

The Christmas Holidays will continue till Monday the 7th of January.—*Courier.*

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BY FIRE.—On last Friday night the District School House at Smith's Creek was totally destroyed by fire, which, it is supposed, was occasioned by some defect in the stove; also, on Sunday last, the College at Sussex Vale, which, we learn, had been built for an Indian School, and which was, at the time of the fire, occupied by the Rev. Mr. Stuart, Presbyterian Minister, who was then from home. Mr. Stuart's children would have perished but for the timely aid of the neighbours, who fortunately hastened to their rescue.—*Nbrs.*

We are requested to state that the Rev. Mr. Thomson has received from a friend to the cause of Christ, in New York, the magnificent donation of $500 in aid of the building fund of the Free Church in this City.—*Ib.*

From the Quebec Morning Chronicle.

Our telegraphic report gives the names of a number of gentlemen in Montreal, who have been dismissed from the Commission of the Peace, &c., for the part they have taken in the Annexation movement. The following copy of the communication sent to each of the parties by the Executive, appears in the *Herald* of Tuesday:—

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 5th Dec., 1849.

SIR,—I have the honour, by command of the Governor General, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31 ultimo, in which you admit yourself to be a party to an address to the people of Canada, which was lately published in several of the newspapers of the Province, and in which address separation from the British Empire and annexation to the United States of America, are recommended as a remedy for certain evils under which the Province is therein alleged to be laboring.

His Excellency feels bound by a sense of duty, as well to his Sovereign and the Empire at large, as to the people of Canada themselves, not only to maintain the connection of this Province with the Parent State, by the fullest exercise of all the powers conferred upon him by Her Majesty, but to discourage by all the means constitutionally within his control, every attempt calculated to impair it.

In the performance of this duty, there can be no desire to question any one upon mere abstract speculations regarding different forms of Government. It is for parties to satisfy themselves to what extent they may proceed with such speculations without the risk of compromising themselves by a breach of the laws of the land. When, however, an individual arrives at the deliberate conclusion that what he deems the evils under which his country labors requires not merely a reformation of the Constitution, but its entire overthrow, and when such person entertains this opinion, not as a mere speculative theory, possibly to be realized in some remote and undefined future, but actually takes measures directly intended to bring about such revolutionary change, it appears to His Excellency perfectly obvious that, apart from all consideration or enquiry as to consequences of a still more serious character, such party should not be permitted to remain in the anomalous and invidious position of holding a commission during the pleasure of a Sovereign power, which he desires to subvert.

As by your letter, you have admitted being a party to the document in question, His Excellency commands me to inform you that Her Majesty has no further occasion for your services as one of Her Justices of the Peace for the District of Montreal.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obdt. servant,
J. LESLIE, Sec'y.

The following is a list of the discharged Magistrates:—

Jacob Dewitt, of Montreal; Benjamin Holmes, do; Mich. McCulloch, do; Thomas Robert Jones; Wm. McGinnis, of St. Athanase; John Molson, of Montreal; Benj Hart, do; W. D. Lindsay, of St Johns; Peter Dunn, of Montreal; Jean Bruneau, Montreal; Benj. Brewster, do; John Matthewson, do; J. G. McKenzie, do; Haviland Lemesurier Routh, do; James Henry Lamb, do; Charles Gedes, do; and Jacob H. De Witt, of Chateauguay, Esquires.

His Excellency has been pleased to revoke the appointments of John Molson and Haviland Le Mesurier Routh, Esqrs as Wardens of the Trinity House of Montreal, and, further, to revoke the appointment of John Gordon McKenzie, Esq. as a Commissioner appointed under the act 12 and 11 Geo. IV. Cap. 28, for the improvement and enlargement of the Harbour of Montreal.

TORONTO, 5th Dec.—His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to revoke the Commissions appointing John Rose and Francis G. Johnson, Esqrs., Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law.

Although we cannot do otherwise than approve of the conduct of the Ministry in dismissing from office under the crown those who signed the Annexation manifesto, still, we feel that there is much force in the remarks of the Montreal Gazette, as will be seen by this extract:—

"And who are the men that now attempt to put down the discussion? The very men who, twelve years ago, instead of discussion resorted to arms, to effect by violence that which it is now sought to do in peace! Out upon such hypocricy! To men who never were Rebels, and who are not now Annexationists, but who are honest enough to judge between the one and the other, this act of a Ministry, on whose heads a price was set on account of their treason, is most thoroughly contemptible and disgusting.

Does not the Minerve of yesterday contain an account of a meeting at Bellechasse, the 16th June, 1837, at which the people appeared with artillery and muskets? And who addressed them? Messrs. Lafontaine, E. P. Tache, and Morin. For what purpose? To overturn the Queen's Government, and murder the Queen's subjects. And these are the men who would now choke public opinion, and *à la Française* would send to jail, if they dared, those who express it. We scorn such petty tyranny, and such petty tyrants.

In the Montreal *Herald* there is a second document in favor of annexation, addressed to "The People of Canada." It is signed by John Redpath, President, and R. Mackay and A.H. Dorion, Secretaries of the Annexation Association.

MONTREAL, Dec. 15.—The *Herald* of this morning publishes a report of the Montreal Board of Trade on the new Navigation Act. It recommends that a memorial to His Excellency the Governor General be presented forthwith, praying him to convene the Legislature at the earliest convenient day, in order that no time may be lost in taking such steps as are required to place our coasting trade on a proper footing.

TORONTO BUILDING SOCIETY.—At the Thirty-seventh Loan Meeting of the Society, ten shares, (or £1,000) of the Funds were disposed of at an average of 25 per cent bonus.

The Kingston *Chronicle and News* says that, on the 4th instant, five shares of the Midland District Building Society were sold at 47½ per cent. bonus.

The steamer *Gore*, Captain Fraser, with the troops on board, arrived at Sault Ste. Marie in safety on the 24 inst. and left there on Tuesday last.—Captain Fraser, of the *Gore*, arrived in town yesterday, having in charge Mr. Allan Macdonell, two Indian chiefs, and two half breeds, who had been apprehended at the Sault on a Magistrate's warrant, on a charge of being concerned in taking possession of the Quebec Mining Company's location at Mica Bay, Lake Superior.—*Toronto Colonist.*

The splendid new Bank of British North America at Hamilton, was opened for the first time, for the transaction of business, on Monday the 26th Nov.

CANADIAN TRADE.—The shipments of Canadian produce through this port under the warehousing law has largely increased during the season now closed. Among the articles thus shipped through in bond for export to foreign ports, the present season, there have been 20,000 brls. of flour, including some 2000 or 3000 brls. to go forward by rail-road. Over and above this amount, some few hundred brls. of Canadian flour have been sold at this port and paid duties here—probably not over 500 brls. There have also been imported into this port 633,909 bushels of Canadian wheat, of which 379,912 bushels have passed through in bond for the seaboard, and 253,997 bushels have been sold, and have paid duties here.

The Canadian wheat crop of this year was uncommonly abundant and of excellent quality, nearly or quite equal to the best samples of Genessee.—By the purchase and mixing of the last named quantity of Canadian wheat, our millers have been enabled to manufacture into superfine flour over a million of bushels of low qualities of upper lake wheat, which would not make flour required by New York inspection for superfine. The process of mixing has tended to make a good market and to enhance the value of both kinds at this port.—*Oswego Times.*

Sir James Alexander has lately published in London, a work on the Canadas, entitled "Acadie, or Seven Years' Exploration in British America." It has attracted great attention, not only on account of the intrinsic excellence of the work itself, but also on account of the increased interest which has been lately excited in regard to every thing relating to this country. We have not yet seen the publication ourselves, but, on reviewing it, the Sunday Times, no mean authority in literary criticism, says:

"Acadie is a very valuable and interesting addition to our knowledge of British America. It is not merely a description of the region, its towns, its provinces, its rivers, its plains, its hills, its woods—but a picture of its condition, a representation of the progress it has made in prosperity and civilization. It is not only full of facts, but adventures and incidents, all throwing light on the social state of the countries through which our traveller took his way. Its pages also evidence a man of high abilities, acute observation, and comprehensive judgment. Several well executed and interesting engravings illustrate the work."—*Montreal Gazette.*

BERMUDA.—The Transport ship Pestonjee Bomanjee, arrived at the Dock Yard yesterday, from Queenstown, Ireland, with three hundred Convicts for the Public Works here, and a detachment of 2 Sergeants and 50 Rank and File, of the 42d Royal Highlanders, under the command of Lieutenant Paterson and Ensign Paterson, of the same corps.—*Bermuda Gazette, Dec. 11.*

We are sorry to perceive by the Antigua Papers that fever still prevails among the Soldiers (the 45th Regt.) at Shirley Heights. "We are informed," says the Antigua Observer of the 22d ultimo, "that up to Tuesday last, there had been twenty-four deaths and that twenty cases were then reported in the Hospital. The death of Dr Dawson, Surgeon of the 54th Regt., is recorded in the Antigua Register of the 29th, as having occurred at the Ridges on the 13th. He is said to have "fallen a sacrifice to his zeal in the discharge of his arduous duties during the present trying period, when that scourge, Yellow Fever, is making such havoc in the 54th Regt." Dr. Dawson formerly belonged to the 42nd Royal Highlanders. Dr. Stuart, Inspector of Military Hospitals, had arrived at Antigua from Barbados.—*Barbados paper.*

The Emperor of Hayti had issued an edict to take effect on the 5th instant, that no foreign merchant should do business unless he paid a license of $1800, or to have any foreign clerk unless he paid $1000. No vessels were allowed to take cargo unless they had discharged their former cargo at Port au Prince. He has fixed a price on all goods imported and exported. He was raising an army to march against the Spanish part of the Island.

[FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.]

DIOCESE OF PRINCE RUPERT'S LAND.—Bishop Anderson, late incumbent of All Saints, Derby, after a quick passage, arrived at York, Hudson's Bay, in health and safety. The Bishop preached his first sermon in his diocese of Prince Rupert's Land, from 2nd Cor. 10th chapter and part of 14th verse:—"For we are come as far as to you also, preaching the Gospel of Christ."

On the 2nd of August last, the ship *Graham*, on her way to the factories of the Hudson's Bay Company, struck a field of ice, and immediately went down. Her crew were saved.

Dr. Gurziaff, the Chinese Interpreter, is about to visit Europe, after an absence of twenty-three years. That long term has been passed in China, or among the Chinese.

The Hon. Abbott Lawrence, U. S. Minister to England, has taken a lease of Earl Cadogan's large and fine mansion in Piccadilly.

Letters from Sydney of the 6th of August state that a vessel had returned there from California with a considerable quantity of gold dust, after having sold her cargo with advantage. It was calculated that nearly £100,000 worth of California gold would be received in and exported from Sydney before the end of the current year.

Mr. Thomas Deasy, a respectable brewer at Clonkilty, in the county Cork, accidentally fell into one of his own vats, while full of boiling liquid, a few days since, and died from the injuries received.

The Poor-law Commissioners have dismissed the whole batch of officers at the Carlow Workhouse, in consequence of an investigation recently held into their conduct. A rebellion of 500 female paupers in the workhouse has been the consequence.

The *Dublin Mail*, which started the idea, a few weeks since, of Prince Albert purchasing the Connemara property, as a family estate, now throws out a hint that the town of Galway may become the property of the city of London, and be converted into the western outport of the great metropolis. Rumours are afloat of some vast enterprise of this sort, and the establishment of an American packet station at Galway is said to be awaited as the preliminary step.

The *Church and State Gazette* says that the Tractarians are about to establish a new College at Oxford, and that Mr. Justice Coleridge and Mr. Archdeacon R. Wilberforce, of York, are joint trustees of the fund to be collected, of which it is said that Dr. Pusey and others have contributed jointly nearly £3000 as a commencement. Thirty thousand pounds is the sum proposed to be raised in all.

A destructive fire occurred at Inverness on Thursday. The Glenalbyn distillery, the property of the provost, was entirely destroyed, the damage done to the extent of £5000.

Earl Grey, the Colonial Secretary, appears never to be out of a scrape more or less serious. Dr. Lang, a distinguished delegate from New South Wales, for the purpose of emigration to that colony, writes, "In the object of my visit I am happy to say, I have succeeded far beyond my own highest expectations, though I have experienced nothing from your Lordship's office but incivility and obstruction." Hit off to the life! Incivility and obstruction have characterised the noble Earl since ever he had anything to do with public life.—*Liverpool Journal.*

Sir John Richardson, in his official account of the proceedings of his own overland expedition, gives the following opinion as to the resources of Sir John Franklin, in case of provisions falling short:—"Deer migrate over the ice in the spring from the main shore to Victoria and Wollaston lands in large herds, and return in the autumn. These lands are also the breeding places of vast flocks of snow geese; so that, with ordinary skill in hunting, a large supply of food might be procured on their shores in the months of June, July and August. Seals are also numerous in those seas, and are easily shot, their curiosity rendering them a ready prey to a boat party. In these ways, and by fishing, the stock of provisions might be greatly augmented. And we have the recent example of Mr. Rae, who passed a severe winter on the very barren shores of Repulse Bay, with no other fuel than the withered tuffs of a herbaceous andromeda, and maintained a numerous party on the spoils of the chase alone for a whole year. Such instances forbid us to lose hope. Should Sir John Franklin's provisions become so far reduced as to be inadequate to a winter's consumption, it is not likely that he would remain longer by his ships, but rather that in one body, or in several, the officers and crews, with boats cut down so as to be light enough to drag over the ice, or built expressly for that purpose, would endeavour to make their way eastward to Lancaster Sound, or southwards to the main land, according to the longitude in which the ships were arrested."

REDUCTION OF THE RATE OF INTEREST.—On Thursday the directors of the Bank of England reduced the rate of interest from 2 to 2½ per cent. The former rate had remained without variation for upwards of a year, the change having been made on the 2d of November, 1848. At that time the bullion on hand amounted to little more than thirteen millions. Now it amounts to above sixteen millions, with every prospect of a further increase. The reduction of the rate of interest by the bank is therefore in this case rather a necessity than an act of policy. The bill brokers in Lombard-street and the London banks generally underbid the bank, and there is at present little fear of speculation. It is stated that advances have been made during the past month, on the best paper, as low as 1¾ per cent.; and that 2 per cent. has been the general rate of discounts.● This is having money cheap enough; but a city reporter reminds us that in the first half of 1811, when the bullion in the bank was only about its present amount, advances were made by the London bankers at 1½ per cent.

A paper published in Rome laments the success of the agents of the Bible Society in Protestantizing Piedmont. The same authority adds, that some priests and monks are lending their assistance to the same object.

For five days, last week, no less than 83,000 quarters of wheat were imported into the port of London alone, and a much larger quantity is known to be on its way from continental ports.

Rabbit Shooting Extraordinary.—On Thursday week, the Hon. Lewis and George Grant, sons of the Right Hon. Lord Seafield, shot no less than 436 rabbits near Balnacaan, in Glen Urquhart.—*Aberdeen Jour.*

Eastcourt, near Wokingham, Berks, the beautiful seat of Admiral Sir John Sinclair, Bart., has been purchased by John Walter, Esq. M.P. for Nottingham. The property fetched nearly £60,000.

It is said that Mr. John Naylor has purchased the Hooton estate, in Cheshire, late the property of Sir William Massey Stanley, Bart., for the sum of £143,000.

SHIELDS, Nov. 16.—The mate of the late ship South Stockton has arrived here, and desires to contradict the report of their having had to drink, during their detention on board the vessel, the blood of their deceased fellow-companions. A large fat fish was caught, which they husbanded with great care, and by sucking which assuaged the pangs of thirst, and by the fat also the survivors continued to moisten the dying lips of their brethren, as they sank gradually exhausted into the arms of death. Mr. Hogg the mate, believes he mainly owes—under a kind Providence—the preservation of his life to his having persisted in keeping his body in motion and action during their heart-rending sufferings, while others sank down into despair and inaction.—The mate speaks in admiration of, and expressive of deep gratitude to, the noble seamen belonging to the Helen Thomson, who, at great risk, manned their boat, and through a very heavy sea approached the wreck of the South Stockton.

[FROM LATE AMERICAN PAPERS.]

THE LONDON TIMES.—There is no other newspaper in the world which wields so great an influence as the London Times. It has placed itself at the head of the press in Europe, and speaks with a degree of authority which kings might envy. The individuals concerned in its management are nothing—the paper itself is everything. In its columns public questions are continually discussed with masterly ability. It may easily be conjectured that no one mind could originate, prepare, and utter from day to day the erudite, far-reaching disquisitions which tell so powerfully upon the opinion of the world; but that is a matter of no consequence. The Times speaks, and its words are potential. It is a gigantic impersonality, a disembodied oracle, whose voice penetrates every corner of the civilized world, and moulds the thoughts of a large portion of the human family. Those who are familiar with the way in which machinery is made to operate, know that many pens are regularly employed upon that sheet. Yet nothing is more evident than the fact, that all its articles, from whatever source they come, bear a single impress. The Times utters one language. It scorns to tell the public that it disapproves of what itself has said. It never strangles its own offspring. The absence of a "responsible," or the indiscretion of an "assistant," is never proclaimed as the excuse for an acknowledged blunder. Such a practice would soon bring even that great journal into contempt.

Yet the Times has a "responsible editor," one who while [illegible] ever writes anything himself, carefully supervises, alters and corrects every editorial, and gives a consistent character to all the utterances of the paper. He never informs the public that nobody writes for his journal except himself, knowing that nothing else he could say would injure it so much. Several men of learning, talent and experience, are engaged upon a liberal stipend to write regularly for its columns. They furnish articles upon such subjects as may be suggested by their principal, or by their own judgment. They are carefully read, examined, and usually altered and corrected by the editor. No writer can have any assurance that his production will appear in the shape given it by himself; and none is ever at liberty to claim in any way the authorship of his own articles. It is thus by making the paper great, and those who conduct it nothing, that the *Times* has come to be the most considerable journal in existence. It well knows that the public cares less than nothing about the individuals who sit at its desks. All its readers want is an able, intelligent, and comprehensive daily paper, and that it is careful to furnish. The machinery behind the curtain it has the sense and taste to conceal.—*Rochester American.*

OREGON AND ITS PROSPECTS.—Mr. Thurston, the new delegate in Congress from Oregon, has written a letter which contains some interesting information relative to that country. This gentleman says that previous to the discovery of the gold mines in California, Oregon was rapidly progressing in improvements and filling up with settlers.—But the first news from the mines caused everything to stand still. The grain was left half grown; the roof half shingled; the cart in the road, exposed to the rains; the plough in the furrow; and the discarded yokes of the farmer's team showed where he was ploughing when the good news reached him. This state of things continued till about the time of Mr. Thurston's departure for Washington. Business was beginning to revive and the people were returning to their employments. Money in abundance had found its way into the country, and it became certain that from that time forward, the growth and improvement of Oregon will be both rapid and vigorous. The price of lumber, however, will fall, and, in the opinion of Mr. T., it is to be desired, for the improvement of the country, that it should.

Aside from the lumber which will be consumed by the increasing demand of Oregon, it should be borne in mind that Oregon is to furnish lumber for the whole Pacific coast, as well as the Sandwich Islands. There are plenty of places where saw and grist mills are now in operation, and where the water power is abundant. The chief cost of lumber is the expense of cutting it and drawing it to the mills. Mr. T. recommends his friends to locate in Lima city, at the Falls of Willamette. The largest settlement is at the Falls, and there is destined to be the great manufacturing town of the Pacific coast. Lima lies on the west side of the Willamette, directly opposite Oregon City. The river at that point is but a few hundred feet wide—and offers every facility for a toll bridge.

All lands are held in Oregon by the common consent of the people, each respecting the claim of the other; each claim containing 640 acres, is run as near as may be, to the cardinal points of the compass.

These claims, including town lots, are sold, mortgaged, and conveyed as freely as though the claimants possessed the title thereto in fee simple. Each one relies upon the faith and generosity of the Government to confirm to them their titles.—There is no question but Oregon affords as great facilities for acquiring property as any other spot in the United States.—*New York Express.*

SLAVERY—*Secession from the Union.*—There seems to be a show at least of anxiety in the minds of some—we will not say of any great number, because we sincerely believe that the number is actually inconsiderable—lest difficulty and trouble should arise from the threat of certain Southern politicians that, unless certain concessions are made to them at this coming session of Congress, some of the Southern States will withdraw incontinently from the Union. We entertain the utmost confidence that no such event will happen; and we build it on these reasons.

It must be borne in mind that the withdrawal of a state from the Union is not a thing to be done by a few score or hundreds of politicians, or by a dozen members of Congress. If achieved at all, it must be the act of the PEOPLE themselves; then deliberate, formal vote must be taken upon it, with express determination and in primary assembly. No Representative or Senator goes at any time to Washington with the commission in his breeches pocket, to lie there undisturbed, or to be drawn forth and flaunted in the eyes of the country, at *his* pleasure and discretion.

Nor is secession to be determined on by a convention assembled at Memphis or elsewhere of delegates from two or four or half-a-dozen states. Every state must act on this question for itself; must settle this question by the voice of its own people, every man speaking for himself and not by or for another. Before that solemn and mighty conclave of the people, acting on their own behalf, deciding by the force of their own judgment, the pretentious loquacity of a Foote, the iron pertinacity and absorption in one idea of a Calhoun, the windy vaporing of a Quattlebum, all will sink into the blankest of imaginable silence.

And we may rest assured that if the question of withdrawal comes legitimately and in earnest before the people of any one state, a response will be uttered, not in thunder tones, perhaps, but in an utterance of concentrated determination, deep but not loud, and all the more potent from its calmness, whose rebuke will wither into eternal silence all the gusty magnaloquence we now hear from the little great men who palm themselves upon the world as the mind keepers and mouth-pieces of the Southern people. They may vapor and fume as they list; we put our trust in the people whom they do *not* represent in this matter.—*New York Com. Adv.*

HUNGARIAN EXILES.—Among the passengers in the steamship Hermann, were several distinguished Hungarian exiles, who have been forced to leave their native country on account of their participation in the heroic struggles of the Hungarians for independence.

Amongst these refugees is Ladislas Ujhazy, ex-Civil Governor of the fortress of Comorn, under the military Commander General Klapka. M. Ladislas Ujhazy continued in his post till the surrender of Comorn, (the last stronghold of the rebellion,) to the united Austrian and Russian armies. M. Ujhazy is a venerable and aged man, with long flowing beard and mustaches; he is accompanied by his two sons and two daughters, and is the bearer of letters of introduction to Gen. Taylor and other public men in this country. The dress of this patriot is in the Magyar or semi-Oriental style, and several of the Hungarian officers, who have also come with him, are equipped in the beautiful and picturesque military costume of Hungary.

Another Hungarian celebrity, brought by the Hermann, is one of the most extraordinary characters of the Hungarian revolution—we allude to Mademoiselle Apolonia Jagella. This lady, we are informed, served as Lieutenant in one of the Hungarian regiments of cavalry, and subsequently held the office of Adjutant of the army in Comorn, while that fortress held out against the Austrian forces. During the war, M'lle Jagella was several times engaged with the enemy, and was a thorough adept in street fighting, and boasts of having slain a number of Austrian soldiers. She was prompted to become a heroine, not for the sake of following a lover in the Hungarian ranks, but from motives of pure patriotism and a desire to serve her unhappy, unfortunate and oppressed country. She is about twenty-five years of age, of small but active stature; pleasing, but intelligent and determined countenance; with the rich dark blood of the Eastern Magyar coursing in her veins. M'lle Jagella is engaged to be married to a young Hungarian officer; and we earnestly trust that in this land of the stranger she will find a welcome that will, in some measure, compensate her for the noble sacrifices she has made for the welfare of her beloved Hungary.—The object of these Hungarian refugees is to make arrangements for founding a colony in the United States. The present party will be followed by a much larger number of Hungarians, who were waiting at Hamburg to embark in a sailing packet for New York.—*N. Y. Herald.*

ACTIVITY IN COTTON.—The past week has been one of unusual activity in our cotton market, and thirty-eight thousand bales have been sold during that time—the largest amount for any similar period this season. The natural effect of this has been to put up prices, and accordingly a further advance has taken place of an eighth to a quarter of a cent per pound. Middling is now quoted at 10½ cents, which is a full half cent more than it was worth a fortnight since, just before the Caledonia's news was received.—*N. O. Delta, Dec. 9.*

A VESSEL FROM THE LAKES BOUND FOR THE WEST INDIES.—On Monday the schooner Diamond Stone, arrived at this port from Chicago, and, of course, came through the Illinois river. She is of about one hundred tons burthen, schooner rigged, and in every particular a genuine salt water craft, although she has, as yet, never ploughed the briny wave.—She brought a cargo to this city, and will reload for New Orleans and sail thence if a cargo offers for the West Indies.—*St. Louis Republican, Dec. 5.*

THE RETURNED CALIFORNIANS.—The Lowell Journal gives us the names of six returned California emigrants, who left that place in January last, viz: S. H. Sargent, Mr. Cram, W. H. Potter, I. H. Blake, W. H. Merrill and Mr. Dustin. These gentlemen have seen the animal to their heart's content, and are quite satisfied to get back alive. The Journal advises all who think of visiting the golden region to see and converse with those returned emigrants, and learn from them the true state of things in that country.

H. M. Steamer *Hecate*, with Sir E. L. Bulwer, British Minister to the United States, arrived at Bermuda on the 11th instant, and would proceed about the 15th or 16th for the Potomac.

Friday the 14th inst. was the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Washington.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

The Directors of the New-Brunswick Electric Telegraph Company, beg to submit the following information to the Public, as to the course they have thought it their duty to adopt relative to the transmission of the British Steamers' news along the line.

It may be premised that for some years past, probably since the commencement of the Atlantic Steam voyages, it has been the practice of Speculators in the Atlantic Cities to endeavour by means of pigeon expresses, fast sailing boats, and otherwise, to obtain the news in advance of the public. Those conversant with the vast business transactions in Boston, New-York, &c., can understand to what an extent this advantage might be used.

The Proprietors of the principal Newspapers in those Cities, thinking that as they were indebted to the Public generally for support, they were bound in return to prevent them from being preyed upon by speculators, and, as the Agents and Guardians of the Public, to furnish the earliest news that by any means and at any cost could be obtained.

It will be recollected that to carry out this object, the Associated Press, amongst other means, for sometime ran an express from Halifax to Digby, and from thence by a fast Steamer to Boston, and more recently ran a Steamer from Halifax on the arrival of each boat.

On the extension of the Line of Telegraph to St. John, the Associated Press ran an express from Halifax with the news, and did so also after the Line was extended to Sackville.

It is one of the Bye Laws of this Company, and indeed of all Telegraph Companies, that "First come, first served," shall be the rule, unless otherwise provided for by special Contract, of which public notice shall be given.

Early last spring the Associated Press made a special Contract with all the Companies between New-York and St. John for the exclusive use of the wires on the night of each English Mail, until 3000 words should be sent through, they paying full rates for the same, and binding themselves not to allow the news to be used for speculative purposes, also allowing each Newspaper, News-Room, or Club, a copy at any station on the line, on their paying their proportion of the cost.

It may be imagined that the speculators, who had established quite a trade in operation upon the markets by means of early intelligence, viewed this arrangement with no favorable eye. So long however as an expensive system of expressing the news to St. John and Sackville had to be kept up, they had no power to interfere—although it has been ascertained that by bribery, or sending agents with the boats, they have once or twice succeeded in getting their news in advance. But now that the line is extended to Halifax, they are making a last grand effort to accomplish their object. It may be well to explain in what manner their plans would work. Suppose that on the arrival of the steamer at Halifax, the speculator's agent got first to the office with the news, this news would be received and made use of through all the Cities of the Union at least six hours before the public could have it. It takes four hours to send through 3000 words and two hours more before they can be published, and twelve hours more might easily be gained by having the wires cut.

Or again, if the Public Press were restricted to one hour, or to the rule of fifteen minutes, their news could not be got through in season, and would therefore be valueless to them. The speculators and the agents have been by no means unemployed to gain their ends. In this province and Nova-Scotia a continuous round of newspaper paragraphs calculated by misrepresentations to poison the public mind, has been directed against the *odious monopoly*, as they are pleased to call it. In Halifax the Government has been almost coerced into yielding to their nefarious schemes. For the purpose of forcing the Telegraph Companies to give in, they have by breaking the wires along the whole line, prevented the news from being sent for the last three weeks—resolved that if their news is not taken, no other shall be sent.

It is chiefly for the purpose of informing these gentlemen that their plans are known, and that the Directors of this Company are resolved, lose or win, not to yield to their scheme, that this is now written.

And it so happens, that in this their interest and duty coincide; for while the Telegraph Companies would earn a dollar or two by transmitting the speculator's news, the Press, or rather the Public, pay over five hundred for theirs, and the Telegraph Companies cannot have both, for unless the Press can get the news first, they will not have it at all.

For the information of the Public, it may be stated that these lines would not have been constructed, and could not now be maintained, but for the income anticipated, and now derived from the newspaper Press.

The Mercantile community have therefore no just reason to complain that their usual facilities are suspended for a few hours a week, seeing that but for such support, the Telegraph Lines could not be kept up.

The Directors trust that after this explanation, the Public will be disposed to support them in doing what they conceive to be their duty to themselves and the honest portion of the community.

No effort will be spared in bringing to punishment the felons who have been guilty of cutting the wires.

ROBERT JARDINE,
JOHN DUNCAN,
EDWARD ALLISON,
JAMES DONALDSON,
} Directors.
Chairman Halifax Committee.

St. John, N. B., December 11, 1849.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Certificates under the Act 11 Victoria, chapter 62, that the Rev. William Thomas Canning is an ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and has associated himself with the Ministers of