THE CHRYSTAL PALACE IN LONDON.

Mr. Paxton, the designer of the Chrystal Palace, at the request of the *Society of Arts*, lately read, at a meeting of the Society, a paper in the form of a lecture, describing the origin and details of the building, of which a report was immediately published in the London papers. We subjoin an extract from the lecture:—

"After the exhibition is over, I would convert the building into a permanent winter garden, and would then make carriage drives and equestrian promenades through it. Pedestrians would have about two miles of galleries and two miles of walks upon the ground floor, and sufficient room would then be left for plants. The whole intermediate space between the walks and drives would be planted with shrubs and climbers from temperate climates. In summer the upright glass might be removed, so as to give the appearance of continuous park and garden. A structure where the industry of all nations is intended to be exhibited should, it is presumed, present to parties from all nations a building for the exhibition of their arts and manufactures, that, while it affords ample accommodation and convenience for the purposes intended, would, of itself, be the most singular and peculiar feature of the exhibition; how far this has been accomplished I must leave to the community to decide. I have now endeavoured to give a brief outline of the Exhibition building of 1851. It will be seen from the simplicity of all its parts, together with the simplicity of the detail, that the construction does not offer a subject that requires me to dwell longer upon. The section of one part shows the whole; for it is only by the multiplication of these parts that the stupendous structure now in progress is extended. When I consider the cheapness of glass and cast iron, and the great facility with which it can be used, I have no doubt but many structures similar to that at Darley will be attached to dwelling houses, where they may serve as sitting rooms, conservatories, waiting rooms, or omnibus rooms, if I may be allowed the expression. I am now, in fact, engaged in making the design for a gentleman's house to be covered wholly with glass; and when we consider that wherever lead is now used, glass may with equal propriety be substituted. I have every hope that it will be used for buildings of various conditions and characters. Structures of this kind are also susceptible of the highest kinds of ornamentation in stained glass and general painting. I am not without hope, however, that it will become almost universal in its use, and that the system will be extended for manufacturing purposes, as well as general cemeteries, and also horticultural buildings, so that even market gardeners will advantageously apply it in the growing of foreign fruit for the London market. I even go so far as to indulge in the sanguine hope that agriculture will be ultimately benefitted by the application of cast iron and glass. In short there is no limit to the uses to which it may be applied—no foresight can define the limits where it will end. And we may congratulate ourselves that in the nineteenth century the progress of science, and the spirit of manufacturers, have placed at our disposal the application of materials which were unknown to the ancients, and thereby enable us to erect such structures that would have been deemed impossible even in the early part of the present century.

Mr. Paxton described the drawings of the plans of the building, as exhibited upon the walls of the room, showing the original idea of the building and the improved design as it now stands. The height of the centre aisle is 64 feet, the side aisles 44 feet, and the outside aisles or first story, 24 feet. The transept is 108 feet in height, and has been covered with a semi-circular roof, like that of the great conservatory at Chatsworth, in order to preserve the large elm trees opposite to Prince's gate. The whole number of cast iron columns is 3,300, varying from 14 feet 6 inches, to 20 feet in length.—There are 2,224 cast and wrought iron girders, with 1,128 intermediate bearers, for supporting the floors of the galleries over the large openings of the aisles. The girders are of wrought iron, and those for the galleries are of cast iron. The fronts of the galleries are also supported by cast iron girders. The dimensions of the building are 1,851 feet in length, and 456 feet in breadth in the widest part. It covers altogether more than 18 acres, and the whole is supported on cast iron pillars, united by bolts and nuts fixed to flanges *perfectly* true, and resting on concrete foundations. The total cubic contents of the building are 33,000 000 feet. The six longitudinal galleries, 24 feet in width, running the whole length of the building, and the four transverse ones, of the same dimensions, afford 25 per cent additional exhibiting surface to that provided on the ground floor. This extra space is suited for the display of light manufactured goods, and will also give a complete view of the whole of the articles exhibited, together with an extensive view of the interior of the building. In order to give the roof a light and graceful appearance, it is built on the ridge and furrow principle, and glazed with British sheet glass, as previously described. The rafters are continued in uninterrupted lines the whole length of the building. The transept portion, although covered by a semi-circular roof, is also on the angular principle. All the roof and upright sashes being made by machinery, are put together and glazed with great rapidity, for, being fitted and finished before they are brought to the place, little more is required on the spot than to place the finished materials in the positions intended for them. The length of sash-bar requisite is 205 miles. The quantity of glass required is about 900,000 feet, weighing upwards of 400 tons.

COINAGE IN ENGLAND IN 1849.—The total assets remaining in the mint, at the end of 1848, amounted to £145,552 8s 5d. The total amount of sums issued out of the consolidated fund for the purchase of bullion in 1849, was £150,000. The purchase value of the silver bullion and old defective coin, purchased by the mint in 1849, was £163,605 12s 3¾d; the mint value of which was £122,072 2s 3¾d. The total loss on the purchase of worn coin was £13,150 2s 7½d. The amount of seignorage, £16 12s 7½d. The light and defective silver coin withdrawn from circulation, purchased at its nominal value, of the Bank of England in 1849, amounted to £135,000, the mint value of which was £121,949 17s 4½d, making a loss on the purchase of £13,150 2s 7½d. The amount of silver and copper coin, delivered by the moneyers into the mint office, in 1849, amounted respectively to £119,592 and £1792. The cash received for the sale of British silver and copper coin amounted, in 1849, to £108,471 17s 6d. The sums paid into the exchequer, from cash received for coin in repayment of advances for bullion, amounted to £120,000.—*London paper.*

GREECE.—*Speech of the Queen.*—The Greek Chambers were opened on the 11th ult. by the Queen, in the absence of the King. The Courier d'Athenes of the 18th November publishes the royal speech.

The senators, the *corps diplomatique*, and deputies being assembled, at 11 o'clock the Queen entered the Senate House, dressed in the Greek costume, accompanied by the Ministère, her ladies in waiting, aides-de-camp and suite. Bowing gracefully to the assembly, the fair Queen of the Greeks, in a clear and distinct voice, somewhat tremulous at first, pronounced the following speech:

"*Gentlemen Deputies and Senators:*

"On reassembling under the protection of the Most High, let us invoke His divine assistance by our prayers.

"I am happy to be able solemnly to declare on this occasion that the nation has fulfilled all the wishes expressed by the King when he took leave of the Chambers. Such conduct, which is an honor to the country, will greatly rejoice the King.

"The cordial support I have met with during the King's absence from all classes of the nation increases my love for it. The King, who will shortly return, will have new motives to cherish and honor with his confidence his beloved subjects.

"It is with pleasure that I announce to you that the amicable relations of my Government with Foreign Powers remain undisturbed.

"Gentlemen—You are about to commence your important labors; I have but one wish to express to you on this occasion. Devote yourselves with self denial to the common interests of the country, and give your firm support to the Government of the King in all his plans for the public welfare, taking as sole guide in your deliberations and acts the welfare and the progress of the State.

"Let us advance zealousy in the fulfilment of our calling, and let us hope that the Almighty will throw his protection over us.

"I declare the first sitting of the third session of the Legislature open." [The Queen sat down amid loud cheers and, bowing gracefully to the members, retired as she came.]

MEMENTOS OF THE WAR IN THE PUNJAUB.—Among the numerous articles composing the cargo of the ship Loodianah, which lately arrived at Liverpool from Calcutta, was a case of various articles collected in the Punjaub during the late war, which have been sent to a clergymen residing at Nairn, in Scotland, by his son, an officer in one of the regiments at present stationed in the Indian peninsula. Among the most noticable articles were three or four shields made of Rhinoceros skin, ornamented with brass bosses. Some of them were also ornamented in a high degree with paint and gilding, and looked like papier mache. To each was attached a string, so that they could be carried on the back, and numerous silken tassels, supposed, by the wearer, to be charms to defend him from evil. Each shield appeared fully capable to resist either a sword cut or musket ball. Two swords, used by Sikh officers, were remarkably sharp and of great weight; the handles seemed to be made principally of gold. The case also contained several Sikh jackets, made of dressed sheep skin, ornamented with silken threads, and lined with wool. They were much used by the Sikhs at the siege of Mooltan, while working in the trenches. They are exceedingly warm and comfortable. The greatest curiosities were a small compass, in a silver case, about the size of a thimble, taken from the body of an Affghan soldier, and a curious weapon used by the fanatic "Akalees." This article, which is made of steel, consists of five sharp claws, and three projections, similar in appearance to Neptune's trident. This curious article of warfare the "Akalees" carry in the left hand, and hold their enemy by it, while they strike down with a sword carried in their right hand. It was purchased by Mr. Grant from a grisly bearded old warrior after the capitulation of Mooltan. He states that his subdued foe appeared to part with it with great reluctance. One of the swords mentioned above was taken by Mr. Grant from the person of a Sikh soldier killed at the battle of Gonjerat.

THE SUPREMACY OF THE SEAS.—Everything now conspires to render speed as indispensable to success on sea as on land. By the aid of steam we have intelligence within two months from every considerable port in the world, excepting only our own Australian colonies. In the third week of October we had California newspapers of Sept. 1. Notwithstanding the immense cost of our postal communications with the West Indies, Central America, and the Pacific, the news brought by the West India packets is generally some days out of date.

By the electric telegraph intelligence is conveyed almost instantaneously between Boston and New Orleans, "beating time" by half an hour. The completion of the continental railroads will soon shorten the journey between London and Alexandria; and there is at length some hope that the journey between Bombay and the two other Presidencies will be measured by hours. But the quicker the conveyance of intelligence and of travellers, the quicker too must be the conveyance of goods. At all events, the more certain is the swifter conveyance to take away all profit from the slower. Just at this time, when Atlantic steamers are multiplying every year, railroads increasing by a thousand miles per annum in the new and in the Old World, and the electric telegraph seems to quicken the pace and the pulse of the world, the discovery of California drives the competition up to fever heat, and for a time threatens to put the United States at the head of the universal competition. There is no doubt that it will draw into this new and almost miraculous opening much of that enterprise which has lately been rewarded with wonderful results nearer home.

We have several times had to direct attention to the fresh and fresh lines of steamers on the American rivers and lakes, to vast additional lengths of canal, and the endless ramifications of the railway system; as also to the new manufactures wherever an opening offered. The rapid increase of population in the States, augmented by an annual immigration of near 300,000 from these isles, is a fact that forces itself on the notice and the interest of the most unobservant and incurious. All these promise to develop the resources of the States to such an extent as to compel us to a competition as difficult as it is unavoidable. We must run a race with our gigantic and unshackled rival. We must set our long-practised skill, our steady industry, and our dogged determination, against his youth, ingenuity and ardor. It is the father who runs a race with his son. A fell necessity constrains us, and we must not be beat. Let our shipbuilders and and their employers take warning in time. There will always be abundant supply of vessels good enough and fast enough for short voyages. The coal trade can take care of itself for it will ever be a refuge for the destitute.—But we want fast vessels for the long voyages which otherwise will fall into American hands. It is fortunate that the Navigation Laws have been repealed in time to destroy those false and unreasonable expectations, which might have lulled the ardor of British competition. We now all start together, with a fair field and no favor. The American Captain can call at London, and the British Captain can pursue his voyage to New York. Who can complain? Not we. We trust that our countrymen will not be beaten; but, if they should be, we shall know that they deserve it.—*London Times.*

The following remarks are from the Boston *Atlas* of the 17th inst., and are interesting enough to merit a persual.

NEW PRESIDENTIAL MOVE.—The New York Tribune of yesterday, has a leading article in which is developed a grand scheme for the election of a Presidential candidate who shall be pledged to take and hold the most ultra Free Trade ground. In the city of New York a Free Trade association has been formed by twenty or thirty politicians, poets and traders of that city, most of them connected with the Evening Post, Herald, Mirror, of Merchant's Magazine. The avowed object of this nucleus was a National agitation for the Abolition of any Tariff or duties on Imports whatever, the total discontinuance of Custom Houses, and the establishment of absolute freedom of importation, without any check, impost or limitation whatever. We quote from the Tribune:—

"Another and more formidable movement, we understand, has recently been commenced in a more private way, which has leading tendencies in common with the foregoing, but which is rather more practical in its aims, and is probably destined to become immediately and palpably potential. It is in effect a secret organization of the Free Trade Importers, Shippers, agents of Foreign Manufacturers, &c., in our city to accomplish the nomination of Hon. Robert J. Walker, of Mississippi, (Mr. Polk's Secretary of the Treasury, and the main architect of the present Tariff,) as the next 'Democratic' candidate for President, at the same time placing 'the party' on distinct and unequivocal 'Free Trade' grounds and then securing its triumph in the election of 1852.

This movement has been backed by a subscription over $200,000, payable half on demand and the balance in six months, which can easily be raised here and in other commercial ports on both sides of the Atlantic, to a plump Million. Should that amount be promptly made up and judiciously used, we think the success of the project so far as the nomination is concerned, might be anticipated with confidence."

The Tribune then states that in connection with this is a scheme to purchase certain presses, and to bring their influence to bear up the grand scheme of electing an out-and-out Free Trader to the Presidency. The names of the presses are not given. The President of the United States, in his late message, has planted himself upon the true Whig platform of protection to the labor of the country, and to protect by specific duties the American importing merchant from the ruinous competition with importing houses, who scruple not to avail themselves of duplicate invoices, one of which is used to swear their goods through the Custom houses under a false valuation, and the other to buy and sell by, and we believe the people will stand by him. The advalorem system has operated badly, and has driven the foreign trade into new channels.

We shall await the development of the new Presidential move now broached by the Tribune with interest. As the case stands it assumes an important character.

TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER BY INUNCTION.—An eminent physician of Washington City, Harvey Lindsly, has recommended the following treatment for scarlet fever, practised by Dr. Schneemann, Physician to the King of Hanover, as contained in a recent number of the London Lancet:—

From the first day of the illness, and soon as we are certain of its nature, the patient be rubbed morning and evening over the whole body with a piece of bacon, in such a manner, that, with the exception of the head, a covering of fat is everywhere applied. In order to make this rubbing somewhat easier it is best to take a piece of bacon the size of the hand, choosing a part still armed with the rind, that we may have a firm grasp. On the side of this piece slits are to be made, in order to allow the oozing out of the fat. The rubbing must be thoroughly performed, and not too quickly in order that the skin may be regularly saturated with the fat. The beneficial results of this applicat on are soon obvious, with a rapidity bordering on magic, all even the most painful symptoms of the disease are allayed; quiet sleep, good humor, appetite returns, and there remains only the impatience to quit the sick-room.—(Scientific American.)

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 7, 1851.

ENGLISH MAIL.—The steam ship *Niagara*, with the Mail of the 21st ult., arrived at Halifax on Friday last, in a little short of 13 days passage from Liverpool. She was completely encased in ice, on some parts nearly a foot thick. She brought out 33 passengers for Boston, and 8 for Halifax; among the latter were the Hon. John Robertson, and Messrs. Wm. Parks, James Kirk, and Thos. Gilbert, of St. John, who arrived here this morning, in the steamer Maid of Erin, via Digby.

The state of trade at Manchester and other manufacturing districts is exceedingly good—the late news from India and the Continent having given a decided impetus to trade in woollen and cotton fabrics.

The returns of the Board of Trade will, it is said, enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make many reductions in the present Tariff.

Cotton has advanced from ¼d. to ⅛d. per lb.—Sales of the week, 65,660 bales, of which speculators took about 11,000.

Flour market dull at previous rates.—Corn has receded 6d.

The general and political news possesses no features of special importance.

Trade in Paris is exceedingly brisk at the present moment; and, from the general peaceful aspect of continental affairs, it is confidently expected that it will long continue so.

An extensive system of enlistment gives weight to the report, that the Duke of Wellington has recommended an addition of 50,000 men to the Army!!

The Queen's answer to the Corporation of London and to the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge is not considered satisfactory by the ultras, who are displeased because Parliament is not to meet until the 4th of February.

The Wesleyan Conference has met and passed a series of resolutions on the papal aggression, in the same spirit as the letter of Lord John Russell.—The Congregationalist ministers have also met in London and passed similar resolutions.

The Duke of Norfolk has written a letter concurring in opinion with Lord Beaumont, on the subject of the Papal aggression, which he disapproves.

It appears certain that peace will be preserved upon the Continent.

President Fillmore's Message attracted more than usual attention from the press. Nearly every paper of note printed the document entire.

Accounts from Australia state that Smith O'Brien had made an unsuccessful attempt to escape to California.

Liverpool Timber Report, Dec. 14.—We confirm the previous advices we so fully gave in detail, showing the important falling off in the importation of Colonial Wood to this port, and the active demand continuing, we see no reason to alter the opinion we have already expressed, that prices will be fully maintained, notwithstanding the advance that has recently taken place. Sales of three cargoes of St John Pine, two at ¾d. and one of small size at ½d. under the average inches; Birch, 14½d. to 15d. per foot; Deals, £7 to £7 10s. per standard; Lathwood, 40s. per fathom; Palings, 30s. and 35s. per M.; and Sawn Laths, 30s. per M.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—The new Cardinal has received autograph letters of congratulation from the Emperor of Austria, the King of Bavaria, and the President of the French Republic.

The Army in Ireland consists of 24,600 men.

The Bishops of the Established Church in Ireland, with one exception, have set their faces against no-popery agitation. The exception is Dr. Daley, the Bishop of Cashel.

The present convent property in Ireland is stated to be worth upwards of seven hundred thousand pounds.

The Portuguese frigate Donna Maria blew up at Macao, on the 29th Oct., and about 200 officers and men were killed; only one officer and 15 men were picked up alive.

The latest accounts from Canton mention that the force sent by Government against the rebels had been defeated, and that one or two mandarins had been killed.

The German question begins to assume a new aspect, inasmuch as it is now suspected that the conference to be held at Dresden on the 23d of this month between Austria and Prussia, bodes no good to the smaller German States, who, it is said are now using energetic measures to form a league of their own.—It is stated confidently at Paris that Gen. La Hitte and Lord Palmerston have estimated that if the approaching conference at Dresden attempts to make any territorial changes affecting the agreements made by the Treaty of Vienna, their Governments will interpose and prevent them.

The Emperor of Austria has issued a Proclamation to the Army, thanking them for their warlike preparations and assuring them that their services will not now be required.

The American Protestant Chapel at Rome has been closed by order of the Government.—This want of toleration has caused much irritation at Rome.

From Turkey it is stated that Aleppo is entirely in possession of the rebels.

The Cholera was raging fearfully at Mecca on the 7th Dec.

Admiral Sir Edward Codrington is the only survivor of the Trafalgar Officers who commanded a line-of-battle ship (the *Orion*) in the action. The Honourable Sir Thomas Bladen Capel, now Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, Vice-Admiral R. Thomas, Rear-Admiral Pasco, Sir N. P. Green, and Sir G. R. Sartorious are the only surviving Trafalgar Officers on the flag list.—Admiral Pasco was Nelson's Flag-Lieutenant who gave the memorable signal.

Messrs. Clowes, the eminent printers, have obtained the contract for printing the catalogue, for the 1851 Exhibition. They gave a premium of £4000 for the privilege, and 2d. for every copy sold towards the expense of the Exhibition.—The catalogue will be sold for 1s; another catalogue will also be published, which will be printed in several languages, and be sold for 10s. The number of hands employed in the building is 7500.

Her Majesty's Replies to the Anti Papal Addresses.—The address agreed upon by the Corporation of the City of London was, on Tuesday, presented to her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, in the usual form. Her Majesty, in a firm voice, delivered the following reply:

"My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen,—I receive, with much satisfaction, your loyal and affectionate address. I heartily concur with you in your grateful acknowledgement of the many blessings conferred upon this favoured nation, and in your attachment to the Protestant faith, and to the great principles of civil and religious liberty, in defence of which the city of London has ever been conspicuous. That faith and those principles are so justly dear to the people of this country, that I confidently rely on their cordial support in upholding and maintaining them against any danger with which they may be threatened, from whatever quarter it may proceed."

The deputation from the Court and Common Council were next introduced, and Mr. Wood having presented the address, her Majesty replied as follows:—

"Gentlemen—I sincerely thank you for your renewed assurances of unaltered attachment to my person and throne, and to the constitution of this country. Your tried and consistent advocacy of the equal enjoyment of civil rights by all classes of your fellow subjects, entitles the expression of your sentiments on the present occasion to peculiar consideration. You may be assured of my earnest desire, and firm determination, under God's blessing, to maintain unimpaired the religious liberty which is justly prized by the people of this country, and to uphold, as its surest safeguard, the pure and spiritual worship of the Protestant faith, which has long been happily established in this land."

The Court of Lieutenancy of the City of London were next introduced; and having presented their address, her Majesty acknowledged the same in a very gracious manner. The Universities of Oxford Cambridge followed with their respective addresses, and it was after two o'clock before the ceremony of presentation had concluded.

THE AFRICAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—We have received intelligence from the Saharan African expedition up to the 29th of August last. The expedition had literally fought its way up to Selonfeet, in Abeer, near to the territory of the Kadonee Prince, to whom it is recommended, Mr. Richardson had been obliged to ransom his life and those of his fellow travellers twice. The whole population of the northern districts of Abeer had been raised against the expedition, joined by all the bandits and robbers in the direct that region of the Sahara. The travellers are now in comparative security. It has been a tremendous undertaking for them to force their way amongst tribes who had never seen the face of a Christian, and who look upon Christians as the declared enemies of God.—The great Soudan route, from Ghat to Abeer, is now explored.—[London Times.

FRANCE.—The grand banquet to Louis Napoleon by the Municipality of Paris, in the Hotel de Ville, on the 10th December, evinces the President's popularity with the middle classes of that city, who gave him credit for the peace and prosperity they have enjoyed for the last two years. The President's term of office according to the Constitution, is half run, and according to the same constitution he is not eligible for re-election. The following words, which closed the President's speech at the Hotel de Ville, show a keen appreciation of the tendencies and wants of the time:—

"Let us employ all our efforts in embellishing this great city—in improving the condition of its inhabitants—in enlightening them on their true interests. Let us open new streets, purify those crowded quarters that want air and daylight, and let us so act that the beneficent light of the sun shall penetrate every where within our walls, even as the light of truth descends into our hearts."

Louis Napoleon takes a position far in advance of the continental monarchs generally, with whom he is necessarily in competition. He has lost little and gained much from a long residence in England.—[Glasgow Mail.

THE CHIEF-JUSTICESHIP.—We copy from the London *Times* of the 16th December, the following extract from a list of recent appointments and promotions by Her Majesty:—

"Mr. James Carter, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, is appointed Chief Justice of that Court."

We understand that the official announcement of the above appointment has been received at Head Quarters, accompanied by instructions to offer the vacant Puisne Judgeship to the Hon. Attorney General: and that the offer has been accepted by Mr. Wilmot.

The Canadian Government having objected to the award of the Commissioners appointed to settle the Boundary between Canada and New Brunswick, which award was made in 1843, and which gave to this Province a tract of about 2,000,000 acres north of the Restiguouche, now under Canadian jurisdiction—a new Arbitration Commission has been ordered, and on the 17th Dec., the Right Hon. Dr. Lushington, Mr. Falconer, and Dr. Twiss, at Doctors' Commons, London, were appointed Arbitrators to settle the long pending dispute.

On New-Year's Day the members of Engine Company, No 5, entertained the Mayor, Recorder, and members of the Common Council, members of Assembly, and a large number of citizens, also, the members of the other City Fire Companies, with an excellent luncheon, at their Engine House in Germain Street. Toasts, speeches, and compliments passed in rapid succession, and the utmost good feeling prevailed.

Throughout the City, there was brisk visiting kept up by gentlemen calling on their lady acquaintances, and partaking of their hospitality; whilst many also enjoyed themselves by driving about the City and suburbs in sleighs. The day being a general holiday, all parties seemed to participate in its pleasures according to their respective inclinations.

During the whole of the past week the weather has been extremely cold, the thermometer being at or below zero nearly the whole time. Yesterday morning, in some situations, it was as low as 14° below the cypher, and at Fredericton, at sunrise yesterday morning, it is stated to have been as low as 32° below zero.

☞ The Anniversary Meeting of the BIBLE SOCIETY will take place on Thursday evening next, at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, when the Annual Report will be read, and a number of interesting speeches may be anticipated.

FISHERY DRAFT.—We would remind our readers that the names for the Fishery Draft are in course of being taken in this week, and that the Books will be finally closed at Six o'clock on Saturday evening next.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, Mr. R. Foulis, (who had been suddenly called upon, at only a few hours' notice, and without previous preparation,) delivered an interesting lecture upon "*The Transmutation of Matter,*" which he illustrated by a number of pleasing and brilliant experiments.

On Monday evening next, G. Blatch, Esqr., will deliver a lecture on "*The Present Age.*"

CARLETON LECTURES.—The Rev. Mr. Lawson, of South Stream, delivered an excellent lecture at the Temperance Hall in Carleton, on Thursday evening last, to a large and highly gratified audience. The subject selected was "*Character.*"—He strongly urged the importance—indeed the *necessity*, in moral and religious points of view—of selecting virtuous and judicious companions, and showed how desirable it was that books of a sound and profitable tendency should be read, whilst those of an opposite character, like bad companions, should be carefully avoided. The Rev. gentleman's lecture gave conclusive evidence of good practical judgment on the part of the lecturer, and was well calculated to leave profitable and lasting impressions on the minds of his auditors, who expressed themselves much gratified on the occasion.

Mr. John Boyd, of the London House, will lecture on Thursday evening next, being the fourth lecture of the series.

AN ORDINATION was held by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese at the Cathedral of Christ Church, Fredericton, on Sunday the 22d December, 1850, when Mr. Edward DuVernet, A. B., of King's College, was admitted to the Holy Order of Deacons.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Hon. Herbert Huntington has resigned the office of Financial Secretary, and the other offices held by him, together with his seat at the Council Board; and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has appointed, provisionally, the Hon. Hugh Bell as the Commissioner to discharge the duties of Financial Secretary.

The collection in Saint Andrew's Church on Sunday last, for the Poor, amounted to about £16.

MR. HOWE'S MISSION.—The following despatch was received by Telegraph from Halifax on Saturday morning, and posted in the News Room:—

"Mr. Howe appears to be progressing as far as the nature of the subject and the proverbial sluggishness of the British Government will permit.—His memorial was submitted, and he subsequently received many flattering attentions from the Colonial Secretary and others. He was asked to enter more fully into details regarding his mission. He was also asked to present his views regarding a comprehensive plan of Emigration and Colonization."

ARRIVAL OF A CALIFORNIAN.—On Tuesday morning last, Capt. Betts, who left here last winter in the schr. Claremont, for California, returned in the steamer *Creole*, from Portland, having sold his vessel and cargo in San Francisco. We regret to learn that Capt. B. met with an accident while descending Chagres river, on his passage across the Isthmus, from Panama to Chagres, by which he lost much valuable property, and, worse than all, three of those on board the boat were drowned, including Captain Vroom, of Nova Scotia, who went out master of the Brigt. Arabian. We understand that ten passengers left in a large keel boat to descend the river, (under the guidance of three boatmen,) among whom were Captains Betts and Vroom, and while on their passage down, they struck a snag, which upset the boat and precipitated them all into the water. Capt. B. succeeded in saving one trunk—his other trunk containing $1500 belonging to himself, and a large quantity of letters and other articles of value for persons in this City, was lost. Capt. Vroom and two other passengers were drowned, owing to the quantity of gold on their persons, notwithstanding every effort was made to save them.—*New Bruns.*

DROWNED.—During a gale on the 29th ult. a seaman named John Reynolds, *alias* James Johnston, supposed to belong to Liverpool, fell from the bowsprit of the Brigt. "F," on the passage from New-York, and was drowned.—*Courier.*

ATROCIOUS MURDER.—We have this week to perform the painful duty of recording the murder of Mr. William N. Montgomery of Andover, by Daniel Finnemore, of Green Field. The particulars of the case, as we have received them, are, that Mr. Montgomery was stopping for a few days at the house of his son in Simonds, and on Sunday evening the 22d inst., Finnemore came in and called for liquor: it was refused him, and he proceeded to break the decanters and tumblers in the room: a scuffle then ensued between him and one of the persons present. Finnemore went out to the yard and deliberately unhooked a whiffle-tree, which he brought with him into the house, and before any one present was aware of his intention, he struck Mr. Montgomery with it on the back of the head, and would have repeated the blow had he not been prevented by a bystander; his unfortunate victim lived about 48 hours after he received the fatal blow. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Finnemore, who is now in Jail here to await his trial.

The deceased was a native of Ireland, and was in the 59th year of his age. He came to this country when quite young, and has resided in the county of Carleton about 15 years; he was a remarkably quiet, peaceable man, "slow to take offence, and offering none." He has left a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his untimely end.

If a Special Court is not appointed in this instance, it will be rather a costly affair for the people of Carleton, as Finnemore cannot receive his trial until next September, and must be maintained at the public expense until that time.—*Woodstock Sentinel, Dec.* 31.

QUEBEC, Dec. 27.—It appears that Mr. Vice Chancellor Jamieson, has resigned his seat on the Bench of Upper Canada. He retires on a pension of £750 a year. He was totally unfitted for the station, being, although of fair abilities and good literary taste, lazy and luxurious, and almost entirely ignorant of law. His wife is the authoress of "Sketchess of Canada," "The lives of female saints," and other works of some merit. They have been separated for several years, Mrs. Jamieson residing in England and on the Continent.

Mr. Spragge, who has been Master for many years, receives the vacant Vice-Chancellorship, and it is said will be succeeded in his late office, which is worth £500 a year, by Mr. Morrison, M. P. for the second Riding.—*Gazette.*

REDUCTION OF FEES OF MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF QUEBEC.—Considerable excitement has been created lately among the gentlemen of the long robe at Quebec, owing to a proposed alteration by the Bench in the Rules of Practice, as also a reduction in the Tariff of Fees payable to the Advocate, Prothonotaries and Sheriffs in Lower Canada. It appears that the Bench, in whom the power to devise and carry out these changes was vested, did not use ordinary courtesy in communicating the particulars of them to the Bar previous to their being promulgated in Court, although the President of the Bar, at the head of seventy members, presented a petition to the Bench, praying a hearing on the subject, which was refused, and in consequence thereof the seventy gentlemen in black gowns left the Court in a body, resolving not to go back again during this present term of the Superior Court or the approaching Session of the Circuit Court, or until they can have an opportunity of laying their case before Parliament.

The following remarks on the subject are taken from an editorial article in the Quebec Gazette of the 23d Dec:—

The first question which presents itself to the mind in considering the matter in dispute between the Bench and the Bar, is whether the tariff of fees promulgated by the former is a fair and just one; whether the interests of the client have been consulted, with a proper reference to the rights and interests of the attorney. If the question were answered in the affirmative, the judges would have a much better case to defend, and the lawyers a much worse one to prosecute. This question it is exceedingly difficult for a layman to answer, so very little can the uninitiated understand of the mysteries of the law, the services which its votaries perform, and the remuneration which they ought to receive. We are of opinion, however, from all the evidence which we can collect, that the reductions made by the judges in the fees of the attorneys are far too sweeping; in many cases, under the new tariff, we are inclined to think, the attorney would be adequately paid for the service rendered. The reductions of the fees are so great, that it is evident that if the new tariff is just, the old one must have been very unjust indeed; in fact, the public must have been fleeced by the lawyers to an extent of which they had no idea. In seven different kinds of cases the fees are raised, but the increase is small, and four of them are in cases over £250, which very seldom occur, and from which, consequently the attorney will receive little benefit. Of the other forty-five charges in ordinary cases there are four which, under the new tariff, remain the same as under the old; but the remaining forty-one are all reduced, and that to a very extraordinary degree, as a few instances will show. In actions settled after default was recorded, or after foreclosure for want of plea, before *enquete*, or before hearing on the merits, where no *enquete* is required, the fees on an action for £250 was, under the old tariff, £7 10s.—under the new, £4 6s 8d to the plaintiff's attorney; while to the defendant's attorney it was £5 under the old—and only £2 6s 8d under the new. On actions for over £100 the fees of the plaintiff's attorney under the old tariff, amounted to £7 10s—under the new to £3 10s.; to the defendant's attorney under the old £5—under the new £2. In the third class of actions, under £100, to the plaintiff's attorney, under the old, £5 16s 8d—under the new £2 13s 4d; to the defendant's, under the old, £3—under the new, £1 13s 4d. We might go through the remaining thirty-five cases and show very nearly equally great reductions in them all, but we have given enough to let the lay reader understand the character of the changes made. We are very strongly in favour of any step towards the cheapening of justice, provided it can be carried out to the benefit of the client, and not too much to the detriment of the attorney. We are fully aware of all the benefits of cheap justice to the poor man, of the disastrous consequences of confining the redress of wrongs to those only who are able to pay large sums for it. But we are also alive to the very gross injustice of encouraging men to educate themselves for a very difficult profession, by an expensive and laborious process, under the impression that its emoluments would be of a particular standard, and then, suddenly and without sufficient notice, reducing them far below it.

In fact, the system of fixing lawyers' fees by law is a bad one, just as it would be bad to regulate the prices of tea and sugar, or any other commodity; it would be much better to leave them as a matter of arrangement between the attorney and client; but when the law does regulate them, care should be taken that they are arranged with justice, and that any reductions which it is proper to make, should be effected with deliberation, and if possible, by degrees; the blow which deprives him of half his income should not be allowed to fall upon the professional man like a clap of thunder; time should be given him to set his house in order—We are certainly somewhat surprised that the Judges of the Court should not have considered more sympathizingly the condition of the class to which they had belonged, and their apparent callousness leads us to think that they felt very strongly the necessity of reductions in the expenses of their Courts; they are, no doubt, perfectly competent to judge of the matter, from their own experience in practice, and their decision must proceed from disinterested motives; if they were biassed by interest, it would be towards high fees, most of them having relatives in the profession. These circumstances lead us to the conclusion that some reductions were absolutely necessary.

The only proper course open to the Bar was undoubtedly to reason the matter with the Judges; not to fly in their faces, and if they could not persuade them, to appeal to the people, and to parliament. From the Judges we can tell them they are far more likely to get good terms than from the others. We believe that the bar will pursue this course now, and they certainly would have started more fairly if they had not insulted the Bench, and injured their clients. We have no doubt that the whole matter will end in a compromise; concessions on both sides is generally the fairest way of settling such fierce battles as that between the Bench and the Bar.

The proposed line of steamers, for which I informed you some time ago stock was being taken in this neighbourhood, to run between Montreal and Glasgow, is to embrace three iron steamers of 1,600 tons each. They are to be each capable of carrying 75 first-class and 75 second-class passengers, with 6 000 barrels of flour, besides other freight. The estimated cost is £30,000 each, and it is stated that certain New York houses will extend assistance to the scheme. From Glasgow it is proposed that they shall run alternately to Portland and to Montreal, until the completion of the Montreal and Portland Railroad, after which they are to run to Portland only.—*Toronto Correspondent of the Montreal Courier.*

TORONTO, Dec. 21.—Inspector General Hincks left Toronto for Washington this morning on business connected with the reciprocity question. It is stated by an opposition journal, and not denied by the government organ, that the Finance Minister is proposing a tariff of differential duties in favor of the St. Lawrence, with a view of retaliating on the American Congress, if it continues to refuse the reciprocity.

NAPTHA SPRINGS, NEW BRUNSWICK.—We understand that springs of Naptha have recently been found at Hillsboro' New Brunswick, in the vicinity of the asphaltum deposits in that quarter. The Naptha floats on the surface of water and resembles thin tar, or oil, and when lighted burns with a brilliant flame. Petrolium, of the consistence of soft wax, is also dug from the earth on the borders of the Petitcodiac river, in the County of Westmoreland. The water of a well in that district contains so much napiha as to render it unfit for domestic uses, and some of the springs it is said discharge a gas, that is inflammable, and resembles in character the common illuminating gas.—*Halifax Guardian.*

A meeting of the Wesleyan Methodists of this city, called by the Superintendant of the Circuit, was held in the Argyle Street Chapel, on Monday Evening last. The propriety of extending Chapel accommodation was discussed—resolutions read by the chairman approved—and a subscription opened for the erection of a New Chapel on the Old Methodist Burial Ground. About £600 was immediately subscribed.—*Halifax Sun.*

UNITED STATES.

U. S. SENATE, Dec. 24.—Mr. Clay presented petitions praying for a modification of the tariff of 1846. He detailed the grievances of which the petitioners complained, and said that as there was now a calm upon the lately disturbed surface of public affairs, which he hoped was a real one, he thought that Congress should take up the tariff and consider it in a kind, liberal and national spirit.—He did not wish that it should be taken up with a view to alter its essential principles, but to make some provision for the prevention of frauds and abuses. Something should be done; it was no longer doubtful that the fires in the furnaces were daily being extinguished, and the operations of the spindle will soon be suspended. Would Congress do anything to suspend this downward tendency? He hoped they would, and that it would be done now, when the subject which has agitated the country was settled, and he hoped forever.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The abolitionists in Congress have held frequent consultations during the present week, relative to a repeal of the fugitive Slave Law. Mr. Allen, of Mass., will endeavour to introduce a bill for such a purpose (but without a hope even of getting it referred,) during the ensuing week, to keep alive agitation.

BUSINESS OF CONGRESS.—There is said to be a great amount of work before Congress, owing to the length of the slavery discussions last session, and as this is the alternate short session, there is very little time for its transaction. Among other notices in the Senate, is one of a motion to be made by Mr. Benton, to grant lands to construct a railroad and common highway from St. Louis to San Francisco.

The long list of deaths, published in San Francisco papers, will carry distress and mourning to hundreds of families throughout the Globe.—Many an unknown man is buried with the epitaph of 'Stranger,' his birth place, and his poor earnings, will remain a mystery. The gold stories are plenty in the papers, but very little is said about the fever and ague, debility, cholera, &c.—*New York Sun.*

The ship "Cincinnati" was launched at Cincinnati a few days since. She is said to be a very beautiful and substantial vessel, and will load at that place for California.

NORFOLK, Dec. 27.—The steamer Ohio, from Chagres, for New