

Local and other matters.

There have been several mercantile failures of late in Montreal.

The loss by the recent fire at Bridgeport, C. E., is estimated at \$12,000.

Real estate and rate of rents have deteriorated, it is said, ten per cent. within two years.

Patti got over \$50,000 worth of diamonds at her benefit in Moscow and over 300 baskets of flowers.

The Montreal "Star" comes to us in a new dress, obtained from the Dominion Type Foundry. It certainly looks well.

Sudden Death.—We regret to learn that George Woodberry, Esq., a well known resident of Wilmet, Annapolis County, was found dead in his bed on Sunday morning last.

Rain, formerly very rare in Lower Egypt, has become frequent in Alexandria and Cairo, the consequence of the extensive planting of the mulberry in that vicinity.

The Manitoba Legislature will adopt an address to the Dominion Government asking extension of time for the repayment of grasshopper relief advance of last year.

The coral fishes of Torre del Grico, Italy, are fitting out six large vessels for an expedition to the newly discovered coral reef between Bermuda and Nova Scotia next Spring.

An influential delegation from the County of Guysborough are in Halifax, to press upon the Government the propriety of a southern railway line through that County.

A cable despatch says a formidable Russian iron clad squadron will enter the Mediterranean in the Spring. The Grand Duke Constantine will command and Admiral Popoff will be the chief of staff.

We understand it is contemplated to ask the Legislature to pass an Act to authorize this County to borrow money to pay off railway mortgages—the debt thus incurred to be liquidated in five yearly instalments.

The Department of Marine has procured a gold watch, which the Government has awarded to Captain Osborne, of the American barque "Jayne," for heroic conduct in rescuing the crew of the ship "N. W. Blethen," of Yarmouth, N. S.

During the summer an English mission yacht, called the "Evangelist," traversed the southern coast of England and distributed Bibles and Testaments in various languages, and other religious reading to all of the vessels it met.

New Packet.—R. H. Bath, merchant of this town, and Mr. John E. Farnsworth, of Hampton, Bay Shore, are building a schooner 53 foot keel, 18 feet breadth of beam, 54 foot hold, for a general trader out of the river. Her carpenter's tonnage will be about 80 tons.

The "Printer's Miscellany" published at St. John, N. B., by Mr. Hugh Finley, is fast becoming a general favorite with the members of the fraternity which it is especially designed to benefit. Four pages have been added, making twenty four in all. Every printer should subscribe for it.

The will of P. P. Bliss, author of "Hold the Fort," has been admitted probate. The estate is valued at \$15,000. He leaves his mother \$200 a year, and the residue of his estate to his two sons, for their free use when they shall be twenty-one years of age. If his sons shall die before attaining their majority the property will go to the testators more distant relations.

Some weeks ago a man named Crouch, living near Sackville harbor, deserted his wife and child, the latter 18 months old, leaving them in destitute circumstances. The mother and child suffered great privations and have been supported by charity since. Ten days ago Mrs. Crouch gave birth to another child, which she burned to death in a stove. She was insane.

J. H. Carpenter of St. Louis has invented an improvement in the steering apparatus of screw steamers. It changes the motive power of the screw, so as to enable the vessel to turn around within her length, almost on her keel, and so completely controls the vessel that collisions are impossible except through the greatest carelessness. It does away with the necessity of employing tugs in order to turn the vessel and the apparatus raises or lowers the screw at will.

An important commercial association, says the Manchester "Guardian," has just made a suggestion to the Foreign Office in favor of the neutralization of the way to the East through the Suez Canal. This proposal has been made on account of the great advantages that would thereby accrue to the trade, shipping and commerce of this country. The method proposed is to place the control of the canal under a joint commission of European powers.

Telegraphic News.

A correspondent informs the Sheffield "Telegraph," that an urn full of old coins, dating 200 years after Christ, has been dug from the Cloud Hill Lime Rocks, Brecon, Leicestershire.

The workmen making the discovery, it is stated, sold them. The Secretary of State became acquainted with the circumstances and claimed them as "treasure-trove" belonging to the Crown.

Judge Walton edited the lookers-on at Skowhegan, Maine, the other day, though the bar looked a little solemn. He was about to sentence a criminal, when he discovered the chap cosily seated in the bar with his attorneys. The judge manifested great surprise, and requested that hereafter criminals might be placed outside the bar so that he could distinguish them from their counsel.

The number of pins produced daily in England is 50,000,000, of which Birmingham produced 37,000,000, leaving 13,000,000 as the production of London, Stroud and Dublin, where pins are also made. The weight of wire consumed annually in the pin manufacture of England is about one thousand two hundred and seventy-five and a half tons, or 2,867,130 pounds.

In 1843 there died in London a man named John Ellis, aged ninety-five. He was considered one of the finest and handsomest men in Europe, and probably more English people have seen his likeness than that of any but the greatest celebrities, because he had been sitting the greater part of his long life as a model and had amassed a competence by doing so. He died within a few hours after experiencing only illness he ever suffered.

The Y. M. C. Association here was cheered and profited by the fraternal visit of Mr. Carpenter last week. He is rambling among the Association in this Province to impart instruction and extend the helping hand of encouragement to these growing institutions. He has a clear vision of Bible truth, and his zeal in its elucidation is fervent and effective. He is a sort of missionary, laboring under the auspices of the American Y. M. C. A. Union.

Frozen to Death.—On the morning of the 5th inst., a party of lumbermen engaged in logging at West Dalhousie for Mr. James McMan found the body of a man frozen to death. On his person was a letter addressed to Joshua Marshall and another directed to Miss Susie Stirk, Arlington, Annapolis Co., N. S.

A coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict to the effect that the deceased was found frozen to death from exposure, was all that could be elicited. From enquiry made by us from parties living at Arlington, no doubt the unfortunate man found in the woods was Joshua Marshall as a man by that name has been living at Chesley Stirk's at Arlington, and left there about two months ago, for Nictaux. He was a son of Mr. Geo. Marshall, now a resident of the States, and has a number of relatives living in this County.

PARLIAMENT.—The British Parliament was opened on Thursday last. The Queen was on the Throne. The speech consisted of various topics, which have already been discussed by the politicians and the press during the year in reference to imperial interests. The following English despatch says:

The general impression prevails that the Opposition will not make a direct attack on the Government's Eastern policy, even the Liberal organs admit it impossible to do so successfully in the face of circumstances now known. Rumors, however, are circulating in Liberal circles of grave differences between the Marquis of Salisbury and his colleagues, and the probable resignation of Salisbury. The reports assert that Lord Beaconsfield and Derby are not pleased by Salisbury's failure, but that they largely contributed to it through the instrumentality of Sir Henry Elliott.

On the same day the Dominion Parliament was also opened. The speech of the Governor-General gives a fair outline of matters pertaining to Canadian interests and prospects. Simultaneously the Legislative Session of New Brunswick was inaugurated. The Lieutenant Governor's speech is not very indicative of the business to be transacted.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The interchange of tender billet-doux to-day will tend to increase the Dominion revenue through the Post Office department. A book wholly made up of to-day's valentines would afford curious reading. A person, not in the secret, supposing them the mental bantling of a single brain would imagine they had been penned either by a hopeless imbecile, or an incurable maniac. These missives, varying in other respects, are generally characterized by folly. Some aim to be witty—some are the simpering out-gushings of imagined or feigned love, and are there fore markedly glib; but all of them are unexceptionally nonsensical. Some of them have been in use for centuries; for instance Cuffee's to his cool black sweet-heart:

"The rose is red—the violet is blue— The Devil's black, and so are you." This couplet has long been in general use; but it still continues to be offered as something particularly smart, as well as original. Another is:

"If you'll be mine, I'll be thine." This, though reiterated every year, is less a general favorite than the other—but tastes differ. Each has its admirers. After all, this exhibition of mental imbecility once a year does nobody any harm, and if it is a source of pleasure to people of a peculiar type, it should be tolerated.

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Her Majesty alluded to her assumption of the imperial title at Delhi, which was welcomed with professions of affection and the tenderest sympathies, and which every resource will be employed.

The remainder of the speech is devoted to home matters. Earl Granville in the House of Lords, launched into the subject of Eastern affairs, severely criticizing Lord Beaconsfield.

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