Communication.

[FOR THE OBSERVER.]

MR. EDITOR,—An old correspondent, who is satisfied that a characteristic of your paper is the dissemination of truth in preference to the spread of surmises, calumnies, and falsehood, asks a place in your columns for the following observations and statement of facts.

There have lately appeared in the penny prints of this City, several communications purporting to expose certain corruptive acts of the Surveyor General in the maladministration of the duties of his office. He is accused of secretly permitting a number of men of station and means, to make purchases of lands at the advertised County Sale, in preference to others who wish to become actual settlers. He is also charged with distributing a hundred deeds of property to a band of serfs, to whom they can never be of any use, but that of enabling them to vote at elections, and thus swamp their county with surreptitous suffrages. It is not enough to give these flagrant assertions merely a flat denial, far less to let them pass without contradiction; but perhaps it will answer every good purpose to lay before the public a series of facts affecting the subject, and let them judge for themselves. It is to be regretted that one journalist, in commenting on the calumnies in question, should have so bitterly attacked the Editor instead of the article which he published. It is in the nature of things that the smallest modicum of truth may be so attenuated, that, in the expert hands of a scheming designer, it may be so spread over a vast tissue of misrepresentation and lies, as to give it, at least, the air of probability: like leaf-gold it may be beat out to an amazing extent, and being spread over a large and worthless mass of matter, give to it the appearance of its own intrinsic excellence. Just so with the slanderer—just so with the editor, blind to everything but party—and just so has a little truth been used in connection with the communications alluded to. But, Mr. Editor, what extent of truth was afforded to the penny press, by which they were able to gloss over with an appearance of probity, the gross falsehoods which they unblushingly published against the Surveyor General? Only this, that *a sale of lands was announced in the usual manner, and the sale took place.*

It would have been nothing more than prudent in the editors to have inquired into the truth of such serious imputations before he gave circulation to his correspondent's sweeping assertions, backed altho' they were by the additions of an M. P. P. But since he has not done so, he may stick up the following facts for future reference.

The Surveyor General's Department has never been so efficiently conducted since the days of Captain Sproule, as it now is under the Hon. R. D. Wilmot. His officials, Messrs. Inches, Gowan Lockwood, and others, are so well known to be thoroughly versed in their several duties, straightforward, obliging and courteous to the public, that party virulence itself is disposed to acknowledge their merits. It is futile and absolutely wicked to pretend that the poorest emigrant applying for information, or for the purchase of land at the Surveyor General's office, is ever sent away without every attention being paid to his inquiries. The mode of sale is established on proper principles, to prevent fraud by parties that the public know little or nothing about, and Mr. Wilmot has neither the opportunity, disposition, or power of favouring or injuring parties at these sales.

With respect to letting out tracts of timber land for lumbering, those immediately concerned know how to proceed. I was present at the great sale last summer. The office was too small for the large assemblage of as fine specimens of the Saxon race as could be drawn together. The day was beautiful, the people occupied the lawn, and Mr. Wilmot the window. The sale proceeded with the utmost decorum, and altho' spirited competition for berths occasionally occurred, all was attended with mutual good humour and satisfaction. It occupied several hours, and on inquiry I found that of the crowd of purchasers, not one individual was detained by the necessary transactions of the office beyond the following day.

Here was Mr. Wilmot executing an important part of his duties with ability, impartiality, and dispatch—affording every satisfaction and contentment to an industrial class, too intelligent to overlook, and too independent to put up with uncourteous treatment or injustice. I attended subsequent sales, of less extent, conducted by Messrs. Inches and Gowan, in the absence of the Surveyor General, and the system is so admirably arranged that it went on like clock-work. Sometimes sharp contentions take place, which only tend to excite an interest among the bystanders, and always end in the best feeling. Editors, who know little about the sale system, or care as little about anything which does not suit their violent party designs, should be armed at least with candour, and never allow themselves to stoop so low as to become panders to the worst of passions, and attempt to vilify public characters by detraction and falsehood, in which they are sure to be detected and valued accordingly. SIGMA.

The Observer.

St. John, Tuesday, Dec.. 20, 1853.

HOLIDAYS.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has directed, that all the public offices shall observe Monday, December 26th, and Monday, January 2d, as holidays this season; as Christmas day and New Year's day fall on Sundays. We believe it is universally understood also in this City, that those days will be observed as *general* holidays; as it would be manifestly unjust to deprive the industrious classes of the two principal of the very few holidays they are annually entitled to. The principal merchants and shopkeepers of Fredericton have published a notice in the last *Reporter*, announcing that on those days their stores will be closed, and business suspended.

☞ Next week, our paper will not be issued till Wednesday morning.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The semi-annual Visitation and Examination of the Public Grammar School in this City took place on Monday, the 19th inst.; and the several Classes were examined in the Classical and English branches, as usual. The number of Scholars is now 52, including 15 under the particular charge of Mr. Blanchard, the Assistant. The senior class, under Dr. Paterson, the Principal, are reading in the Greek Testament and Livy; the Agricola of Tacitus has also been commenced. The 2nd class is reading Virgil's Æneid; the 3d, Cæsar, and the 4th, Eutropius. The younger Boys are in the Latin Delectus and Grammar.

At the close of the examination, the Rev. Wm. Donald, on behalf of the Examiners, expressed much satisfaction with the manner in which the boys had acquitted themselves, and with the general correctness of their answers; and urged them to improve diligently the advantages which were secured to them by this Institution.

The usual holidays were then declared, and the School is to assemble again on Thursday the 5th January.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, Mr. John Boyd delivered a lecture, with the special view of pointing out, *by contrast*, the difference between the social condition of the *masses* in the *Old Country* and *those* in the *New*. We think he succeeded well in shewing that the preponderance lay in favour of the latter. We are sure, at least, he left the impression upon his audience, that there are many thousands in London, for instance, living in a state of the greatest degradation, ignorance and vice, to which we can find nothing like in this country. The pictures he drew were from his own inspection—realities,—things which he had witnessed,—scenes truly awful, heartrending, disgusting—and heightened not in the least degree by any imaginary conception. In speaking of *our own position* and *prospects*, he looked to the period, not far distant, when we should be connected with the neighbouring States and Sister Colonies by a tracery of railroads, and to the Parent Country by a line of Steamers, and uttered this as his conviction, that this Province is destined to rise to a height of moral greatness and commercial prosperity of which we can yet form but small conceptions. The language of the lecture was eloquent and stirring,—interwoven with metaphor—and sometimes highly poetical. And it was delivered with such earnestness and power, as indicated a feeling in the Lecturer's own mind that the thoughts he was giving forth should take a lodgement in the breasts of the dense and interesting audience he had before him. With such a feeling we entirely concur. May the impression be lasting.

Next Friday evening, the Rev. Dr. I. W. D. Gray will commence the course of Lectures designed for the benefit of the Young. The subject will be "*The importance of giving, at an early period, a right direction to the Intellectual Powers.*"

Young persons not possessing Season Tickets will be admitted to the whole course, for half a dollar, by applying to Mr. Hutchinson, the Secretary.

THE WEATHER.—Another week of remarkably mild and genial weather was terminated on Saturday night last, with one of the most impetuous rain-storms we have ever experienced. Deluging torrents poured down during the whole night and part of Sunday, which flowed the streets with miniature rivers; at night a sharp frost set in, and banished every vestige of humidity. Yesterday was dry and cold, and last night the coldness of the temperature rapidly increased; so that the change of weather has been both sudden and severe.

It is rumoured that his Excellency Sir Edmund W. Head has been offered the Governorship of British Guiana, at the reduced salary of £1000 per annum, being £500 more than his present official income. Whether his Excellency will accept the increased allowance, accompanied with a residence in an unhealthy climate and a much more expensive country than New Brunswick, is yet unknown.

The steamer *Admiral* will leave St. John on her last trip for the season on Friday morning next, 23d instant.

The Steamer *Crescent* (Messrs. Hatheway and Small, owners,) having been rebuilt and thoroughly repaired in the best modern style, left this morning for Portland, and we learn that she is intended to continue on that route during the winter, leaving St. John for Portland every Tuesday morning. This will be a great accommodation to the public. The Crescent is known to be an excellent seaboat; and we wish the proprietors every success.

The steamer *Humboldt*, wrecked near Halifax, has been abandoned by her late Captain and crew, and she is said to have gone to pieces.

☞ The *Fishery Draft* is announced to take place on Monday, the 16th January next; and the names of Freemen are to be taken by the Directors during the week commencing 2d of January.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN MAGAZINE.—We have received from Mr. Maclear, Toronto, the December number of this truly excellent Magazine, which continues increasingly to deserve the patronage of the public. The present number, besides a great variety of other valuable matter, contains a spirited article on New Brunswick; including the best and most truthfully written sketch of the City of St. John that we have ever seen. It is also embellished with a very good view of the City, as well as with a plate of the Fashions. The talent and enterprise displayed in this Colonial Periodical well entitle it to general favor; and as it comes *postage free* to Subscribers paying in advance, we hope it will be extensively patronised in the lower provinces. Enclosed with the Magazine, we received a copy of Blackie & Sons *Almanac* for 1854; which, although of a truly miniature size, is a very full and complete little publication.

LAUNCHES LAST WEEK.—On Thursday, from the ship yard of Joseph Sulis & Sons, in this city, the *William Jackson*, of 936 (31-94) tons, O. M., and 986 (30-100) N. M.; on Friday, from the yard of Mr. Hillyard, the *Class Merden*, a three decker, of 1,768 tons N. M., and 1,602 O. M., built for Messrs. J. D. W. Spurr & Co., Liverpool; on Saturday, from the building yard of Wm. Olive, Esq., Carleton, the *Queen of the East*, of 1,385 tons, classed for seven years; same day, from the yard of Mr. A. Sime, for A. McL. Seely, Esq., the *Bride of the Sea*, 1,618 tons, O. M., 1,344 tons register.

SHIP BUILDING AT QUEBEC.—Twenty-four shipbuilders have upon the stocks twenty-eight ships, the smallest of which is 650 tons. Three of them are 1750 tons, and only seven are under 1100. There is also a ship of 1300 tons building at Point aux Trembles, and one of 650 at Kingston, C. W. All are under the special superintendence of Lloyd's Surveyor, Thomas Menzies, Esq and most of them are intended for the highest classification of colonial ships. The aggregate tonnage of these vessels will be about 36,000.

☞ We have been requested to state that the report in the *Morning News* of the 12th inst., relative to a contract having been taken by a person near the Bend, for supplying 36,000 sleepers to the Railway, (and which was copied into our last paper) is wholly without foundation.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We regret to state that a sad accident occurred yesterday afternoon, at the place of the recent fire. It appears that Mr. John Hastings, the owner of the property destroyed on Saturday evening, in the Lower Cove, was assisting, with some hired men, in pulling down the chimney, when it suddenly fell, almost burying him in the rubbish, and inflicting some most severe bruises. We understand that his arm was dislocated, and his foot so badly crushed that amputation at the ancle was deemed necessary. Moody Lovett, a coloured man, assisting in pulling down the chimney, was instantly killed by the falling bricks, one of them striking him on the temple. Moody was a well-known person in this community, and his obliging disposition had gained him many friends.—*New Brans.*

FIRE.—On Saturday evening, a fire broke out in a small building at the East end of Sheffield-street, Lower Cove, which was destroyed. The adjoining building was somewhat injured. The property was owned by Mr. John Hastings.—*New Brans.*

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday afternoon last, two young men engaged in painting one of the masts of the new ship "Morning Star," were precipitated to the deck, a distance of about 40 feet, in consequence of the breaking of the plank upon which they were seated. They were both severely injured, and the recovery of one is considered very doubtful.—*Ib.*

The Provincial Revenue collected up to 1st Dec. 1853, amounts to the large sum of £180,850.—*Ib.*

ENGINE COMPANY, No. 9 [boys.]—This efficient Company in Carleton, have recently had presented to them, by William Olive, Esq., J. P., some very excellent India Rubber Hose, costing over £20. The same gentleman generously purchased the Engine now in possession of No. 9, and gave it to that body.—[Chron.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Justus S. Westmore, of King's County, Joseph F. Allison, of Westmoreland, Wm O. Smith, of Saint John, Thomas Murray, of York, and David Crocker, of Northumberland, Esquires, to be Commissioners under the 33rd Section of 14th Vic. Cap 1, intituled "An Act to incorporate the European and North American Railway Company."

By His Excellency's Command.
J. R. PARTELOW.

Secretary's Office, 13th December, 1853.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.—Monday, the 26th inst., and Monday January 2nd, will be observed as Holidays in all the Public Offices, in lieu of Christmas and New-year's, which fall on Sunday.

By His Excellency's Command.
J. R. PARTELOW.

Secretary's Office, 13th December, 1853.

Rear Admiral Arthur Fanshawe has been appointed to succeed Sir George Seymour as Naval Commander in chief on the North American and West India stations. The *Boscawen*, 74, is to be his flag ship.

Gas has been introduced at Augusta, Me., and many are enjoying its beautiful light.—The *Journal* says: "It is really a blessing to printers. Our old office walls, grim with the lamp smoke of twenty years, were astonished last night by a brilliant illumination that made the venerable spiders wink with amazement."

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.—In Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal, several public edifices have been erected, which, for chasteness of design or imposing massiveness, are creditable to the inhabitants of those cities and the liberality of Parliament. Municipal Councils and the Government seem to have been rivals in improvement. Market Houses—some, if not all, of which cannot be surpassed in any other country—have been built at the three aforementioned cities. Court Houses, Asylums, Colleges, Schools, Exchanges and Post Offices have been erected in Montreal and Toronto, without the slightest regard to cost. In Montreal, at this moment, a Court House, a Merchant's Exchange, and a Post Office, are being built, which for size and architectural design elicit universal admiration.—*Quebec Gazette.*

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—Mr. Samuel Wilkes, of Wolverhampton, in the year 1852 subscribed one guinea per day to the Wesleyan Missionary Society. At the commencement of the current year he raised the subscription to seven guineas daily, and at a recent meeting Mr. W. Rule, one of the speakers, read a note, of which the following is a copy:—"My dear sir,—your humble servant, Samuel Wilkes, a poor Wesleyan, purposes, with God's blessing, to give to the great missionary cause, for the year 1854, £18,779 5s. and he trusts that the triune God will enable him to perform this covenant."

A MIGHTY ORGAN.—Some interesting experiments have recently been made at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, with respect to the power required by an organ to fill the building, and a report has been presented to the directors on the subject. As the central transept alone covers a larger area than is occupied by the cathedral at York, some idea of the vast size and power of an instrument which should be heard in all parts of the building may be formed. The committee report that the area required for the instrument would not be less than 5,400 feet, the depth of the organ 59 feet, and its altitude from the ground 140 feet. The cost will not be less than £25,000, and its construction would extend over a period of three years.

DESTRUCTION OF THE HARPERS' PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, NEW YORK.

The New York papers furnish particulars in regard to the burning of Messrs. Harper & Brothers' printing and publishing establishment on Saturday, 10th inst.

The establishment of the Messrs. Harper consisted of seven lofty brick buildings, five stories in height, extending through from Pearl to Cliff-street, occupying a large area. They were all destroyed.

The fire broke out about one o'clock in the afternoon, and spread through the buildings with almost incredible rapidity. It is said to have been caused by a boy dropping a lighted match in some camphene, in the room where the rollers were washed, setting fire to the camphene, which instantly spread in all directions. Many of the work people had just returned from dinner, and had scarcely resumed their employment when the alarm was given. Several girls escaped by jumping out of the windows, and one who did so broke a leg by the fall. She was caught by the crowd and her life saved.

The firemen were promptly on the ground, but owing to the great body of fire issuing from Pearl and Cliff streets, their efforts did not in the least appear to check the fire.

When the fire broke out the wind was northerly, but it gradually shifted to the west, and carried the flames across Pearl-street, setting fire to the Mansion House and the Franklin-street hotel.—These buildings were badly burned in the upper stories. The wind again shifted to the southward causing the destruction of the whole block on the western side of Pearl-street.

The heat was intense, but the brave firemen laboured with undaunted energy.

This fire is a dreadful calamity, not only on account of the immense value of the property destroyed, but on account of the great number of workpeople who are thrown out of employment at this inclement season of the year.

The blank book manufactory of George T. Cooledge & Brother, No. 323 Pearl-street, adjoining the Harper's buildings, and the old Walton House on the opposite side of the street, were destroyed.

Besides the immediate destruction of property the embarrassment and delay in carrying out their arrangements caused to the Messrs. Harper, by a calamity of this sort, at this season of the year, must involve a large loss.

The hands, numbering some 600, had returned from dinner, and with the exception of two girls are reported to have escaped injury.

The amount of property destroyed is very heavy—larger, probably, than any single establishment in this country has ever before been called to sustain. The whole amount of property in the buildings is estimated at $1,055,000. On this amount $450,000 is saved. The Harpers, as an invariable rule, stereotype every book they publish, and fortunately these stereotype plates were saved in vaults extending under the sidewalk. Their value is $100,000, and next to the stock of books, the most valuable portion of the concern. The value of the books destroyed was $800,000. Upon this immense amount of property, the Harpers had insurances to the amount of only about $250,000, so that their net loss will not be much short of *one million of dollars.* The small amount of insurance was owing to the combustible nature of the materials stored.

Notwithstanding the enormous loss they have sustained, the Harpers announce that their Magazine for January will be issued within a few days of its usual time.

Most of the men employed in the press room were compelled to rush out for their lives, being unable to seize even their hats or coats. All the presses were at work, but not one of them, nor even one of the stereotype plates upon them, could be saved. As soon as the alarm was given in the business office, Col. John Harper, the financial partner, took $3000 which was lying in his desk, called the bank clerk, gave him the book of a bank where he knew his account had been slightly overdrawn, and sent him to deposit the amount—fearing lest the bank officers should be uneasy after the fire. He then went to the head of the stairs leading to the press room and seeing the hopelessness of attempting to save anything, directed the engineer to make his way to the boiler and let off the steam. The other members of the firm gathered together all the books of accounts, subscriptions, receipts, &c., and put them into the large safe, which was dragged out and left on the sidewalk of Pearl-street, where it still remains.—Their desks with their contents were also saved.

Col. John Harper was employed in one of the lower counting-rooms when the startling announcement was brought him that the building was on fire, coupled with the inquiry—"What part of the property shall we save first, Sir?"

'Never mind the *property*,' replied Mr. Harper—'save the *lives*.'

'This is a sad calamity, Sir,' said a friend to Mr. John Harper, alluding to the conflagration—'a large number of poor persons thrown out of employment.'

'Ah, Yes,' answered Mr. Harper. 'God bless them, they must be seen to.'

The establishment of the Messrs. Harper embraced Nos. 327, 329, 331, 333 and 335 Pearl-street, and Nos, 82, 84, 86 and 88 Cliff-street, one of the latter being a double building. The Pearl street warehouses were all new first class buildings, constructed with reference to security against fire, from which element the firm had once before suffered, although to only a limited extent. No fires were allowed on the premises, except in the engine room which was made fire proof—the entire establishment being heated by steam pipes, which were introduced at an expense of over ten thousand dollars.

Among many new books which were consumed, is, *Dr. Kane's History of his Arctic Explorations*—a large octavo, profusely illustrated with engravings, which had been ready for some days, but was kept back until a larger supply could be secured. We believe that Henry Grinnell, Esq., had received a copy of the work, so that it will not have to be re-written, as well as re-issued. Several other books were in a similar condition.

AUSTRALIA.—At Melbourne, the rage for land speculation is at its height. A curious instance occurred the other day. Mr. Wentworth had some property in the heart of the town of Melbourne, which was valued two years ago at £2000. He sold it some months back for £20,000, payable in instalments over a length of time. The other day the identical lot was again put up, and realised £63,000. Similar instances might be adduced *ad infinitum*; and I do not yet see any reason to anticipate a collapse, though the time must come when the top will be reached.

At Melbourne the most extravagant speculations in town lots and houses have been carried on, and a few knowing ones have cleared immense sums of money. The *Argus* and *Morning Herald* have been going ahead at such a tremendous rate that every scrap of paper in the colony is consumed, and one of the worthy proprietors of each paper is permanently established in a boat in Hobson's Bay, looking for the arrival of ships, and *à l'envie* every available sheet of demy or double demy at any price. The *Argus* boasts a circulation of 11,000, and spends £30,000 a year in paper alone.

Zinc houses are advertised for sale in the Melbourne papers, "suitable for offices or dwellings," 10 feet by 13 feet 6 inches in the clear. A hut with five rooms in it lets for £8. 8s. a week, and so on. A man refused £15,000 the other day, cash down, for a little store which might have cost £1000 to put up six months ago.

The Yankees are becoming numerous in Melbourne.

A new hotel was about to be opened in Melbourne, by two Americans. It is predicted that they will speedily amass a fortune.

In Sydney we have a good many of our Californian cousins; but they soon "slope" down south, the metropolis being far too steady-going a place for them.

The timber trade has so rapidly increased in Van Diemen's Land that orders have been sent to England for as many as fifty sawmills. Cutting and mining, says the local Colonist, is a mode more lucrative than gold mining. The average of weekly earnings of diggers bears no comparison with an equal number of our sawyers. This is a well authenticated fact.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS.—On Thursday a deputation waited on the Duke of Newcastle, at the colonial-office, to lay before him the outline of a project for the construction of a great direct railway from Sydney to Melbourne. The proposed railway would be 500 miles in length, and the estimated cost about £2,250,000; or under £3000 a mile. The noble Duke said he would have great pleasure in sending out the plans and charts to the Colonial Legislature, who must take the initiative in promoting the project before the Colonial Department in England would feel itself at liberty to interfere.—*London paper, Nov. 26.*

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

(*By Telegraph to the News Room.*)

The steamship *Asia* arrived at New-York on Thursday last, at six o'clock, P. M.

No movement of magnitude had taken place on the Danube, but continued skirmishing was going on.

The Turks are obtaining brilliant success in Asia.

Two naval fights had taken place on the Black Sea. In one, the Russian frigate Waldeman was captured by a Turkish steam ship. In the other, an Egyptian war steamer of 10 guns, was captured by the Russians after a desperate resistance.

The Turkish fleet was preparing to bombard Sebastopol.

A difficulty had occurred between Servia and Turkey.

Further diplomatic attempts in favour of peace are being made by the Western powers.

A revolution is reported in Portugal, in favour of Don Miguel.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.—Breadstuffs—Large importations from America have reduced Wheat 6d, and Flour 1s. 2d. Corn unchanged.

TRADE WITH TURKEY AND RUSSIA.—A late parliamentary return shows the British exports to Turkey and Russia. In the last year given (1851) the declared value of British produce and manufactures exported to Turkey (European and Asiatic), including Wallachia and Moldavia, Syria, and Palestine, was £2,581,230, and to Russia, £1,289,704. Manchester, it would seem, benefitted greatly by Turkey. The cotton manufactures entered by the yard to Turkey were of the declared value of £1,745,189, while to Russia they only amounted to £30,257. The hosiery, lace, &c., to Turkey were of the value of £17,625, and to Russia, £18,589, while the cotton-twist and yarn to Turkey were valued at £514,852, and to Russia, £176,271.

Sir Henry Watkin Williams Wynn, who since 1817, that is for thirty-six years, has been Minister Plenipotentiary of England at the Court of Denmark, has on his own demand, been recalled, and intends to retire to private life. Having dined with the King on the 5th, the next day the venerable diplomatist was accompanied to the port by the Prince of Denmark, the Landgrave of Hesse, all the diplomatic body, and a great number of distinguished pessonages.

The Duke of Bedford has become an Irish landlord. He has purchased a part of Mr. Kirwan's property in Galway for £40,000. The total sum realised by the estate was £88,850, equal to 171-2 years' purchase. It is said that a few days before the sale took place, a sum of £107,000 was offered for this estate on the part of the Duke of Bedford.

STEAM TO CANADA.—Ocean steamers to the St. Lawrence are likely to be abundant. Messrs. M'Kean and M'Larty advertise three new ones, of 1,750 tons, to be called the Ontario, Erie, and Huron, to run in connection with the Sarah Sands and Cleopatra, as a semi-monthly line in summer to Montreal, and a monthly line in winter to Portland. These vessels are to be completed and on the line next season. Messrs. Edmonstone and Allan have got up another line, to consist of three iron steam screw ships of 1,800 tons burthen each, to run a monthly line between Britain and Montreal in summer, and Boston in winter. The vessels of this line are contracted for, and the first is to be ready in June next. They are to be fitted with engines of 350 horse power, which are guaranteed to propel the vessels ten knots an hour, so as to make the passage from Liverpool to Quebec in a period not exceeding twelve days. Messrs. Gilmour and Co., of Quebec, are also going to build seven steam-ships of 2000 tons each, to run between Quebec, Liverpool, Glasgow, and London. There are other vessels subscribed for, or proposed, the particulars of which have not yet been made public.

The Earl of Seafield was, on Wednesday, elected a Scottish representative peer, in the room of Lord Saltoun, deceased.

Letters from Trebizond mention that a Greek, who was paying his attentions to a Turkish lady, bought off a rival, who, proving faithless to the agreement between them, invited him to dinner, and, whilst conversing across the table, the Greek shot him through the head.

The oldest vessel in the French fleet is the Ocean. She was launched in November, 1790, and is consequently 63 years old. Her last thorough repair took place in 1836.

The *Sun* calls the *Times* "England's notorious and brazen weathercock."

THE POULTRY MANIA.—A cock has been sold within this year for £100, and twenty-two fowls have realised by auction £420. A pair of Toulouse geese have fetched £50, and ducks proportionate prices.

The population of Britain, it is calculated, has decreased during the summer. In the quarter ending September 30th, 87,458 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom; of these 63,600 sailed from Liverpool.

A PARISIAN CELEBRITY.—One of the celebrities of the public balls of Paris was buried on Tuesday, having been carried to the grave from her hotel in the Rue Caumartin. Mademoiselle Olympe, employed as a boot-binder, about two years ago, never missed a ball at Asnieres or Mabille's, and at the former place she so captivated a German baron that he married her. He died about eight months ago, leaving her from 30,000f. to 40,000f. a year. After his death she became melancholy, and her health declined. She went on Sunday to drive in the Bois de Boulogne, and on the return of the carriage to the hotel, the footman, on letting down the steps, found his mistress did not alight. She was lying dead on the seat. She had only reached her 22nd year—*Galignani's Messenger.*

A column, consisting entirely of glass, placed on a pedestal of Carrara marble, and surmounted by a statue of Peace, six feet high, by the celebrated sculptor Rauch, is about to be erected in the garden of the palace at Potsdam, near Berlin.

CONSTANTINOPLE, NOV. 16.—General Baraguay d'Hilliers has made his first official appearance at the Divan.

The Sultan has addressed a congratulatory letter to Omer Pacha, and presented that general with his favourite horse.

General Prim, Lord Worsley, Captains Bathurst and Herbert Wilson, and Lieutenant Buckley, were with Omar Pacha in the battle of Oltenitza.

The greatest excitement prevails in Affganistan. Dost Mahomed has declared to the Shah of Persia that the Affghans are at war with the Russians, that he means to attack them in the direction of Chirvan, and that he is resolved to march through the Persian territories—with the Shah's consent if the Shah will give it, against it if such consent be refused.

The Khan of Bokhara has been killed by a band of rioters, mostly Affghans. His place is taken by his late Grand Vizier, an Affghan prince, called Ildhirim the Thunderbolt.

MALTA, NOV. 23.—The Terrible, with Admiral Sir L. Lyons on board, arrived on the 18th, and continued on her voyage to Constantinople on the 19th instant.

The Queen, of 116 guns, arrived from England on the 22d instant.

Letters from Belgrade state that the difficulties between the Porte and Servia are settled. The Turks are to garrison the cities on the border, and the contingent of 12,000 men will be permitted to join the army on the Danube.

In addition to the steamer lost on the coast of Batoum the Russians have met with another disaster of a similar kind in the loss of one of the finest vessels of the navy, the Yeni Kale. The ship had left Odessa for Sebastopol and Yalta, and having struck on the rocks, in a few minutes filled and went down. Owing to the calmness of the weather the crew escaped in the boats. Letters from Smyrna mention that the Superior Government of Odessa have decidedly rejected the demand of Prince Menchikoff to prohibit the exportation of grain. On the contrary, orders were given to continue, as heretofore, to send grain to the foreign ships, without any impediment.

A meeting of editors, authors, publishers, and printers, was held at Philadelphia, on the 19th of October, to deliberate upon the ways of raising money to erect a monument over the grave of Benjamin Franklin.

JAPAN CUSTOMS.—A very singular custom at the marriage of the Japanese is, that the teeth of the bride are made black by some corrosive liquid. The teeth remain black ever after, and serve to show the woman is married or a widow. Another circumstance is, at the birth of every child, to plant a tree in the garden or court-yard, which attains its full growth in as many years as a man requires to mature for the duties of marriage. When he marries the tree is cut down, and the wood is made into chests and boxes to contain the clothes and other things which are made for the new-married couple. The Japanese may marry as often as they please; marriage with sisters are prohibited; but they can marry any other relative.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD.—This Railroad is being steadily proceeded with, 23½ miles having been completed and in operation. The whole length of the road from the Atlantic to the Pacific, will be 40 miles. Mr. Totton, Chief Engineer, in his annual report, estimates that, with no drawbacks, the entire road may be completed in six months after the whole force of the company is employed. The greater portion of laborers now at work is composed of natives. Arrangements are made for the importation of 700 additional coolies from China, and 2000 New Grenadians. Irish labourers are not so efficient on the isthmus as in colder and healthier climates. The coolies after a few months become steady, temperate and industrious workmen: while the natives of New Grenada take to the pick, shovel and wheelbarrow as naturally as an Irishman takes to a potato. They are the best labourers that can be procured.—*Am. paper.*

Proposals for an Inland Sea.—The interior of Australia—a barren sandy desert—has been found to be considerably below the level of the sea. It is now proposed to employ British convicts in cutting a narrow canal from the ocean to the desert, a distance of about 250 miles, when it is expected that the rush of water will be so great as to widen the canal and cause the formation of an inland sea almost as large as the Mediterranean, to the incalculable benefit of a vast extent of territory at present wholly useless.

The Sons of Scotland resident in Cincinnati, are raising a subscription for the benefit of the widow of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, who is in Scotland, and said to be in deep distress.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Upon reconsideration we have to state that we must decline publishing Mr. Philo M. Raymond's last communication. The specific charges of fraud and embezzlement which it makes against an individual, whether they be true or false, are so decidedly libellous in the view of the law, when published in a newspaper, that we cannot become a party to such publication. If Mr Raymond and his friends can substantiate such charges, and have an interest in doing so, they should adopt the means provided for them by the laws of the country; and if, again, they conceive that they have good grounds for impugning the moral character of a clergyman, they should formally and fearlessly accuse him to his ecclesiastical superiors, and demand his suspension from his sacred functions. Newspaper communications are not the proper mode of proceeding in such serious cases.—*Ed. Obs*

☞ BOOK RECEIVED.—We have received, through Messrs. J. & A. McMillian, from Messrs. Phillips, Sampson & Co., of Boston, a copy of "*Christ in History, or the Central power among Men*;" by ROBERT TURNBULL, D. D.; an admirable work, which we shall notice more particularly next week.

GLEASON'S PICTORIAL.

On the first of January next, "GLEASON'S PICTORIAL" will commence its *sixth volume*, and will appear vastly improved in all respects, with a superb new heading, new type and dress throughout and will be printed upon the finest paper. As the proprietor of the "Pictorial" has purchased the entire good-will of Barnum's New York "Illustrated News," and has merged that journal in the "Pictorial," the public will reap the advantage of this concentration of the strength of the two papers upon one, both in the artistic and the literary departments. The same brilliant host of contributors and artists will be engaged on "Gleason's Pictorial" as heretofore, and a large addition is also made to the corps, both in talent and number. The most liberal arrangements have been completed, and such as will enable the proprietor to produce by far the finest illustrated journal yet published, and much superior to the present issue of the paper. The columns of the "Pictorial" will constantly be beautified by all that can please and instruct in art and nature, and its literary department will fully sustain the high reputation it has so long enjoyed.

The pages of "Gleason's Pictorial" will contain views of every populous city in the known world, of all buildings of note in the eastern or western hemisphere, of all the principal ships and steamers of the navy and merchant service, with fine and accurate portraits of every noted character in the world, both male and female. Sketches of beautiful scenery, taken from life, will also be given, with numerous specimens from the animal kingdom, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, and will present in its mechanical execution an elegant specimen of art. It will contain fifteen hundred and sixty-four square inches, giving a great amount of reading matter and illustrations—and forming a mammoth weekly paper of sixteen octavo pages.

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☞ Sold in St. John by CHALONER & HUNT and T. WALKER & SON.

Married.

At Portland, on the 24th Nov., by the Rev. William Smithson, Mr. William Turner, to Miss Mary Jane Moory

At same place, by the same, on the 11th inst., Mr. Joseph Livingstone, to Miss Mary Dunlap.

On the 7th inst., by the Rev. W. H. DeVeber, Mr. E Jeffries, of Sussex, to Miss Mary Ann Forsyth, of Upham King's County.

On the 8th, by the same, Mr. John Walker, of Upham, King's County, to Miss Elizabeth Scott, of St Martins, County of St. John.

Died.

On Friday morning in the 45th year of her age, Hannah, wife of Mr. Edward Sears, and daughter of the late David Hatfield, Esq.

On Thursday, in the 66th year of her age, Mary, relict of the late Francis Leavitt, Esq.

On Friday afternoon, Mary, relict of the late Matthew Holdsworth, Esq., aged 39 years.

On Thursday evening, Bridget, daughter of Mr. James Toal, aged 7 years and 10 months

On Thursday morning, Charles Halpin, youngest child of William and Mary Wilson Causey, aged six years.

On Wednesday, 14th inst., Bethiah Jewett, infant daughter of Mr. B. Tilton.

On Saturday morning, 10th inst, after an illness of five months, which he bore with pious resignation to the Divine Will, aged 15 years and 6 months, a native of Coleraine, Ireland. His end was peace.

On Thursday, the 15th Dec., second daughter of Robert and Mary Allison aged 11 years.—Also on Friday, the 16th, Robert, the eldest son, aged 8 years and 9 months, both of scarlet fever.

On Friday night, of scarlet rash, Allan Ross, aged 2 years and 8 months, child of Mr. Robert M'Laughlan.

At Portland on the 15th inst., Mrs. Rethburn, aged 54 years, after two days excruciating pain.

On the 14th inst., Mr. John Donovan, a native of the County of Cork, Ireland, aged 65 years.

At her residence in Carleton, on the 9th inst. after a few months illness, Mrs Maria S. Haviland, in the 64th year of her age, relict of the late Sylvanus Haviland, of Westfield, King's County.

In Carleton, on Tuesday last, Mr. Peter Fegan, a native of Rosstrevor, County Down, Ireland, aged 47 years.

In Carleton on Saturday morning, Mrs. Bathsheba Lord aged 70 years.

At Gagetown, on the 8th inst., Mr Thomas Hamilton, in the 76th year of his age.

At Clementsvale, Nova-Scotia, on the 1st inst., Mrs. Boice, wife of Mr. Jacob Boice, one of the Loyalists of 1783.

On board the ship American Congress, on her passage from Portsmouth to New York, Mr. Alonzo Nowlin, of St. John N. B.

MARINE JOURNAL.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN.—ARRIVED

Wednesday—Steamer Admiral, Wood, Boston—G. Thomas, passengers and merchandise.

Friday—Ship Phæton, Spencer, Boston, 6 days—J. Hamilton, ballast.

Brigt. Antelope, Holder, New York,—T. McHenry, general cargo.

Kendall, Cathrin, Savannah,—T. McHenry, pitch pine timber.

Schr. Wilmot, Doyle, Halifax, 4—C. M. Gove, oats.

Saturday—Ship Barbara, Houston, Port Glasgow—R, Rankin & Co., coals.

Brig Clare, Pinkney, Boston, 9—Chas. McLauchlan, ballast.

Vixen, Moore, Surinam, 39—Edward Allison, general cargo.

Schr. Robert Miller, Wilson, St. George's—G. Eaton, ballast.

Hero, Knight, Boston, 3—G. Eaton, ballast.

Sunday—Schooner Martha Grenew, Boston, master assorted cargo.

Monday—Ship Pedestrian, Soley, Milford, 32—John Fisher, general cargo.

Packet-ship John Barbour, Marshall, Liverpool, 32—J. & R. Reed, passengers and goods.

Ladies' Cloth and Prunella Boots.

THE Subscriber will receive per steamer *Admiral*—A consignment of FOURTEEN CASES of Ladies, Misses, and Children's Cloth, Prunella, and Casshmere BOOTS—which he offers for sale at wholesale.

Dec, 20. S. K. FOSTER