I began thinking over the amusements of the evening, criticising the fair faces I had been so close to; wishing I had such a cheerful home;—speculating as to my chance of success in event of my asking one of the aforesaid fair damsels to part with her name in favor of mine, and thanking my stars, that, at any rate, I should be a guest at the same place on the morrow. The clock struck two and I found my thoughts still busy; but a sudden check was given to the current of my ideas. I heard a sort of grating sound, and then felt certain some person was moving stealthily up the kitchen stairs. At first I was a little alarmed, imagining that thieves were in the house, and then—pshaw! thought I, Mrs. Wingate has been setting up later than usual, to finish her Christmas pudding. It is rather singular that my former adventure did not then enter my mind; though it had occurred in that very spot. I listened again. The footsteps were certainly audible, close to my bedroom door. A hand was on the lock—it turned—they were stealing along the floor of the apartment—I became sensible of the presence of two persons—and now I felt all the horror of my situation. Every iota of what had formerly happened there—the menaces of those two fellows who had then doubtless been disappointed of their prey, and the thought of my own powerlessness, nearly drove me mad.

Fool, idiot, that I was; I had in my tipsy folly rushed upon my fate.

I had refused the cordial invitation which would have secured me from all danger, and had even neglected the precaution of securing the door of my room, almost for the first time within my recollection. I became aware of a dim light; and partially opening my eyes, I perceived two rascals fumbling about a lantern. I am not ashamed to own I was perfectly paralyzed with terror, and I was utterly incapable of doing anything—indeed what could I do? I saw them remove the candle from the lantern and convert my inkstand into a candlestick. One proposed lighting the gas, but the other objected, that if disturbed he might be flurried, and turn it the wrong way. They then with singular quickness and dexterity, ransacked my desk and cases, which they opened by means of skeleton keys. This done, and the plunder tied in a handkerchief, the younger of the two suggested with an oath that they should at once *finish him.*

He approached my bed—drew aside the curtain, and, though I durst not look, I felt he was gazing in my face. Again he turned aside and fumbled in his pocket as if in search of something.

I had all along hoped by feigning sleep I might escape; for I knew, should a struggle ensue, that I could not escape, since they were powerful men and I quite unarmed. While he was feeling in his pocket, I could not help stealing my hand up to my throat, thinking at the same time how little chance there was that it would again be used as a vehicle for Christmas cheer. Guess my horror if you can, when the elder scoundrel, in an impatient tone, bade his son "make haste if he meant to do it, and not keep him there all night."

The young man tumbled over the articles that had been displaced in their search for plunder, and, not finding what he sought, inquired, with another oath, what his father had done with the knife. At first the latter seemed puzzled, and he then informed his son, with an equally elegant expletive, that he had left it on the pantry shelf down below.

The younger, bitterly cursing him for a greedy fool, who must begin to eat before the work was done, bade him fetch it.

"Well, Bill," replied his parent, "that ham was stunning, and you know *you* could'nt stand those'ere cheesecakes; but won't this ere do for him?" handing up one of my pistols.

"Yes, a pretty thing, fire, kick up a row, and be scragged for it. That would pay nicely. Fetch the knife and have no more jaw; or we shall wake the chap, instead of sending him up quietly to spend his Christmas in heaven, without any invitation." He chuckled, and the old fellow seemed equally delighted at his son's wit; then, taking up the candle, went off to fetch the knife.

All their motions had been so noiselessly performed, and the conversation carried on in a tone so wonderfully clear, though low, that I was astonished at the perfection they had attained in their horrid craft. During the father's absence the son was not idle. He actually loosed the collar of my shirt, and then stood quietly waiting the other's return.

You could never imagine, unless placed in similar circumstances, what a multitude of thoughts passed through my mind in a few brief minutes.—I verily believe that every Christmas, with its accompaniments of fun and feasting, at which I had ever assisted since I was the height of the table, was reviewed in its turn. Then I thought of the morrow, and the fair girls I had left, and how, an hour before, I was full of hope that ere another Christmas came round, I should call one my own. Still I found time for earnest prayer, and to think of all sorts of expedients to escape my impending fate. Once I fancied, now there was only one to contend with, I might do something; but just then the touch of the muscular hand upon my throat reminded me that a movement would cause my instant destruction. Indeed, I have often wondered that the fellow did not strangle me in his impatience. How bitterly did I reproach myself for not raising an alarm when the footsteps first became audible.

At length, the fellow fairly gnashed his teeth with rage, and uttering a hurried exclamation of "Hang the tippling old beast, he's at that wine again!" he also left the apartment, to recall his truant parent, and fetch the implement of murder.

Now was my time, and you may believe I lost none. The instant he left the room, I was on my feet; noiselessly I approached the door, dashed it to, turned the key, shot the bolt, lighted the gas, and once more I stood, my heart ready to leap in my throat with joy and thankfulness, and with my trusty pistols in my hand.

There was no chance of their re-entering—their skeleton keys lay on my bench, and every article of plunder was there also; for, intending to return, they had not conveyed it from the room.

I made noise enough from the windows; my hostess and her damsel, now aroused, joined in the chorus, and soon, at the head of a host of alarmed neighbours and a couple of policemen, we searched the house from top to bottom. One of the men I knew had left the premises, as I heard him dash over the area railings, and then down the street; but the elder ruffian we discovered stupidly drunk, in the cellar, the danger of his position not having sufficed to prevent his indulging his favorite propensity, when temptation was so strong.

We found they had gained admittance by cutting away the zinc from the pantry window, their skeleton keys having made the rest easy.

Bill, the younger ruffian, was too well known to escape detection. He was captured in a few hours, and both he and his father eventually obtained a free passage to a distant land in a vessel provided for that purpose by her Most Gracious Majesty.

The affair made a prodigious sensation, and I became the lion of all the Christmas parties that year; and the extraordinary sympathy manifested by a certain fair individual, at the recital of my story, brought about a most satisfactory explanation. My next Christmas dinner was eaten in my own house, with her as its mistress.

I have often blessed my stars that good Mrs Wingate was not a member of the Total Abstinence Society; for had it not been for the liberal replenishing her cellar underwent a few days before Christmas time, in readiness for the sons and daughters who were to gather round her, and celebrate in her house that true home festival, my throat would have been in no condition to perform its functions when that time arrived.

Thus have I told you the only adventure of any consequence in which I ever played a part, and, let me add, that whereas rich and poor welcome Christmas as a season for joy and thankfulness, I doubt whether any feel more keen emotions of the kind than I do, since it recals to mind an additional mercy vouchsafed at that period.

Satan never Disturbs Women.—Mohammedans relate the following story as an authentic and veritable piece of tradition, illustrative of the fact that the devil himself has duties to perform in the world, and he was never known to be idle and neglect them, viz:

In the days of Mohammed there was an Arab who had a very pretty wife. The Devil transformed himself into so exact and accurate a likeness of her husband that she could not, for the life of her, tell which of the two was her husband. Both claimed her—i. e. the real husband and the Devil in his likeness.

The case excited much interest in the neighborhood; but no solution of the difficulty could be obtained. At length the case was brought before his majesty the Prophet for solution. Mohammed, after a little reflection, held up a certain earthern pot in his hand, with a spout like a teapot, and said to them both;

'Now, whichever is the real husband, will enter this vessel by the spout, and thus establish his claim to to the woman."

The Devil having more capacity in that way than the sturdy Arab of real flesh and bones, entered at once into the teapot, as suggested. The moment that he entered, Mohammed closed the top of the spout and kept him shut in.

But by the time Mohammed had kept his excellency shut up for a few days in the that earthern pot, it was ascertained that the world was getting wrong in its machinery. Mohammed was therefore constrained to let the devil out from his confinement to take his necessary place in the management of the affairs of the world; but before restoring him to his liberty again, Mohammed exforted a solemn promise from him that he would never trouble the "fair sex" any more, but confine himself to what he would do among the "male sex."

English tavern keepers simply give notice by public advertisement of their intention to "dress a fine lively turtle" on such a day; but the Yankee, more atrociously, writes in chalk upon the devoted animal's back, "Soup tomorrow," and places him on parade before his hotel, thus basely making him a party to his own murder, and compelling him, in defiance of all the laws of nations, to advertise his own execution.

FROM EUROPEAN PAPERS.

[From the Brighton Observer.]

The Juno Court Martial.—The details of the Juno Court Martial are shortly as follows:—Captain Freemantle, a man of aristocratic connections, commanded the Juno on a foreign station, and brought home three of his officers under arrest. Of these, Lieutenant Burnaby had been a prisoner for 18 months; the charges against him being that on one occasion he was impertinent to his commanding officer; that on another occasion he entered the captain's cabin with a frivolous grievance, of having, on a third occasion, broken his patole, and of having lastly forwarded to his commanding officer, a letter of remonstrance, addressed to the Commander-in-Chief. On these charges Lieutenant Burnaby was a prisoner, and treated like a felon for a year and a half, and on his trial before a Court Martial, the prosecutor, on being asked for his proofs, admitted that he had none, said he knew nothing, and begged to abandon the prosecution. Anything more intolerable than this it is not easy to imagine, and such conduct can only be equalled by that of the officers of the Court who, instead of discharging the prisoner at once, requested the prosecutor to retire for a time to recollect himself, and gave the prisoner two hours to prepare his defence,—a defence, be it observed against the charges that had been withdrawn, and he was compelled to defend himself against a string of charges which the Court knew to be unproved and unproveable. Such a mockery of justice is revolting to every principle that an Englishman values, and had a bench of Magistrates committed themselves in a similar manner, there would have been a universal execration of their names throughout the length and breadth of the land, and not for a single moment would they have been allowed to retain their position. The case was one of such gross outrage that attention was called to it in the House of Commons, and Sir Charles Wood was compelled to say that if the Juno had remained in commission, they should have suspended Capt. Freemantle from his command. But they have not done so, and the aristocratic despot will in no way be interfered with. Lieutenant Burnaby can never hope to obtain a command in the service after what has passed; he is a marked man, and the wisest thing he can do is to leave a service in which he can never hope to rise, and take proceedings against his nobly connected tyrant for false imprisonment and slander. Should he do so, a jury of honest Englishmen would give him such damages as would serve as a proper warning to all the tribe of lordly despots whose conduct is a disgrace to the unsullied flag of England; and in seeking legal redress for his injuries, he may be sure of the justice of his cause, and of having the hearty sympathy of every man who loves fair play, courage, and freedom.

Siam Etiquette.—When the Siamese ambassadors were presented recently to Queen Victoria they threw themselves on their hands and knees, and went the whole length of the floor on all fours, and the principal ambassador laid his chin on the steps of the throne and read his address in that position, and after the formalities they all backed out in the same awkward style. The royal gravity was sorely tried by the ridiculous spectacle. When the distinguished foreigners were invited to a lunch in one of the state apartments they all pulled out their pipes and filled the hall with a cloud of smoke, to the horror of the court and the disgust of the Queen, who abominates the weed.

[Spanish Correspondence of the Morning Advertiser.]

MORALITY OF THE PALACIEGAS.

When the pains of labor were approaching, the pangs of remorse rushed in upon the Queen, and reproached her for her dissolute career. She sent for Archbishop Claret, a prelate who well deserves the name he bears. The Queen begged his counsel, and he told her that her conduct made her the subject of ribald jests, and as she was about to be exposed to the perils attendant upon childbirth, he exhorted her to banish her paramour, Puig Moro, from the palace and country. The increasing pangs of the crisis added force to the archiepiscopal persuasions, and promise was made, but the archbishop, not content with the royal word, extorted a written promise to that effect. He followed up his success by an exhortation to his royal auditor to be reconciled to her husband, and even if she felt unable to love him, he urged her to have more respect for the proprieties of life, and to appear constantly with him before her subjects. Having obtained a promise to that effect he repaired to the king's apartments, and gave him like counsel. The king's promise, was, however, conditional only; he would consent to be reconciled to his wife only on condition that she paid his debts, and that the banishment of the Queen's paramour should be instantaneous.—The archbishop returned with a cheque for the payment of the king's debts, and the other promise; but although the Queen has the power to banish her paramour from the palace; and, had Narvaez and Nocedal been in power, she could have shipped him off to the Canaries on Phillippines, or wherever she chose; yet Puig Moro refuses to be exiled, demands a public trial and to know on what charge he is arraigned. A compromise has been effected, to avoid the public scandal which insistance on exile must occasion; and Colonel Puig Moro struts about amongst his fellow citizens, who have yet enough of the leaven of royalty in them to look with feelings of something akin to deference and respect on one who sustained such intimate relations with their Queen.

The Marquis of Westminster.—With all his wealth, the present Marquis of Westminster was not above accepting service in the Household of Queen Victoria, and wearing her livery, as Lord High Steward, a sort of upper flunkey, whose duty it is to play the part of first class footman to his Mistress, carry a white wand in his hand before her, and invariably walk backward out of presence, at the risk of sometimes falling—which has happened more than once. A Marquis with £700 000 per annum, who would thus act as upper lackey, for £2000 a year, is precisely the man to give no more than £100 to a national charitable purpose, while Mr. Thackeray (whom, no doubt he looks down upon) gives ten times as much.

Father Gavazzi on Italy.

In the course of a lecture recently delivered in Wolverhampton, Father Gavazzi said:—"Cardinal Wiseman said he could not speak of the present occupant of the chair of St. Peter in words, but only in hymns and music.—He (Gavazzi) had not learnt the Irish brogue or to praise Pius IX. But if I have to praise him in Italian music of the bombardment of Rome, the music of a breach in the strong walls of the Eternal City, the music of the flames shooting high into the air from the pile of burning palace—the music of the 150 corpses that lie unburied, by his own instructions, without the walls of Rome, to horrify, by the sight, of corrupt carcases of their fellows, the surviving patriot Italians, the music of 6,000 Italians in chains in twelve Roman fortresses—the music of 18 000 families deprived of fathers and husbands—the music of 7,000 exiles who are now living out a miserable existence in distant lands, the music of 150 victims who, in one little Roman State, have laid their lives upon the scaffold in order to expiate the crime of freeing Italy from all Austrian, or any such demented foreign rule! That is my music. In the music of that Italian anthem I am ready to march from Rome to Vienna, or from Vienna to Rome, fighting the Pope and destroying his deadly influence. This I hope to live to see,—my Italy, having the open Bible in one hand and a tri-colored torn flag in the other; and then to march again and again at the head of Italian followers towards Rome. I hope to stand with my flag at the ruins of the Vatican, and to say from there fatal relicts to Europe, to say to the whole world—In spite of the diplomatists, in spite of despots, in spite of priests, in spite of Popes, Italy has become the land of freedom! Italy! O, beautiful Italy! Away with foreigners! Away with foreigners! Amen!"

The Conservative party, who have been in a state of torpor for several years past, are about to take advantage of the chapter of accidents. They are about to organise a course of tactics during the coming session in order to oust Lord Palmerston's Government. A meeting of the opposition leaders in both houses has been held during the last few days, and when Parliament meets next month all the followers who have seats in that assembly will be summoned to Lord Derby's private mansion to decide on a course of action the most likely to effect the end in view. The chances of success rest on the possible break down of the forthcoming Reform Bill and the new Indian Scheme, measures sufficient to test the strength of the strongest Government.

Horrible Accident.—Men Boiled in Liquid Iron.—From Cherbourgh we learn the details of a frightful accident. In the naval workshops of that town there is a foundry for the manufacture of heavy cast iron castings. An immense crucible hangs over the furnace, and when the metal is in a state of fusion, this cruible is removed from it by means of machinery, and the glowing ore poured into moulds which are formed in the sand. It happened that some twenty workmen were engaged in the operation of casting, when suddenly the screw which held the handle of the pot gave way, and in a moment the liquid metal flooded the workshop like the lava from a volcano. Ten of the workmen were overtaken by the flaming torrent, and their feet and legs literally burnt to ashes. Some of the men were more fortunate than their fellows, and escaped by climbing upon the beams which supported the roof, where, safe themselves, they beheld the fearful race between their unhappy comrades and the molten iron, which [illegible] the wretches [illegible] with its fiery touch. A subscription was opened for the poor fellows, while waiting for the hospital at Vignet to receive them. The Russian officers at Cherbourgh, in honor of whom the authorities were about to give a ball, subscribed liberally for the support of the victims and their families.—*French Paper.*

A tall, fine looking United States soldier, at Newport, Ky., learning that his detachment was ordered to Utah, deliberately stole a silver watch, and on being arrested, not only admitted the theft, but vowed the object was to get rid of fighting Uncle Sam's battles at $11 per month.

The population of California is estimated to be 460 000, of whom 160,000 are Chinese, and 100,000 native Californians and European immigrants, leaving 200,000 Americans. There are 200 Protestant clergymen of all denominations, or one minister to every 1000 of the American population.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN PARLIAMENT.

There is an idea of the democratic doctrine—an idea perhaps which has prevailed too much among its friends as well as its opponents—that it consists entirely in the promotion of legislation by a ragged and ignorant multitude. There is a better idea of democratic doctrine, however, which regards it as being the working out of that Apostolic declaration that God made of one blood all nations of men. Those who hold this broad and noble conception believe that though all men have not equal endowments, they have yet all equal rights, and all in a measure the same human affections, and the same kind of capacity for improvement. With such persons the idea of the bestowal of political power on the masses, is but a part of the general scheme, for the amelioration of the species, and a part which is not to precede but to accompany that intellectual and moral progress which they expect for the race. They have faith that the classes now ragged and ignorant may one day cease to exist, and some of them are disposed to put their own soulders to the wheel to rescue their fellow-men from the mire, and endeavour to raise them, except with respect to accidental endowments to a level with themselves. A band of such democrats headed by Lord Shaftesbury are now attempting to bring the Church of England into a position, where, without offending against any law regulating that establishment, it may become the instrument of giving effect to these high and worthy aspirations. Hitherto the Church of England has been to a great extent, especially in the large cities of the mother country, a luxury for the aristocracy or at any-rate for the rich. Coming from a West End Episcopal place of Worship, such as my Lady Whittlesea's Chapel, once under the pastoral care of Mr. Charles Honeyman, crowds of well-dressed worshippers might be seen after every service. But to the poor of the metropolis, and of other great cities, the gospel was preached, if preached at all, by the minister of the humble and obscure dissenting meeting house. Not that there was no zeal on the part of many a clergyman of the established church; but, as in many other cases, the system here interposed itself to damp the energies, and render abortive the efforts of the individual. Magnificent churches were from time to time built for what were called destitute districts; but they only served to mock the squalor of the adjoining buildings, and to enable the wife of some rich pawnbroker or gin shop keeper,—the millionaires of such neighbourhoods——to ape the prayer book and redcushion manners of more fashionable quarters the poor would not go to church. That according to Lord Shafesbury and his friends was an accepted fact. And in speaking thus they did not refer to the squalidly poor alone. The respectable artizan felt himself out of place there, where the wealthier worshiper was "pewed up to the eyes," and he left to work his way off "free seats," which unhappily, intentionally or unintentionally, marked with great distinctiveness, the differences between the worse and better sorts of sinners. It was nevertheless plain that these classes so completely without the influence of Church ministrations, were not destitute of the feelings which brought others to places of worship. Whether to indulge in devotional emotions, or to gratify the gregarious taste, and the love of seeing and being seen, they might be induced to hear prayers and sermons, if proper means were employed. Mr. Spurgeon, the Baptist preacher could fill a building larger than could be filled by a play. It was not the religion that was disliked, but the adjuncts. The poor felt an instinctive sense of the fact that whatever the distinctions of rank among men, there must be an equality in the House of God. To meet this, several Prelates, Clergymen and zealous members of the Church of England, taking a leaf out of Mr. Spurgeon's book, determined to provid[illegible] to which the humbler classes of [illegible]olis would be likely to come — a large building called Exeter Ha[illegible] rendering the ordinary service of th[illegible] somewhat less prolix, they invited [illegible] who did not usually go to other Ch[illegible] attend their services; and they too[illegible] that every man rich or poor sho'd hav[illegible]al accommodation. The experiment [illegible] entirely successful, until wonderlate to relate it came into the head of the Rector of the Parish, where Exeter Hall is situated that he had power to prevent any ministers of his own Church from converting souls, unless permission were first obtained, which permission he refused to grant. That any Church should be obliged before its clergy can execute their high mission to get an act of Parliament to prevent one of its own ministers from prohibiting their action appears to be not one of the least wonderful if those facts which sometimes startle us. Yet such is the truth. It is to be hoped, for the honor of the Church of England, that her ministers will be speedily released from their present extraordinary position, and that if she is to continue to be honored with the title of the National Church, she will exert herself with zeal and effect to the instruction, and the moral and religious elevation of those who form the main body of the nation. It is time that she should have at least sufficient liberty to be enabled to reach the mass of the people, in the only way by which they can be appreciated.

Overland [illegible] Europe to America.—We had, yesterday, an interview with Mr. P. McD. Collins, who arrived in this city a few days ago, having travelled over land from St. Petersburg to the mouth of the Amoor River. The journey occupied exactly one year.—Twelve months ago Mr. Collins left St. Petersburg, travelling from thence to Moscow, by railroad, and from thence to Siberia, in sledges telegas, to Chetah, the capital of the Trans-Baikal province, situated on the River Ingodal, one of the main sources of the Amoor, where he waited for the breaking up of the ice in the river, and then, accompanied by four Cossack soldiers, and by Mr. Fulhem, the Governor of the Russian-American Company at Avan, proceeded down to the Amoor, and along the river to the Pacific. From Mr. Collins we have obtained much interesting information in relation to the vast region through which he travelled, and about which so little is known. He speaks in the highest terms of the Russian officials, with whom he had intercourse.—*San Francisco Herald.*

The Pentateuch Confirmed.—A work has recently been published in London by an accomplished Egyptian scholar, who, in examining Egyptian records, has found traces of a history parallel to that written by Moses.—He finds James mentioned five times, Moses twice, and Balak, son of Zippor, at a place called Huzoth; that a people of whom Moses was leader marched towards Palestine by the way of Midgol and Zoar; that they were connected with the names Midia and Aram; that there was a contest at a place of a great water flood, that a royal or noble youth meets a sudden and mysterious death, and that a royal order is immediately issued for the hasty departure of a people for their feast of 'passing the dead;' and that miracles are named as being performed by their leader in Lower Egypt.

The Chronicle.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 12th, 1858.

THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The speech from the throne will be read with attention, coupled with disappointment. What the policy of the government is to be, no one can gather from it. It contains one passage, however, of importance, as it takes from the government all claim to credit from the fact of their estimate and the revenue collected being nearly equal. Their estimate was made not only during a period of peace, but also at a time of universal plenty. It was made in the month of June, when not a shadow was visible upon the commercial or political horizon of the world. The reason why the estimate made by Mr. Wilmot is not correct, is stated by the government in the following words: "In the course of last autumn a monetary crisis occurred, which for a season paralyzed trade and commerce throughout the world,"—and that—"our mercantile interests suffered severely from the unparalleled pressure to which they were subjected." Had these unlooked-for events been delayed for even three months, every candid mind will admit that the estimate of the party in power would have been many thousands astray; therefore to make their estimate a matter of boasting goes only to prove the kind of principles by which they are guided. If they had seen the force of the passage referred to above, they would never have sent it forth to the world, as it takes from them all credit and gives it to Mr. Wilmot, to whom it justly belongs. We have no wish to deprive any man of what rightly belongs to him; but we contend that in no case has the income and estimates of the present government been parallel, from the reasons upon which their estimates were founded, for they invariably have been indebted to accidental circumstances for the realization of their ideas in these matters.

We copy the article below from Hunt's Magazine for February. The great decline in the price of Bread stuffs since May, 1855, cannot fail of being sensibly felt these times by the great mass of the people. Flour from £2: 10 to a little over £1 is a heavy fall, and the indications are, that on the opening of spring, the article will be still lower; for at no previous time has there been such a stock of the staff of life on hand as at the present time.—This in conection with the low rate of interest, must soon impart a vitality to trade to which for a long time it has been a stranger. We therefore look for an early revival of business in all its departments. We feel satisfied that the well known energy of our people, which for some time past has been put to a severe test, will manifest itself in a way that will soon cause the depression of the present to be entirely forgotten in the prosperity of the future.

"There has been a farther general improvement in the aspect of financial affairs, during the last month, although the public mind is not wholly free from anxiety, nor has there been any return of the old activity. Money is very abundant, the falling off in trade has limited the supply of business paper, and lenders are very fastidious in their selections. The value of almost all descriptions of property has continued to decline, although there are some exceptions. Flour which sold in May, 1855, as high as $10 56 for common, and $13 for choice, has averaged during the last month only $4 30 for the former and $7 for the latter, with an abundant supply. Cotton, which sold on the 1st of Sept. 1857, at 15 3-4 for middling upland, declined soon after January 1st, to 8 3-4 but again gradually appreciated, although it was reaching nothing like the old range of high prices. Sugar has continued to decline—the falling off from the highest rate of 1857, being nearly 50 per cent. Nearly all domestic fabrics, both cotton and woolen, have declined 20 to 30 per cent from the autumn rates, and the same is true of almost all articles of meal, provisions, and general merchandise. Real estate has not escaped the common depreciation, although there have been fewer forced sales in this, than in moveable property. Speculative estates, such as unimproved town or village lots, not wanted for present growth, have fallen off 50 per cent from the nominal rates of last year; while the best improved city property would not sell except at an average of 20 per cent. below current rates of last spring. Although the falling off in prices might appear to be adverse to a speedy return of prosperity, it is, in fact, one of the best indications of a prosperous change. Nothing so soon tempts capital from its hiding places, as the opportunity of a cheap investment. It is very true that none but the boldest operators will venture to purchase while prices are still declining; but once let the market pause, and the upward movement begin, and we shall witness an unusual excitement in all the channels of trade.

Accident.—We regret to learn that the only daughter of Mr. George Rix Price, of this city, aged 5 years, came to her death yesterday afternoon in the following manner: It appears from some cause or another, not clearly understood, that her clothing caught fire while in a room playing by herself, and before any aid came to her rescue, she was so severely burnt, that after lingering for three hours in great agony, death put an end to her sufferings. There being only a close stove in the room, it is supposed she must have had matches in the pocket of her dress, or possibly she may have been amusing herself with them. We sincerely sympathise with the bereaved parents under their sad affliction.

The condition of King's College, and the public feeling in regard to it are such that nothing but the vast difficulties of the subject could have deferred legislative action upon it to this day. Those who deny that some reform in the College is needed are but an insignificant minority of the people: the majority wish anxiously for a change although scarcely knowing what to ask. We believe, however, that the Bills prepared by the College Commission and by the College Council are regarded with favor; and that it is generally felt that the schemes annunciated in these might be made the basis of a College Reform Bill which would meet with general approbation. It is high time that some definitive action was taken: to again postpone the settlement of the question would be too much of an imposition upon the forbearance of the people.

* * * *

That the new Election Law stands in need of amendment, the Smashers themselves do not deny. Some modification in certain of the details is absolutely necessary: perhaps it would be best to allow the principles the test of time before venturing upon any considerable alteration. Hasty legislation, and the amendment of laws from merely theoretical objections, and without a practical proof of their inefficiency, should be avoided. Grave doubts may be entertained of the success of some of the principles of the law, but time alone can prove their correctness or incorrectness. Some minor features, however require immediate amendment.—*Woodstock Journal.*

Fires.—Between six and seven o'clock on Sunday morning, a house belonging to Neill Sweeny, at the Straight Shore, was consumed by fire; part of his furniture was saved. The house was insured for £200.

On Tuesday evening, at about 5 o'clock, a fire occurred in the "Drying House" on the grounds of the Provincial Penitentiary. It was a wooden building, used for seasoning lumber in, for manufacture by the prisoners. It was burnt down.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Our Legislature met on Wednesday, and the ceremonies usual at the opening of the Session were, we presume, duly performed.

THE SPEECH.

Legislative Council Chamber,
Fredericton, Feb. 10.

The following is the Speech, called the Governor's:—

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I am sure that the people of this Province have heard with feelings of sympathy and horror, undiminished by their remoteness from the scene of action, of the tortures inflicted without regard of sex or age, on our fellow subjects in the East, and the fortitude, gallantry and skill which have enabled handfulls of loyal men to resist and to attack with equal success hosts of rebels, have, I know, commanded their warmest admiration.

A confident hope may now be entertained that the mutiny, which at its outbreak appeared to threaten the very existence of British authority in India, may, by the blessing of God, be the means of strengthening that authority, and of rendering it more widely beneficial than before: and you will readily unite with me in an expression of deep thankfulness to Providence for the success which has attended her Majesty's arms.

In the course of last autumn a Monetary Crisis occurred which, for a season, paralyzed trade and commerce throughout the world.—Our mercantile interests suffered severely from the unparalleled pressure to which they were subjected, but I trust that the depression will be but temporary, and I am confident that the attitude which New Brunswick maintained during the crisis has raised the commercial character, and still more, fairly established the credit of the Province.

It is a subject of sincere gratitude that, although our commerce languished during the past year, it pleased Divine Providence to bless the labours of the husbandman with an abundant harvest.

I feel satisfaction in the belief that there is a growing appreciation of the Fisheries as a source of public wealth. Information having been conveyed to me that the act for their protection was violated in the Bay of Fundy, I immediately adopted the necessary measures to secure the enforcement of the law.

The act which regulates the Parish Schools will shortly expire; the subject of Education will naturally occupy your attention, and it will I doubt not receive from you that calm and careful consideration which its importance demands.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Estimates, both of Revenue and of Expenditure, for the current fiscal year will be submitted to you, and accounts of the Revenue and Expenditure for the past year will be laid before you, with a statement explanatory of the financial condition of the Province at the end of that year.

The arrangements with regard to the Surplus Civil List, contemplated in the despatches of the Secretary of State, which were laid before the Assembly on the 28th February, 1857, have been carried into effect, and the Surplus Civil List Fund, as well as the accruing Surplus of future years, has been placed at the disposal of the Assembly.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I readily give effect to the wish expressed in the Address presented to me by the House of Assembly during the last session, that I would communicate with Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the construction of an Inter-Colonial line of Railway. Copies of correspondence will be laid before you.

The successful cultivation of the soil is an object of manifest importance to all. The Commissioners appointed to report as to any improvements which might be deemed advisable in the application of the present grants to Agricultural Societies, have concluded their labours, and their report will be laid before you.

I have recently received a report from the Emigration Agents, which will be laid before you. The subject to which it relates (will) be worthy of consideration.

I have appointed Commissioners to enquire into the management of certain Provincial Institutions which receive public aid; the result of their enquiries, when terminated, will be communicated to you.

Since I last met you considerable progress has been made in the construction of Railways. Accounts of the Province expenditure incurred in their operations will be laid before you.

It affords me sincere satisfaction to be able to inform you that although the state of the Money Market during the recent crisis impeded for a time the sale of the Provincial Debentures, the character of these Debentures remained throughout unimpaired, and the attention which they now command from British capitalists as desirable and safe investment is a gratifying proof of the confidence which is reposed in the good faith and financial integrity of New Brunswick.

In full reliance on your zeal for the welfare of the Province, I leave you to your deliberations, and I trust that Providence will bless your endeavours to promote the public interests.

In the Assembly Mr. Chandler moved and Mr McMillan seconded the Address in reply to the Speech, and Friday was fixed for the consideration of the Address.

Mr. Allen moved a resolution, that the appointment of Mr. Coburn by the Government as Sergeant-at-Arms, was an interference with the privileges of the House, and declaring that Mr. Coburn should not be recognised. Mr. Allen supported it in a lengthy speech.

He was followed by the Attorney General, who warmly defended the act and justified the policy of the Government.

Mr. Gray came next in support of the resolution, and declaring that there was no case on the Imperial records where the Government had dismissed a Sergeant-at-Arms without application from the House.

The Postmaster General followed, maintaining that the body that had the power to appoint had the power to remove.

The Resolution is treated by the members of the Government as expressing a Want of Confidence.

Debate will be resumed to morrow.

J. S. Hay.

Arrival of the "Arabia."

Later from India.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

AMERICAN MEDIATION ACCEPTED.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE.

New York, Feb. 7.—The royal mail steamship Arabia, from Liverpool 23d ult., arrived at this port about 8 o'clock this evening.

Steamship Persia, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 16th, and the Arago on the 21st.

INDIA.

The mail from Bombay, telegraphic anticipations of which were brought out by the Canada, conveys little more than a confirmation of previous advices. It was generally argued by the English papers that the suppression of the rebellion in Oude would entail a serious amount of trouble, and require a continual stream of reinforcements.

A notice in the London *Gazette* reduces the standard of the troops serving in India to five feet three inches.

Telegraphic advices reached London on the 22d, on the arrival of the Calcutta mail at Alexandria, with dates to the 24th of December, and from Bombay to the 29th December. There is no further intelligence from Oude. The Furruckabad rebels had been completely defeated and dispersed after two engagements. Their guns were all captured. Communication by