

is very superior can be obtained from a neighbouring Colony, whence the communication is so regular. Our first acquaintance with this publication was as "The Halifax Pearl" by which name we introduced it to the notice of our readers. It has now undergone some change, of plan as well as of name, and we venture to say that, if it is not now, it soon will be, the best periodical published on the American continent."

The above encomium upon our sheet we copy from the *Montreal Transcript*. It is the more gratifying to us, as it comes from a contemporary who has stood forward as a staunch (*temperate* also we are willing to admit) advocate for the killing of the rebels by the hands of the hangman: without the most distant wish to palliate in any form the crying sin of rebellion, we have contended that their lives should not be taken away without authority from our benign Creator. Rebellion, we view, as a crime of unsurpassed magnitude—in *all* cases forbidden by God—and under all circumstances worthy of the unqualified detestation of good men. To obtain its purpose, (and that purpose may be good or bad) it seeks to destroy human life, and therefore we condemn it absolutely and altogether: consistency obliges us, for the same reason, utterly to repudiate capital punishments, no matter to what extent the rebel may have carried out his wicked and savage plans. If he kills, is that any warrant for us to hang—or if he robs, does justice call upon us to steal? If the former question be answered in the affirmative, why not the latter also? We cannot see with what propriety any nation assumes the right to do those very things which it condemns and punishes as violations of moral duty in individuals. But the question with us is a scriptural one:—Either God delegates to men a power to inflict death upon their fellow men, or he does not? If such a power is conferred it is revealed to us in the Bible! Let the appeal then be made to the divine standard, and perhaps, no more authority will be found in it for the killing of the galleys than the torture of the rack! In proper season we shall undertake to prove our assertion; but in the meantime we may be allowed to express our astonishment that the Bible has been kept so completely out of sight by most of the Canadian papers, in their demand for the execution of the rebels. We could wish them to try to prove that their demand is a righteous one—one comporting with the high requisitions of Christianity. We are obliged to the *Transcript* for its favorable notice of the Pearl, and more particularly on account of the difference of view between us to which we have now alluded.

A lecture on Hydrostatics was delivered before the Institute by Mr. McKenzie at its last meeting. The familiar mode of illustration adopted by the lecturer, rendered his scientific propositions intelligible to the lowest capacity. The absence of technicalities, and the introduction of facts as witnessed in every-day life, added not a little to the interest of the subject. The power of the *Hydrostatic bellows* was exhibited to the audience, and the cause of the appearance of springs in mountains explained on the general principles of the science. The objections of ignorant individuals to the utility of a knowledge of science were met by the lecturer and ably refuted. At the close of the lecture an animated debate arose on the compressibility of water, and the floating qualities of ice. Lord Bacon, we believe, was the first person who instituted an experiment, with the view to ascertain whether the application of force could compress water into a less space than it occupied at first—for this purpose he inclosed a quantity of water in a leaden globe, and although he found that the external force which he applied, caused the water to make its way through the pores of the metal, yet Bacon did not draw the conclusion that water was incompressible, for in his account of the trial, he says, that "he computed into how much *less space* the water was driven by this violent pressure." A scientific society at Florence repeated the experiment with a silver globe filled with water, and either with a screw-press or a ponderous hammer, altered the form of the globe, driving the water through the pores of the silver. By the more ingeniously contrived experiments of Mr. Canton, and which have been lately confirmed by Professor Zimmerman, it has been proved that sea-water may be compressed 1-340th part of its bulk, when inclosed in the cavity of a strong iron cylinder, and under the influence of a force equal to a column of sea-water 1000 feet in height. Other experiments by Oersted and Perkins have demonstrated that the differences of volume in the compressed water are proportional to the compressing power.

Galileo was the first who observed that ice was tighter than the water which composed it, its specific gravity being to that of water as eight to nine. This rarefaction of ice is generally attributed to the air bubbles produced in water by freezing, and which being considerably large in proportion to the water frozen, render the body so much specifically lighter. But M. Mairan, in a dissertation on ice, attributes the increase of its bulk chiefly to a different arrangement of the parts of the water from which it is formed; the icy skin on the water being composed of filaments, which according to him, are found to be constantly and regularly joined at an angle of 60°; and which by this angular disposition, occupy a greater volume than if they were parallel. He found the augmentation of the volume of water by freezing, in different trials, a fourteenth, an eighteenth, a nineteenth, and, when the

water was previously purged of air, only a twenty-second part. It has been usually supposed that the natural crystals of ice are stars of six rays, yet this crystallization of water, seems to be as much affected by circumstances as that of salts, and hence the difference in the accounts of those who have undertaken to describe these crystals. To whatever cause may be assigned the increase of the volume of ice, it is certain that ice is, bulk for bulk, lighter than water. Water, when it assumes the form of ice at the temperature of 32°, has invariably a greater magnitude than in its fluid state at the higher temperature of 40°, and is consequently lighter. The colder the water, the lighter it becomes—and hence the first stratum of water (if we may be allowed to use the expression) at the bottom of a lake is heavier than the second stratum—the second than the third—and so on, until we arrive at the surface of the lake, the water of which being colder than all the rest, is above all the other strata. Thus, ice floats upon the surface of water, because the water upon which it swims is of a higher temperature than the ice, while the water immediately beneath a sheet of ice floats above the less cold water which is at greater depths. A remarkable effect of the buoyancy of ice, is noticed by Dr. Lardner in his work on Hydrostatics. Speaking of some of the great rivers in America, he observes:—"Ice collects round stones at the bottom of the river, and it is sometimes formed in such a quantity that the upward pressure by its buoyancy exceeds the weight of the stone round which it is collected, consequently it raises the stone to the surface. Large masses of stone and ice are thus observed floating down the river to considerable distances from the places of their formation." But will ice sink in water by its own weight? The question was discussed *pro* and *con* at the Institute—some were confident that it might sink in water, and others seemed to be at a loss to comprehend the possibility of such a phenomenon. We are free to admit that we are of the latter class. It may be so, but we must see ice sink in water without any extraneous matter adhering to it, before we can know its certainty—and we must be sure also that we do not labour under an *ocular delusion*. Not to expatiate on the facts already noticed, we cannot see how the most minute quantity of water can become congealed without its expansion, and if in the process of solidification, water undergoes a considerable increase of bulk, so long as it remains ice, however small the piece of ice may be, we cannot understand how it can be specifically heavier than the water beneath it which remains in a fluid state, so as to cause it to sink. And we are confirmed in this view, so far as our recollection serves us, by what little reading of science we have enjoyed. Certainly, Dr. Lardner speaks of ice *always* floating at the surface. At the same time it is quite possible that a more extended knowledge of science would convince us that ice may be made lighter than water in its fluid state, and thus satisfactorily account for its diving properties.

The late papers from Lower Canada have furnished us with an account of the killing of five more of the rebels at Montreal. The drop, we are told, had been so arranged, that on the removal of the bolts, the bodies would hang on the outside of the wall, and consequently fully exposed to public view! A sad exhibition of inconsistency in a christian country whose pulpits are constantly echoing "Love your enemies," "While we were yet enemies, Christ died for us." But in these days, men find no difficulty in reconciling the benevolence of christianity with the strangling of criminals. Soon, perhaps, they will prove that a circle is square, or that north is south. But we will kill men for *example*, as if the foot of the gallows was the place to teach men their duty to God, or to society, or as if so barbarous a spectacle as the hanging of a man could do otherwise than brutalize the mind of the beholder. But who gives to us the authority to *violate* the law of love to the culprit, for the sake of example?

The Legislature of New Brunswick have voted £1000 for the loyal Canadian sufferers. On the passing of a vote as above, the Chairman of the Committee, in reporting it to the house, stated that it was announced by three hearty, loyal, and sympathetic cheers, in which every member of the House as well as the spectators in the galleries heartily joined!

With some slight alterations, the whole of the resolutions on the Despatches, have been carried by large majorities in the House of Assembly. The Committee appointed to prepare instructions to the Delegation are Messrs. Young, Doyle, Huntington, Morton, Bell, Lewis and Howe.

Much damage has been caused throughout the country by the violent storm and heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday night last. At Mr. Piers's mill much injury was done, and the bridge near the mill was carried away. On the road to Margaret's Bay most of the bridges have been destroyed. A large quantity of hay was washed off the Falmouth Dyke. Four bridges on the Gasperaux river were swept away. Farther accounts, we fear, will shew a great destruction of property throughout the country.

R. R. on Phrenology, in our next. Some of our present numbers have a wrong date on the first page. It was not noticed until the greater part of our sheets had passed through the press.

The fifth Lecture on the Divine Origin and Authority of Christianity will be delivered, by Thomas Taylor, next Lord's Day evening, at 7 o'clock.

DIED.

On Saturday last, Henry Ycomans, Esq. aged 76 years. This gentleman has long resided in this community, and has ever been highly esteemed a most worthy and upright character,—his kind heart and hospitable disposition will long be remembered by his sorrowing friends.

On Wednesday, the 16th inst. at the Gut of Canso, Island of Cape Breton, Rodah, wife of David McPherson, in the 41st year of her age.

Wednesday morning, after a lingering illness, in the 50th year of her age, Catherine F. wife of Mr. John Smith, and eldest daughter of the late Mr. John Dugwell, of H. M. Dockyard.

At Grenada, about 1st December, Rev. Wm. Heath.
At Bermuda, 15th ult. Rev. Mr. Lougry.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, Jan. 26th—Brig Louisa, Walmsley, Pernambuco, 43 days; Mailboat Velocity, Healy, Bermuda, 18 days; schr. William, Cullerton, Liverpool, NS—fish and oil to J. H. Reynolds; brig. Reward, Gourty, (late Hannam, who died at sea, 7th ult.) Kingston, 37 days—ballast to H. Lyle—spoke, 3d inst. brig. Woodbine, from Jamaica, for Halifax; schr. John Ryder, Wilson, Baltimore, 15 days—flour, wheat, etc., to S. Binney.

Wednesday 30th.—Schr. Mariner, Gerrard, Baltimore, 10 days—flour, to S. Binney; brig. Woodbine, Homer, Jamaica, via Barrington, 41 days—ballast, to the Master.

Thursday 31st.—Schr. Speculator, Young, Lunenburg, 1 day, sugar; Rival Packet, McClearn, Liverpool, 1 day, fish; Mail Boat Roseway, Bermuda, 12 days.

CLEARED.

January 26th.—schr. Industry, Simpson, Boston—assorted cargo by D. & E. Starr & Co.; Morning Star, Ferran, Boston—herring, etc. by G. P. Lawson; Mahone Bay Packet, Cronan, Boston—assorted cargo by D. Cronan; brig. Elizabeth, Billingsby, West Indies, fish, by D. & E. Starr & Co.

SALE AT AUCTION.

FURNITURE, BOOKS—&c.

By J. M. CHAMBERLAIN,

At his room, to-morrow Saturday, 2nd Feb. at eleven o'clock
A MAHOGANY CHEST OF DRAWERS, 1 Bedstead, Wash stand, fire screen, Curtain Poles, 12 Chairs, a Spanish Guitar, 2 Watches, a lot of Books, Carpenter's Tools, Nails, and Smiddy other articles.

—A L S O—

1 Crate of CROCKERYWARE, 20 Kegs red paint.
Feb. 1 1839.

ASK YOURSELF, IF YOU WANT CHINA, OR EARTHENWARE.

THE Subscriber has removed his China and Earthenware establishment to the new store at the north corner of the Ordnance head of Marchington's Wharf, where in addition to his present stock, he has received per barque Tory's Wife, from Liverpool, a general Assortment of Earthenware, etc. consisting of,

CHINA TEA SETS, Dinner Services—of neatest shapes and patterns, Tea, Breakfast, and Toilet Sets, and a general assortment of Common ware, which will be sold wholesale and retail at low prices.

—A L S O—

40 Crates of assorted Common Ware, put up for Country Merchants.
BERNARD O'NEIL,
February 1.

BANK OF NOVA-SCOTIA,

Halifax, 22nd January, 1839.

THE Stockholders are hereby called upon for the balance remaining unpaid on the Shares held by them in the Capital Stock of the Bank of Nova-Scotia, in two several instalments, viz—

Twenty-five per cent, or Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings on each Share, to be paid on or before the Fifteenth March next; and
Twelve and one half per cent, or Six Pounds Five Shillings on each share, to be paid on or before the 1st May next.

By order of the President and Directors.

J. FORMAN, Cashier.

EDWARD LAWSON,

AUCTIONEER AND GENERAL BROKER, Commercial Wharf. Has for sale,

50 hds Porto Rico SUGAR,
200 barrels TAR,
30 Tierces Carolina RICE,
50 bags Patna RICE,
200 firkins BUTTER,
10 puns Rum, 10 hds Gin,
10 hds BRANDY,
10 hds and 30 qr. casks Sherry WINE.

January 18, 1839.

UNION MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

JOSEPH STARR, ESQ. PRESIDENT.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company, the following Gentlemen were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year—viz.

James A. Moran, Joseph Fairbanks, J. Strachan, Wm. Stairs, David Allison, John U. Ross, Daniel Starr, Hugh Lyle, John T. Wainwright, James H. Reynolds, S. B. Smith, and Wm. Roche, Esqrs.

The Committee of Directors meet every day at 11 o'clock, A. M. at the office of the Broker, directly opposite the Custom House.
Jan. 18. GEO. C. WHIDDEN, Broker.