Extracts from late English Papers.

OREGON.—The following is the conclusion of Lord Aberdeen's Speech on this subject, in the House of Lords, in answer to Lord Clarendon:—

"The Oregon negotiation was founded upon the principle of an amicable adjustment by the mutual concession of extreme claim on both sides, and on that principle it will be continued. My noble friend has by no means expressed any censure of the mode of proceeding that Her Majesty's Government have adopted in this matter; at the same time, I have seen in other places some intimation, some apprehension of too great concessions, of a total abandonment of what is called "the high tone;" altogether, I am accustomed almost daily to see myself characterized as pusillanimous, cowardly, mean, dastardly, truckling [illegible] (A laugh.) I hope I need not say that I vie[illegible] appellations with indifference, I view them [illegible]ed, really with satisfaction; because I know perfectly well what they mean, and how they ought to be and are translated. I feel perfectly satisfied that these vituperative terms are translated as applicable to conduct consistent with justice, reason, moderation, and common sense, and I therefore feel, as I said before, really not indifferent, but positively satisfied when I see such observations. (Loud cheers.) I believe I may conscientiously say that no man ever filled the high situation which I have the honor unworthily to hold, who felt more ardently desirous than I do to preserve to the country the blessings of peace, or who would make greater sacrifices to maintain it. My lords, I consider war to be the greatest folly, if not the greatest crime, of a which a country could be guilty, if lightly entered into; and I agree with an hon. writer who said, that if a proof were wanted of the deep and thorough corruption of human nature, we should find it in the fact that war itself was sometimes lawful. (Cheers.) It is the duty, and I am sure it is the inclination of Her Majesty's Government to preserve peace; at the same time, there are limits which must not be passed; and I say that without attaching too much weight to questions of honor, for I think fortunately for this country, that we need not be very sensitive on these matters—it is not for us, God knows, to seek the "bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth," or anywhere else; our power, our character and position are such as to enable us to look with indifference on that of which other countries might be perhaps more jealous—(cheers,)—but our honour is substantially property that we can certainly never neglect, and most assuredly we may owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to adopt a course contrary to all our desires—to all our inclinations. My lords, from what I have said your lordships will perceive an earnest of the spirit of peace which shall pervade this matter, if I continue to conduct this negotiation; and I cannot bring myself to think that at this day any civilized Government would desire to see any other course pursued; and I hope, therefore, and fully believe, that we shall have the happiness of seeing this important question brought to a satisfactory and amicable conclusion. (Loud cheers.) Should it be otherwise, I can only say that we possess rights which, in our opinion, are clear and unquestionable, and by the blessing of God, and with your support, those rights we are fully prepared to maintain. (The noble lord resumed his seat amidst loud and general applause.)

Sir Robert Peel concluded his remarks on the same subject, in the Commons, as follows:—

"As the subject has been brought under discussion, and I think not improperly by the noble lord, I feel it my imperative duty, on the part of her Majesty's Government, to state, in language the most temperate, but most decided, that we consider we have rights in respect to the territory of the Oregon which are clear and unquestionable; that we trust still to effect an amicable adjustment of these claims—that we desire to effect that adjustment—but having exhausted every effort to effect that arrangement, if our rights are invaded, we are resolved, and are prepared to maintain them.—(Immense cheering from both sides of the House.) That declaration on my part may induce the house, although I believe each individual member of it has a right to enter into the present discussion, to refrain from raising one, considering that such a discussion in a public assembly, although it may be justifiable, may yet have a tendency to prevent that result we must all desire. I confess, therefore, it would be satisfactory to me, if notwithstanding the provocation to discussion, individual members of the house would leave this matter where [illegible] the hands of Her Majesty's Government." (Loud cheers.)

It is stated that the day for the departure of the Queen from England, for the sister country, at present stands fixed for the 28th of July: it is not, however, decided whether the royal party will sail from the Holyhead or the Thames—if the latter, the landing will probably be at Cork, if the former port be selected, of course the direct line to Kingstown will be adopted. It is arranged that two ships of war, of the largest size afloat, will accompany the royal yacht.

The new Parliament House will not be ready for occupation before 1847, and the whole estimated cost is £928,913.

MERCANTILE AFFAIRS.—Prices generally have ruled firm for Colonial produce since our last, and the markets have been sparingly supplied with all articles; the business transacted by private treaty has been limited, and only a small quantity of produce has been offered at auction. The deliveries of all articles from the bonded warehouses are, however, on the increase, and stocks of goods are not so large as they were two weeks back. Produce, suited for exportation, is held with firmness, but the orders at present are not of much moment. For articles for manufacturing purposes the market has a firm appearance, and the time is near at hand when a large demand for every article may be expected. The orders for British iron are still larger than the market can execute. Arrivals of produce have commenced to come in more freely. The public sales declared are numerous and important.—*London New Price Current.*

Scottish Banks.—We have reports from various sources, all affirming that Sir Robert Peel has abandoned his intention of interfering with our one-pound notes. A correspondent of the *Argus*, mentioning this, adds what we also observe stated in different quarters,—that "by the new measure the existing banks are to be limited to their present circulation, and that they will be forced to keep an amount of gold equal to one-fifth of that circulation, with the option of having one-fourth of that fifth in silver; so that if the circulation of a bank be £200,000, it must keep £40,000 in Sovereigns to meet the demands upon it, or else £30,000 in sovereigns, and £10,000 in silver. Any bank that exceeds its present circulation must have gold to meet every pound of such excess."—The following is from the Dublin Post of Tuesday:—Our London correspondent informs us, in a letter dated Saturday, that "Sir Robert Peel does not at present contemplate the abolition of bank notes under £5 in Scotland or Ireland; but that the banks in these countries are to be strictly limited in their issues of small notes, to an average of three or five years up to the end of 1844."

NEW BARRACKS.—We understand that Government has purchased the lands of Broomhill, to the north of this city, for the erection of cavalry and infantry barracks. The price paid for the property is said to amount to nearly £30,000.—[Glasgow.

DEATHS.—London papers announce the decease of Sir John Gurney, late [illegible] the Barons of the Exchequer—of Lord Wynford, former Chief Justice of the Common Pleas—of Mr. Drummond Hay, late British Consul at Tangiers—of Admiral Carpenter—of Major Generals George James Reeves, and Sir Thomas Corsellis—of Lieut. Generals Pritchard and L'Estrange—and of General Sir Charles Wale.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Sunday evening, Mr. Geo. Cameron, local prescher of Felling, expired in the pulpit of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel of that place. He went through the routine of the different portions of the service, and preached a sermon with great solemnity. After he had pronounced the benediction, and the congregation were in the act of dispersing, he sat down, and in five minutes after, when he was expected to leave the pulpit, he was found a corpse.

Monster Gun for America.—A monster gun has just been manufactured by Messrs. Forastee & Preston, of Liverpool, which is intended to replace the one that burst on board one of the American war steamers, a short time ago, killing the Secretary of State, and wounding several other official personages. It it made of malleable iron, is 12 feet long, and weighs 11 tons, 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.

First Arrival of Sugar from the United States.—On the 9th inst., the American ship Genoonia arrived in Liverpool, bringing, as part of her cargo, twelve hogsheads of Louisiana sugar. This is the first arrival of American-grown sugar in this country.

Failure of an American House in Glasgow.—Advices from Glasgow mention the failure of Messrs. J. & G. Pattison & Co., of that place who have a house in New York, and who have done a large business. Their debts are said to amount to upwards of £160,000.

The American packet ship Switzerland has arrived in St. Katherine Docks, with a large cargo of beef, pork, cheese, and other American provisions.

The New Bishop.—The Queen has approved of the appointment of Dr. Turton, the Dean of Westminster, to the vacant see of Ely.

Father Mathew is wanted in Switzerland. A Geneva journal states that in the Canton Schaffhausen there are three hundred and eighty-seven public houses, being in the proportion of one to eleven houses throughout the Canton.

The Paris Constitutionnel announces that "the Grand Duchess, consort of the Czarewitz Alexander, the presumptive heir to the throne of Russia, gave birth on the 10th to a Prince, who was named after his father. The delivery of the Princess was announced to the people of St. Petersburgh by a salute of 301 rounds."

THE COLONIES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

On the 6th of June, 1844, an address was made to the Crown by the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Hume, M. P. for Montrose, for various returns relative to the colonies, and the population and trade thereof. The result of this address has been the presentation to Parliament of an interesting paper, which was ordred to be printed a few days ago. We annex the following particulars, gleaned from the statistical information afforded by the returns before us:—

1. Of our colonies in North America, including Upper and Lower Canada, New-Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland, it appears that the gross total amount of the population amounted in 1842, or at the last census to 1,621,152 souls; that the official value of their imports into the united kingdom amounted in 1842 to £1,391,255; that the total exports thereto from the united kingdom amounted (according to the official value) to £4,445,525, of which £3,874,160 consisted of English and Irish produce and manufactures so exported amounted to £2,280,481. The number and tonnage of their vessels entered inwards in the united kingdom were respectively 1,552, and 540.448 tons, and of those cleared outwards, 1,329 and 445 570 tons.

Of the West Indian colonies the population amounted to 901.082; the official value of their imports to £6,015,765 and that of the exports thither from this country to £5,376 521, of which £5,017,664 consisted of British and Irish produce and manufactures. The declared value of the latter was £2,591,424. The number of vessels entered inwards amounted to 714, (191.688 tons) and the number of those cleared outwards to 806 (261.344 tons).

Of all our separate colonies (taken together), including Gibraltar, Malta, and Gozo, the Cape Sierra Leone, Gambia, the Gold Coast, Ceylon, Mauritius, New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, Western Australia, Southern Australia, New Zealand, the Falkland Islands, St. Helena, and Hongkong, the population amounten to 2,152,101 souls; the official value of the imports into this country to £3,087,909! the official value of the exports thither from the united kingdom to £7,496,624; of which £6,859,080 consisted of British and Irish produce and manufactures. The declared value of the British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted to £3,198,812. The number of ships entered inwards therefrom 522 (128,593 tons), and the number cleared outwards hence 852 (204,192 tons).

The general details show that of our vast and extensive colonial possessions in all parts of the globe (of course without including India), the population amounts to 4,674,335 souls (one fourth of the population of Great Britain); the total value of their imports into the united kingdom to £10,495,019, and of their exports from united kingdom to £17,318,670; the declared value of the exports thereto of the produce and manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland to £8,070,717; the number of their ships entered inwards to 2788, tonnage 860,729, and the number cleared outwards, to 3077, tonnage 911,033.

Taking the declared value of our produce and manufactures exported to the colonies, it will be found on inquiry that the Canadas take £1,589,169; Jamaica, £1,161,146; Gibraltar, £937,719; Malta, £289,304; the Cape, £369,076; New S'th Wales, £598,645; and Van Dieman's Land, £268,730. The trade with Hong Kong is this year undistinguished from the general trade with the Chinese empire.

Almost all our Colonies are governed by a governor, council, and assembly, by acts of parliament, and by orders in council. Honduras alone is governed by a superintendent and magistrates. For the information of young historical students it may be interesting to state the manner in which some of these colonies came into our possession. The Canadas capitulated in 1759 and 1760, and were ceded by the French Government at the treaty of Paris in 1763. The other American colonies were originally fisheries and settlements, established soon after their discovery in 1479. Anigua and Barbadoes, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Tortola, Anguilla, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, are settlements made during the 17th century; Dominica and Grenada were ceded by France in 1763; Jamaica capitulated to the naval forces of Cromwell in 1655: St. Lucia capitulated in 1803; St. Vincent and Tobago were ceded by France in 1763; Trinidad capitulated in 1797, British Guiana in 1803; Honduras was obtained by the terms of a treaty made in 1670; Gibraltar capitulated to Sir G. Rooke in August, 1704, Malta in 1800, the Cape in 1806, Ceylon in 1795, Mauritius in 1810; St. Helena was ceded by Holland in 1673; Hong Kong, by the Chinese treaty, in 1842; and the colonies of New South Wales, Australia, and New Zealand, were settlements formed between the years 1787 and 1839; New S'th Wales was made a settlement in 1787, Van Diemen's Land in 1803, Western Australia in 1829, and South Australia in 1834.

CONFLAGRATION IN PITTSBURGH!
(PENNSYLVANIA.)

More than 1000 Buildings Destroyed! Loss of Life and Property!

By the Pittsburgh Post we have an account of one of the most disastrous conflagrations that ever devastated any city on this continent, which occurred on the 11th March. A great portion of that busy and populous town is in ruins! We copy the details of this dreadful calamity from the Post:

Those acquainted with the plan of Pittsburgh will realize the extent of the terrible calamity we have suffered, when we state that nearly all that portion of the city extending from Ferry street up the Monongahela river to the city line, and thence to the head of the entire suburb called "Pipetown," (Kensington,) has been destroyed. The fire reached up Market-street as far as the south side of 3d street, and up Wood-street as far as the south side of Diamond Alley. The boundaries of the burnt district may be thus described: From Water-street up Ferry to Third-street, (the old Presbyterian Church was saved,) up Third to Wood; up Wood to Diamond Alley, both sides; up Diamond Alley to Smithfield-street, and thence down Smithfield to Fourth-street, both sides; up Fourth-street to Ross street, and thence to the head of Pipetown; including, as we have estimated above, about twenty squares, and comprising from ten to twelve hundred houses; many of the ware-houses contained goods of immense value—they were grocery, dry goods and commission houses, and their spring stocks had been just laid in.

The fire originated in a frame building over an ice house, belonging to Wm. Diehl, near the corner of Second and Ferry sts. The wind was blowing stiffly from the North-west, though it frequently veered to other points, and owing to its variations, the fire extended up Wood-street farther than it otherwise could have done. It was discovered about 12 o'clock, and was not materially checked till 5 in the afternoon. Even while we write, at 9o'clock, P. M. the engines are playing vigorously in Wood-street.

We can give no adequate idea of the distress which pervades our stricken community. The progress of the flames was so fearfully rapid, that many persons had not time to remove their goods—others, again, had got their property into the street, when the flames seized it there, before it could be removed to a place of safety. Others, still, would not believe the devouring element could reach their dwellings, and did not think of removing until it was too late to save their furniture. And we saw many people who escaped with nothing but the apparal which they had upon their persons. At dark you might see, in every direction, families sitting without shelter, guarding such portions of their household furniture as they were able to save from the flames, and not knowing where they would lay their heads, or procure a morsel of food. Of course the kindness of their more fortunate fellow-citizens did much to alleviate their sufferings, and we believe all were provided for as well as the melancholy nature of affairs would allow.

The following are the principal public buildings, manufactories, and offices that were destroyed:

Globe Cotton Factory, corner of second and Ferry; Fire Navigation Insurance Office, Market between 2d and 3d; Firemen's insurance Office, corner Market and 3d; Bank of Pittsburgh, 4th between Market and Wood; Office of Daily Chronicle, do; Job Printing Office, of J. B. Buttles, 3d between Market and Wood; Merchant's Hotel, corner of 3d and Wood-st; A. Kramer's Exchange office, do; Jones and Sibbet's Exchange office, corner of 4th and Wood-sts; Wm. A. Hill's Exchange office, between 4th and Diamond Alley; R. & R. H. Patterson's Eagle and Bazaar Livery Stables. Diamond Alley and 4th street; Associate Reformed Church, 4th near Grant; Baptist Church, Grant-st; Blackwell's extensive Glass Works, Water, above Grant; the Monongahela destroyed, with all the furniture; the Monongahela Bridge, entirely destroyed; the Dallas Iron works in Pipetown, entirely destroyed.

One life was lost—it was an old woman in the neighborhood of Grand and Third-street, who had no aid to remove her furniture, and she refused to leave her dwelling until it was too late to save her.

Hundreds and hundreds of families are houseless and homeless and their goods fill the streets.

Millions of dollars will not repair the loss experienced. For extent and wide-spread desolation, no fire in this country ever equalled it.

The loss is variously estimated at five to ten millions!

The Pittsburgh Age of the 15th says:—

From the place where the fire commenced to where it was arrested, is about a mile and a quarter.

We can give no idea, on paper, of the distress which prevails—thousands are left destitute—men who were yesterday worth thousands, are now bankrupt. It has been estimated that the burnt district contains *sixty acres!* The total loss, in dollars, cannot be arrived at with any kind of accuracy—say guess at *twelve millions!* This is probably near it. All the insurance offices are broken up—they will not be able to pay two per cent. Only about $15,000 were taken in insurance companies in other cities.

The loss of the Monongahela bridge and the University are among the greatest our city has endured. The Monongahela bridge was erected about twenty-five years ago, and cost $110,000. It is said that in ten minutes after it caught fire, it was completely enveloped in flames. Its fall into the river was a grand and imposing sight.

To the youth of our city the burning of the University is a serious loss.

It is with heartfelt pleasure we observe the fortitude with which the sufferers bear their losses. There is no repining, no despair, no sullenness; but a calm, determined spirit which must carry them up again. The effect will be to set us back for a moment, but we never had more confidence in the strength and spirit of our merchants to overcome it all in time. It must not be supposed that all the business portions of the city are consumed. Most of the Dry Goods Jobbers are untouched; so of the Hardware merchants, and a number of the heavy houses are out of the burnt district. And it fortunately happens, too, that a large amount of groceries from the east, for the city, had not arrived. We repeat therefore, that though the city is terribly shaken, it is neither ruined, nor totally prostrated.—[Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONTREAL IN 1845.

The City of Montreal, the present Seat of the Government of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada re-united by the Act of the British Parliament, of 22d July, 1840, is situated on the south-east shore of an island formed by the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, in lat. 45. 31 N. long, 73. 35 west of Greenwich, at about six hundred miles from the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and at the head of the ship navigation from the sea.

The Town was founded in 1641, chiefly as a missionary station among the Indians. It is built on a long and narrow alluvial mound of sand and gravel; a small stream rising in the mountain, empties into the St. Lawrence at the upper end and another runs back of the elevation on which the town is built; the ground on each side of these streams for some distance was swampy. The City, so late as 1794, was surrounded by a wall enclosing the higher ground before mentioned, with a small elevated Fort at the north-east end, which has since been levelled. The wall was furnished with four gates, one on the Quebec road, to the N. E., one towards St. Lawrence Suburbs, N. W., another to the Recollet Suburbs, S. W.; and the fourth to the port opposite a small island in the river. The fortifications could, however, serve only as a defence against Indians; the whole being commanded by higher ground within cannon shot of the town. They were removed, and Commissioners Street formed in the front, Craigs Street in rear, and Water and McGill Streets at each end; these now form the limits of the ancient city.

The City now contains but three principal Streets, running parallel to the river; St. Paul, Notre Dame, and St. James, and only a small proportion of the population, the whole, by the census of 1844, being 44,094, and Suburbs, &c., including the *Cent Chaines* being 38 087, leaving only 6013 for the city. It is, however, still the centre of wealth and business. It includes the chief part of the harbour, there being rapids immediately below and above the town. This harbour is formed by a bend of the bank of the river the shore here lying nearly north and south. Originally but a few vessels could lie in it for loading and unloading, but they could come close into the shore, and they loaded and unloaded by means of planks with one end on the vessel and the other on the land. Great improvements have, however been made, and the stone wharves, for neatness, solidity and extent, have no equals in North America. Large basins are also making along the enlarged Lachine Canal, which is to complete a steamboat communication to the Great Lakes,—large sums are also being applied to deepening a channel in Lake St. Peter for vessels of a greater draught of water. The passage by wind and tide from Quebec to Montreal is, indeed, usually, long and difficut, but this disadvantage is in some degree removed by steam towing.

The improvements in Montreal and vicinity are remarkable to persons who were visitors not many years back. The city and private houses are lighted with gas by a private company, and well supplied with water by the water works lately acquired by the Corporation. The Roman Catholic Parish Church is certainly not surpassed in North America in size and substantial gothic architecture. Numerous handsome Protestant Churches have also been erected of late years. New Banks, and whole streets of private buildings, many of them outside the Suburbs, have sprung up, all built of limestone of a good texture and light colour found in the Island, and evidently, cut and placed by persons well skilled in the business. Many new streets have been opened within the city limits, and improvements have been made in several streets by paving them with wooden blocks, but they are badly kept during the winter, there appearing to be an entire absence of superintendance or of regulations necessary for the safety of the inhabitants, or they are neglected to be enforced. The interest of the Debts contracted by the Corporation within a few years, already eats up a great part of the heavy contributions imposed upon the citizens, threatening new taxes or a deficiency of means for the ordinary wants of the town. Formerly the revenue of the city was only about five thousand pounds, and the inhabitants say that the common interests were as well, if not better, attended to than now that it exceeds twenty thousand. There is no want of officers however, who generally complain that they are not sufficiently paid. The burthens on the citizens necessarily tends to diminish the trade of the place by lessening their power of competing with other commercial towns.

Besides the improvements at Montreal effected by public and private capital, it is much indebted to its natural position, than which few are to be found more advantageous and agreeable. The island on which it is situated is about 36 miles long and 12 broad, and generally of the most fertile soil. It now contains, including the town, a population of 64,000, having increased in 14 years 20,000. The town has an exposure to the rising sun, with the forest crowned mountain, well stiled Mount Royal, in the rear, and in front the island of St. Helen, the broad waters of the St. Lawrence, the vast extent of thickly settled champaign country on the eastern shore, the distant, isolated mountains of Bourcherville, Chambly, Rougemont and St. Therese, and the Shefford mountains, connected with the Vermont chain, rising on the horizon. The ride round the mountain presents one of the grandest and richest scenes in nature.

Montreal in truth, wants only no longer to be cursed, by the evil and disgraceful propensities of many of its inhabitants to engage in national origin and religious strife, to be one of the happiest, most prosperous and agreeable residences on this Continent. It is to be feared, however, that the old fashioned saying will apply to Montreal as well as to other parts of Canada, "where the devil gets in his little finger, he soon works in his whole hand."

BYTOWN, CANADA.—When we reflect that 18 or 20 years ago this place was a wilderness; and that it now contains upwards of 7000 inhabitants, with eight places of public worship, 4 branches of Banks, 44 public stores, and 32 inns for public accommodation, we are surprised at the rapid progress it has made. Should Bytown advance with the same rapidity for the next 20 years to come as it has for the last 20, it will be no misnomer to call it a City; and that it will do so, no contemplative observer who looks at the splendid water power [second on this continent only to the City of Rochester, in the State of New-York] that surrounds it, and who has seen the effects produced in other places by bringing that power into proper use, can for one moment doubt.—A new Catholic Cathedral, a Free Presbyterian Church, and a number of stone buildings are soon to be erected.—[Bytown Packet.

HOME MANUFACTURES.—It has always appeared passing strauge to us, that possessing the superior advantages which Canada does, both as regards a market and facilities for carrying on manufactures, that more attention is not paid to this branch of industry, especially important as it is to the welfare and prosperity of the country. We have only to cross the line 45°, and we find thriving manufactures every where established and sustained under the fostering protection of government. Not a stream is allowed to pursue its way to the ocean, without passing through the water wheels of numerous factories, propelling an endless variety of machinery; thus giving employment and affording the means of comfortable subsistence to numbers otherwise unemployed, and adding every hour to the wealth of the country. Where nature has failed to lend her hand in affording the water power to aid the industy of the mechanic, we hear in the place of the roaring of the factory dam, the puffing and clatter of the steam-engine. We see flourishing villages springing up and rapidly increasing in wealth and population, while the farmer is afforded a ready market for his produce almost at his own door. What a contrast does Canada present with its unbounded resources, its immense water power, and the cheapness of labour. In no country are there greater facilities, and in none are manufactures so little attended to. Why not Canada boast of its Manchester or Lowell? because only of the neglect and inertness of her people. Let there be a spirit of enterprise in regard to manufactures, and our eyes would not be pained with the sight of neglected and ill-cultivated farms, fields over-grown with thistles and weeds, and an indolent people. The Canadians would be roused up, and begin to feel their wants, and seek improvements, and a spur and such an impetus would be given to agriculture as would tend to the prosperity and advancement of the country. We are happy to perceive, however, the gean—the dawning of a better state of things than has hitherto existed. An extensive Cotton Factory is already in operation at Chambly, while the "Sherbrooke Factory Bill" has passed the Legislature, and in a short time, we learn, a large building will be erected, and preparations made for manufacturing on a large scale. Glass Works have recently been erected at St. Johns, by a Mr. Smith of Burlington, and in few days we learn employment will be afforded to at least eighty hands in the manufacture of Glass, &c. The manufacture of wooden ware has been very favourbly commenced lately by Mr. Laverock. He has already sent to market several thousand pails fully equal in quality and appearance to any imported from the States. We must not omit the mention of the extensive Tanneries at New Glasgow as well as those of Mr. Bridgman at St. Pie; though long established, they have suffered from foreign competition, but with the protection now afforded by suitable duties on manufactured leather, and low rates on the raw material, this branch of industry cannot fail to be most successful and profitable. We might mention other branches of manufacture which have been more time in existence, or about being commenced, did our space permit, but this is enough for our present purpose, to show that if we regard our true policy or interests we will encourage and afford every protection to Home Manufactures.—*Montreal Observer.*

AWFUL CONFLAGRATION IN CANADA.—Nearly half of the town of London, in Canada West, was consumed on Sunday the 13th instant. The fire broke out in the "Robinson Hotel," about noon, while most of the inhabitants were attending Divine service. The wind blowing a stiff gale from the North West by North, and every thing as dry as tinder, it was at the same time raging with indescribable fury to leeward, sweeping in its progress to the South the width of one block, and making inroads into two others. It was found impossible to stay its progress until it had laid waste four blocks, and part of three others, containing an area, the principal part of which was closely built, of nearly thirty acres of ground. It is, however, some consolation to know from all the information we can collect, no lives were lost on the occasion. —London [Canada] Times.

COBOURG, (Canada,) April 9th.—*Distressing Calamity,—Seven Persons Burned to Death.*—The following heart-rending account has been furnished us by a correspondent:—

The Township of Verulam, in the District of Colborne, has lately been the scene of a most melancholy occurrence. On the night of Saturday the 22nd ult., John Bently, farmer of that Township, was awoke by a sense of suffocation, and finding the room full of smoke, he sprang out of bed, and awoke his eldest son, who being much frightened also got out of bed, shouting "murder, murder." The father by this time thought of knocking out the window of his bed room and throwing out those of the children that were there, but thinking that he might hurt them, he told his wife, who by that time was awake, that he would go outside and receive them from her: he then with some difficulty made his way out of the house by the only outside door. He broke in the window and repeatedly called to his wife to hand out the children, but receiving no answer he went to the window of the bed room in which was the son whom he had awoke, and breaking it also, he called upon the children there, but all was silent! There was an answer in that silence more awful than words could have uttered. The father now attempted to get in by the door, but was burnt and repulsed by the flames, and (most heart-rending to relate) seven persons fell victims to the devouing element, viz., Mrs. Bently and six children. Though they all slept on the lower floor, escape had been impossible. The eldest was a fine young man about 20 years of age, and the youngest about one year old. After the fire had subsided, it was discovered that the mother with one of the children in her arms had followed her husband to within about three feet of the door and there perished.—An inquest was held on the remains of the unfortunate sufferers, before C. Knowlson, Esq., Coroner, and a respectable Jury, and a verdict in accordance with the circumstances of the case, was returned.—(*Port Hope Gazette.*)

CANADIANS AND AMERICANS.—"When I was in England in 1836, I dined with a large party, in company with an *American* gentleman. We were both introduced as being from America. In the course of conversation, a gentleman addressed me as from the United States, when an acquaintance of mine present, remarked to him that I was not from the *United States*, but from *Canada*. In an instant I seemed to sink, at least 25 per cent. in the estimation of the company,—judging by the voluntary expressions of countenance of those near me,—and the American gentleman thenceforward received 'all the honors.' But the tables have since been turned. To be announced *now* as a *Canadian* is a prelude to more than ordinary courtesy and attention. I have at least found it so in every company to which I have been introduced. The terms Canada and Canadian seem to be associated with the name of Sir Charles Metcalfe; and that is grateful to the best feelings of the British mind. Formerly, Canada Stock was far below par, and the United States was at a premium; now the reverse is the case. The horrors and disgrace of *repudiation* do not start up when *Canada* is mentioned; but many an American—and many a noble minded one too—has painfully felt in this country, that the consequences of what is disgraceful to a nation often fall upon the individual members of it."—*Ryerson's Letters, February* 1, 1845.

Consumption of Gunpowder.—Few persons can be aware of the enormous quantity of Gundowder used for military purposes. At the seige of Cuidad Rodrigo, in January, 1812, 74,976 lbs. of gunpowder were consumed in thirty hours and a half; at the storming of Badajos, 228.830 lbs. in 104; and this from the great guns only! At the first and second sieges of San Sebastian, 502,110 lbs. were used; and at the siege of Saragossa the French exploded 45.900 lbs. in the missiles, and threw 15.000 shells during the bombardment.—*Polytechnic Magazine.*

ATTAINING WEALTH SUDDENLY.—*The Pill Trade.*—A New-York letter writer says: "Among the various means of attaining sudden wealth in this country, the discovery of a popular "patent" medicine has often proved singularly successful.—The following cases are cited in point. Brandreth, with his pills, has risen from a poor man to be a man of extensive fortune. He has now at Sing Sing, a three story factory for grinding his medicines. Aloes are carried into it by the ton, and whole cargoes of the pills are despatched to every part of the Union, and down every body's throat. He has expended thirty-five thousand dollars in a single year for advertisements.—Comstock began with nothing, but by crowding his patent medicines, has been able to purchase one of the first houses in Union Place, and gives magnificent soirees, suppers, &c.—Moffat, adding bitters to pills, has run up a handsome fortune of nearly $300,000. —Sherman, taking the lozenge line, has emerged from his little shop in Nassau street, into a buyer of lots and houses by the wholesale.—I need not mention Swaim, of Philadelphia, who, by pouring his panacea into people's stomachs, can afford to buy a single pearl head band for his daughter, worth $20,000—to prove that we are a pill-eating and bitter-drinking people. Your literary man will starve in his garret, while your pill-maker will emerge from his garret into a palace."

From the Honolulu (Sandwich Islands) "Friend," Dec. 2, 1844.

WHERE IS THE SAILOR'S HOME?—Poets tell us that the sailor's *home* is "on the deep," "on the sea," or "on the mountain wave;" others may say, "the sailor has no home, he is a universal wanderer, visiting all countries, climes, oceans, and seas, in fact, the sailor is a citizen of the world." Ask however, the sailor himself, if he has a home, and you will not hear the reply that his home is every where and no where, but where his father and mother live or lived, where his kindred dwell or dwell. The sailor thinks, loves, and talks of home as much, perhaps more, than any one else. He may seldom visit home, but he is always going there when his present voyage is up! So we have found it; only listen to whalemen with a "full ship." There is something in that phrase "full ship," that makes whalemen, after a three or four years' voyage, put on a cheerful countenance. No more "mast heads," it is "watch and watch," a "quick passage home," —such are the topics of conversation. Thus, doubtless thinks the writer of the following lines, furnished for our columns, by a sailor on board the English whale ship *Peruvian*, of Saint John, New Brunswick.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

The long sought time at length has come,
And now we steer our course for "home!"
Blow thou good breeze and speed us on
The way that leads to lov'd Saint John.

Our ship seems conscious of the hour
That proves her strength and sailing power;
She swiftly ploughs the parting tide,
Her Captain and her seamen's pride.

Our anxious friends methinks I hear
Repeat the day, the month, the year,
Which tore us from their arms of love,
O'er ocean's wide expanse to rove.

With watchful eyes the spot they scan
Where stands the ready signal man,
Who telegraphs each coming sail,
Borne onward by the favoring gale.

Our hearts so long oppressed with care,
Haste on before to meet them there,
While nightly in our dreams we trace,
Each well known scene—each loved one's face.

We know that many a fervent prayer
They raise to ask "Our Father's" care—
Dash on "Peruvian" through the foam,
And bear their sons and brothers home.

Honolulu, Nov. 1841. G. M. R.

CHARTER OFFICERS.

At a Common Council holden at the Council Chamber, on the 9th day of April, A. D. 1845:

ORDERED, That unless the several Persons this day appointed as Charter Officers for the ensuing Year do take out their Warrants of Appointment and qualify for their respective situations on or before the first day of May next, their Warrants will be withheld and their Appointments considered void; and all Persons acting as Charter Officers after this date, and before such qualification as aforesaid, will be proceeded against for the *penalty* thereby incurred.

Extract from the Minutes.

JAMES PETERS, Jun., Com: Clerk.

NEW SUPPLY.

Comprising an elegant assortment of

Glazed Room and Hall Papers!

Just received per brig *Merchant* from Philadelphia, and for sale very cheap.

S. K. FOSTER,
April 15. *Foster's Corner.*

Long Handle Irish Spades.

36 DOZEN of the above on hand, and for sale CHEAP.

THOS. R. GORDON,
April 1, 1845. Market-square.

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1845.

It is probable we will receive the second April mail on Monday next—the steamer *Hibernia* being now out ten days from Liverpool.

We take the following announcement from the Halifax *Morning Chronicle*:—

"We heard by the last Packet, from a source upon which we place every reliance, that the Colonial Secretary has disapproved of the appointment of Mr. Reade, Sir William Colebrooke's Son-in-law, to the office of Provincial Secretary."

[If this statement is correct, information to that effect will soon be received from Head Quarters.]

THE OREGON QUESTION.—The Boston Daily Advertiser contains the following remarks on the subject of the debates in the British Parliament, on the subject of President Polk's assertions regarding the Oregon territory.:—

"The language of both ministerial and opposition members in Parliament, in regard to the validity of the claim of Great Britain to a part of the territory is unequivocal and decided, at the same time that it seems to imply a belief that for resisting claims made by the United States they may be called on to resort to other than pacific measures. The tone of these speeches and also of a part of the English press evidently produced some degree of uneasiness lest the manner in which our claim to that territory may be pressed, should lead to a sudden disturbance of the relations between the two countries.

The passage in President Polk's inaugural speech did not here excite any alarm, or in fact attract much attention. It was not regarded we believe, by most readers, as an unqualified assertion of the validity of our claim to the whole territory, but as an assertion entirely consistent with the admission that a definite adjustment of the limits of the claim is yet a matter for negotiation and settlement. It is true the whole territory is by mutual agreement subject to the joint occupancy of the subjects of the two governments, but it is well understood that the British Government has been long ready to concede to us all that part of it which lies South of the Columbia river and the 49th degree of latitude, or even something more, on the condition that we will concede the rest.—It is the part of the territory which they have been thus ready to concede, chiefly, that their own people are preparing to occupy with their wives and children, and as to the residue, although the President does not abandon his claim to it, he probably did not intend to be understood as making any assertion of claim inconsistent with the implied reservation above mentioned. Such at least seems to have been the interpretation which has been put upon this passage of the address, and it has accordingly not been regarded as taking any hostile attitude in reference to the question, on a ground which would in any degree interfere with the harmonious prosecution of the negotiation.

Considering the view however which has been taken by the British Ministry, and the English public, of this declaration, in which they regard it as equivalent to a peremptory termination of the negotiation, we cannot be surprised at the tone of their remarks in regard to it. They may be regarded as on the whole temperate and conciliatory.

The temper of both the Ministerial speeches is, in a high degree, pacific, and, although decisive as could not but have been anticipated under such circumstances, such as premises, we think, a most considerate and candid examination of the questions at issue, and a final adjustment of it on terms which must be satisfactory to both nations. There is not the slightest indication of that spirit which would put to hazard, in the assertion of a doubtful claim, the friendly relations between the two countries, the maintenance of which so vastly transcends in importance, the interests involved in this controversy."

The N. York Courier & Enquirer, Journal of Commerce, and other respectable papers in that city and Boston, speak in equally pacific terms on the subject, as the above, and deprecate any other than a friendly settlement of the matter in dispute between the two countries.

Mexico on Annexation.—The New York Journal of Commerce has translated from its Mexican papers the following detail of the proceedings of the Mexican Government on the receipt of the tidings of the triumph of Annexation at Washington:

Senor Cuevas, Secretary of State, informed the Chamber that the Cabinet, amid all its complex duties, had attended especially to this most important affair, and had ordered Senor Almonte to proceed as he had actually done, previously to receiving their instructions. He assured them that it had decided to defend most energetically the rights and honor of the Republic, and had already, in moving troops and other corresponding measures, done all that lay in its power at pre-ent. It has not yet ceased its efforts. He said that the Government would communicate to the Chambers any future intelligence it might receive, that by conference with the Cabinet they might decide upon the best means of defending the rights of the Republic; that it would moreover, immediately direct an energetic protest to all friendly powers, against the outrage committed by the United States, to the Government of which the protest would also be forwarded; and finally, that *all diplomatic intercourse with that Government would at once be closed.*

After this declaration, the Minister declared that, without any extraordinary powers, the Government believed itself strong enough to sustain the rights of the Republic, because it confided in the unanimity of the whole nation, which would hasten to defend the holy cause of an administration that had in view no other object than the maintenance of the rights of the Republic and its laws.

Subsequently, in the Chamber of Deputies, Senors Rodriguez de San Maguel, Espinosa and others proposed the following decree:

1st. Inasmuch as the United States of North America, by the Annexation of Texas to their territory, have openly violated their friendship with this nation, it is hereby declared, that from the passage of this law, the treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation concluded between the said people in 1831, and mutually accepted and ratified in January of 1832, are at an end.

2d. In consequence whereof, from the publication of this law, the terms of six months and of one year, for various purposes agreed upon in said treaties, shall begin to be completed.

3d. The Government orders the closing of all ports to the commerce of the United States, and forbids the use of their manufactures.

4th. No proposition relative to the restoration of friendship will be listened to from the United States, except upon the basis of the relinquishment of the plan of the Annexation of Texas.

The Chamber immediately went into secret session for the purpose of discussing the above decree.

LATER.—On the 29th March, the American Minister at Mexico was inform