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SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1848.

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The Observer,

Published on TUESDAY, by DONALD A. CAMERON, at his Office, corner of Prince William and Church Streets, over the Store of Messrs. Jardine & Co.—TERMS: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

☞ The postage on all Letters (except those containing money, or from Agents,) must be pre-paid or they will not be attended to.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Company is prepared to receive applications for Insurance against FIRE upon Buildings and other Property, at the Office of the subscriber. I. WOODWARD.
St. John, Nov. 11, 1846. *Secretary.*

MR. G. BLATCH,
BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Notary Public, and Conveyancer, &c.

OFFICE in Mr. L. H. DeVeber's Building, on the Western side of *Prince William Street.*
Saint John, Feb. 15, 1848.

☞ NOTICE.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing between the Subscribers, under the Firm of THOMAS BARLOW & COMPANY, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All Debts due to and by the late Firm, will be received and paid by THOMAS BARLOW, and all persons indebted to the late Firm, or having unsettled Accounts with them, will please call at their office at an early period and adjust the same.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING,
JOHN STEWART.
St. John, January 1st, 1848.

THE Subscribers tender their grateful acknowledgments for the patronage received by the late Firm, and beg to intimate to their friends and the public generally, that the Business will be continued in all its branches, at the PHOENIX FOUNDRY, where they solicit a continuance of the patronage hitherto enjoyed.

☞ Any orders for *Castings, Machinery, Mill Work, Engines, &c.*, will be promptly attended to.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING,
January 1st, 1848.

☞ NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of JOSEPH WILLS DOBSON, late of Sussex, in the County of King's, deceased, are requested to hand in the same, duly attested, within Three Months from this date; and all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to *Irator.*
JOHN H. RYAN, *Sole Adminisp.*
Studholm, K'ng's Co., April 5th, 1848.—3

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of ROBERT RAY, late of this City, Sailmaker, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within Six Months from the date hereof; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to GILBERT T. RAY, THOMAS LEAVITT, GEO. A. LOCKHART, } *Executors.*
St. John, 11th February, 1848.

A Challenge!

PASTE BLACKING—Per Brig *Sarah Ann* from Philadelphia—500 dozen Tins Mason's Paste BLACKING, direct from the Manufactory, to which the Consignor Challenges the World to produce anything superior. Sold Wholesale and Retail cheaper than it can be imported, by
H. G. KINNEAR,
April 25. *Agent for James Mason.*

JUST PUBLISHED BY H. CHUBB & CO.
And for Sale at their Book Store, Prince William Street,
A TOPOGRAPHICAL VIEW OF THE
CITY OF SAINT JOHN, N. B.

Patronised by His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. and K. C. H., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, &c. &c. &c.; and by His Excellency Colonel Sir WILLIAM MCL. G. COLEBROOKE, K. H., Lieutenant Governor of New-Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

Taken from the rock in rear of Sand Point, Carleton, by GEORGE N. SMITH, and Lithographed in a superior style by J. H. BUFFORD, an eminent English artist, now residing in Boston, and at the head of his profession in the United States.—Size, sixteen by twenty-four inches.

Prints, on first quality lithographic paper, - 7s. 6d.
Ditto on drawing paper, for for colouring, - 10s. 6d.
The View, coloured in imitation of the original, 20s. 6d.
Subscribers will be supplied on application with their copies, all of which

Navy Bread.

Landing ex schr. *Brothers*—
116 BRLS. S'ne FLOUR.
—*Ex schr. Meridian*—
100 Brls. Navy BREAD.
Will be sold cheap from the Wharf.
April 25. GEORGE THOMAS.

Molasses and Cigars.

Now landing direct from *Cuba*, ex Bosquet "James":—
200 HHDS. best Clayed. 122 Hhds. 31 Tierces, 15 Barrels, } Bright & heavy Muscovado } MOLASSES.
75,750 choicest brands Havana CIGARS.
Landing ex "Jenny Lind," from London:—
50 Chests choice TEAS,
5 Hhds. Crushed LOAF SUGAR,
20 Boxes blue STARCH,
5 Casks BLACKING,
1 Cask assorted PICKLES.
All of which will be sold at lowest rates, by
JARDINE & CO.
St. John, April 18th, 1848.

Spring Clothing for Boys!!

THE business which we are engaged in is one of numerous labour and perplexity, and requiring no small share of Mechanical skill; and it is well known that we were the first in this Province to introduce BOYS' CLOTHING at such unprecedented *low prices* as we have heretofore and now sell them at:

Sack Coat, Vest, and Pants, only	£1 0 0
Ditto, ditto, superior,	1 7 6
Super do. do.	1 12 6

GARRETT & SKILLEN.
Prince Wm. Street, April 18.

Brig "ZENOBIA" for Sale.

THE Fast sailing Brig ZENOBIA, lately arrived from Glasgow, 251 Tons, launched in May 1847.—Apply to
April 25. GEORGE THOMAS.

FANCY GOODS.

Per Jenny Lind. Received at the "Liverpool House," from London:

WHITE, Black and Brown Guipure, Chantilly, Paris and Fancy Net, Thread, Valenciennes, American Lace and Muslin EDGINGS and INSERTIONS; British Chantilly and Brussells Falls and Veils; Black Silk Briganti Lace Shawls; Lace Capes; Paris and Cambray Quilling and Edged Goffered Blonds; Muslin Collars; Habit Shirts; Chemizettes; Brussels and Cambray Rouche; shaded Purse Silk; Artificial Flowers, Gents. and Ladies' Cambric Handkerchiefs, &c. at usual low prices
LAUGHLANS & LOCKHART.
May 2, 1848.

Plaid Hunting Coats,

A GENTEEL WEAR FOR SUMMER—ONLY 15s.
GARRETT & SKILLEN.
Pandechnetheca, May 2, 1848.

Brandy, Geneva, Sugar and Molasses.

Now landing ex Ship "Delta," from London:
40 HHDS. *Martell's* BRANDY;
25 do. best Pale Holland GENEVA.
Ex Brig "Ganymede," from Halifax,
30 hhds. Bright Porto Rico SUGAR;
50 do. MOLASSES.
For sale low while landing, by
April 25. WILLIAM E. MOORE.

Molasses, Rice & Cheese.

Now Landing per Beverly from Boston.
30 PUNCHEONS Prime Retailing MOLASSES,
5 cwt CHEESE, 5 tierces RICE,
5 sacks FILBERTS, 5 do WALNUTS,
5 do Castanna NUTS,
5 do Soft Shell ALMONDS,
1 bbl. Shelled do
Per "Texas," from New York.
30 boxes TOBACCO, 8's & 16's, various brands.
FLEWWELLING & READING,
10, King Street.

TEA, COFFEE, FRUIT, &c.

Landing this day, ex *Eliza Jane*, from Boston:—
30 CHESTS and Half Chests Souchong and Oolong TEAS,
8 Barrels Java COFFEE,
20 boxes ORANGES; 5 boxes LEMONS,
60 half and qr. Drums superior FIGS,
1 case Fresh PLUMS,
10 brls. BEANS and PEAS,
5 do. Dried APPLES,
2 casks Goshen CHEESE,
12 doz. Brooms; 20 doz. Brushes and Whisks,
20 doz. Pails; 6 nests Tubs,
6 sacks Walnuts, soft shell Almonds & Filberts,
16 bags Buckwheat Flour, 25 lbs. each,
3 brls. Saleratus; 4 boxes shelled Almonds,
6 doz. Bed Cords; 6 boxes Bird Peppers,
2 boxes Castile SOAP; 10 Jars and Bladders SNUFF,
Lady's Twist TOBACCO.
Per "Joseph Howe"—
5 tierces Head RICE,
20 brls. Java COFFEE.—For sale by
JAMES MACFARLANE,
April 4, 1848. *Market Square.*

Oatmeal, Beans, Butter &c.

PER sch'r *Beverley* from Boston—10 Barrels new White Pea BEANS; 10 do. bright Dried Apples; 20 boxes Sweet ORANGES, in fine order; 5 do. LEMONS.
And per sch'r "Sackville Packet" from Sackville—15 Firkins choice Family BUTTER, 10 barrels fresh ground OATMEAL.
April 25—3¾ H. G. KINNEAR.

Fall Importation of BOOKS AND STATIONERY,

Per the British American, from Liverpool.

WRITING PAPER of every description and quality, including Laid and Wove Post, Letter, Note, Foolscap, Bank Post, Demy, and Folio Post; together with Tissue, Coloured Printing Demy, Royal Cartridge, and Tinted Crayon Drawing and Wrapping Paper;
PASTEBOARD and PRESSING;
Ink and Ink Powders, Sealing Wax & Wafers,
A new article of STEEL PENS;
A large assortment of Binder's LEATHER and Mill Board;
Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, new Edition, vols. 1 to 6;
Do. Miscellany, vols. 1 to 20;
Do. Information for the People, and Cyclopædia of Literature;
Do. Primer, and School and People's Atlas;
Do. Educational Course—complete.
In Store—A varied assortment of Ledgers, Journals, Day and Memorandum Books.
☞ Book-binding executed with neatness and despatch. A. FRASER,
December 7, 1847. *Dock Street.*

Brandy, Geneva, &c.

Per "Jenny Lind," just arrived from London:
17 HHDS. Martell's best BRANDY,
10 do. Pale Hollands GIN,
25 chests superior Congo TEA,
10 cwt. Coleman's MUSTARD,
1 chest Madras INDIGO,
5 boxes Sperm CANDLES,
2 carroccels CURRANTS,
Saltpetre, Mustard, Cloves, Mace, Cassia, Nutmegs, &c.
Per Emily, from New York:
50 chests Congo TEA,—*Hooper's cargo.*
22 bags Java COFFEE,
5 barrels Sultanas.—Will be sold low.
FLEWWELLING & READING,
April 1st, 1848. *10, King Street.*

For WINDSOR.

A STEAMER will leave for WINDSOR every TUESDAY Evening Tide for the season, commencing next Tuesday afternoon at 4 P. M.—Apply to JAMES WHITNEY.
April 8, 1848.
☞ For Annapolis, every Saturday, at Eight o'clock in the morning.

RE-OPENED,

The well known "DOUGLAS ARMS INN," on the Nerepis Road, formerly Mather's.

THE Subscriber begs to intimate to his numerous friends and the Public in general, that he has leased the above Establishment which has been refitted in a splendid and commodious style, and in every way suitable for the convenience and comfort of Travellers and Private Families—and that the House is now open for the accommodation of the Public. All who visit the *Douglas Arms Inn* may rest assured that every attention will be paid to secure their comfort and happiness.
March 1, 1848. OLIVER BYRAM

The Garland.

WERE WE NOT HAPPY.

WERE we not happy in our summer dreams?
In moonlide wanderings over hill and glen,
When flowers were steeped in rich and fragrant dews
To yield the incense while we worshipped then
When vernal skies were floating o'er the earth,
And golden beams were lighting up the sea;
Were we not happy in those blissful days?
The brightest pages of our memory.

Were we not happy in the glowing halls,
Where Music woke her deep melodious tone,
Where lustrous eyes in wit and beauty beamed,
And forms of loveliness were seen alone;
When murmured voices breathed the sunny song
Of some far land to bind us in a spell;
Were we not happy in those joyous times,
Ere *Sorrow's* robes around our footsteps fell?

Were we not happy in the sacred fane,
That consecrated ground whereon we trod?
The choral hymns, the penitential prayer
Brought to our hearts the presence of a God,
Where gorgeous windows lend a magic light
Where crests and bannered trophies round us lay,
Were we not happy in that holy shrine,
Lit with its glimmering lamps and rich array?

Shall we be happy, dearest, when the flowers
Of youth are withering, and the summer skies
No longer fraught with poetry and life,
Lose their sweet influence in our fading eyes,
Shall we be happy on the bed of death?
With nought to cheer our sinking hearts, or save
Look up—a richer, purer hope is ours;
We shall be happier far beyond the grave!

Miscellaneous.

M. DE LAMARTINE AND LADY HESTER STANHOPE.

(From the Inverness Courier.)

A literary contemporary, the "Athenæum," lately pointed out a prophecy uttered about sixteen years ago by Lady Hester Stanhope, with reference to M. de Lamartine. It is told by Lamartine himself in his "Voyage en Orient"—a work which he says is neither a book nor a journey, but a collection of notes or recollections made by one who visited the East as a poet and philosopher. The strange history and mental aberrations of Lady Hester Stanhope are well known. She believed herself to be a prophetess, and her sybil-like oracles and predictions were given forth with the utmost faith and sincerity. At the period of Lamartine's journey she was residing in her solitude, but surrounded by Oriental luxury, on one of the mountains of Lebanon, near Saïde, the ancient Sidon, where the Pacha had ceded to her the ruins of a convent, and the village of Digioun, peopled by the Druses. After some conversation as to Lady Hester's belief in "a Messiah near to our own epoch," the following prediction is recorded:—

"'Believe what you will,' said she to me, 'you are still one of those men whom I was looking for, whom Providence sends to me, and who have an important part to play in the work which is preparing. You will soon return to Europe; Europe is done; France alone has a grand mission yet to accomplish; you will participate in it. I do not at present see what it will be; I do not at present see it, if you desire it, when I have consulted your stars. I do not yet know the names of all; I see more than three; I distinguish four, perhaps five, and, who knows, more yet? One of them is certainly Mercury, who gives clearness and emphasis to the intellect and to the power of expression; you ought to be a poet—that is evident from your eyes and the higher part of your face; lower, you are under the empire of quite distinct, almost opposing stars, in which there is an influence of energy and action. There is the sun also,' continued she, with a start, 'in the leaning of your head, and in the manner you throw it on your left shoulder. You may thank God: there are few men who are born under more than one star, few whose star is happy, still fewer whose star, when favourable, is not counterbalanced by the malignant influence of an opposing star. You, on the contrary, have several, and all are in harmony to save you, and to act in concert for your advantage. What is your name?' I told it to her. 'I had never heard of it!' she exclaimed, in the accent of truth.

"'See, my lady, what glory is! I have composed some verses in my life which have made my name be re-echoed a million of times in the literary circles of Europe; but this echo is too weak to traverse your sea and mountains, and here I am quite a new man—a man completely unknown, with a name never pronounced! I am only the more flattered by the kindness you have showered upon me; I owe it only to you and myself.' 'Yes,' said she, 'poet or not, I esteem you, and I place hopes in you; we shall see each other again, be assured! You will return to the West, but you will not be long in returning to the East; it is your country.' 'It is at least,' said I, 'the country of my imagination.' 'Do not laugh,' she resumed, 'it is your actual country—it is the country of your fathers. I am now certain of it; look at your foot!' 'I see there,' said I, 'nothing but the dust of your roads, which covers it, and which would make me blush in a saloon of old Europe.' 'That's nothing,' continued she; 'it is not that. Look at your foot.' I had not myself taken notice of it before. 'See, the instep is very high, and between your heel and toes, when your foot is on the ground, there is a sufficient elevation to let water pass without wetting you. It is the Arab's foot; it is the foot of the East; you are a son of these climates, and we draw near the day on which we shall each return to the land of our fathers. We shall see each other again.'"

Lady Hester afterwards lectured the poetical traveller on political subjects, claiming him for an ardent Lamartine's creed was comprehensive and general enough. "Let us judge humanity," he said, "not by classes, but by men; the nobles would have the vices of the people if they themselves were of the people, and the inferiors would have the vices of the superiors if they were nobles. The balance is even, let us not weigh it down." This doctrine would hardly do now-a-days for the Provisional Government; but we hope Lady Hester Stanhope's predictions, as to her nation's future importance, will be completed by his being called to rule as the first President of the French Republic. In the introduction to the English edition of M. de Lamartine's work we find some biographical particulars relative to the author, which are of interest at the present moment. He is at present 57 years of age, having been born at Macon, in the department of the Saone and Loire, on the 21st of October, 1791. The father of "Alphonse Marie Louis de Lamartine" was a captain of cavalry, a chevalier and royalist, who was imprisoned for his attachment to the royal cause, and had by escaped the guillotine by the death of Robespierre in 1791. The family had a small property at Milly, and there Alphonse passed his early years.

"His mother, an accomplished as well as beautiful woman, was his first tutor. Having been acquainted personally with J. J. Rousseau, she had adopted some of his less forceful notions respecting education, and applied them to practice in the case of her only son. He was allowed to ramble at will on the hills, or among the woods, and to acquire vigour and hardihood of frame by the exposure of his naked feet and arms to all varieties of weather. Hence sprung, doubtless, much of his enthusiastic admiration of nature, if not, also, the grace and symmetry of person which afterwards distinguished him. But while thus pursuing the maxims of Rousseau, regarding the physical training of youth, Madame de Lamartine's sound sense and fervent Christian piety prevented an injurious and too close adherence to the rules of the same writer respecting intellectual and moral tuition."

Lamartine was early a poet. "Song was his favorite and first pursuit," and he published largely. While on a visit to Savoy in 1810, he first beheld Miss Birch, an accomplished English lady, to whom he was afterwards married,—

"At the restoration of the Bourbons, he had been enrolled in the royal body-guard, but after his marriage he entered on a diplomatic career, and was employed in that character at Naples, Florence, and, finally, in Greece. The revolution of 1830 terminated the poet's diplomatic service, as his attachment to the deposed family led him at once to resign the post he held. Oppressed in spirit by these political changes, and also by the death of his only and infant son, which followed shortly after that of his mother, M. de Lamartine now resolved to fulfil his long-cherished intention of visiting the East. His wife, and his sole remaining child, a girl of extraordinary beauty, accompanied him thither. While in the East, M. de Lamartine was elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies by the town of Bergues, and, since his return to France in 1833, has set successively for that place, and for his birth-place, Macon."

The democratic tendencies of the poet-politician were gradually unfolded as the Government of Louis Philippe became more corrupt and unpopular. He has now entered on a career of high responsibility and elevation, and we pray sincerely that he may be successful. The romantic cast of his mind, his fine sensibility and honour, will throw a grace and charm over the National Assembly and the cause of the people, if it be not drowned in the fury of his coarser associates. He has shown that he can act, as well as write, with energy, but there have been proceedings, on the part of the Provisional Government, which he could never have sanctioned. The exigencies of the crisis can barely palliate those unwise decrees. Lamartine must nerve his mind to resist, and to resist in time, the Ledru-Rollins and Jacobin incendiaries, who, if not controlled, will soon destroy that fair image of liberty which he has assisted to rear, and which he has so profusely decorated with the flowers of his fancy and eloquence.

VALUE OF AFRICA AS A PRODUCING COUNTRY.

(From the Colonial Magazine.)

The gentleman is still alive, or was three years ago, who imported the first bale of American cotton into Liverpool. Now, England receives annually from that country a quantity of no less value than £15,000,000. Of the capability of Africa to produce cotton, no traveller, who has noted that continent, fails to remark the excellence and abundance which is produced of this useful material.—Mr. Dalrymple, who was at Goree in 1776, states "that there are three different kinds of cotton; that samples sent home were considered by English merchants to be far superior to that from the West Indies. It grows *spontaneously*, almost everywhere, though it is sometimes cultivated." Mr. Park, who says, "of the vegetables that are *wild*, the sugar-cane, cotton shrub, and indigo, seem the most valuable. No country in the world is more amply enriched than this is with the chief productions of the animal and vegetable kingdoms." Colonel Denham also states "that cotton grows wild about Sierra Leone, of three kinds, white, brown, and pink; the first is excellent." In another part of his travels he observes, "found it wild on the Tschadda." Park and Clapperton both bear ample testimony of the superior character of the productions of the African looms in the interior. Lander says, "from Badagry to Jacentoo the cotton-plant, indigo, &c., are cultivated to a great extent." The Rev. John Pinney, an American missionary, remarks, "the crops of coffee, pepper, and cotton, exceed all that could be boasted of in the United States." The trade in palm oil, raw cotton, shea butter, rice and bees'-wax, according to Laird, could be indefinitely increased. But proofs innumerable could be advanced if more was required. Not only these but the testimony of every traveller into the interior of Africa could be quoted to the same effect, the majority also affirming the vastly superior character of produce over the cotton obtained from any other part of the world.

Again, coffee, the greater amount of which we receive from Arabia and Brazil can be obtained of a much better kind, and far more readily from Africa. Here is its native country, where forests of it grow wild, affording subsistence to numberless monkeys. It is a fact that all the coffee brought into England from Arabia comes originally from the interior of the opposite continent. Hundreds of tuns are annually exported from the fair of Berberah to Mocha and other Arabian ports. In this manner, second hand from its actual cultivators, and by a circuitous route round the Cape of Good Hope, it finds its way into the European markets, and even then competes with the produce of countries more favourably situated. It is reported in the proceedings of the African Institute that when Kazell, a Nova Scotian, first observed coffee near the Shebro, he pulled up two or three plants, and showed them to the people, who said that they thought it was good for nothing but to fence their plantations. It grew all over the country, and in some places nothing else was to be seen. Sir Powell Buxton has recorded that even in its wild state it seems to repay the trouble of gathering, for the Commissioners at Sierra Leone, in their annual reports for 1838, state "that the Foulahs have been induced by the poor traders of the River Nunez to bring down for sale to them a quantity of coffee, the produce of the forests of their own country." We are told also by Adanson, in his life, that in Liberia no crops enter, for that African coffee frequently produces four pounds to the tree, and that the berries attain a size unknown elsewhere. The low countries to the south of Abyssinia, we also know, yield an inexhaustible supply, for whole caravans of this useful berry are continually being forwarded through the Adal country to the coast opposite Aden, whilst vast quantities reach Zanzibar from the interior in the same direction, and is exported to India.

Indigo is another indigenous product of Africa: it grows abundantly on the banks of all the intertropical rivers. Of late years it has been made a profitable source of revenue to the sagacious Pachas of Egypt, who, as the countries around the upper course of the Nile, have encouraged culture and manufacture of this important dye.

Africa was the source from whence the rest of the world derived their knowledge of, and the first supply of, indigo. At least, its general name in the East is *nil*; and whether the river of Egypt has given its name to the plant, or the important province of its banks has conferred an honourable and permanent title to the river, the inference is natural that, in the country surrounding its course, indigo was first employed as a dye, and that from the use it travelled, with many other useful facts of ancient Egyptian civilisation, about the period when the nations of Europe and Asia appear to have been emerging from the darkest ignorance of barbarism. Ah! indeed, well may we observe, how little is deemed to be owing to Africa by the rest of the world that has so benefited by the moral revolution which determined the transition from society as it was in the times of the pyramids and rock temples of Egypt, to that which it is at present.

One remark more as regards the abundance of indigo to be obtained from Africa. It is the weed of that continent. All over its tropical portions it grows so freely that it is difficult to eradicate it. In 1828 Mr. Stuart, writing to Sir G. Murray, says—"Immense quantities of indigo and other noxious weeds spring up in the streets of Freetown." Captain Denham also observes, that "inland, as far as Lake Tchad, the natives give a beautiful dye to the clothes with a rude preparation of the wild plant."

LABOURS OF THE SPEAKER.—On Thursday week there occurred what really is a novelty, an adjournment of the House in consequence of the illness of the Speaker. The Right Hon. Gentleman was labouring under a severe cold, but yesterday he was enabled to resume his duties. The occasions on which a Speaker has been ill are exceedingly rare. In 1817 the House stood adjourned for a month, in consequence of the sickness of the Speaker of that day; and when Mr. Abercromby, now Lord Dunfermline, held the distinguished office, an adjournment of ten days was rendered necessary from a similar cause. These, I believe, are the only instances known in modern times; and the fact is certainly remarkable, when the constant and close attention and arduous duties of the Speaker of the House of Commons are considered. Night after night the Right Hon. Gentleman is chained, as it were to the chair, and finds no relief from the irksome duty but when the House is in Committee; and even then he must remain in an adjoining room, being liable to be called upon at any moment to resume his duties. Other members can absent themselves at pleasure, or may lounge at their ease in the library or at Bellamy's; but no such privilege is granted to the Speaker; and if in the night of a long debate he finds it necessary to take refreshment, the time consumed in doing so never exceeds five or six minutes. All this must be trying to the constitution, and therefore it is the more remarkable that so few cases of illness occur. It is somewhat singular, too, that the House has never provided for such a contingency as the Speaker's continued illness. There is no deputy; and, as it is well known that there can be no "House" without the Speaker's presence, considerable inconvenience might arise if such a thing were to occur. I am not certain, but my impression is that the House would be wholly without precedent how to act should their Speaker be seized with permanent illness. The only escape would be by a resignation on his part, but surely this would be a singular position for the House of Commons to find itself in.—[London Correspondent of "Dumfries Courier.'

PRESERVATION OF LIFE IN CASES OF SHIPWRECK &C.,—*Experiments with the Floating Cork Mattresses.*—On Thursday, Sir Gordon Bremer, and a large body of the principal officers of Woolwich Dockyard, attended at the Steam Basin to witness some experiments which were made with the Patent Cork Stuffing, in order to test the power of this material to afford assistance in cases of shipwreck, casualties at sea, drowning, &c. It has always been regretted, doubtless, it inapplicable, to any general extent, to inventions for saving human life in cases of emergency at sea. But this objection has been entirely obviated by the process of shredding it into filaments, so that it can be introduced as stuffing into boat-cushions, bedding, couches, and similar articles forming part of the equipment of all kinds of vessels, and thus be made to serve the double purpose of promoting comfort and affording ready assistance in the event of shipwreck or casualty. The principal form in which the articles are manufactured at present is that of mattresses, bolsters, and pillows, articles which are included within the requisites for seamen's bedding. These cork mattresses and pillows are so constructed that they may be used either separately or lashed together as a raft. The object of the experiments was to test their efficacy as a support to a single individual when immersed in the water, and their power of sustaining numbers when formed into a raft. At two o'clock, Sir Gordon Bremer, and several officers connected with the Dockyard, assembled at the Steam Basin, where the materials for making the experiment had been conveyed. The first experiment was by lashing six of the mattresses together with boat oars, a process which did not occupy a minute. The raft was thrown into the water, and Captain Stevens, the swimming-master of the Royal Humane Society, jumped on it from the pier, and floated about the dock for some time.—His son, a lad about seventeen, fell into the water as if accidentally. Captain Stevens, on the raft, went to the assistance of his son, pulled him on the raft, which supported both with the utmost ease, and by this means was enabled to land him on the pier in safety. The next experiment consisted in throwing a bolster, weighing about three and a-half pounds, into the water, on which the lad placed himself, and demonstrated its power to support him while in the water. A boat cushion of the same weight was tried next, and was found to answer the same object exactly. A single mattress, weight 12lbs., was then thrown into the water, and on this Captain Stevens lay at full length, was supported quite out of the water, and in this way he paddled, without any difficulty, to any part of the dock he wished. Sir Gordon Bremer, who witnessed the whole of the experiments, expressed his entire satisfaction at the result, and indeed all present were loud in their praise of the vast improvement which had been made on all other inventions devoted to the same object. The next experiment with these mattresses is to ascertain their capability of resisting musket balls, shells, &c.—[Railway Gazette.

EARLY RECORDS OF MUSIC.—"The first mention we have of music or musical instruments is in the most ancient and most authentic of all records—the Bible. We are told by the sacred penman, when he was enumerating the posterity of Cain, that Jubal, the sixth in descent from him, was 'the father of all such as handle the harp and organ'—(Gen. iv. 21.) The translators of the sacred book were evidently at a loss to determine the exact nature of the instruments intended; for while our own authorised version gives the passage harp and organ,' the French have rendered it 'violon and organ'—agreeing in the most material point namely, that they were stringed and wind instruments, yet proving the uncertainty as to the identical form. Taking our own translation as our guide we must, in estimating the power of these antediluvian productions, banish from our recollection the modern magnificent pieces of mechanism known as harps and organs; for even among the Greeks, more than a thousand years after the time of Jubal, the harp or lyre consisted of only four strings, afterwards increased to seven; it was considered a dangerous innovation when Timotheus introduced eleven, and he was punished for encroaching on the simplicity of seven. This primitive harp was doubtless of the most simple construction, yet capable of imparting as great delight to the unsophisticated hearers of those less fastidious days as the finished instruments of our own. The organ did not burst, in rich and varied combination, upon the ear, with its surpassing grandeur, as at present, but was simply a bundle of reeds, of various lengths, joined together, called by the Greeks *Syrinx*, or pipe of Pan; by us the Pandean pipes, or, in simpler phraseology, the mouth-organ. The next mention of music is—(Gen. xxxi. 26, 27)—'And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters as captives taken with the sword? Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth and with songs, with tabret and with harp?' Here we have mention made of another instrument, the tabret, or as it is sometimes called, timbrel, which has ever been an instrument of constant use in all oriental countries, especially played upon by women, and known to us as the tambourine. We have, from the above passage, a proof that the art was progressing; for we ascertain the fact that music had advanced so far as to be cultivated as a means of social enjoyment."—[Novello's Music.

THE COAL FIELDS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—A Ruabon correspondent to the *Chester Chronicle*, signing himself "Asbestos," says that the North Wales coal field, measuring from the point of Ayr, in Flintshire, to a few miles beyond Oswestry, in Shropshire, covers an area of 200 square miles, of ten yards in thickness. The weight of a cubic yard of compact coal is 19 cwt. 10lb. The total weight of the coal in this extensive area will thus be 5,929,600,000 tons. These coals at 6s. per ton at the pit mouth would produce £1,778,907,000. To exhaust this field it would require that 2,000,000 tons be worked annually for nearly 300 years. The extent of the other coal fields in England and South Wales, estimated at the same thickness as the North Wales fields, would yield 177,890,700,000, which would furnish us with 40,000,000 tons of coals for nearly 4,000 years.

MAHOGANY FOR SHIP-BUILDING.—Many of our readers are perhaps not aware that mahogany is used to a considerable extent in ship-building. It is imported in large quantities, and in long lengths, chiefly from Honduras, and as it possesses many invaluable qualities for that purpose, and is, besides, as cheap as oak, it enters largely into the construction of our men-of-war and merchant ships. The oldest steamer in the navy is the Comet, built of mahogany, and the highest naval authorities state of her, in 1845, "she has had very hard and constant work in very heavy gales of wind, frequently towing, &c., during the last twenty three years, *and she has not yet come under repair.*" The fastest vessel, perhaps, in the world, is the new and beautiful government steamer Banshee. She is built of mahogany, which is remarkably buoyant, and at the same time possesses great strength—these qualifications combined are scarcely obtainable in any other wood. Mahogany has a varied range of excellence, and by adapting the heavy or hard pieces to the main parts of a vessel, namely the frame and outside planking, and the lighter kinds to the upper works and inside planking, &c., the greatest perfection, as far as material goes, may be obtained in naval architecture. The importance of these facts and considerations, in reference both to our naval and commercial marine, can hardly be over-estimated.

Ireland has 300 persons to each square mile, and *Australia* has 12 square miles to each individual. It may strike the reader more forcibly if he is told that Australia is nearly the area of Europe, with the population of Wiltshire or Northumberland. In New South Wales there is more food than consumers. Among 180,000 people, there are 2,000,000 of cattle, and 8,000,000 of sheep, being about 13 head of oxen and 50 sheep for each person. In June last the Legislative Council reported that this year no less than 61,000,000 lb. of meat would be wasted, sufficient to feed 1,100,000 poor people. As a specimen of what Australia can do for our manufactures, it may be mentioned that the present supply of wool annually amounts to 21,000,000 lb.; and if adequate supplies of labour were furnished, it is computed that this quantity in 10 years could be increased to 100,000,000lb. It is capable of growing cotton to any extent; while its mineral wealth appears to be prodigious.

ADDRESSED TO HUSBANDS.—A woman ought to have her own purse, great or small, whichever it may be. Ten, fifty, a hundred, or a thousand dollars, according to circumstances, but her own, for which she accounts to—herself. Would you know "why," you gentlemen who make your wives account for pins and farthings? Why, most especially and particularly for your own sublime peace and prosperity. You do not think so? Well, then; a maid-servant knocks down a tea-cup, a servant breaks a glass, or suddenly tea-pot, cup, and glass, all at once fall in pieces, and *nobody* has broken them; and so on. The wife who has not her own purse, but who must replace the cups and glass, goes to her husband, relates the misfortune, and begs for a little to make good the damage. He scolds the servants, his wife, who ought to look after the servants. "Money, indeed!—a little money—money does not grow out of the ground, nor yet is it rained down from heaven—many small brooks make a great river." And such like. At last he gives a little money, and remains often in a very ill humour. Again, if the wife have her own little purse, then such little vexations never come near him. Children, servants, misfortune remain the same; but no disorder is remarked; all is made right as at first; all is in order; and the head of the house who, perhaps, with the greatest ease, could lay down a thousand rix-dollars at once need not for a few pence, squeezed out at different times, lose the composure of his temper, which is as invaluable to the whole house as to himself. And does that reckon as nothing, that unfeeling nabob, those little surprises, those little birthday and nameday pleasures, with which thy wife can give herself the delight of surprising thee—those thousand small pleasures which, unexpected as falling stars, gleam like them on the heaven of home, and which must all come to thee from the affection of thy wife, through—*a little money*, which thou must give to her in the gross, in order to receive again in the small, with rich interest of comfort and happiness? Now, is it clear yet? To every true woman's heart it is indescribably delightful to give,—to feel itself alive in the satisfaction and happiness of others; it is the sunshine of the heart, and is more needed here in the cold north, perhaps, then elsewhere. Besides, this little freedom is so refreshing.—*Mary Howitt.*

Colonel Cheney, C. B., of Gaddesby, Leicestershire, died on the 3d instant, aged 70. He was a descendant of Richmond's standard-bearer on Bosworth Field, who had a personal encounter with Richard, and was unhorsed by his royal adversary.

A GREAT DINNER.—The most extensive dinner ever given in England was that of Lord Romney to the Kent Volunteers, when George III reviewed them near Maidstone. The tables were seven miles and a half long, and the boards for the tables cost £15,000.

CABBAGE PLANTS may be raised easily from sprouts thrown out by the stumps. Mr. Wilson, of Harraby, near Carlisle, finds that plants thus raised cabbage much quicker than those raised from seed. They merely require to be cut from the stump with a portion of its bark pertaining to them, and to be planted in rows like rooted seedlings, and to have the usual watering. It is the mode of raising cabbages universally adopted by the Chinese.—[Companion to the *Gardener's Almanack.*

Men marry at twenty for passion; at thirty for love; at forty for money; at fifty for the sake of being fondled and nursed.