

ally drank twelve drams a day; but being convinced of his approaching misery, took the resolution to wean himself from this poison. He always drank out of one glass, into which he daily let fall a drop of sealing wax. By this means he had twelve drops less of spirit every day, till at length, his glass being filled with wax, his habit was cured. "In the drunkard," says Dr. Willan, "the memory and the faculties depending on it, being impaired, there takes place an indifference towards usual occupations, and accustomed society or amusements. No interest is taken in the concerns of others—no love, no sympathy remain; even natural affection to nearest relatives is gradually extinguished and the moral sense obliterated. The wretched victims of a fatal poison fall at length, into a state of fatuity, and die with the powers both of body and mind wholly exhausted. Some after repeated fits of derangement, expire in a sudden and violent phrenzy; some are hurried out of the world by apoplexies; others perish by the slower process of jaundice, dropsy, &c."

BET-ROOT SUGAR—The quantity of sugar obtained from beet-root last year, in one hundred sugar-houses in France, was about one-fourth of the entire consumption of sugar houses in that kingdom. The production of last year has doubled that of the two preceding years, and the speculation has turned out very profitable. It is also stated that to supply the entire consumption of France, it would only be necessary to plant with beet root one twenty-eighth part of the land now lying fallow.

An apple tree, at St Valery, in France, owing to the imperfect organization of its blossoms, never bore fruit till last year, when the owner impregnated the bloom with the pollen of the blossoms of other trees. All the blooms so treated produced fine fruit, whilst those which were not brought into contact with the blossoms from other trees, remained barren.

NAVAL STEAM CANNON—This stupendous machine of war does not, as Jonathan would say, "progress," for none of the experiments have succeeded. In one of them the apparatus was placed about forty paces distant from a wooden figure, to represent the hull of a man of war. The projectiles thrown were about four pounds calibre, and remained fixed in the thickness of the wood. A four pounder was afterwards fired off at the same distance, and the ball penetrated the figure.

There appears nothing more accidental than the sex of an infant, yet take any great city or province, and you will find that the relations of males and females are unalterable. Again a part of the pure air of the atmosphere is continually consumed in combustion and respiration: living vegetables emit this principle during their growth; nothing appears more accidental than the proportion of vegetable to animal life on the surface of the earth, yet they are perfectly equivalent, and the balance of the sexes, like the constitution of the atmosphere, depends upon the principles of unerring intelligence.

In the progress of society, all great and real improvements are perpetuated; the same corn which four thousand years ago, was raised from an improved grass by an inventor under the name of Ceres, still forms the chief food of mankind; and the potato perhaps the greatest benefit that the old has derived from the new world, is spreading over Europe, and will continue to nourish an extensive population when the name of the race by whom it was first cultivated in South America is forgotten.

When man measures the works of the divine mind by his own feeble combinations, he must wander in gross error; the infinite can never be understood by the finite.

The tree of knowledge is grafted upon the tree of life and that fruit which brought the fear of death into the world budding on an immortal stock becomes the fruit of the promise of immortality.

PARIS REFUGE FOR THE DESTITUTE.—It was stated some time ago that a subscription was being raised in Paris for an institution to do away with mendicity in that capital. We are glad to find, by a recent letter, that the subscription filled rapidly, and that a large building is now ready for the reception of beggars, of both sexes, after an examination by a commissary of police, to ascertain that they are unable to obtain work, or too infirm to perform it. Immediately after their admission they are required to bathe, and are then decently clothed; their old clothes, if not entirely worn out, being sent to be cleaned. They are well fed on bread, soup made from the gelatine of bones, and the quality of which is said to be excellent; and each person has an iron bedstead, pailasse, a woollen mattress, a bolster, two blankets, and a pair of sheets. There are now two hundred beds of this description, and the building is capable of containing

four hundred. The men and the women are kept separate; and every one who is capable of labour has work to do, according to his or her profession—the surplus of earnings, after deducting the expenditure, which is on the lowest possible scale, serving as an accumulating fund for individual benefit.—The daily food of each consists of a pound and a half of bread, soup, and vegetables; and on Sundays their is the addition of meat, with little indulgences, according to the state of health of the inmates. This benevolent institution, which is calculated to provide for four hundred persons, who had no other means of subsistence than begging, has been erected with a subscription amounting to less than £16,000 sterling.

(From the Morning Herald, Dec. 1.)

BANKS—IRELAND.

A preliminary meeting of gentlemen in London, interested in the establishment of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Ireland, was held on Sunday, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand, for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Bank in this country.

A long and interesting discussion took place upon the present position of affairs in Ireland, and the difficulty of finding in that country a circulating medium, for the encouragement of manufacturers, commerce, and agricultural produce. It was stated that the principle of this establishment, as distinguished from that of the proposed National Bank, was that the National Bank was solely conducted by a managing committee in London, by whom the capital was to be raised, and the Bank to be entirely controlled.—The object of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank was to have the management in Ireland, and the Directors exclusively local, with such securities as would ensure to the subscribers in this country an attention to their interests and an equal participation in the profits. The main objection to the proposed National Bank was stated to be that, while its supporters in Ireland avowed that they would not subscribe until a million was paid up through its conductors in London, they, at the same time, acknowledged, to use the language of the meeting at Cromer, on the 9th ult.—"that they considered a Bank established on the principles recommended by Mr. O'Connell entitled to support as a measure, not only to benefit trade and agriculture, but for the free avowal of political sentiments." That the connection between political and commercial affairs had ever proved incompatible; inasmuch as political opinions can be no criterion of mercantile responsibility, and would exclude the assistance of many whose respectability must ensure success. That the funds subscribed, as well as those to be deposited in the National Bank (which would be in cash) were to find their way to London, while the whole of the business of the Bank was to be carried on by a paper currency. That while the Agricultural and Commercial Bank wish to give every encouragement to the introduction of British capital, and to afford every possible security, by allowing each subscriber an equal voice in the conduct of their affairs, they object to the management of a Bank being managed at such a distance as to preclude not only a knowledge of its local interests, but to make it liable to the objection that it is conducted by judgment, solely acquired by experience gained by the management of affairs in a sister country. The Chairman after congratulating the meeting on the unanimity of their sentiments, expressed his hope that the establishment of this Bank would have a tendency to remove those feuds which had so long distracted this productive, but divided country.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1855.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The communication signed "B" has been received.—The writer must be aware that we do not publish anonymous communications, unless we know the name of the author; particularly when they are of a personal nature.—We, however, agree in the main with our anonymous correspondent; that little D has not scrupled to play a double part before now, and would do so again, if it were not that he is kept, like many others of his kind, in a wholesome fear of the slavish discipline of his G—F—.

The following Bills have passed the lower House, and have been sent to the Legislative Council. A Bill to limit the duration of the Colonial Parliament to Four years.—A Bill for the erection of a Light House on Harbour Grace Island.—A Bill for regulating the width of the Streets in Carbonear, and a Bill to prevent Caplin from being used as Manure. These four judicious and necessary measures were introduced into the

House by **ROBERT PACK, Esq.**, one of our Conception Bay members, who certainly deserves the thanks of his constituents, for as much as that in the midst of the confusion and clamour caused in the House by the pseudo-patriots, his business-like habits, and single eye to his immediate duties, have enabled him to do so much, where others have been doing nothing, and to redeem his pledge with respect to Triennial Parliaments; for, after having repeatedly, in former sessions, sent his Triennial Bills, without avail to the Legislative Council. He has now with more appearance of success, sent a Quadrennial Bill for the approval of that body.

We have before referred to the necessity of erecting a Light House on Harbour Grace Island; this is likely to be obtained through his instrumentality.

Carbonear will never be a Town worthy of notice, while the streets present their present appearance.

The proprietors of land near the main-street, urged by a false notion of gain, have built their houses so near to each other on the opposite sides, that any thing like safety in case of fire, is totally out of the question, the buildings are therefore less valuable than they would be, if the streets were wide. The Street Act will only operate on lands not yet built upon; and on lands becoming vacant by future occurrences, such as fire &c. The Caplin Bill was introduced in consequence of petitions for it, from *Port de Grave, Bay Roberts, and Harbour Grace*. We noticed this subject on the 4th instant. We had not then arrived at a conclusion satisfactory to ourselves.

The question involves so many complicated, and contending interests, that we are still undecided; notwithstanding our having given our best attention to the two, long, clear, and able letters on the subject, in last weeks "MERCURY." One thing, we think, that the Law should not come into operation for one year at least, so as to give to the people time to provide some other sort of manure for the succeeding season; for if it were to be put into sudden operation the present summer, one half at least, of the support of the people in this place, would be cut off at one fell swoop. Mr. Pack has also, we understand, been engaged in the introducing of a Bill for the disfranchisement of the Barrister's Corporation.

We think that this was on many accounts called for. From the paucity of legal practitioners at the bar, it should for some time longer have been open to competition. The public would have the benefit of any talent that such competition would call into action; and would have a greater scope to choose, among the professional men, whom they would like to rely on for the *tutorship* of their sons, and the care of their son's moral character.

Mr. Pack in the last session of the Colonial Parliament, got a law passed for regulating the Cutting of Channels in the Ice in the different Harbours &c. of this Island.

This Harbour and many other Harbours in this Bay were free of Ice until after the beginning of March. Meetings were called in this place, *Harbour Grace, Bay Roberts, &c.* for the purpose of appointing Committees to carry the Ice Bill into operation, if it were necessary. But the Harbours being then without Ice, the meetings were not sufficiently attended to do any thing effectually. Men, even short-sighted, as it regards the future, thought that laws for Cutting Ice were foolish, and unnecessary, when no Ice was to be seen on the harbours. So it remained until half the Sealing schooners had sailed, when a gale of Easterly wind accompanied with severe frost, filled the harbours with Ice, and kept in the remaining schooners.

No voluntary considerations will create a complete unanimity amongst a whole community, so as to cause them to concentrate their united power, to the accomplishment of a given purpose. If any thing could do it, it would be the present prospects of those whose schooners are frozen up in harbour. But we find many, on whom nothing can operate in making them contribute to the common good, but penal laws and coercive measures.

An improved, novel, and very effectual method of breaking up the ice, has been adopted in this Harbour.

There thirty-seven schooners, (about one-third of those fitted out here,) kept in by the ice. The crews of them, (with the exception of three or four schooners, the crews of which did not attend,) to the amount of

about five hundred men, assembled together, a large lighter, or lumber boat was procured, to which was fastened three or four strong tow-lines, a large spar fastened under each bow, the boat loaded with a number of men, the greater part of whom were in the stern, so as to raise her bow out of water; the great body of the men were ranged ahead of her on the ice, and dragged the boat from one end of the Harbour to the other, breaking up the ice into channels in different directions to the distance, when put together, of about eleven miles.

The mouth of the Harbour was by this means cleared of ice on Monday; and the rest of the Harbour so much broken up, that if the westerly wind continue, it will enable all the schooners to go to sea. The ice in the Harbour, having drifted in from seaward, and being in many places thick, heavy, and frozen together, it would have been quite impracticable to cut it in the usual way with saws &c.

Indeed the new method of breaking it up by means of a heavy boat, will, in future, do away with the sawing system altogether, and will, when the Ice Bill is brought into operation, do away with any difficulty that has been hitherto experienced, in getting vessels out to the ice, when they are frozen up in Harbour. Much praise is due to Mr. WILLIAM HIGHTON TAYLOR, and Mr. WILLIAM GILES, for their exertions in getting the ice broken up in the Harbour.

The four schooners, whose crews did not attend on Monday morning, for the purpose of hauling the boat, were the *Dolphin, Margaretta, James, and St. Ann*. The crews of those vessels were working at them getting them into the channel.

Notices

THE Subscriber having been appointed by the Worshipful the Bench of Magistrates of the Northern District, **SURVEYOR OF LUMBER** for the division of *Carbonear and Western Bay*, agreeable to the Act 4th of William IV., chap. 9th sect. 12th, hereby gives Notice that all Persons Selling or Purchasing Tun Timber, Plank, Board, Shingles, and other Lumber, which may hereafter be imported into Newfoundland for Sale, or being the Produce of this Colony, shall, previous to the delivery thereof, apply to him to Survey the same, otherwise they will incur the penalty provided by the above Act.

LORENZO MOORE, SURVEYOR.

Carbonear, Feb. 25, 1855.

THE EXPRESS PACKET-MAN will continue, as usual to go round the BAY during the Winter months.

Rates of Postage—Single letters 1s. Double do. 2s.

And Packages in proportion.

ANDREW DRYSDALE, AGENT HARBOR GRACE.

PERCHARD & BOAG,

AGENTS, ST. JOHN'S

Harbor Grace, February 13, 1855.

KELLYGREWS PACKET.

JAMES HODGE OF KELLYGREWS,

BEGETS most respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has a most safe and commodious Four-sail BOAT, capable of conveying a number of PASSENGERS, and which he intends running the Winter, as long as the weather will permit, between KELLYGREWS, and BRIGUS and PORT-DE-GRAVE.—The owner of the PACKET will call every TUESDAY morning at Messrs. BENNETT, MORGAN & CO'S. for Letters and Packages, and then proceed across the Bay, as soon as wind and weather will allow; and in case of there being no possibility of proceeding by water, the Letters will be forwarded by land by a careful person, and the utmost punctuality observed.

JAMES HODGE begs to state, also, he has good and comfortable LODGINGS, and every necessary that may be wanted, and on the most reasonable terms.

Terms of Passage—

One Person, or Four, to pay Twenty Shillings Passage, and above that number Five Shillings each.

Not accountable for Cash, or any other valuable Property put on board.

Letters will be received at Bennett, Morgan & Co's. at St. John's.

Kellygrews, January 14, 1855.