THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1840.

We received New-York papers to Friday evening and Boston of Saturday evening by the steamer North America, which arrived about ½ past 7 o'clock yesterday morning. She left Boston at 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, and stopped at Eastport about three quarters of an hour.—The papers furnish nothing important.

Next Saturday is the day set apart by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for celebrating throughout the length and breadth of the Province, the Birth and Marriage of our Most Gracious QUEEN, and quite a *gala* day is anticipated. In this City, the Common Council, it will be observed, have appropriated a handsome sum for providing substantial fare for the poor, on both sides of the harbor; the Military are to turn out, (the gallant 69th, with their fine Band, and the Militia,) and various other entertainments both public and private, are projected.

On *Monday* Evening, the Temperance and Abstinence Societies of this City intend celebrating the same joyous events, by holding a splendid *Soirée* at the National School Room; at which we learn the honor of His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor's company, is expected; and which will be enlivened by the attendance of the Band of the 69th.

Yesterday, the 18th May, was the 57th anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists, the venerated founders of our City, who at the close of the American revolutionary contest, in 1783, left their homes in the revolted Colonies and took up their residence in what was then a wilderness of forest, but which is now a flourishing Province, with a large Commercial City, and several other thriving mercantile towns and villages. A few of the venerated founders of our City and Province yet remain among us, and appear to view with pride the steadily increasing prosperity which displays itself on every side, both in town and country.—One of the most aged and respected of these ancient individuals, whose venerable appearance animates every bosom, we yesterday observed driving in a waggon with two horses, some members of his family through our streets; and long may the snow-white head of the "father of the City" be yet visible among us!

Yesterday (with a high north wind, which raised clouds of dust,) the air was excessively warm, till about 3 o'clock, P. M. when a slight shower both cooled the air and laid the dust, and people were enabled to sleep at night with comfort. At 10 A. M. and at 4 P. M. the thermometer was at 70° in the shade.—To-day the atmosphere is cool & pleasant.

The brig Malta, from Greenock, brought out Pipes for the St. John Water Company.

The Troop ship Apollo, from the West Indies, via Halifax, with the 56th Regiment, arrived at Quebec on the 7th inst. A detachment of the Regt. was to be sent down immediately to Riviere du Loup, to relieve the companies of the 11th, stationed there.—The ship was to sail for England in a few days with the 11th Regiment.

The Sultan of Muscat has sent as presents to the President of the United States, two fine Arabian Horses, a box of Pearls, Sabre, etc. They arrived at New-York in the Arabian ship.

From the Courier of Saturday.

On Monday last, a meeting of the Members of the Church of England in this Parish, was held at the Madras School Room, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking into consideration certain measures which the Vestry had deemed it necessary to propose to them, for providing suitable salaries for the Clergymen of the Parish.

The Honorable the CHIEF JUSTICE presided on the occasion, and he opened the business of the Meeting with the following address:—

GENTLEMEN,—We are assembled at the call of the Vestry of this Parish, on one of the most interesting and important occasions, that can bring men and Christians together—for no less a purpose, than to devise means for continuing among us the ministrations of the Church to which we belong, the Church which we love and revere, as "the Pillar and ground"—the depositary and Messenger of "THE TRUTH."—For the existence of this Church in the British Colonies, and for its preservation hitherto, we are mainly indebted to the zeal and piety of our fellow-subjects in the Mother Country, who form and support the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. But such are the demands upon the funds of this Society, in its vast field of operations, comprehending the almost boundless extent of the British Empire, that it is now compelled to throw upon their own resources such of the larger places, heretofore receiving its bounty, as have adequate means to provide for themselves. It cannot be denied that they are right in so doing. I rejoice to think, however, that our connexion with this Venerable Society is not altogether dissevered, and even if the pecuniary tie should entirely cease, I trust we shall continue to connect ourselves with it by an enduring tie of gratitude—I may say, of filial gratitude. In our present advanced condition, we are bound to take care of ourselves. Indeed it is a paramount duty of all, according to the ability with which Providence has blessed them, to provide for the religious instruction of themselves, their families, and the community in which they live. And for Churchmen, the sphere of this duty is undoubtedly within the pale of the Church. I am sure that these sentiments will be responded to by every one here present, and that I need not take pains to enforce them upon you. I shall therefore content myself with making these few general remarks, introductory of the business of the meeting. A statement of the funds of the Parochial Church, and the propositions of the Vestry, will be laid before you, and Resolutions will also be submitted to you by Gentlemen who are fully competent to do justice to the subject.

The Meeting then appointed Mr. GEORGE WHEELER to be their Secretary; and he read certain extracts from the Minutes of the Vestry, which had been printed and circulated, exhibiting a sketch of the annual income and expenditure of the Church Corporation, and containing several Resolutions of the Vestry relative to the subject before the Meeting. These resolutions were to the effect, that the Rector's annual salary should, in the opinion of the Vestry, be fixed at £500 independent of surplice fees; that the exigencies of the Parish required the services of two Assistant Clergymen, whose salaries should be at least £200 each; that towards payment of these sums £75 sterling would, as heretofore, be paid by the Society for Propagating the Gospel, and £300 currency could be appropriated from the funds of the Corporation; and that, after allowing a sum for contingencies, the sum of £600 would be required to be raised by subscription among the Parishioners.

It was then moved by WILLIAM H. STREET, Esq seconded by WILLIAM WRIGHT, Esq. and

Resolved, That the Parishioners of the Parish of St. John, here assembled, fully concur in the Resolution of the Vestry of the 6th February last, now communicated to them, relative to the necessity of providing for the services of two Assistant Ministers in this Parish.

Mr. STREET prefaced his motion by observing, that since he had entered the room, he had been requested to present the Resolution which he was about to offer, for the adoption of the Meeting. Upon examining the statements furnished by the Vestry, and the Resolutions of that Body which had been submitted he found that the sense of the Vestry fully accorded with his own previously formed opinion, that the rapidly increasing population of this City, rendered it if not imperative, at any rate an object of the first importance, to increase the means of spiritual instruction; and that the clerical duties of the Parish could not be sufficiently discharged by a less establishment than two assistant Clergymen associated with the Rector. His own observation enabled him to bear witness to a fact, from which he felt assured none here present would dissent, that the Rector and his assistant, (he, Mr. STREET, would call him his able assistant,) at present performed, all that two highly talented and able individuals could possibly accomplish; and he considered the time had arrived, when the increased duties could only be discharged by the Parishioners providing sufficient means to enable the Vestry to secure the services of another Assistant Clergyman. He had, therefore, great pleasure in proposing the Resolution, and doubted not that it would receive their cordial assent.

The Honorable Judge PARKER next addressed the meeting, and observed, that he had often had the pleasure of co-operating with the Honorable Chairman in other places and on other occasions; and he had not unfrequently been called on to take part in public meetings; but at no time and on no occasion did he come forward with more satisfaction; nor at the same time with greater anxiety as to the success of their efforts, than on the present occasion, which had assembled them together as members of the same church; and though they might separate with lighter purses, he hoped their hearts would be lighter, and a weight would be removed from their consciences.

Yes, he would say, a weight from their consciences, for he was sure the Honorable Chairman had felt, and many others then present had felt and acknowledged that, as members of a Christian community, as professing Churchmen—yes! not only as believers in the truth of CHRIST's religion, but *as firmly persuaded of the Apostolic origin of Episcopacy, and the superior excellency of that form of Church Government and those Ordinances of Worship which distinguish the Protestant Episcopal Church*; as deeply feeling the importance of the subject in its bearing on our national, social, family and personal interests; as careful that the poor should have the Gospel preached to them; as earnestly desirous that the blessings we have long enjoyed should become the unimpaired inheritance of those who come after; that it was their indispensable duty to make an adequate provision for the Public Worship of God, and support of their religious Pastors.

Three questions were for their consideration, on which he would dwell at some little length:

First.—The importance of the subject; whether or no the proper support of the Church among us; an adequate number of Clergymen, and a suitable provision for their wants, are matters of that indispensable nature, that they ought to be attended to at any reasonable cost and sacrifice?

Second.—Whether we have sufficient means among our Church Congregation for making this provision?

Third.—Whether, having such means, we have any just right to ask, or any good grounds for expecting that this duty will be performed for us by others?

On the first question, His Honor made several observations as to the general obligation on all communities to provide for the support of religion and the Public Worship of GOD; the various duties which attached to the Ministers of the Church, and the especial exigencies of this Parish; and he remarked, that when we compared the humble expenses of our Church last twelve with the splendid and costly offerings and sacrifices which had characterized other systems, other countries, and other times; he believed that so far from their being called on to contribute more largely to what they knew to be the religion of Truth, on that account; that if they had to select, without regard to the truth or falsity of the system; it would be difficult to choose from those which had formerly prevailed or were now found in the world, any that would be more acceptable than that which they were now required to support, even in an economical point of view.

He then referred to the statement laid before the meeting by the Vestry, and observed that in regard both to the Vestry funds, the number of Clergymen recommended, and the incomes to be provided; the Vestry had acted with sound judgment and prudence. As regarded the income of the Rector of such a parish as this, a smaller sum could not be named; if they really wished he should suitably fill that station. Perhaps he might be screwed down to a smaller sum; but if any one would fairly reflect on the expense of living; the respectability of appearance, the calls of justice and of charity; if they wished him to provide suitably for his family wants, to educate his children, to meet his engagements with punctuality; and, above all things, to be able to contribute to the urgent wants of the sick and needy; and not to be driven to make the hardest bargains possible, in order to secure a subsistence; he would not desire the salary to be lowered. "But, Sir," continued His Honor, "I should not do half justice to this subject if I omitted to mention the high privilege we enjoy in the return to us of one who has been so eminently useful, and who is so admirably calculated to win the respect, affection, and confidence of his flock; whose talents would, in any other profession, I doubt not, have secured him independence and honours; and who, Sir, when we regard him as a Christian Minister, whether in the Church or in the world; whether in the houses of the rich, or the lonely habitations of the poor; whether in the private meetings of Christians; the gathering, for religious instruction, of the Sunday Schools, or their Teachers; in the apartment of the sick, or at the death-bed of the dying; is alike distinguished by his perfect consistency of conduct, and great Christian graces and ability.—If, Sir, he had consulted merely his temporal prospects, or advancement in the Church, his family interests and personal comforts; all we could offer him would have been tendered in vain; but he has, I am sure, been influenced by higher motives; and has come to where the greater sphere of usefulness seemed opened to him by the hand of Providence. And, Sir, we must see, in his case especially, that "if he sows unto us spiritual things, he has a right to reap our worldly things."

In considering the second question, as to the ability of this Parish to meet the present call; His Honor adverted to the amazing strides which this place had made within the memory of many present; the commercial prosperity; vast increase in the value of property; number of houses, ships, and stores; public buildings: Banks with large capitals: domestic comforts, conveniences, and luxuries. He observed, if we were not now prepared, we should probably have said just the same twenty years ago: and yet, since that time, three successive fires had each swept away capital enough, and more than enough, to have provided for the whole support of religion in the place; and yet how little absolute distress had been felt: and how soon, with the advantages we enjoyed, and with the blessing of Providence on our exertions, would all traces of those ravages be effaced.

"But, Sir, some one perhaps will say it is true the Parish is rich enough as a whole; but we are the poor of the community, we have not a fair proportion of the good things of this world in the Church.—I am afraid, Sir, when we look around at our congregation, we can make no such excuse as this: we number among us some of the wealthiest: and I believe if each of us will contribute the income, the profits, the wages of one week in the year, (a fifty-second part of our funds), no very exorbitant demand on our resources, it would be more than we need to meet the present call.

"We have had a noble example set us by other denominations; the Methodists, the Baptists, the Roman Catholics, I believe also the members of the Church of Scotland, contrive to support their Ministers; and shall we be behind them? No, Sir, we have the means if we have the disposition.

"Then if I be right in this, Mr. Chairman, have we any just right to ask, any good grounds to expect that others will do it for us? We have no grounds that such expectation would be realized if our claim were reasonable: but if the provision were at this moment offered to us from the Funds of the Venerable Society which has supported us so long, could we have the heart to accept it?

Let us consider the state of the British Metropolis; a half a million persons totally without religious instruction or ordinances, a great spiritual destitution in many rural districts of England, in all the large cities, and amidst the immense manufacturing population. Look at the poor and persecuted state of our Church in Ireland: the narrowness of its means in Scotland: the great calls for assistance which the late noble act of National Justice, Slave Emancipation, has created in the West Indies: the state of the Penal Colonies and other settlements in Australia: above all, look to the millions of our subjects in India opening their arms, as it were, to receive the blessings of Christianity: and would we wish to divert the streams of Christian benevolence ready to flow into those parched and spiritually desolate countries, and turn them into our (comparatively speaking) green pastures, leaving our own cisterns and fountains unexhausted, nay, almost untouched.

"When we reflect on the marvellous successes which have lately crowned the arms of Great Britain in India: the Country of the Indus, (almost untrodden by European foot since the days of Alexander,) open to our commerce and our civilization; when we see what efforts are making at home for the spread of the Gospel; it may not be too much to hope that a more glorious work may yet be destined for our Country; and that she may be, in the hand of Providence, the humble instrument of evangelizing the dark places of the earth. But if these considerations are too distant and uncertain, let us turn to our own immediate neighbourhood.

Fifty years and more have we been receiving the bounty of the Society; and shall we not allow such other parts of the Province as have as yet had no share in it, to participate?—how many settlements are there where the members of our Church are destitute of her ordinances, and too poor to provide them; how many families scattered about whose children grow up without Baptism, and almost wholly without religious instruction? But even still it appears £75 sterling is to be paid from abroad; I am glad to retain this, as the means of preserving our connexion with the Society; but on the condition, and with the fervent expectation, that we shall provide an equivalent sum, for a Missionary to Loch Lomond, Black River, and the adjacent settlements in our immediate vicinity."

His Honor then proceeded to enforce his remarks by reference to several passages in Scripture pointing out the duty enjoined and the promises which accompany such injunction, and observed that we ought to look to God's holy word for the rule of our conduct, and the motives by which we should be influenced in it.

He then adverted to the fact recorded in the gospels of our Saviour sitting at the Treasury of the Temple and noticing the gifts which were offered; there was no word of censure on the rich for giving much, but he who could read the heart knew clearly the value of the poor widow's offering. "She was one who probably looked to her daily labour for her daily bread; and while we perhaps should exclaim at her improvidence, he admires her noble liberality and confidence in the divine promises. If then, our Saviour, in the days of his humiliation, thus particularly remarked the offerings in the Temple, could we believe that his attention would not be directed to our thoughts and actions on an occasion like this, when we were called on to provide for his worship and service. And it, Sir, we really believe, as we profess to believe, in our future accountability to him, if we admit the obligation, what answer shall we make if we leave this work undone? Can we say we *could not* spare to the Being who has given us all this small return of his bounty? shall it not be inquired of us—what sacrifices have we made of even our luxuries, our superfluities, to justify such an excuse?"

In conclusion, His Honor begged to apologise for the time he had occupied, trusting that the length and earnestness of his observations would be justified by the importance of the subject, on which he felt more than he could well express.

His Honor then moved the following Resolution, which having been seconded by Dr. BAYARD, it was

Resolved, That as professed Members of the Church of England, we recognise the indispensable obligation of contributing, according to our ability, for the maintenance of that Church among us, and for the proper support of our Clergy; and that we will forthwith enter into a Subscription for raising the required sum of six hundred pounds, in order to provide suitable Salaries for the Rector and Assistants.

ROBERT F. HAZEN, Esq. upon introducing the next Resolution, expressed his gratification that the Meeting had so readily adopted the views of the Vestry, upon the important subject which had brought them together. His office of Churchwarden had led him to apply his mind with some care, to the consideration of the measures now proposed to them, and he was satisfied that, in the conclusion to which that Board had arrived, relative to the amount to be applied by them towards these salaries, they had gone to the full extent warranted by the state of the Corporation Funds. He alluded to the recently improved state of the Church finances, and the increasing value of the Church property, and as these were matters of much interest to every Parishioner, he invited inquiry into them, and stated his readiness, at all times, to impart any information in his power.—He then, more particularly, alluded to the subject matter of the Resolution which he intended to move; and he considered that the present interesting occasion should not be allowed to pass, without an expression of their grateful sense of the munificent bounty which had, for a very long period, been extended to this diocese, by the Venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. It was, indeed, he observed, to the noble efforts and pious zeal of this distinguished Association, that the whole North American Continent was mainly indebted, for the establishment of an Episcopal Clergy. Mr. HAZEN then gave to the Meeting some valuable statistical information, relating to the proceedings of the Society, and having alluded to the able manner in which the previous speakers had anticipated much of what he had intended to say, he concluded by moving the following Resolution, which was seconded by WM. SCOVIL, Esq. and passed,

Resolved, That this Parish is under the deepest obligation to the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to whose great liberality we have been hitherto, under Divine Providence, so mainly indebted for the establishment and support of our Church; and knowing the numerous and increasing calls on the funds of that Society, this Meeting feels a lively satisfaction in the anticipation, that the result of our proceedings this day will evince our real desire to afford that Venerable Body some effectual co-operation in the great work, which they have done so much to promote.

The CHIEF JUSTICE then left the Chair, and His Worship, the MAYOR, being called thereto, having taken it, on motion of J. R. PARTELOW, Esq. seconded by DR. PADDOCK, it was

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Meeting are due to His Honour THE CHIEF JUSTICE, for his kindness in taking the Chair on the present occasion.

A Subscription List was then opened, and a sum exceeding £300 was immediately subscribed, and the Meeting separated highly gratified with the proceedings of the day.

The Great Western left New York on Saturday 9th inst. in the midst of a severe north east storm with 138 passengers, a greater number than she had taken on any former trip. Every berth was full.—The packet ships are likewise taking to England great numbers of passengers, on business or pleasure.

At the General Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the *Saint John Water Company*, held on the 12th instant, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Directors for the ensuing year:—

L. Donaldson, R. W. Crookshank, John Robertson, Thomas Barlow, Isaac L. Bedell, R. F. Hazen, W. H. Street, Hugh Mackay, William Mackay, John Kerr, Robert Keltie, Hon. Wm. Black, and Wm. S. Sands, Esquires.

Preparations, we are pleased to find, are being made, for laying the Corner Stone of the Building about to be erected by the Mechanics' Institute in this City, with due ceremony, in about ten days. It is proposed to have a Trades' Procession on the occasion, and we understand His Excellency Sir JOHN HARVEY has signified his intention of being present and taking part in the interesting proceedings of the day.—*Courier.*

LAUNCHED on Thursday last, from the Shipyard of Messrs. F & J. Ruddock, Portland, a splendid new Ship called the "*Lockwoods*," of 844 Tons Register, copper-fastened. For strength, model, and superiority of workmanship, she is pronounced, by competent judges, to be as fine a specimen of naval architecture as has ever been produced in this Province. She is owned by Messrs. James Lockwood and Co. of this City.—Ib.

On the 6th inst. a fire broke out in Mr. Molson's distillery, Quebec suburbs, Montreal, which it is said consumed about £10,000 worth of property—all uninsured.

THE KINGSTON FIRE.—The estimated loss by the late fire at Kingston, Upper Canada, is now put down at $100,000, of which about $30,000 was insured. The loss in the article of flour is stated at $30,000, which falls chiefly on the merchants of Montreal and Quebec. The Ottawa Forwarding Company were great sufferers. The iron chest belonging to them has been secured; when opened the specie was melted into a solid mass of coin, all the bank bills, notes of hand &c. and many valuable papers were destroyed.

It is asserted on good authority, that the introduction of moustachios is to become more or less general in the army. At any rate, the Cavalry, Guards and Fusilier Regiments, and we have also heard the Rifle Corps are to be ordered to wear them forthwith.

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Wednesday, May 13th.—On motion of Alderman Parker,—Read, a communication from the Secretary of the St. John Water Company, accompanied by statements of all the accounts and affairs of the Company, for the inspection of the Common Council, according to the Act of Assembly for authorising the Corporation to purchase the rights and property of the Company: also read, the 31 section of the said Act, relative thereto.—Referred to a Committee, to examine the said statements and accounts, and also the machinery and other property of the Company, and to report generally thereupon.

THE MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES.—Alderman Humbert presented a Report from the Committee, on celebrating the Queen's Marriage; which recommended, that a Public Repast of Bread, Beef, and other refreshments be provided for the poor, and for all who should choose to partake thereof; that a sum not exceeding £250 be appropriated for that purpose; that provisions should be distributed to the inmates of the Alms House, Workhouse, and Gaol; public tables be laid in King's and Queen's Squares, and in Carleton; gunpowder be provided for the Militia to fire salutes; and the Commandant of the Garrison be requested to order out the Troops, and to allow the Band to play through the City, on the day of celebration.

GAS.—Alderman Porter brought in a very long Report of the Committee on Dr. Gesner's proposals to light the City with Gas; which after a few brief observations, was ordered to stand over for further consideration, before discussing its merits.

FOREIGN MECHANICS.—On motion of Mr. Hagerty, seconded by Alderman Vanburne, His Worship the Mayor and some other Members were appointed a Committee, to ascertain whether foreigners were taking contracts or carrying on buildings or doing other works in the City, to the injury of the settled mechanics and freemen. The motion called forth some very strong remarks from several Members, on the impropriety and injustice, of introducing foreigners for such purposes, and thereby invading the rights and privileges of the citizens; and the Board expressed a determination to do all in their power to put down the practice, and to protect the citizens in their just rights.

The Season.—The past week was a most disagreeable one. The wind prevailed from the East and North East, and rain or snow fell almost incessantly, during the whole time. Yesterday about noon the wind veered round to the South East, the clouds dispersed, and the sun once more peeped out. During the day, nine square rigged vessels passed up. This morning is fine, with but little wind.—*Miramichi Gleaner, May 12.*

Singular Circumstance.—The ship Ross, and barques Lord Mulgrave and Latona, sailed from Hull yard arm and yard arm,—separated soon after,—experienced a similar passage of 37 days,—saw not each other on the way,—belong to the same owner; and all arrived proudly at this port yesterday within gun shot of each other.—*Ib.*

OROMOCTO.—We were at the mouth of the Oromocto River during the present week; and are glad to find the bridge across that stream is rapidly advancing towards completion, the last pile having been driven on Tuesday. It is proposed to extend a causeway across the interval on this side the river, tenders for which are advertised in this day's Sentinel.

The scenery about the mouth of the Oromocto is of the most delightful kind; and it has long been a source of regret that there has not been a comfortable house of entertainment, for travellers or persons desirous of partaking of a day's recreation;—the distance from Fredericton being only twelve miles.

We are much gratified therefore in being able to state, that in addition to an hotel which will probably be erected, the public can be entertained at the house of Mr. George Nevers, in the most comfortable manner.—*Fredericton Sentinel.*

The brig Harmony has arrived at Halifax with a cargo of cigars and coffee, to the Halifax "Cuba Company."

QUEBEC, May 6.

Extract of a letter from the Medical Superintendent at Grosse Isle, dated May 5th:—

"The ship Borneo, Capt. Gorman, thirty days from Limerick, with 279 steerage passengers, arrived at the Quarantine station yesterday. Capt Gorman for many years past has been the first passenger ship—he has this time brought a fine healthy set of passengers, and taking them as a specimen of their countrymen, well deserving of O'Connell's boast of being "*the finest peasantry in the world.*" During 22 years that Capt. G. has brought passengers to this port, he says he never had so quiet and orderly a set as at present: he attributes this to the reformation effected by Father Matthew, whose Temperance pledge most of them took before embarking their fortunes for the new world.

"The stream of emigration which for these two years has been obstructed by the troubled state of the Provinces, seems likely, now that peace and quietness are restored, to flow with increased volume.

"Capt. G. reports that eleven vessels, from the port of Limerick alone, were to sail immediately after him, each with the full complinent of passengers allowed by law."—*Gazette.*

Brock's Monument.—An investigation has been instituted on both sides of the lines respecting the late diabolical attempt to destroy the monument erected to the memory of General Brock, on Queenston Heights. The result proves that the parties by whom the crime was committed came over from the American side, and that LETT, the murderer of Capt. Usher, was one of them.—*Quebec Gazette.*

Sir George Arthur has offered a reward of 1000 dollars for the apprehension of the villain who perpetrated the act.

A statement is published in the Quebec Gazette, of the number of petitioners in the Districts of Quebec and Three Rivers, against the union of the two Canadas. The whole number of petitioners against the Union is 39,024, of whom 9,463 signed their names, and 29,565 made their marks.

The Receiver-General of Upper Canada advertises 2000 shares of Upper Canada Bank Stock for sale,—in lump, or in parts.

NEW GRETNA GREEN.—The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser says:—"Buffalo is becoming the Gretna Green of the Canadas. Scarcely a day passes but that some Canadian lad takes his fair duleinea, and trips it over the border, to consummate in our city the rites that make those twain one flesh. This arises, we presume, not from the fact that our wary matrons become necessary to avoid parental injustice or interference, but to escape a heavy tariff upon matrimony." To get married in Canada, costs ten or fifteen dollars—in Yankee land it is done for one dollar.

SNOW IN MAY.—On Sunday morning last, the 10th inst. the Catskill mountains were covered to the depth of several inches, and looked as white and dreary as in the depth of winter.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

The ship sailed recently from Baltimore for Trinidad, with one hundred thirty five colored emigrants.

The Legislature of Maryland have passed a law prohibiting free negroes from coming into that State, whether for the purpose of residence or otherwise, under heavy penalties.

Captain Waite, of the New York packet ship England has just completed his *one hundred and forty-fourth* voyage across the Atlantic.

At a meeting held at Melton Moubray about the 1st ult. sanctioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Nova-Scotia, in an eloquent speech, took an expansive view of the British Colonial territories, and the comparative destitute state and general deficiency of ministers, church accommodation, the means of grace, and schools for children. In the Canadas he said, there were wanting not less than 120 clergymen, and he himself had openings and calls for 100 more.—*Halifax Recorder.*

SMUGGLERS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr. Macaulay, in a speech which he lately made in Parliament on the opium question, alluded to the system of smuggling which was regularly carried on in Great Britain, in spite of the most determined measures adopted by government to prevent it. He said that the Preventive Service cost £500,000 annually, employed 6000 effective men, and upwards of 50 cruisers, and yet, as was well known, every article which was reasonably portable, which was much desired, and on which severe duties were imposed, was smuggled to a very great extent. It was known that the ordinary amount of brandy smuggled had been ordinarily 600,000 gallons every year, and of tobacco, an amount not much less than the whole quantity regularly imported through the Custom-house, was conveyed into the country by clandestine means. It had been proved also before a committee of the House that no less than four millions of pounds of tobacco had been smuggled into Ireland in opposition to the most effective preventive laws which existed in the world.—*Boston Mercantile Journal.*

The *Morning Herald* of April 14th, says:—"Nothing can be more obvious than that in legislating for Canada, a mistake of no great apparent magnitude may involve the loss of these colonies. The great object to be attained is the establishment on the firmest possible footing of British supremacy throughout our North American Provinces. It is, of course, most desirable to secure the largest measure of justice to the French Canadians. Their grievances, if such exist, ought at once to be redressed; but they must be made to feel that the ascendancy of British views and opinions is the great end in reference to the Canadas of English policy. As yet it might be unsafe to repose much confidence, during times of danger, in the French Canadians."

An article in the London Temperance Penny Magazine shows that the British troops in India, during long marches and excessively hard service, have been infinitely more efficient under an abstinence from spirits than under its stimulus. Similar proofs are produced by this Magazine, from every part of the globe.

FAR NORTH.—Several English Whaling ships have proceeded as far north as within ten degrees of the North Pole. In 1817, several actually passed the 80th degree of North latitude—and according to the log book of the Neptune of Aberdeen, that ship actually attained the 82d degree.—It is said that the Prince Frederick of Liverpool, in 1765, commanded by James Bishrown, actually reached the latitude of 83 40.—This is the highest latitude which has been attained.

Anniversary of the American Bible Society at New York.—At 9 o'clock on Thursday morning the 14th inst. the Society met at the Bible House in Nassau street, and moved in order to the Tabernacle in Broadway. At 10 o'clock, the Chair was taken by the Hon. John Cotton Smith, President of the Society, who had many of the Vice Presidents surrounding him.

The Venerable President addressed the Society for a few minutes, reviewing the operations of the past year; nothing with much feeling the death of two of his associates, William W. Woolsey and T. R. Green, Esqs. He congratulated the meeting at what had been done the year just closed, notwithstanding the peculiar state of the times in regard to the business prospects of the country.

The receipts of the year amount to $97,355 00—an increase of $2,226 83 over those of the previous year. This sum is greatly below the wants of the society. But considering the depressed state of affairs generally, there is much cause for gratitude. Indeed, the actual receipts might be stated at over one hundred thousand dollars, as several sums expected before the close of the year, the 1st inst. were received a short time after the accounts were made up.

The report next reviews the positions of the various auxiliaries, and the Bible cause generally, from Maine to Florida. In the Eastern States the friends of the Bible have been active, and the same remark will apply to some of the Western and Southern States. The State of New York has not been behind any of her sister States in this good cause. Upward of $27,500 having been received within its bounds.

BOOKS ISSUED.—The number of Bibles and Testaments sent from the depository in course of the year, is 157,261 copies, being an increase of 22,324 over the issues of the previous year.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

From the Montreal Courier.

THE COMMERCE OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

To the intellectual and contemplative mind how vast the field presented by the,—*may-be*,—commerce of this continent.

One may survey the globe, from Arctic to Antarctic Pole,—and trace the equatorial line,—the lines which mark the limits of Northern and Southern tropic,—the lines of latitude and longitude,—and yet, we defy him to point out *any* portion of the earth, combining continent and isle, deep bays, capacious gulfs, and inland-seas, gigantic rivers, navigable for the largest Ocean ships,—and rivers, less, but still navigable for smaller craft,—we defy him to point out any portion of the peopled earth,—which can hold a candle as the vulgus have it,—to British North America.

Why, in our Lakes, the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, can be *sunsed*,—hidden totally!—whilst a dozen of the rivers of England, Scotland, and Ireland, would not make one Ottawa!—as to the St. Lawrence, all the rivers of Europe knocked into one, would scarcely exceed it, either in expanse or volume.

What is it makes England so maritime as a Kingdom? It is her sea-surrounded shore,—deeply and frequently indented with excellent harbours; the population has become almost amphibious;—the sea, to them, is their territory, and though they draw not from it, as from the earth, the *harvest*,—yet, their industry finds a rich investment, yielding returns, that make the miser's eyes water, from within the liquid domain of Neptune.—The sea, to Britons, is as a milch cow,—yielding subsistence, and giving that strength and power—which enables a small territory, like Britain, to dictate to Kingdoms and Empires.

The sea, it is, which renders Britain commercial. Without it, she would be what are,—Bavaria,—Wurtenburgh,—Saxony. An extended commerce, implies, necessarily, great facility of communication.—Where is there greater facilities of communication, than here? This, then, brings us again, to the survey of the capabilities of British North America.

Commencing at the Bay of Fundy, encircling the peninsula of Nova Scotia, leaving to the right, the vast island of Newfoundland, we enter the broad Gulf of St. Lawrence,—which, from the island of St. Paul's, (at its entrance) to Cape Chat, extends some hundreds of miles. The Gulf, is, of itself, as large as the Caspian,—covering a space not greatly less than the Black Sea. We have said nothing of the marine Banks of Newfoundland,—a source, sufficient of itself to make a marine nation. They are banks, which have no seasons of compression and restriction;—but are abundant, copious, ever, in their discharge.

The Northern shore, or the Labrador side of the gulf, is, it may almost be said, uninhabited. There are one or two settlements for the catch of fish and make of oil,—and some few wandering Indians, but that is all. The Southern shore, however, exhibits the flourishing Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and a portion of Lower Canada, (that is, Gaspe, with its deep Bay of Chaleurs). The towns of Pictou, and of Miramichi, besides many smaller ones, which are more considerable than mere villages, are to be seen on this shore. Pictou is the centre of a valuable coal trade, and numerous are the vessels, for New York, Boston, Halifax, St. Johns, Quebec, which leave it freighted with the valuable mineral. Miramichi is a town noted for its extensive timber trade, and more than two hundred vessels, of large size, frequent its harbor annually, from Great Britain and Ireland;—the same description applies to New Carlisle, and some other port, the name of which we have forgotten, in the Bay of Chaleurs.

Within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are the Magdalen Islands, which are visited annually by hundreds of fishing vessels: also, the fertile and prosperous island of Prince Edward, the seat of a Lieutenant Governorship: likewise the large island of Anticosti, which, however, is useless to commerce, or to man—being barren, bleak and worthless.

At Cape Chat, commences the magnificent St. Lawrence: it has been our fortune to see many renowned rivers, of America and Asia, (we speak not of European rivers, because comparison of them, with the St. Lawrence, would be ridiculous,) and none can compare, in beauty and grandeur combined, with this *pater fluvius*. The Mississippi rolls its deep and turbid volume to the ocean, through banks that have scarcely a feature of beauty about them, and is comparatively narrow, though deeper, and though the current be more rapid. The Ganges!—neither can it compare with the St. Lawrence, though its banks be beautiful.

Our magnificent St. Lawrence penetrates into the continent, more than a thousand miles: near five hundred miles above Cape Cat, it is still from two to two and a half miles wide. Its waters are clear, and at its western end, (Lake Superior,) are absolutely translucent. It expands into Lakes, which make the concerted European ope his eyes with wonder; his idea of Lakes, derived from such as Killarney, Lomond, Constance, or Lucerne, cannot compass such breadth, depth, and length, as will be shown to his astonished vision, by Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. It receives many tributaries; one, so vast,—that half the rivers of England, Scotland and Ireland, might be hidden in its pouch, as the Kangaroo hides its young.

A thousand sea-ships visit Quebec, for Timber alone?—a multitude of others ascend to Montreal, to discharge their rich cargoes of manufactured goods, and luxuries, and necessaries; and to receive returns in the produce of the soil. Here, it may be said, commences the inland navigation, proper. From Montreal, large sized barges bear the product of the interior from Ontario, and carry to that lake, the imported goods, required by the dwellers of the Continent.

On Lakes Ontario and Erie, are to be seen numerous steamers, mostly of the largest size,—hundreds of sailing craft,—which pursue their way from Kingston to Ambersburgh and Goderich, or from Oswego to Mackinaw and Chicago,—bearing full freights, going and returning.

Magnificent as are the rivers and lakes of Canada, yet the territory on either bank, is equally magnificent, being unsurpassed for fertility, in any part of the world. Cities, and Towns, and Villages, have sprung up along each bank, filled with the busy multitudes of traffickers and traders. In these places, all the wants and wishes of man, can be satisfied and gratified. In them, likewise, will be seen the marks of a vigorous enterprize, and an intelligent industry. In time, from Quebec to the Lake of Michigan, will there be a succession of towns, each, the mart of an active commerce, each, with its Rialto. But, our business, is not with what the trade of British North America, may be,—but, with what it is!

We have given a sketch, just sufficient to enable the glance of the THINKER, to take in much that we have not discoursed about;—and, as we do not write for any but THINKERS, we shall, for the present, say no more on the subject. Being interesting, however, we shall resume it at an early day.

CORN TRADE....Flour is down to five dollars per barrel in this market. No sales of any consequence are made over that price, and some descriptions of Southern soil fine are cheaper less, and this too in the face of small receipts. For the past week there has been little or no flour received direct from the west in consequence of a slight breach in the canal. In a day or two, however, the large quantities which have been collecting along the line will be pushed to market, and prices may then be looked for even below the prevailing rate.

Notwithstanding the cheapness of flour at the present time, there is scarcely any demand therefor. There have been sales of about six thousand barrels for France, but this is a mere flea bite. This flour, however, which is principally on French account, pays the shipper exceedingly well. At the last accounts sales were making there at forty francs per barrel, and the duty very low. Therefore, if flour is purchased here at five dollars and sold in France for forty francs, the purchaser makes money on the exchange, or a little more than forty cents per barrel. If such continues to be the case, large quantities may be shipped to draw against.

Orders were received here, by the Great Western, from England, although she brought such favourable accounts of the English crops, for a pretty large quantity, but as the price is limited to twenty-six shillings sterling, delivered in England, they have not yet been fulfilled. They would be immediately, were freights lower, say three shillings per barrel—or may be even with freights at the present rate, if flour declines twenty-five to thirty cents more.

Such is the present state and prospect of this market; and this governs every other in the country. We see no chance for a better prospect for some time to come. The stocks are large all over the country, and immense quantities are in the interior yet to find a market. This year's crop with one or two exceptions, looks fine, and promises well, and prices for bread stuffs are very low at every place, as the following shows:—At New-York, May 9, D.4 87 to D.5; Philadelphia, D.4 75 to D.5; Baltimore, D.4 75 to D.4 81; Cincinnati, May 26, D.3 6 to D.3 12. Flour will probably average D.4 per barrel throughout the year.—*Bennett's New York Herald.*

IMPORTATIONS AT SAINT JOHN,

During the week, ending on Saturday.

25 casks Brandy; 50 ditto Rum; 229 ditto Molasses; 2 do. Whiskey; 27 do. Wine; 281 do. and 6 bols. Sugar; 48 bags Coffee; 167 do. Pimento; 20 bols. Ginger; 20 casks Loaf Sugar; 4962 bushels, 200 bags and 34 brls. Wheat; 1608 brls. Wheat Flour; 1172 do. Rye do.; 1182 do. Corn Meal; 2145 bushels Corn; 100 ditto Barley; 142 brls. Bread; 222 kegs Biscuit & Crackers; 12 tierces Rice; 879 brls. Tar and Pitch, and 80 brls. Coal Tar; 93 casks Ale and Porter; 200 boxes C