British News.

ABSTRACT OF A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR R. PEEL, BART., ON THE TEA DUTIES, BY EDWARD BRODRIBB. Published by the Liverpool Association for the Reduction of the Duty on Tea. London: Simpkin & Co. Liverpool, Baines. 1846.

THE INCOME TAX: Its Extension at the Present Rate Proposed to all Classes: Abolishing the Malt Tax, Window Tax, Duty on Hops, Sa Licences to Sell and Make Beer, the Tax on Railways, the Excise on Bricks; and Reducing the Duty on French Wines. By W. R. SHEE, London: Richardson. 1846.

The first of these pamphlets, on the reduction of Tea Duties, is well written, and full of valuable facts.

It is proved that, whilst the Chinese have acted liberally in their import duties towards us, we act most illiberally towards them and ourselves. For instance: all our goods are admitted into China, paying a duty of about 5 per cent.; whilst we impose on their tea a duty varying from 100 to 650 per cent. The only justification of our excessive duties is the necessity of revenue,—rendered necessary by the interest on our vast national debt. The duty on tea, in 1767, produced £579 678; in 1845 it had risen to £4 832,530. "But," says Mr. Brodribb, "it is a question whether that increase was not obtained at an unnecessary sacrifice on the part of the public, and whether a less rate of duty differently assessed, without entailing such sacrifices, would not have produced an equal amount to the Exchequer."

Now, from the statements officially published (by Mr. Davis to Parliament,) it is certain that the Chinese would take an immense quantity more of our goods—particularly woollens and cottons—if we could take more of their tea. "But what, says Mr. B., is the use of taking more of their tea if we cannot find consumers for it?"

But, if the duty were reduced, the number of consumers of tea would be increased and the quantity consumed by the present consumers also; this Mr. B. undertakes logically to prove:—

"The population of the United Kingdom being, according to the last census, 27,000,000, and the consumption of tea in the last year (1844) 44 000,000 lbs., in round numbers, allowing six persons to each family, the rate of consumption is about three-eighths of an ounce to each family per day throughout the kingdom. This, unquestionably, is below what it used by even a frugal family, where saving in such matters is an object. The more probable consumption is at least half an ounce to each meal, that is, one ounce per day. On this supposition, five families out of every eight must refrain from the use of tea altogether. Assuming, therefore, that with low prices the use of tea would average ONE OUNCE per day per family of six persons, the consumption would reach 102 656 150 lbs. PER ANNUM; and the revenue, at 1s. per lb., would be £5,132,812, being larger than that received under the present injurious and oppressive duty. That such a consumption at the present moment, is prevented by the original cost of tea IN ITSELF, will appear absurd, when it is borne in mind that the price of Congou, the black tea most extensively used in this country has ranged for the last few years from 8d. per lbs. for the lowest, to 2s. 8.' per lb. for the finest quality."

The effects of the high duty are placed strikingly:

"The finest class of Congou mentioned before as selling at 2s. 8d. per lb. which, with the present duty, is 4s. 10d. per lb., is seldom sold to the public in its original state from this cause, but it is reduced by an admixture of lower quality, so as to admit of its being sold by the retailer at 5s. per lb. The same with Hyson tea (fine green,) however, it is beyond that, it falls off, and its place is supplied by a mixture of Twankay and Hyson or by the former altogether, so that 5s. per lb. seems to be the maximum the public are willing to give for tea, to an extent sufficient to keep up the present rate of consumption. To reduce, therefore, these prices, the duty must be lowered to AT LEAST 1s PER LB., a higher duty being inadequate to that purpose.

"As to such reduction producing increased consumption, I refer to its effect in 1784, when the duty was reduced to £12 10s. per cent. The immediate result was a consumption more than double that of the preceding year, while in the year 1794 it was quadruple.

Here, for the present, at least, we must leave this excellent pamphlet, which contains matter enough to set the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinking upon the subject.

In the second pamphlet a great number of tables are given, the object of which is to show, that the income of the higher rank (men and women) middle and lower ranks is 488 millions (round figures) which, at £2 18s. 4d. per cent., would raise a revenue of £14 244,400. This tax is intended to embrace 1st. Every description of property. 2nd. All incomes deprived from manufacturers, trade, professions, &c. 3rd. All persons holding permanent situations.

4th. Substituting on all employed at weekly wages a tax per head—a pol tax—which in fact, is an income tax under another name; agriculture laborers to pay 13s. a year; mechanics 25s. 6d.; skilled, 30s. 6d.; domestic servants, 20s.; policemen, 30s. 6d.; army and navy 10s. a year.

But all would benefit by paying this annual tax, as he contends they would be delivered from other taxes that press more heavily. Thus he proves to a fraction, that beer which is now sold for 6d. per quart, without tax, and including the brewer's and retailer's profit, would be sold at 2d. per pot; and porter which now sells at 4d. a pot, should be sold for 1d. a pot. The French wines would be reduced to 6d. per gallon. Of the 58 millions (in round numbers) of British exports, France at present takes only between 2 and 3 millions, which might be increased if we take the only thing almost we can take, their wines; little French wine being consumed at present, because of the high duties.—The operation of the duty on bricks, &c., he shows to be oppressive and vexatious.

The total amount of duties proposed to be taken off is:—

Malt Tax,	per annum	£5,000 000
Hops	"	280 000.
Licences	"	350,000.
Window Tax	"	1,580,000.
French Wines	"	100 000.
Bricks	"	450 000.
		£7,760,000

As to Railroads he says—

From the great importance of internal communication, it may be doubtful whether the duty of an eighth of a penny per mile charged on each railway passenger by Government does not justify, partly at least, the high fares, and hence it might be advisable for the Legislature to remodel the present system of railway management, compelling third-class carriages to be attached to each train of a superior construction to the present, and at a reduced rate per mile. Thus a surplus will be left of £1,000,000 per annum to meet any error in the foregoing calculations of Income Tax.

We have had a brief outline of the contents of this pamphlet, and it is easy to see that it is not free from huge objections—one only we shall mention; the difficulty of collecting a pol tax from the laboring classes.

"At the present time (Nov., 1846,) the highest price for the finest Congou, is 2s. per lb.

THE REPEAL RENT.—The following extract from the Dublin Nation conveys a good suggestion as to the future destination of the Repeal Rent, if it should be collected any more. It is a good hit at Daniel O'Connell:—

"I never take up your paper, of which I am a constant reader, in which there may be a speech of Mr. O'Connell, but I find that he is ever mourning the Irish that his heart and mind are ever full and overflowing with grief for their sufferings, and with thoughts night and day for their speedy and permanent relief. Now, as any man under these circumstances must have his head filled with a confusion of ideas, and as by his own showing this is especially the case with the great 'Liberator' and prince of patriots, who has from time to time had so many rents in his head, that it must be by this time well nigh rent asunder with being so severely taxed for his country's sake, it is possible that an idea might occur to a more indifferent looker-on, and more to the purpose, than would present itself to one whose every interest is centered in Ireland. I would suggest that the Repeal rent be converted into a famine rent, to be collected and enforced in the same manner as that adopted for the obtaining of the supplies for the support of the Repeal. Surely no patriot or Repealer can object to this; or refuse to contribute liberally to so laudable, so charitable, and so merciful a purpose, as that of feeding the hungry, nay, famishing, and now truly potatoless Irish, until relief is no longer required. Then hurrah for Old Ireland and the famine-rent; and let O'Connell now prove the sincerity of his patriotism by raising this cry throughout the length and breadth of the country.

"I would ask you, Sir, as most likely to afford the information, how long the Irish have submitted to the payment of the Repeal rent, and what is the amount of these contributions up to the present period, and which, in spite of starvation, is still being exacted for this professed purpose? I should further wish to learn how the money has been disposed of, and who are the parties that have really been benefited by it. As far as I can understand the thing, it appears to me that the whole of the funds have been disposed of in personal compensation to Mr. O'Connell, and in providing him with place and pattonage for his family and friends; in short, that it has been, as Swift says, 'obtained from the madness of the many for the gain of the few;' for verily the years of Repeal rent have just left the multitude where it found them—in destitution and misery, in which they are now unfortunately steeped up to their lips."

RAILWAY MAKESHIFTS.—In the commencement of railroad travelling the passengers' carriages were frequently in immediate contact with the engine.—Some terrible accidents having resulted from this arrangement the companies carried their care of the public safety so far as to place a luggage van between the engine and the passengers' carriages. With this the public was content, nay, it was thought a great point gained. No one asked the companies, "What right have you to put my baggage in the place of danger, to bear the shock in the event of any mismanagement of your machinery, and to be smashed to atoms? Why do you use my baggage to shield my person? Why do you not either interpose some mechanical contrivance of your own for the purpose?" But no, there was no remonstrance of the kind. People were glad to compound for the jeopardy or destruction of their baggage to save their persons. But the means of protection at the expense of the passengers were extremely defective. The luggage van might be full, or it might be empty; might be light, or might be heavy; might contain substance of resisting power or of no resisting power whatever. It was and is all left to chance. We have repeatedly urged that, instead of this luggage-van being between the engine and the passengers, there should be a carriage specially constructed to serve as a shield having all its weight low, and with all the contrivances for elasticity, and with waddings to deaden any shock. The miserable makeshift of the comparatively fragile luggage-van, instead of a shield carriage adapted to the object, should not be borne by the public. The contrivance of a shield carriage would be extremely easy. The frame would, of course, be of greater strength than that of any common van; and the contents of more elasticity and less fragility than trunks and band boxes. The weight in it, too, would be placed so low as to counteract the tendency upon any check to ride at top of the next carriage, which is so observable in the luggage vans. The probability is that the last accident on the Great Western would not have occured, or that, if it had occured, it would not have been attended with the same fatal consequences, if, instead of a luggage-van, there had been between the engines and the passengers, a carriage such as we have described contrived and built expressly for the purpose of shielding the train, and with the equilibrium rendering it the least likely to jump or run off the rail. To railway companies there may appear to be an economy in preferring the makeshift of the passengers' baggage in the common van, but this is a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy, for, in the event of an accident, it is not only the trunks and portmanteaus of the passengers that are cut to pieces, carriages are smashed, rails torn up, &c.; and with a view merely to true economy (in addressing' companies we say nothing of public claims and humanity,) the expense of a well constructed shield carriage would be excellent thrift in the long run.—*Examiner.*

Communications.

FOR THE CHRONICLE.

MR. EDITOR.—Your strictures upon the publication of Joe Howe's letters, seem to have drawn the Courier quite out of his shell! Like old Priam he appears to be putting on his rusty armour for fight! It is so seldom that he dares any opponent to battle, that perhaps you will think it prudent to put yourself on the defensive, and to summon all your forces!—In thinking of this singular affair, it has occurred to me, that when one man tells another a very unpleasant truth, it does sometimes happen that *the lie* is immediately given. What have you said to induce the Courier to call you the lying Chronicle? As to what you said in your last number, I have heard several highly respectable persons declare that your statements were quite true; and they added that your charges against the Courier were applicable, not only to political affairs, but to Church matters also.

But it would seem that there is some *old* offence of which you have been guilty; for the Courier says that you are *proverbially* called the lying Chronicle. Was it that you *lied so* hard as to drive Sir John Harvey and his "*harmonious*" government from power? That immaculate administration not only squandered £200,000 which they fraudulently induced the Crown to give up to their control, but (besides spending the yearly revenue,) run the Province £80 000 in debt, for the payment of which we are to be taxed for the next 14 years.—What share had the Courier in the plunder?—Were any *Reports, &c.* printed for that musical government? If I recollect rightly, you were first called the lying Chronicle in the columns of this same Courier; and now, taking advantage of its own wrong, (as the lawyers would say,) the Courier says the epithet is proverbial! For one of your greatest falsehoods at that period, I think you were prosecuted by order of the harmonious administration. What was the result of that affair?

"Dismay and defeat
"And three cheers in the street;"

for twelve men on their oaths said that the alleged falsehood was true!

For your determined and persevering opposition to Sir John Harvey's corrupt and *disgraceful* administration, I believe every honest, every right thinking man in the Province considered you entitled to the thanks of the country. Let the Courier, if he can, point out any instance in his own career, of equally disinterested—equally meritorious conduct,—on the contrary, the Courier, at that time was the advocate of spoliation—the promoter of corruption.

In the present instance, it is amusing to observe that you have made the Courier somewhat ashamed of having published Howe's letters; for he intimates that he may have "inserted them as affording subjects for animadversion." This is like *administering* a dose of poison, with a view to the application of the stomach pump! a species of *quackery* for which the Courier will get but little credit from

A CONSERVATIVE.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

It being generally understood that a Bill to abolish Capital Punishment will be brought before the Legislature at the ensuing Session, by one of our City Representatives, which, it is apprehended will not pass the two lower branches, the Ladies of St. John, with the view of accomplishing a repeal at all hazards, have determined to Address His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor; and as it is desirable that the following Petition now in course of signature, should be brought forward with all possible despatch, you will please copy it into your columns, in order that the spinster portion of your readers may have an opportunity of informing themselves of its contents, and thus avoid the necessity of perusing them at the time of affixing their signatures, as it is expected there will be a tremendous rush to the Book Stores to morrow Saturday morning. In order to accommodate the female public, arrangements have been made to prevent the vulgar intruding on the side walk in front of the "Morning News" Office, where a copy of the Petition will be exposed for signature from the early hour of 5 A. M.

Yours, &c. JULY ANN.

PETITION.

Whereas, We, Spinsters, and other unmarried Ladies, inhabitants of the City of Saint John, did in pursuance of a laudable desire to save from death a young and handsome "stranger," whose Daguerreotype likeness still remains with us to perpetuate the memory of his wrongs, and whose fate has been so pathetically lamented in a dirge which appeared in the "Morning News" composed by a young lady from Nova Scotia, whose name may be furnished if desired by your Excellency and Council, did address our humble petition to your Excellency demanding his life at the hands of your Excellency,—the contents of which Petition it may be no more than fair to say, were not known to all of us who signed it, seeing that we signed blank sheets which were afterwards annexed to the Petition—And whereas, contrary to our expectations, your Excellency with great want of gallantry, not to say mercy, did refuse to give early our prayer; now therefore we, spinsters, and others, so being *loyal* and dutiful subjects of her most gracious Majesty the Queen, are extremely anxious to promote the welfare of this Her loyal Province of New Brunswick by suppressing crime, reclaiming criminals, and above all,—a reason which some ill-disposed persons may *snicker* at—to prevent the unnecessary waste of a very indispensable material for the manufacture of husbands. Do desire and beseech your Excellency to revive the old Law of Hungary by which any woman might claim a felon from the hands of the executioner, *provided she was willing to marry him*, as we are persuaded such a Law will not only be vastly instrumental in *preventing* crime—your Petitioners hope they will not be understood to speak *disparagingly* of themselves when they say this—but will also encourage your Petitioners to look forward with the greater certainty to the enjoyment of matronly honours—Be merciful to us, we pray your Excellency, and make the Law we require; and should any malicious intermeddler presume to whisper into your ear that *domestic*, not *political* economy, is the proper study of our sex, please your Excellency make him the first example. Order him to be executed—if he be a Bachelor or Widower; and your Excellency will then be enabled to judge how much wisdom there is in this proposal of your Petitioners, by his readiness to become a convert to the same,—and as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

☞ Blanks, Handbills, and Job Printing of all kinds, executed at the Chronicle Office at lowest prices.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 22, 1847.

We have advices from Halifax to half past six o'clock on Tuesday morning last, at which time the English mail steamer had not arrived; she would then have been out nearly 14 days.

The weather, which has been unusually mild up to the present week, has within a few days changed to severe cold; the thermometer standing this morning at 12 below 0, and on Tuesday 8.

Our contemporary of the Courier seems to be a good deal annoyed at our remarks in reference to the publication, in that paper, of Mr. Howe's letters. We beg to assure him, however, that we have no hostile feelings towards the Courier or any one connected with it. It was our indignation at the publication of these mischievous letters, that we could not repress. As to the truth of our statement that rebellious articles are always copied into that paper, (and here we beg to say, that by rebellious articles, we mean those which have a tendency to weaken the attachment of the Colonies to the Mother country) we are quite willing that the public should judge. We are perfectly ready to admit, at the same time, that we do not recollect any article to have been published in the Courier more rebellious in its tendency than these insidious letters. Who can read them without being strongly impressed with their republican tendency? All the real or imaginary disadvantages of being a Colonist are set forth in the most glowing colours; while the blessings of being a citizen of the neighbouring republic are described with all the art and eloquence of the writer. We doubt, indeed, whether any thing could have been written, better calculated to sap the loyalty of the rising generation.

We will not, however, descend to reply to the *illiberal* remarks of the Courier: we are quite prepared to expect illiberality from those who *profess* to be *liberal*? Indeed, the liberality of radicals invariably consists in their professions alone.

But, with regard to the "abuse of governors" mentioned by the Courier, it will not be denied by the *liberal* press that a bad governor ought to be censured by an independent journal; but to stand up in the House of Assembly as a Representative of the people, and say that the Queen's Representative ought to be *horsewhipped*, is quite another matter. That Sir John Harvey was a bad Governor, is perhaps sufficiently proved by his conduct being eulogized in these dulcyal letters.

The Courier remarks, also, "that we are either ignorant of the meaning of terms, or think ourselves the only loyal men in the Provinces; and to prove this, quotes a part of what we said in reference to the impolicy of supplying the place of British troops in the colonies by native regiments.—Those who read *the whole* of our remarks, will not, for a moment, fancy that we doubt the loyalty of the people of these colonies, or that we think their British feelings and principles of small importance. It was precisely because we regard those feelings and principles as the most valuable inheritance which a father can transmit to his children, that we took up the subject at all. We have no doubt that native regiments would be found ever ready to do their duty in defence of their Queen against a foreign enemy; but if Joe Howe should succeed in getting his new fangled *independence*, or "*self* government," and such regiments should be commanded as Joseph suggests, by men of "merit" (by which, of course, he means men like himself, and recommended by his party!) does it require the gift of prophecy to foresee what corps these regiments might pursue in case of a dispute between the colonies and the mother country? It was in this view of the subject that we spoke of the impolicy of such a measure. But such is the unsuspecting loyalty of the editor of the Courier, and so satisfied is he with Joseph's *professions* of loyalty, that he seems to think it quite impossible that such regiments should ever join in any future revolt!—Sapient editor! How profound is your knowledge of human nature! how extensive your acquaintance with history! Did not the leading rebels of the old colonists continue to *profess* their loyalty down to the hour they rebelled? Did not Papineau prate, from the housetops, of the blessings of living under the British government? Has human nature changed? Where did the Bostonians acquire the discipline which enabled them to fight with British troops? At the taking of Louisbourg!—When did Washington learn to command armies? When he held the commission and received the pay of the British government!—They who profess to be loyal, while they avow principles and advocate measures which tend directly to separate the Colonies from the Mother Country, may be believed by children and fools, but by them alone.

NEW SHIP.—A fine new ship of over 900 tons, register tonnage, was launched on the 2d instant from the ship yard of Henry Eastman, Esq., Saint Stephen; she is named the *Christie Anne*, and was built by Mr. Owen P. Hinds for Mr. Eastman.

Another fine ship of over 1200 tons has been in progress of building at the Ledge for some weeks; she is building for Messrs. William, Joseph, and James Porter, who have already, by their enterprise, contributed largely to the growth of the mercantile marine of the county.—*Charlotte Gaz.*

CONCERT.—The lovers of music will be gratified to learn that the Philharmonic Society, assisted by several gentlemen Amateurs, intend favouring the public with another of their pleasing Concerts on Tuesday evening next, at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute.—[See advertisement in another column.]

☞ The annual collection in St. Andrew's Church, on Sabbath last, for the poor, amounted to £10.

SURGICAL OPERATION.—We are informed that a tumor was yesterday removed from the arm of Mr. —— Beatteay, of Carleton, by Dr. Hunter Peters, of that place, while the man was rendered entirely insensible to pain by the inhalation of the vapor of a compound of which ether appear to form the chief ingredient.—Complete sleep and insensibility were produced in three minutes by this process, under the direction of Dr. Adams, of Boston; and the instant the operation was completed, an open window and a little cold water to the fore-head, immediately restored the patient, who at once expressed himself as "*having been very happy and quite unconscious of having felt anything.*"

We bring this under the notice of the public, that others may benefit by this wonderful improvement in modern science. Many, to our knowledge, are laboring under disease in this City, who have not the fortitude to endure the *pain* of an operation. This process is safe and rapid and has already been extensively used in Boston and other portions of the United States, by the most eminent Surgeons there.

The operation was performed in the presence of three Medical gentlemen, who expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with the complete and entire insensibility to pain of the patient.—Dr. Adams remains a day or two in the city, when he will visit Fredericton. (St. John, Jan. 18, 1847.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—A large and respectable meeting was held at Quebec on the 7th inst. when it was resolved that a line of telegraph from Halifax to Quebec, about 600 miles, could be set up at an expense of £25,000; and that the expense from Quebec to the frontier of New Brunswick, is estimated at £6,500. This sum it was proposed to raise in 650 shares of £10 each; and it was resolved to send a Deputation or Agent to this Province and Nova Scotia, to urge the establishment of similar Companies to carry out the entire plan. A committee of eighteen gentlemen was appointed to superintend the proceedings, and when 400 shares are subscribed for, Directors are to be chosen.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—Last night, (Friday) between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock, we were alarmed by the cry of Fire and the ringing of Bells; and in a few moments we discovered that the extensive and valuable Steam Saw Mills owned by Mr. Nelson, at the Nashwaksis, on the opposite side of the River, were all on fire. Every thing was done which could be accomplished by the joint operations of the Military and our Citizens, to stay the flames, but that was impossible, considering the distance, which is about a mile and a half from Town. The property destroyed is estimated by some at £5,000, and it is said that there is no Insurance, unless it has been effected within a few days, the proprietor being at present in the United States. Through the uncommon exertions of the Engine companies, already alluded to, a great quantity of Lumber was saved; but upon the whole, the consequences are truly melancholy, not only as regards the great loss sustained by Mr. Nelson, but also in reference to the number of individuals connected with the establishment, who are thrown out of present employment.—[*From a Slip from the Fredericton Reporter, January 16.*

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.—During the present week the Anniversary Services of the St. John South, North, and Carleton Auxiliary Missionary Society have been held. The Ministers who took part in these services were those residing in the City, namely, the Revs. Messrs. Daniel and Sutcliffe, and the Rev. Mr. Smallwood of Portland, and the Rev. Mr. Rice of Carleton;—also, the Rev. Messrs. Hennigar of St. Stephen, and Pickles of St. Andrews.

In the South Circuit, namely, Germain street and Centenary Chapels, in addition to the above mentioned Ministers, the Rev. Messrs. Gallaway, Independant; Irvine, Presbyterian; and Robinson, Baptist; took part in the Meetings. Also, the Hon. L. A. Wilmot of Fredericton, who delivered a most effective address at the Germain street meeting on Tuesday evening; and presided with his usual ability at the Centenary Chapel on Thursday evening. The cause of Missions at these meetings was most nobly advocated. The addresses of the different Ministers were listened to with deep attention and evidently with great delight. As an evidence of the effect produced, the Collections were more than twice the amount of last year, reaching the respectable sum of £63.

We are informed that both in Portland and Carleton, the Collections are largely in advance of last year,—shewing that the cause of Missions is acquiring additional hold of the public mind in this community,—that when a case is earnestly made out,—when the wants of the world are pressingly set forth to view, a generous response will be found in the heart of the religious public, and "the liberal man will devise liberal things."

Considering the numerous appeals which have been made on the Wesleyan Congregations in this City for different local objects, during the last six months, the proceeds of the Missionary Anniversary just closed, are highly creditable.—*New Brns.*

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—We regret to learn that Mr. Charles Hardenbrook, residing in the Parish of Westfield, about 12 miles from this City, was found frozen to death yesterday morning, near the residence of Mr. James B. Lyons. It appears that Mr. H. left town on Sunday, (whither he came for the purpose of visiting a sick daughter,) on his return home, and that he became benumbed with the intense cold, and sat down near a large rock, about one hundred yards from Mr. Lyons's dwelling. Mr H. was between forty and fifty years of age, and was much respected as an honest, upright man. His loss will be much regretted by all who knew him. We understand that he has left a wife and four or five children to mourn their bereavement.—*Ib.*

FLOUR.—At New York on the 11th inst. 1000 brls. flour, for exportation, sold at $5, 30; Corn meal, $3, 87½; Port, $9, 25, to $11.—Freight to Liverpool, flour, 4s. 9d. to 5s.; wheat 18d.

Freights at New Orleans, 2d Jan. to Liverpool, 5d. for cotton; 6s. for flour, and 17d. to 18d. for grain.

MORTALITY AMONG THE INDIANS.—A fearfully malignant fever is raging among, and sweeping off, the Indians at Dartmouth. No less than four victims of it, we have heard, were buried yesterday. The sickness is said to be the "black fever." The Government has compassionately taken the state of the sufferers into consideration, and directed that an hospital shall be prepared for them, and appointed Dr. Jennings to superintend it.—*Halifax Recorder.*

The British Ship Indus, Capt. Cox, in 34 days from St. Helena, recently arrived at Port Royal, Jamaica, with 340 Africans, captured from a Slaver by Her Majesty's brig Waterwitch, 8 guns, Commander Birch, on the coast of Africa, and sent to St. Helena, where the vessel was condemned and the Africans were shipped on board the Indus, and sent to Jamaica for the purpose of assisting in Agriculture.

At New York, Laths are now selling at $3,50 per thousand; and such is the scarcity of the article, that several saw mills in Brooklyn are cutting them from two inch plank.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Friday evening, M. H. Perley, Esquire, lectured on the "Forest trees of New Brunswick." After remarking, shortly, on some of the Geological features of the Country and its Geographical position, which he described as highly favourable to the growth of the most useful of the forest trees, and having pointed out on the map, the various routes taken by the surveyors for the projected railway, during the past summer the lecturer described the qualities and uses of most of our evergreens with those of some of our leafy varieties: from which it would appear, that much of our valuable timber, hitherto unestimated in this country and England, is likely soon to form an important article of domestic consumption, and of foreign traffic, as its adaptation to existing and increasing wants is beginning to be appreciated. Gas light has been introduced into the Hall, and the lecture room is splendidly illuminated from four hand-some chandaliers.—*Telegraph.*

Mr. Le Seur will lecture on Monday evening on "Affectation in some of its most prevalent forms."

At Charlotte Town, P. E. I. on the 14th instant, an Anniversary Meeting was held of the Prince Edward Island Association for promoting christianity among the Jews.

NEW FOUNDRY.—The Charlotte Gazette states that Mr. John Aymar, of St. Andrews, intends to establish an Iron Foundry at that place, to be in operation next spring. It will no doubt be a profitable business to the proprietor.

LATEST FROM MEXICO.

CRITICAL POSITION OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS.

The U. S. steamer Edith has arrived at New Orleans. She left Brazos 30th., and brings a confirmation of the reported advance of Santa Anna with a large force upon Saltillo. The Mexican army was reported nearly 30,000 strong.

General Taylor was only six or eight miles on his march to Victoria when General Worth's express reached Monterey.

A rumour that Santa Anna had thrown 17,000 men between Worth and Taylor, to prevent a junction of the American forces, was not credited. An impression prevailed among the passengers in the Edith, that a battle was fought about the 25th.

The whole valley of the Rio Grande was in a state of great ferment, apprehensions of attacks being entertained at Camargo, Matamoros, and other points, from the *Rancheros* under Canales.

At Matamoros Col. Clark had called on the citizens to enrol themselves for service, and at Brazos, Gen. Jessup had done the same thing—Both points were sadly deficient in arms and men. It was thought Canales had 2000 men.

A letter in the Picayune dated Tampico, 22d Dec., from a reliable source, confirms the report that the Mexican Congress have decided that the war shall not cease. Nor will they receive commissioners to treat for peace until every hostile foot has left the soil of Mexico, and every ship that lines the coast is withdrawn. They have further resolved that they will accept no foreign intervention whatever to bring about a peace.—This confirms previous statements of the truth of which doubts have been expressed in certain quarters.

FROM TAMPICO.—The schooner Henry M. Johnson, Hardy, from Tampico, 18th ult., arrived at New Orleans 28th. The captain reports that there was great excitement in the town arising from the supposed proximity of a large body of Mexicans.—All the Americans in the place were under arms.

Capt. Hardy, informs the Delta that Col. Gates, the commandment at Tampico, proclaimed the place under martial law on the 15th.

On the 16th, arms were distributed to all the American citizens in the place, including the captains of vessels in port, and sailors. Col. Gates, having had cause to suspect that the Mexicans had arms concealed in the place, instituted a search for them, and discovered about six hundred stand and a quantity of ammunition; about three hundred of the muskets were loaded.

The whole military force at Tampico on the 16th amounted to from 800 to 900 men. The steamship Virginia arrived at Brazos with 320 men of the Alabama regiment.

MEXICAN ITEMS.—As late as the 27th of November there were no regular troops stationed at the city of Mexico, a few *civicos*—imitrated militia—being the entire force to defend it. Arista was there in retirement.

All kinds of business was dull in Mexico, while a general stagnation of trade pervaded every portion of the country. The only artizans or mechanics who had any work were the gunsmiths—they were busy night and day, in every town and city.

Old machetes—short straight swords with which the Indians under Hidalgo fought the Spaniards during the revolutinn—were being sharpened, and every old musket was undergoing repairs.

American deserters are scattered through the city of Mexico in a most wretched plight, were begging from door, and were received and treated with contempt by all. Eight had reached as far south as Orizava, and little wask had been given them at a factory to keep them from actual starvation.

THE NEW LAW OF ENLISTMENT.—The Adjutant General at Washington has published the new law concerning enlistments for the regular army. It provides that during the continuance of the war with Mexico, the term of enlistment of recruits for the regiments of dragoons, artillery, infantry, and riflemen of the present military establishment, shall be "during the war," or five years, at the option of the recruit, unless sooner discharged. A bounty of twelve dollars is to be paid to each recruit—six dollars when he enlists, and the remainder when he joins his regiment on duty.

FLOUR INSPECTION IN NEW YORK.—As the new Constitution went into effect on the 1st inst. by the terms of which every description of inspection, as well as the appointment of state inspectors, has been abolished, the principal flour merchants have agreed among themselves to have their stock inspected as usual, and the principal flour inspectors, under the old law, have likewise agreed to continue their business, and perform their services whenever called upon. The flour merchants have taken this course for the purpose of maintaining their own reputation and character in foreign countries.

EASTERN STEAMBOATS.—The loss of the steamer Penobscot has led to some speculation as to the arrangements next season. We think it very probable that her place will be taken by the Charter Oak, she having been furnished with new boilers and put in good order. The Portland has a new engine, and is to be put in fine order, and will commence her trips from our river to Boston by the way of Portland, about the first of March. The Governor will be brushed up and take her place on the line from this city to Portland about the time of the opening of the river.

The new, large, and substantial ship like steamboat, in the course of construction, to run between Boston and Eastport, will be ready to run early in the summer. This boat will take the place of the Governor for the last month of the season and the first month in the spring following. [Bangor Whig.]

BURNING OF THE STEAMER PENOBSCOT.

It is true that this fine Steamer, as she was lying at Cunningham's Wharf, East Boston, took fire from some cause not distinctly understood, at about 4 o'clock on Thursday morning and was entirely consumed with the exception of the iron work.

The Times says:—Owing to the fact that the Ferry Steamers did not live up till about ½ past 6 o'clock, the fire engines from the city proper were not able to get to her till she had been burning a considerable time, and all efforts to save her were hopeless. The Penobscot had been running between Boston and Bangor, and had recently been hauled up for repairs. She was being painted and repaired throughout, and yesterday workmen were engaged on her.—They used some charcoal furnaces, but it is not supposed that these were the cause of the fire, because they were not used where any fire could be communicated. Two men slept on board the boat, and the fire got considerably under way before discovered by them. She is a total loss except her iron work—with all her furniture, fixtures and appointments. We do not learn whether she was insured—probably not. She was owned by Captain Nathaniel Kimball, of Gardner, Reuben K. Page of Hollowell, and Captain Sanford, of New York. She was about 4 years old.—[Bangor Courier.

STEED FROM BOSTON.—We received, (says a late New York Herald,) at three o'clock in the morning, Boston papers of the evening previous, by the kindness of Mr. Phillips. He left Boston at 5 o'clock on Wenesday afternoon, came over the Providence and Stonington Railroad, across the Sound in New-Haven, and then over the Long-Island Railroad, making the trip from city to city in ten hours.

Fishermen's Bounties.—The Yarmouth Register states that the collector of Boston paid last week 170 drafts, amounting to $33,108 63, which was drawn at the Custom House in Barnstable in payment of bounty to cod fishermen. The whole number of vessels employed in the cod fishery from that district the past season, and entitled to bounty, is about 182. Excepting two or three, all that applied obtained the bounty. These were refused on account of informality.

Fatal accident from Gun Cotton.—At Pittsburg, on the 6th instant, as Mr. Brindle, of Danville, and G. W. Fenner, of the Stockton artillerists, were experimenting with a pistol, charging it with gun cotton, the weapon was accidentally discharged, killing instantly a young man named Lewis Melissé, who was standing by at the time.

CAN PRINTERS SEND BILLS? Some doubt has been entertained by publishers of newspapers, since the late Circular of the Postmaster General was issued, whether bills can be lawfully enclosed in a paper, and with no additional postage. We made application for information at the Boston office; but the Postmaster here was in doubt. We then addressed a letter to the Department at Washington, to which we have received the following answer. It seems that publishers will continue to have the privilege they have long enjoyed, of sending bills enveloped in papers.

App't Office, Post Office Department, December 29, 1846.

Sir—Yours of the 24th has been received. Now, as before the passage of the Post Office law of 1845, publishers of newspapers may transmit their bills for subscriptions due, free of postage, according to the provisions of Sec. 156 of the Post Office Regulations.

Respectfully yours,
W. J. BROWN, Sec. Asst. P. M. Gen.
THOMAS WHITTEMORE, Esq., 37 Cornhill, Boston.

GREAT FLOOD AT DAYTON, OHIO.—On the 8th inst. a tremendous rise of waters took place at Dayton, which flooded the lower part of the city, and swept away a very large amount of property. As usual upon such occasions, the estimate of damage differs widely, ranging from $100,000 to $1,000,000. It was supposed that several persons had perished but the single body of a drowned child was the only one which had been recovered.

The alarm was given about 2 o'clock A. M., and the editor of the Daytonian, who with his family, was roused from his slumbers, and warned to flee, as the water was rising 18 inches to the hour, the Miami having overflowed the Levee about the city, and washed away about 80 yards of it, gives the following description of it:

The streets were crowded with men, women, and children, some of whom were seeking shelter from the more favoured ones, in the higher parts of the town, and others were standing in groups, mutely and sorrowfully watching the furious, current, as it rolled down the overflowed banks of the canal, bearing upon its troubled bosom the buoyant materials deposited upon the banks, such as lumber, staves, &c.—others upon horseback, riding their animals at the top of their speed, in different directions, warning the slumbering inhabitants of their danger, taking women and children from those dwellings entirely surrounded by water, and informing persons where their labour would be useful in rescuing property.

Cord wood, heaven knows, is dear enough in this good city of Montreal, and its high price is a terrible drain on small incomes, but the citizens have reason to congratulate themselves that they are not compelled to pay such prices as the good folks of Albany in the neighbouring States. In a late Albany paper we find that the prices in that city at present stand thus:—

Hickory	$8.00 cord.
Hard Maple	7 50
Beech	6.50
Oak	6.00

In consequence of the high price of wood, great quantities of coal are used in Albany, and the steamboats plying on the Hudson now use nothing else.

☞ CHURCH SOCIETY MEETING.—Finding it impossible to do justice to the interesting proceedings of the Church Society Meeting held last evening, in our circumscribed time of this day, we have deferred a notice of them until next week.

Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry,
the greatest remedy for
CONSUMPTION,
And the best Medicine known to Man for
Asthma, of every stage, Liver Complaints, Bronchitis, Influenza, Coughs, Cold, Bleeding of the Lungs, Shortness of Breath, pains and weakness in the side, breast, &c., and all other diseases of the
PULMONARY ORGANS.
A very important disease over which this "Balsam" exerts a powerful influence, is that of a
DISEASED LIVER.
In this complaint it has undoubtedly proved more efficacious than any remedy hitherto employed, and in numerous instances when patients had endured long and severe suffering from the disease, without receiving the least benefit from various remedies, and when MERCURY has been resorted to in vain, the use of this Balsam has restored the Liver to a healthy action, and in many instances effected
PERMANENT CURES,
after every known remedy had failed to produce this desired effect.
Besides its astonishing efficacy in the diseases above mentioned, we also find it a very effectually remedy in ASTHMA, a complaint in which it has been extensively used with decided success, even in cases of years standing.
It not only emanates from a regular Physician, but has also been well tested in all the complaints for which it is recommended. It is not my intention, therefore, either to cloak it in mystery, or in any way deceive the public by overrating its virtues; on the contrary, I shall simply endeavour to give a brief statement of its usefulness, and further myself that its surprising efficacy will enable me to furnish such proofs of its virtues as will satisfy the most incredulous, that Consumption may find "CAN BE CURED," if this medicine be resorted to in time.
For sale by Peters & Tilley, King's Street, St. John, N. B. October 7. 2f

MARRIED.

On Monday evening, by the Rev David Murray, to Miss Mary Ann city.

On Monday evening, by the Re binson, Mr. Samuel McKenzie, to Seldom, both of the Parish of Lan

On Friday evening last, by the V Dunphy, V. G., Mr. John Garriso daughter of Mr. J. Desmond, both

At the Parish Church, Kingston, ty,) on the 29th December, by t Scovil, Mr. Charles H. Deforest, o Essex, to Miss Phœbe C. Wet daughter of Mr. James Wetmore, Kingston.

At the Parish Church, at Upha inst. by