

East, and 309 of the victims on board of her were rescued. Singular to relate, the father and grandfather of the captain of the *Semillante* both perished by venturing at sea.

CANADA.

A SPUR IN THE HEAD.—Not a little astonishment has been caused by a statement made in the *Quebec Colonist*, a paper said to be partly owned and controlled by Attorney General Drummond, to the effect that the present Governor General was unduly interfering with the ministers in the business of their departments. Any unconstitutional exercise of the power of the Governor could not fail to be resisted by a responsible government and sustained by the people, and no little curiosity was excited to know on what the statement was based.

The Quebec correspondent of the *Toronto Colonist*, says, "that the sole extent of interference has been to try and have the large affairs of public business which accumulated in some of the offices during the late reigns pulled up, and the business in future more timely disposed of." The *Colonist's* correspondent says, "a great deal of business had accumulated in various departments of the Government through sheer carelessness and sheer indolence as well. The Provincial Secretary's office was notoriously a place of inactivity for a large share of the public business."

A large accumulation of difficult matters remained wholly unattended to, or were hurried over in a very unsatisfactory manner. Sir Edmund Head soon found himself beset with counsels complainant and earnest entreaties for long deferred justice and satisfaction," and "he called the attention of his ministers to the wrong doors, and desired such a change as would remedy the evil."

We know not how far those statements are true, nor how far if true they may have influenced recent changes in the Cabinet, but if the Governor General's interference go no farther than this, no efficient minister will give him room for interference, and such interference with an insufficient or indolent minister will, no doubt, be sustained by popular opinion. It is not so long since the country was startled by the disclosures of the Committee on Public Accounts, by which they were made aware that the accounts of some of the departments were even years in arrear unposted unexamined and unvouched, and millions of money paid away without examination or authority. The infusion of new blood into the ministry brought much of this to light, and the substitution of a new head to the Executive, combined, may go far to render the present Government ere long, strong in the confidence of the country.—*British Canadian*.

ANOTHER AWFUL DISCLOSURE.—A *Secret Society in Canada.*—A correspondent of the *N. Y. Herald*, residing at Sutton, Canada East, tells a curious story about the existence of a secret organization in Canada, having for its object the release of this province from allegiance to the crown, and the formation of an independent republic. He says that the society in its general arrangements and initiation somewhat resembles the society of the Know Nothings; but the oath of secrecy is stronger and more binding. Lodges have been already established throughout the Eastern Townships and a large section of the upper province, and the writer states that "in the single county of Missisquoi, bordering on Vermont, they have a subordinate lodge in nearly every town, and in this county alone there are several thousand Know Nothings or republicans." No move will be made by the republicans until spring opens, further than to recently increase their numbers and supply themselves with the necessary implements of war.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—The *Hamilton (U. Canada) Journal* of the 14th inst., thus announces the opening of the Suspension Bridge over the Niagara river:—

"One of the great events of the age took place last week. On Thursday a locomotive passed from the shores of Canada to the United States on a bridge of wire, nearly three hundred feet above the water of the river of rivers.

A PREVENTATIVE OF YELLOW FEVER.—A Havana paper states that Dr. Wm. L. Humboldt has discovered a means of preventing yellow fever by inoculation; and about one thousand of the newly arrived troops in Cuba have been inoculated by order of the Government. The operation is said to be similar to vaccination, the virus discovered by Dr. Humboldt being inserted, generally, in both arms. A few hours after this trifling operation, the symptoms of a miniature yellow fever commence, and all the pathological consequences follow rapidly and slightly, and rarely with anything more than a slight febrile action.

MEMORANDA.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese has issued to his Clergy a letter, calling on them to invoke the prayers of their congregations in behalf of the Queen, the Nation, and the Army, and his Lordship has prepared and had printed Forms of Prayer to be used in family worship, or in private during the continuance of the war, which have been very generally circulated throughout the Islands, and may be obtained on application to the Clergy.—*Dorset's Chronicle*, March 8.

Editorial Miscellany.

☞ We have not taken a great deal of interest in what has been said or done, by the Young Men's Christian Association of this City; but now and then have bestowed upon the Lectures delivered before it, a passing word of commendation and are more desirous than otherwise that it should continue to prosper. It may therefore not be amiss, if we express a pretty strong opinion, that if the subject matter of these lectures, be made weapons for a sling at the Churches to which the Lecturers belong, by those who are of its professed friends, as was done in the *Presbyterian Witness* last week, it is not likely that the prosperity of the Association will be much advanced. The Lectures are gratuitous, and the majority of the Lecturers have been Episcopalian, showing in one way, that whenever it is deemed advisable to form a Church of England Young Men's Association in Halifax, there will be no lack of ability on the part of its members, to make a winter's session both useful and agreeable. Here, as well as in St. John, N. B. there is room for two Associations, and the Church here as well as there, would be undoubtedly benefitted by bringing her young men to their proper work within her own fold. It is to be hoped that this may soon be accomplished, and that it will be done with all good feeling towards the other Institution.

In answer to enquirers we are authorized to state, that the assembly of the Bishop, Clergy and representatives of the Laity of this Diocese, will be held at the same time as the general Meeting of the D. C. S., in October next; when the report of the Committee appointed to frame rules and regulations will be considered. In those Parishes which have not yet elected 2 Delegates, the Election may take place at the Easter Meeting, and whenever it is intended to propose such an Election, notice of the intention should be given at least three weeks before the day of meeting.

☞ The funeral of Thomas O. James Esq., merchant of Newfoundland, was attended to the grave on Sunday last, by the Sons of Terra Perenco, of which Institution Mr. James, was Grand Patriarch in Newfoundland—and by the Charitable Irish Society, of which he was formerly a member and office bearer. These, along with a large number of mourning friends, made one of the longest funeral processions we ever remember to have seen in the city.

☞ The Legislative Council and House of Assembly, were adjourned, on Monday, to attend the funeral of the Hon. Alex. Mc Dougall, a member of the former body.

☞ Among the passengers by the *Canada*, from Boston, was Henry Stiefelhagen, Esq., lately appointed Professor of Modern Languages. (French, German, Italian, and Spanish) at King's College, Windsor. We understand that this gentleman brings the highest testimonials from Germany, England and the United States, as to character, and qualifications for his office, and no doubt this addition to the former Professors already at Windsor, will be hailed with satisfaction by all who have or expect to have sons at the College or at the Academy. This latter Institution, we are told, is in successful operation, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Picket.—*Chronicle*.

☞ Lewis G. Caseres, Esq., Professor of Music, delivered an able and interesting Lecture at the Mechanic's Institute, on Wednesday evening last, on "Sacred Music." The Lecture will be continued on Wednesday next, accompanied with practical illustrations—and a delightful evening's entertainment may be expected.

The submarine Cable across the Strait of Canso, has been recently damaged by ice, consequently that portion of the line between Plaster Cove, and McNair's Cove, is not now in working order—hence the absence to day, of our usual Telegraph Despatch of English news. We have not heard whether the Steamer had arrived at Halifax.—*C. B. News*, March 17.

SERVICES DURING LENT.

St Paul's.—In the morning, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 11 o'clock. Evening service, with lecture, on Wednesdays.

St Luke's.—On the afternoons of Tuesdays and Thursdays, at half past 4.

St George's.—Morning service on Wednesdays and Fridays.

CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH.—Wednesdays at 3 p. m., with a Lecture; Fridays at 3 p. m. Candidates for Confirmation instructed after the service.

☞ The Lord Bishop intends (D. V.) to hold Confirmations in the course of 1855, in every Parish which he has not visited during the past Summer, commencing his Tour along the Western coast.

LEGISLATIVE.

The sudden decease of the Hon. Alex. McDougall, was announced in the Legislative Council, on Wednesday the 14th inst. by the Hon. J. McCully, who in an affecting manner, eulogized the character and attainments of his late associate. The Hon. M. D. Almon and several other Members, joined in expressing their sense of the loss the Council and the country had sustained—and a resolution was passed that the Council attend the funeral, and adjourn until the following Monday, which was carried into effect. They also agreed to wear craps in token of mourning, during the remainder of the Session. The House of Assembly on the same day passed a resolution to attend the funeral, and the Speaker was requested to communicate the same—which resolve was carried into effect.

On the 6th inst. Hon. Mr. Fairbanks laid on the table a Resolution of which he had given previous notice, for the appointment of a Committee to prepare an address to Her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to direct, that copies of all correspondence between Lord Elgin and Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, in relation to the recent treaty with the United States, and the appointment of delegates from Nova Scotia, be transmitted to the Legislative Council, in order to prevent all future misconceptions as to the real facts connected with this important question.

In the House of Assembly, on the 26th Feb., the Hon. Provincial Secretary communicated despatches apprising the Government of Her Majesty's decision to place annually, at the disposal of the Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, naval cadetships, in the proportion of two to the first and one to each of the two last mentioned Provinces. This is no great boon. And it is to be rendered in requital of "great public services" &c. &c. &c., as the Prov. Secretary, by request of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, was commanded to inform the House, we do not hesitate to say that the party obliged is the Government, and the honor of the thing is questionable. Knighthoods, Baronetcies, and such like, are a requital for great public services, that every one can understand and that one naval cadetship a year is a very small instalment of the Provincial claims to Government patronage—and we think Her Majesty must have been very badly advised in the matter.

A return of all the fees taken in the Secretary's Office, was communicated to the House of Assembly by the Hon. Attorney General, on the 28th ult.—They amounted to the large sum of £1,970. £796 of this amount was for marriage licences. There was no law for the collection of marriage licence fees, but they have been imposed by an Order in Council.—The fees for Militia Commissions were collected in the same way, and amounted to £229. £3 had been paid for patents taken out during the past year. The whole amount is subject to the control of the Treasury. The Solicitor General had received a fee for an opinion upon one of the patents—and Mr. Keating, whose salary would no longer maintain his family—(we were not aware that salaries are regulated upon that principle) and whose value as a public officer was universally admitted, claimed a commission on the receiving and paying over of those fees.

The Resolution reported from Committee in reference to the Statute Labour Law, was taken up, in order to try the sense of the House upon the principle embodied, which, if adopted, the Committee would introduce a Bill to carry it out. After some discussion, in which an alteration of the present system was deemed necessary, the resolution was negatived.

March 2.—Leave of absence was granted to the Hon. Joseph Howe, who has been absent ever since. The hon. gentleman has gone upon a secret mission to the United States. Various reports have been in circulation as to its object, but nothing has transpired to enable any one to speak with certainty. The latest probability is, that he is engaged in raising a force to garrison Halifax, and that the military now here are to be withdrawn. It gives colour to this supposition that the Barrack-master has been ordered to make return of the accommodation at his disposal for troops.

The Prohibitory Liquor Law passed through Committee. If it passes the Legislature, it will come into operation on the 1st of April, 1856.

Mr. B. Smith reported bills on the Militia Law; the amendments recommended by the Committee were to authorize the sale of any arms that are unserviceable; the importation of improved arms for the militia, to such extent as the house might be disposed to provide the means, and the formation of volunteer companies in several regiments and battalions. The first bill reported continued the militia law of the revised statutes, and also the act of last session, except the sixth clause, provided for the payment of adjutants and other officers, for duties performed last year, and that no fees should be paid on militia commissions.

In reply to Mr. Wade, the Hon. Attorney General said that the propriety of calling upon the Imperial Government to provide for dismissed officers of Customs, was under consideration of the Government.

The Bill for abolishing the Court of Chancery was reported from committee on the evening of the 21st inst. The Bill will pass the Legislature. The Master of the Rolls, under its provisions, will retire with a pension of £400 per annum. The Registrar, Mr. White, with £125 per annum.