

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

Mechanics' Institute.—Last Monday evening, according to request, Rev. Mr. Wishart delivered again his lecture on "The Female Sex." After an exordium of some length, the lecturer divided his subject into three heads:—What the Ladies had done.—What they had not done.—And what he conceived might or should be done to elevate woman to a position nearer to man. Under the first head he introduced to our notice those departments of Literature, and even of Science, in which woman had distinguished herself, not forgetting the inferior occupations of housewifery and needlework. Under the second he noticed several departments on which woman could not enter, without infringing the law of her sex, and others into which woman might enter with honor to herself. Under the third head, he exposed some of the artificial trains of society, which, it would be well to let fall into disuse, and especially many of the circumstances which attend what is usually called a young Lady's coming out. The lecture was well received by the audience.—New Brunswick.

FIRE IN UNION STREET.—About five o'clock, on Sunday morning, the premises occupied by Mr. Marsters as a coach and sleigh factory, and the harness factory of Mr. Cummins, were discovered to be on fire. The flames quickly spread to some of the neighbouring buildings, destroying a house, barns, &c., belonging to Mr. Marsters; a blacksmith's shop and other buildings.—The Engine Companies were quickly on the ground; and having a copious supply of water stopped the further progress of the fire. Mr. Marsters has suffered severely, we understand, all his stock in trade being totally destroyed.—Mr. Marsters could not even save his books. Mr. Cummins also suffered severely.—St. John, N. B. Freeman.

New Brunswick in 1851.—Commercially, the past year has been a very prosperous one to the Province. Lumber, the staple of the country, has been more remunerative to those engaged in the trade than has been the case for many years.

Shipbuilding is now becoming a very important interest in the country, and has latterly been prosecuted with much spirit, and we believe with profit. The thanks of the country are due to the enterprising shipbuilders who have, by the noble specimens of naval architecture they have put out of their hands, given a character to the Port and the Province, that is worth more to us than can well be reckoned.

Other branches of domestic manufacture do not seem to make much progress, probably owing to the limited capital of the country finding more remunerative employment.

The crops throughout the Province were generally very good, which, in connection with the prosperity of the staple trade, has afforded good prices to the Farmer, good wages to the Labourer and Mechanic, a favourable balance sheet to the Merchant, and an increase of capital to all.

Take it all in all, we have abundant reason to be thankful for the blessings bestowed upon us in 1851, and with prudence at the helm, honour and integrity as our chart, and industry and enterprize as our propellers, we start into 1852 with a good prospect of a favourable voyage.—St. John, N. B. Courier, 3rd.

We understand that a Despatch has been received from the Colonial Secretary, intimating that the Railway Facility Bill will not be passed until the Legislature shall have had an opportunity of reconsidering the whole subject.—H.

We understand that the proprietors of all the principal Dry Good Stores in the City have commenced closing their establishments at six o'clock in the evening, and will continue doing so until the 1st of April, in order that those in their employ may have time for relaxation and improvement, and of which seasonable opportunity we trust our young friends will take proper advantage, and make such good use of their time as will tend lastingly to their usefulness and credit in society.—H.

MR. WISHART'S LECTURE.—The Rev. Mr. Wishart delivered his eighth lecture last evening at the Institute before a large and respectable audience—the subject being "Some Modern Authors."

The lecture did not, like most of those of the writer, consider the subject along the line of any very strict method. The order of time was that which it principally followed. Commencing with some of the lesser celebrities of modern days, such as Crabbe, Rogers, Campbell, Miss Edgeworth, &c., it went on to speak of the rise of exact British criticism, and of the effect of the publication of the old ballads in producing the newer schools of Poetry. Scott, Byron, and Moore were spoken of at most length.—John Wilson too was criticised:—Some notices were given of the metaphysicians, then of the economists, then of the theologians of the age. He excused himself for not going into other departments, on the plea that he had touched upon them in previous instances. Some of the light writers of the hour were then adverted to, and the lecture terminated with the remark that literature is now worn out, and that it will not again become vigorous until society shall have passed through the ordeal of convulsion.—H.

THE ELECTIONS.—We learn by telegraph, that on the 31st inst., John Lewis, Esq., was elected by a large majority to represent the County of Albert in General Assembly, in place of the Hon. W. H. Staves, elevated to the Legislative Council. We have also heard, that S. H. Gilbert, Esq., was on the same day elected by a consider-

able majority for the County of Queen's, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the elevation of his father, the Hon. Tobias Gilbert, to the Legislative Council.—New Brunswick.

ESSEX FARMERS.—W. A. Stockton, Esq., of King's County, procured from his farm this year 12 Pigs, making 36 cwt. of Pork; 10 were eight months old, and averaged in weight 280 lbs. each. The Sow from which these were bred (killed at the same time) was eighteen months old, and weighed 410 lbs. Mr. S. produced from 7 Cows, this summer, over 1000 lbs. of Butter. Mr. Hayward, a neighbour of his, brought to market this week, 6 Pigs about the same age, viz., 8 months, which weighed on an average 334 lbs., the heaviest weighing 367. He also produced about 1000 lbs. of Butter from a Dairy of 13 Cows.

The above Farmers have spared no pains in procuring the best breed, and we congratulate them on the very satisfactory results. We trust the farmers of New Brunswick will not be long in following their example. One farmer of this kind is worth more in our estimation, than a whole regiment of Political demagogues.—Chronicle.

Canada.

CANADIAN REVENUES.—The receipts of tolls on the public works of Canada during the past season amount to about \$400,000, showing an increase of \$35,000 over the season of 1850. The receipts from customs amount to \$2,750,000, showing an aggregate increase of receipts from the public works, and from customs, of near \$500,000 over the year 1850.

THE ICE.—Teams have been crossing for some days at Long Point. The ice continued shoving at Longueuil up to Monday night. Yesterday it became stationary, with prospect of remaining so. The road will be cut out to-day or to-morrow, and our usual communications resumed with the South side. No crossing above the city yet.—Montreal Gazette, Dec. 27.

HOLIDAYS IN QUEBEC.—For the first time in Quebec, the Custom House was yesterday closed on a Roman Catholic holiday—a placard on the doors announcing that "it being the festival of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the offices would be closed." The same proceeding was attempted for the first time in Montreal immediately after the appointment of Mr. Bouchard as Collector, last summer, but the unanimous and energetic action of the merchants of that city, prevented the repetition of such an experiment. It is to be hoped that the merchants and the Board of Trade of Quebec will take the matter up as peremptorily as they did, and check the thing in the bud. It is clearly taxable to the French Canadian influence in the Customs here and in Montreal, as till this year such a thing was never thought of. It is introduced now, when there is little business, but it passed over quietly, next summer will witness the closing of the Customs, and the interruption of business in the height of the business season.—Chronicle.

DR. NARBEY'S PURE ROOT SUGAR.—The Dr. has invented as with a couple of sugar manufactured by him at his Sugar Factory in Paris, C. W., from the Sugar Beet. Although dark a little in shade, it is pure and crystalline in appearance, and has a very pleasant flavor, much more powerful, and more agreeable than Muscovado. Such a sugar if it can be manufactured at all to compete in price with the common raw sugars, will have the decided preference.—Globe.

AMERICA.

United States.

THE WEATHER AT THE SOUTH.—All our Southern exchanges mention the extreme cold weather of last week. At Charleston such weather had not been experienced for fifteen years.—Snow fell there and at Savannah on Wednesday, and the thermometer was as low as 16 degrees. Sleighs were seen in the streets at Charleston, while at Savannah they had fine skating.—Baltimore Sun.

A HOUSE BLOWN UP.—Loss of Life.—Mr. Geo. Ralston, of King's creek, Hancock County, Va., a few days ago, purchased a keg of powder for the purpose of blowing cricks, and placed it in his cellar for safe keeping. During his absence, his little son, aged six years, not being aware of the consequences, climbed a perch to the keg, and instantly the whole building was blown to atoms, and the boy, with another child, killed, and ten others seriously wounded.—H.

A CURIOUS TRIAL AT ST. LOUIS.—A trial has been brought before the Circuit Court, at St. Louis, by "His Royal Highness," Frederick Wilhelm, King of Prussia, to recover the sum of 7,400 German dollars, or the value of 60 cents each, United States currency, from Felix Coste, a poor German. It appears that one Frederick Wilhelm Kupper, alias Muller, was the servant and post officer of His Majesty, previous to April 10, 1849, at Merckerschen, and that he accompanied with the said Charles, and came to St. Louis, where he died in 1849; and that letters of administration were granted to Coste. The king, therefore, prays that Coste be compelled to pay over to him all moneys belonging to Kupper.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Dr. Kane, the surgeon of the Grinnell Arctic Expedition, is about to deliver a course of lectures upon that expedition, at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 20.—The river is firmly frozen over, and foot passengers are constantly crossing. It has not been frozen over previously since 1838.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 24.—P. M.—Wm. Smead, Esq., the banker, has made the handsome donation of five thousand dollars as a Christmas offering to the widows and orphans of Cincinnati.—This is a handsome and deserving Christmas present, which will be fully appreciated and applauded by the unfortunate recipients.

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. HENRY CLAY.—LOUISVILLE, Dec. 23.—The letter of the Hon. Henry Clay, resigning his seat in U. S. Senate, was read in both Houses of the Legislature to-day; and a resolution adopted in the Senate, in which doubtless the House will concur, to elect a Senator on Tuesday next.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Kossuth is expected here to-morrow, and extensive preparations are making to receive him. There will be no military parade, but the Committee of Senators and the District Marshal will receive him at the Railroad station, and escort him to Brown's hotel.

CALIFORNIA.—The people of San Francisco are planning for a railroad connecting California with the Atlantic States.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.—Immense discoveries of gold have been made at Bear Valley. Nothing ever before discovered in California can compete in richness and extent with these diggings. The papers are filled with the details of them. The gold is exceedingly fine, being in the shape of minutely rounded points—finer even than the sand itself. The shafts have been sunk 25 feet, and the deeper the soil the greater the yield. One party took out in four days \$220,000.

A lump of gold weighing 69 ounces had been taken out of Wood's Creek, in the Southern diggings. The miners were averaging from six to eight dollars per day. The mining news, especially that from Mariposa, is highly encouraging, and recent discoveries are likely to make the Southern mines the centre of immense population, activity and trade.

THE GALE ON THE ISTHMUS.—A letter addressed to Walter R. Jones, Esq., President of the Atlantic Insurance Company in New York, dated at Chagres, states, that on the morning of the 25th inst., the most terrific storm that was ever experienced there broke over the town.—Half the town of Cruces was washed away, and there was not a bit of ground found to show where some seventy houses stood a few days before.

The advices from Los Angeles give accounts of most serious Indian disturbances. Four Americans who had crossed the Colorado were killed by the Zumas, and it was reported that the Indians were forming a union to attack and exterminate the Americans in Los Angeles and San Diego. Active preparations to repel them were being made.

There had been great excitement at Marysville, on account of murders committed, in which the sheriff of Yuba was shot.

SURRENDER OF ORISKANY.—Later advices from Montevideo confirm the report of the surrender of Gen. Oribe, and the termination of the war. A general holiday was immediately proclaimed, to last from the 8th to the 13th of October.

LATER FROM MEXICO.—NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17th.—We have advices from the city of Mexico to the 19th ult.

A terrible storm had occurred at Mazatlan, doing immense damage to property, and causing the loss of many vessels and lives.

Fourteen houses at San Blas, containing much valuable property, were consumed by fire on the 17th. Loss \$75,000.

The cholera had disappeared from the towns along the coast.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 21.—By an arrival from the Rio Grande, we have Brownsville dates to the 3rd Dec, which state that Gen. Carvajal had attacked the Mexican General Jimrogua, who had fortified himself strongly at Corralo, and after hard fighting for two days, had succeeded in taking the whole town, or nearly so, and driving the Mexicans into their fortified houses, where they are completely penned. The Mexicans lost all their provisions and ammunition. Gen. Carvajal had ten killed in the battle, including Lieut. Graham and Capt. Chmel; Capt. Whit was also severely wounded.

The Mexican loss was very severe, and included all the Seminole Indians and their leader, (Wild Cat was their leader.)

At the latest dates from Carvajal, he was about to attack the Mexicans in their position, and if successful, would, it was thought, be able to enter Monterey without opposition.

SANTA ANNA.—The Ex President of Mexico, the world over known Santa Anna, family and suite, embarked from Kingston, St. Vincent for Jamaica, 20th ult. No worldly consideration, he stated previous to his departure, would ever induce him to return to Mexico.

BLOCKADE OF VERA CRUZ.—The telegraph reports that a British squadron was off Vera Cruz, at last accounts. The squadron consisted of the Ledaist cable, of 50 guns, the Admiral's vessel, the Cumberland of 70 guns; the Wallesey, of 70 guns; the steamer Express, of 6 guns; and the steamer Calypso, of 10 guns. The New York Express learns from Washington that the errand this naval force has been sent on is to enforce the payment of the Mexican Bonds; and in the event of a refusal, Vera Cruz is to be blockaded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A NUT FOR THE GEOLOGISTS.—H. De Wit, of this town, who has recently returned from California, brought with him a piece of the beautiful quartz rock, of about the size of a man's fist. On Thanksgiving day, it was brought out for exhibition to a friend, when it accidentally dropped upon the floor, and split open. Near the centre of the mass they discovered, firmly imbedded in the quartz and slightly corroded, a cut iron nail, of the size of a six-penny nail. It was entirely straight, and had a perfect head. By whom was that nail made? At what period was it planted in California? If the head of that nail could talk, we should know something more of American history than we are very likely to know.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

SEVERE WEATHER.—The snow lies 40 or 50 feet deep in the cutting of the Siles Railway, near Odenberg. Two engines had their fires extinguished. In Upper Silesia, 10 lives had been lost from the severity of the weather; and in Saxony 15 men and 6 horses perished in the snow storm of the 20th.—Liverpool Times.

NICELY CAUGHT.—Watty Morrison, a Scotch clergyman, was a man of great wit and humor. On one occasion he entertained an officer at Fort George to pardon a poor fellow who was sent to the barracks. The officer offered to grant his request, if he would, in return, grant him the first favour he would ask. Mr. Morrison agreed to this, and the officer immediately demanded that the ceremony of Baptism should be performed on a puppy. The clergyman agreed to it, and a party of many gentlemen assembled to witness the novel baptism. Mr. Morrison desired the officer to hold up the dog as was customary in the baptism of children, and said, "As I am a minister of the Church of Scotland, I must proceed according to the ceremonies of the Church." "Certainly," said the Major, "I expect all the ceremony." "Well, then, Major, I begin with the usual question: You acknowledge yourself the father of this puppy?" A roar of laughter burst from the crowd, and the officer threw the candidate for baptism away.

AN ANCIENT WEAPON.—The sabre worn by Count Putzsky, at the bat Festival in New York, on Friday evening last, was made in 1592. It originally belonged to Sultan Mahmud, was once owned by Napoleon, and finally passed into the possession of the family of Count Putzsky.

LATER FROM SYDNEY.—By the way of the Sandwich Islands, we received intelligence from Sydney to Sept 1st. The Polynesian says the mining reports from Australia continue favourable, and gold is procured in considerable quantities, selling at Sydney for £37s 6d per ounce. No diminution of arrivals at the mines. The grand haul made by Mr. Kerr, was sold for £4,160 at the above prices, after raising some three pounds as specimens.

THE GREAT STEAMER.—The following sketch of the Mammoth Hudson River Steamer, is given by a correspondent of the Boston Atlas:

There is a drawing in the Navy Department, of a New Steamboat, which is about to be built in New York for the Hudson River, and which is to make the trip from New York to Albany in five hours. She is intended to compete with the New York and Albany Railroad. By the kindness of Commodore Skinner, we obtained her proportions, which are as follows: Length of keel, 500 feet; length of deck, 350 feet. She looks like a swordfish. There is 75 feet of keel at each end, extending out from the deck, which shows itself above water, and which is sharpened and pointed like the sword of a swordfish. Both ends of the boat are alike, and her engines are to work both ways. She is not intended to turn round, but to work like a ferry-boat. She is to be called the George Washington, and to have accommodations for three thousand passengers. She will make a passage of 150 miles in five hours. She has been designed and modelled by Mr. Davidson, of New York.

POISON EATERS.—The First Court of Assizes with trial by jury, established in Styria, was opened at Chit, ten days ago. A man was tried for having poisoned an old soldier. Amongst the questions submitted to the jury, was one to the effect whether the deceased had been a "poison eater?" to which the jury replied in the affirmative. This caused some surprise at Vienna, and inquiries were made as to what it meant. It turns out that in the districts of Lower Austria and Styria, near the Hungarian frontier, there are men who make a practice of eating small portions of arsenic with the salt part of bread. This gives them a clear complexion, and increases the intellectual faculties; but if persisted in, causes languor and premature death.

THE MILKY WAY.—The number of telescopic stars in the milky way is estimated at 18,000,000. In order, I will not say to realize the greatness of this number, but, at any rate, to compare with something analogous, I will call attention to the fact, that there are not in the whole heavens more than about 8,000 stars visible to the naked eye.—Humboldt.

WILSON'S SEWING MACHINE.—The Scientific American says of it: Imagine a small machine which can be carried in a man's hat, or even in a decent sized overcoat pocket, sewing with more dexterity and accuracy than the most experienced needlewoman, and then you can form some idea of its merits. It can sew curved or straight seams, and its stitch does not rip out. It can be set to sew long or short stitches just by a turn with a screw driver, and, taking all things into consideration, we believe that it is one of the most important inventions of the age.