

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

FIRE AT FREDERICTON, N. B.—It becomes our most melancholy task to record one of the most grievous calamities that has ever occurred in the Town of Fredericton.

On Monday last, a few minutes past 2, P. M. a barn in the rear of the premises formerly occupied by Dr Emerson, close to the Methodist Church in Carleton Street was discovered to be on fire. The fire immediately communicated with the Church, and in a few minutes from the commencement, the whole was enveloped in flames.

The above is as true a description of the bounds consumed as we are able to give; but the extent of the damages sustained by our poor suffering Townsmen, it is impossible to conceive. Independent of about 9000 persons who are driven at this coming inclement season of the year from the shelter of their houses, the great business section of the City has been destroyed.

There might it is true have been much more property saved, if the hopeless task of staying the conflagration had been sooner given over; but our citizens wrought at the Engines in hopes of getting it under, even after their own houses were on fire; and only then gave up, to save the scanty remnant of what was left.

We cannot close this melancholy sketch without expressing our thanks to a merciful Providence for the singular blessing, that amidst such a vast amount of turmoil and ruin, no accident occurred tending to the destruction of life in all the premises. Another pleasing circumstance should we think be recorded, namely the conduct of the Rev. Messrs. Brooke and Spurgeon, who doubtless under the sanction of their respective congregations, have liberally offered the use of their Churches once in the Sabbath each, to the bereaved congregation.

On Tuesday a public meeting was held in the County Court House, at which His Excellency the Lieut. Governor presided, and the Rev. W. Q. Ketchum acted as Secretary. A sum of £29 was subscribed on the spot, including £30 from His Excellency, who throughout the whole of the fair was as active in securing property, and lending every other assistance, as any man on the ground.

THE WEATHER, which hitherto has remained remarkably mild for the season, has suddenly grown colder; and it only wants a slight fall of snow in the river to aid the cold in forming our winter bridge immediately. The steam boats however still continue their usual trips all the way between St. John and Woodstock.

A POOR FARMING COUNTRY.—From six quarts of the Grey Buckwheat seed, Mr. Peter Timmons, of the Scotch Lake Settlement, informs us that he this year raised the enormous amount of forty three Bushels!

ST. ANDREW'S AND QUEBEC RAILROAD.—Julius Thompson, Esq., the gentleman deputed by the London Board of Directors of the Saint Andrews and Quebec Railroad Company to assume the management of the affairs of that Institution arrived here on Thursday last, via New York, and, we understand, immediately entered upon the execution of the duties of his important office. He is accompanied by his lady, and Mr. Julian, a relation, who comes out for the purpose of making himself better acquainted with these Provinces, and the character of their resources; and with a view, should circumstances prove inducing, to investing, we are told, some of his spare wealth in this country.

The operations on the line still continue to absorb a great amount of labour, and the works are, consequently, hourly progressing. The prospects of the company, too, are said to be, by every mail, brightening more and more, and to afford a cheering view of a successful prosecution of this original and truly great work.

EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY.—On Thursday last, A. C. Morton, Esq., the Civil Engineer to whom has been entrusted, by the State of Maine, the Survey of the Railway route from Bangor to Calais, arrived in this city with the view of obtaining statistical and local information, with reference to the European and North American Railway.

Mr. Wilkinson having completed his Exploratory Survey of a route for the proposed Railway from hence to Calais, by the Douglas Valley, has received instructions from the Executive to make a Barometrical Survey (the lateness of the season not admitting of any other), from Carleton to Calais, by the shore route, or a line nearly parallel with the Post Road, and at no great distance from it.

We are happy to state that B. B. Dickey Esq., of Amherst, has been making a tour through the United States and Canada, and passed through this City a few days since on his return to Amherst. While at Washington Mr. Dickey had an interview with the President of the United States; and in speaking of this Railway, the President expressed himself very strongly in favour of the proposed undertaking, and said that it should have all the assistance and encouragement which himself, and his Cabinet, could constitutionally give to it.

This is a most important declaration, and we should not be surprised if the movements which are likely to spring from it will have a powerful effect, not only on the British Government, but on the Capitalists of England, and induce them to give efficient aid to the Colonial portion of the work, so that it may proceed without any delay.—St. John N. B. Courier, 16A.

NEW NAVIGATION LAWS.—Since the alteration of the Navigation Laws, allowing foreign ships to carry cargoes between the Colonies and the Mother Country, there have been, up to the present date, fifty foreign vessels loaded at this port for Great Britain, with timber, deals, &c., the total tonnage of which amounted to 21,619 tons. Of these twenty-one vessels belonged to the United States, ten to Prussia, ten to Norway, six to Germany, one to Denmark, one to Austria, and one to Naples.—16

Canada.

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.—An Advertisement appears to day in the Gazette calling for tenders from contractors for the new wing of the parliament buildings. We understand the building now occupied as the St. George Hotel has been offered to the government for the use of the departments.—Quebec Gazette.

TRICKS.—We observe by some of the papers from the lower provinces that it is thought that the American shippers of breadstuffs have been practising some transformation on Canadian flour. The flour is changed, it is supposed at New York; American sour is packed in the Canadian barrels; it is admitted free of duty into the lower provinces and sold as Canadian superfine. This is an additional reason for pushing the direct trade from Canada to our sister colonies. These frauds will assuredly excite suspicion of all American shipments and our own will command a higher price in the market. At present the flour shipped from the upper lakes stand very high in the Halifax market.—16

ARRIVAL.—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Toronto has arrived at his residence in this city, by the steamer "America." His Lordship, we are happy to learn, is in enjoyment of perfect health. The amount of subscriptions towards the Church University, which have been contributed in England, is, we hear, somewhere about sixteen thousand pounds—a sum which will in all probability, secure the immediate establishment of that noble undertaking.—Daily Patriot.

POST OFFICE ROBBERIES.—We understand that the Post Office at Colborne, C. W., was broken open a few nights ago, and about \$2000 abstracted therefrom. The Mail Conductor of one of the River Mail Steamers has been arrested and is now in goal in Montreal, on a charge of breaking open one of the mail bags, and abstracting money from letters. The crime of larceny is alarmingly on the increase in Canada.—Kingston Argus.

THE FOSTERING MOTHER.—We cut the following interesting extract from the Christian Guardian of this city. It is decidedly rich.—By the Ecclesiastical Punch our readers will understand the organ of the High Church Tory party. Our contemporary has given it the right name at last. The Church is the most laughable publication we have ever read. The way he talks of his mother is a caution. Who or what must the grand-mother have been, we should like to know?—Toronto Mirror.

WHEAT.—Mr. James Laing, of this village has up to this date, alone purchased 35,000 bushels of wheat.—Oshawa News Letter.

TO MARINERS.—A revolving light will be exhibited at the end of the East Pier, at Port Dal-

house, from the 4th of November next. It will revolve every three minutes.—Hamilton Gazette. We learn from the Quebec Morning Chronicle of the 4th inst., that William Walker, the late Post Master of Brantford, has been sentenced to death at the Hamilton Assizes, by Mr. Justice Draper, for purloining Bank notes from letters passing through his hands.

UNITED STATES.

GREAT PROJECT.—Mr. Eliot, the builder of the wire bridge over the Niagara River, proposes to increase the depth of the Ohio by the construction of dams at convenient distances on the Alleghany River, of such strength and height as to be capable of serving as reservoirs of enough water to keep up a navigable depth in the Ohio, below Pittsburgh, throughout the driest season of the year. He says, that to maintain a depth of three feet of water on the bar at Wheeling, it will only be necessary to draw 1,400,000,000 cubic feet from the reservoirs every week; and a dam on the Alleghany fifty feet high would create a pond or lake twenty-six miles long, and would hold 4,000,000,000 cubic feet, or about enough water to last three weeks.

UNITED STATES COMMERCE WITH CHILI.—President Fillmore has issued a proclamation, suspending, till 31st of October, so much of the several acts imposing discriminating duties of tonnage and impost within the United States, as far as respects the vessels of Chili, and the produce, manufactures, and merchandise imported into the United States in the same, from Chili, and from any other foreign country whatever; the said suspension to take effect from the day above mentioned, and to continue thenceforward so long as the reciprocal exemption of the vessels of the United States, and the produce, manufactures, and merchandise imported into Chili, in the same, as aforesaid, shall be continued on the part of the government of Chili.

THE CAVING IN AT FLAQUEMINE.—The caving in of the bank is still extending upstream. Last night it sunk up to a point opposite Mr. Black's brick dwelling, about the centre of the square adjoining that where the first disaster occurred. As there is an opening through the middle of the street, as far up as the Planter's Hotel, we may look for the destruction of all the buildings on this second square. Mr. Bissell is the principal sufferer. He will lose five new brick stores, including his hotel. Beach and Levystein are the owners of the remainder of the property. There is very little hope for the safety of Mr. Dereboy's valuable property adjoining the hotel, consisting of a large brick dwelling and two store-rooms.—N. O. True Delta, Oct. 15.

NEWSPAPER DOG.—The Albany Knickerbocker boasts of a dog "connected with that office" who excels in sagacity all other newspaper dogs recently noticed. He belongs to one of the carriers, and was in the daily habit of accompanying his master, who served upward of six hundred papers. The carrier was taken sick the other day, and could not carry his route, but the dog undertook the duty, and accompanied by an office boy, stopped at the house of every subscriber. Strange to say, he did not miss a subscriber, and in this respect he showed himself more faithful than some biped carriers.

GREAT FIRE IN ARKANSAS.—Nearly all the business portion of the town of Pine Bluff, the seat of justice of Jefferson co., was reduced to ashes on Friday evening, the 20th ult. The aggregate loss of all the sufferers by this calamity is estimated at from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—The Republic to-day contains the official proclamation of a reciprocal treaty with the Hawaiian government, the ratification having been mutually exchanged between the two governments.

A number of citizens of New Orleans are making efforts to establish a line of steamers between that city and New York.

The Louisville Courier, of the 4th inst., notices several severe cases of cholera on steamboats arriving at that port, resulting in three deaths.

MICHIGAN, with a population of five hundred thousand, has three hundred and sixty-six miles of railway complete, and three hundred and thirty miles more in course of construction and projected.

SAD NEWS FROM THE OVERLAND EMIGRANTS FOR CALIFORNIA!—The accounts from the overland emigrants are most distressing. Starvation was starting them in the face, added to which the cholera had made its appearance among their ranks, and the Indians were harassing them in this extremity, by stealing their animals. Capt. Waldo, of the rebel committee, who went out to succor them writes:—

Twenty thousand persons are yet beyond the Desert, of which number fifteen thousand are destitute of all kinds of provisions, yet the period of their greatest suffering has not yet arrived. It will be impossible for ten thousand of this number to reach the mountains before the commencement of Winter.

From the Truckee to the head of the Humboldt the cholera is killing them off; the sick surround the Truckee Station unable to proceed. Capt. W. was about starting to try to persuade such as are from four to six hundred miles back to return to Salt Lake. He calls for 10,000 lbs. of flour for the Station at Truckee, and the same amount for the Summit. He says that those back several hundred miles will die by starvation unless relieved.

He asks for contributions, and offers to the City Council his claim to \$10,000 worth of property, if they will forward that amount in flour and articles for the sick to that place. His report is fearful. A black man rode express 400 miles with the information. Cannot something

be done here to save the lives of these our countrymen and friends? Many of them are women and children, widows and orphans, their husbands and fathers having died with the Cholera.

STEERING OF THE PLAINS.—A gentleman from New York, who arrived at Stockton California of emigrants are already thick as every camping place near the Platte river, and that the cholera prevailed there to a horrible extent, hundreds dying daily. The following extract, handed us by a copy from the Philadelphia North American, and it will be read with painful interest:—

"The sand was knee deep, the sun broiling hot; not a tree was to be seen; there was not water, and their provisions were all gone. Fortunately, after passing over about 100 miles of this hideous desert, they came across a man who had gone 40 miles further, found a good spring, and returned with two barrels of water. This water he first sold for \$1 per gallon, then \$1 per quart, then \$10 per pint, and as the emigrants came along, each choked almost to death and completely exhausted, his prices raised, and so sum he could name within the power of the poor emigrant was refused to be paid. When the water was nearly all gone, a man came along who for three whole days and nights had drunk but a half pint of fluid. He was almost dead and begged for some water. The answer was, 'I have not enough to last myself and animals back to the spring.' \$50, \$100, \$500, \$700, was offered in succession for one little cup full of water, and the dealer refused it. The wretched emigrant threw down \$700, all he had in the world, and by main force grasped the cup and quenched his thirst."

The entire tone and aspects of society in San Francisco are undergoing marked and favorable change. A strong sentiment of disapprobation against intemperance and gambling, against loafing and rowdiness, is fast gaining ground, and is sustained and countenanced by all who wish to be regarded as respectable members of society. Churches and schools are becoming objects of earnest solicitude and practical interest throughout the State, and the arrival of families and of respectable families amongst us, has evoked that attention to public decorum and to personal decency and civility which was formerly neglected to a very considerable extent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We have received Sandwich Island papers to the 12th of August, from which we extract the following items.

The first whale ship of the season, the Challenger, arrived at Honolulu on the 10th from the Polar regions. She reported a very successful season among the whalers cruising in the North. Several others had arrived during the week, and a large fleet was expected during the months of August and September.

The Centre Table manufactured entirely from Hawaiian wood, and designed as a present from His Majesty Kamehameha III to Queen Victoria, had been shipped on board H. B. M. schooner Cockatrice, for London, via Valparaiso.

A total eclipse of the Sun took place on the 7th of August. This rare phenomenon occasioned intense excitement among the inhabitants of the Islands, and renewed some of the old superstitions of the natives.

FRANKLIN MORTALITY AMONG H. M. 50th REGIMENT STATIONED AT HONG KONG.—The regiment, since its arrival in the colony, had lost ninety men—eighty-two of fever, and chiefly within the previous two months. After the fearful loss of life the authorities have taken upon themselves the responsibility of engaging a vessel, to which 100 to 150 men have been removed. With the experience of what occurred in 1843, it is to be regretted that this measure was not resorted to as soon as sickness appeared among the troops; the lives of very many fine men would thereby have been spared, and a loss to Great Britain of £10,000 to £12,000 would have been avoided.

TROUBLE IN BRAZIL.—Permanence, Oct. 1, 1850.—A terrible pestilence has scarcely subsided when we are threatened with another that makes the human mind shudder at what the past has inflicted. The inhabitants of the interior have neither heart or spirit to engage in their usual avocations, and as a matter of consequence no sugars are coming in, and as there is none of the old crop left, business assumes at present a decidedly dejected aspect. As my previous advices adverted to a rupture with Buenos Ayres, more recent accounts embolden me to assert that a war is inevitable, and its approach has caused the funds to depreciate already fully 21 per cent, and an enlarged circulation of worthless paper has been resorted to, to carry the war into Africa.

FROM THE WEST INDIES.—We have two days' later news from Kingston, Jamaica. For the twenty-four hours ending on the 22nd ult, there were at Kingston fifty-three new cases of cholera and thirty deaths; at Port Royal twenty-one new cases and eleven deaths. For the twenty-four hours ending on the 20th, there were at Kingston twenty-five new cases and thirty-five deaths, the returns, however, being incomplete; at Port Royal, eighteen new cases and three deaths, making the total of deaths since the disease appeared at Kingston three hundred and forty-one, and at Port Royal one hundred and eighty-one. The disease was very fatal at St. Catherine and other places. The authorities in each place were doing their utmost to arrest its progress.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

EDWARD... MATTHEW... JOHN W...

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