

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE—EXPLOSION OF THE STEAMER TROY.

BUFFALO, March 26.

On Saturday, P. M., our city was thrown into the greatest consternation by the report of the explosion of the steamer Troy in the Niagara river, about two miles from Buffalo, and the probable loss of 10 or 12 lives. The Troy was on her first trip this spring, from Toledo. She was sailed by Capt. Thomas Wilkins, a veteran master on the lakes. The Engineer in charge was Levi L. Post, an experienced Engineer. The Troy had been in sight of our city several hours, trying to work a passage through the ice to the mouth of the Creek; but being unable to do so, was on her way to Black Rock. Immediately before the accident she had been backing, and Capt. Wilkins had just rung the bell for her to go ahead, when, after making one revolution, the boiler burst with a tremendous explosion, the report of which was distinctly heard at the distance of several miles. Her main and upper decks were completely demolished, from the wheel-house as far forwards as the mast. Some four feet abait the pilot-house were many of the passengers and crew, who, in that part of the boat, were terribly scalded by the escape of steam, or frightfully bruised by the flying fragments of the engine and timbers, while several were thrown by the explosion in the cool and swift current of the river, among pieces of the boat and the floating ice. It is impossible, as yet, to ascertain the number of those thrown overboard. Several were picked up by small boats, which were soon at the scene of disaster, but it is morally certain that some must have found a watery grave. From the most reliable information we could get respecting the affair, we think that two men were certainly drowned.

The maimed and scalded uttered the most heart-rending groans and shrieks of pain and anguish, while scarcely less affecting was the grief of the relations and friends of the dead and dying. The boiler was nearly full of water when it exploded and the head of steam was not high. The fracture happened in the bottom plate which is rather thin. It is a boiler said to have been taken from the steamer Fulton several years since, rather old, but thought to be perfectly safe.

Yesterday, Sunday, a Coroner's Jury was called to investigate the cause of the accident. We suspend any opinion until it shall be known what facts are made to appear by the enquiry.

The following is a list of those ascertained to be killed: Levi L. Post, Engineer; Nicholas Seland, Peter Seland, William Worthington, Daniel Buckley, Thomas Gant, Andrew Martin. We do not include in the killed the name of Dr. Ryal Wright, of Syracuse, who has not been found. He was probably thrown into the river and drowned. A person answering to his description was seen clinging to a cake of ice, and afterwards went down. The Coroner's Inquest meets again this morning at 10 o'clock.

The Steamer Canada, Capt. Willoughby, succeeded in breaking her way through the ice this morning, and is now in Buffalo harbor, being the first arrival this season.

The King of Prussia took the oath to the Constitution on the 6th Feb., and delivered the following straightforward speech upon the occasion:—

"GENTLEMEN:—I crave your attention. What I am going to say are my own words; for I stand before you as I never did before this, and as I never shall do after. I do not stand here to exercise the hereditary sacred duties of my office (they soar above the opinions and intentions of parties); I do not stand here covered by the responsibility of my advisers; but I stand by myself, alone, as a man of honor, prepared to give his dearest treasure, his word, a Yes full of force and meaning. Let me, therefore, say a few words in explanation.

"The work on which I mean to imprint my confirmation sprang from a year which the fidelity of coming generations will yearn tearfully, though vainly, to blot out of our history. In the form in which it has been submitted to you it is, indeed, the work of the self-sacrificing fidelity of the men who saved this throne from ruin, and to whom my gratitude shall only cease with my life; but what it is, it became in those fatal days in which the existence of our country was threatened. It sprang from a moment, and bore the broad stamp of its origin. It is but just to ask the question—How can I, with these opinions, stoop to sanction that work? And yet I will do it, because I can do it; and that I can do it I owe to you, gentlemen. You have improved it. You have purified it of dangerous parts. You have added beneficent provisions, and by your masterly legislation, and by the acceptance of my last proposition, you have given me a pledge that you mean to continue improving it, and that our joint endeavors, exerted in a constitutional manner, will avail to make it still more congruous to the characteristic vitality of Prussia, I can venture to confirm this work, because I can do it in good hope. I acknowledge this with the warmest thanks to you, and I say, with a deeply moved and joyful heart, that you have earned the gratitude of your country. And thus I declare, calling God to be my witness, that my promise to the Constitution is true in verity, and void of all afterthought. But

you must feel that the life and blessings of the Constitution depend upon a fulfilment of some unavoidable conditions.

"You, gentlemen, must help me, and the parliaments after you must help me, and the loyalty of my people must help me against those who would pervert this Royal grant of freedom into a shroud to make; against those who would turn it against its author's God-instituted authority, against those who would consider this document as an indemnity in the place of Divine Providence, of history, and of our ancient sacred loyalty. All the good powers of the country must unite in fealty, in respect for Royalty and this throne, which leans upon the victories of our armies, on obedience to law, on a conscientious adherence to the oath of homage and to the new oath of fidelity, and obedience to the King, and a scrupulous observance of the Constitution—in a word, a vital condition is that you give me a possibility of governing under this law, for in Prussia the King must reign, and I do not reign, God knows it, because such is my will and pleasure, but because it is God's order and decree, and, therefore, I mean to govern. A free people under a free King! such has been my motto these 10 years, and such is it this day, and shall be to the end of my life.

"Before I proceed to the act of this day, I will renew two vows. In the first instance I vow, repeat, and confirm my vow of the Coronation at Konigsberg! Yes! yes! I will do it! so help me God!

"In the second instance I repeat and confirm my solemn vow of the 11th of April, 1847, 'With my house, I intend to serve the Lord.' Yes, yes! I will do it. So help me, God! This vow takes a higher range than all others.

"And now that I, by the force of my Royal perfection of power, confirm the charter of the Constitution, I promise solemnly, verily, and expressly, to observe the Constitution of my country and empire, and to govern according to the same and to the laws. Yes! yes! I will do it! So help me God!"

A DISGRACEFUL RIOT.—We learn from the Milwaukee Wisconsin that on the 4th inst a mob of some 300 rumsellers and rumsellers paraded the streets of Milwaukee, and attacked the residence of hon. John B. Smith, (a member of the Wisconsin Senate,) breaking the windows with bricks, stones, billets of wood, &c., and finally, not satisfied with venting their spite outside the house, several entered, turned over lamps, throwing oil on the carpets, tore down the curtains, and did some other injury. Mr. Smith was absent at the time, and no one at home, except his children, of four, six eight and eleven years of age, and a servant girl, who, through the efforts of two or three young men, were conveyed to a neighboring house. After remaining for some quarter of an hour the rioters dispersed in different directions.

The cause of this gross outrage upon Senator Smith is known to have been the Temperance law, which he upheld during the last session of the Legislature.

We understand, says the Wisconsin, that the rioters had intended giving Hon. E. McGarry, of the Assembly, a "benefit," for the stand he had taken on some questions which came before that body at its recent session. The mob, who had probably before been frightened with the extent to which they had carried the outrage, did not molest him. Mr. McG. would have given them a Hibernian reception. Efforts are being made to arrest those who were engaged in the disgraceful outrage, and we trust they will be brought up and made to suffer the utmost penalty to the law.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCHYARD.—The vestry met on Saturday last pursuant to adjournment, when the question of rescinding the vote to lease the ground, was resumed. A statement of the amount subscribed by private individuals, on condition of preserving the ground untouched, and retaining it as a public square for the health and ornament of the city, was read; it amounted, for two wards only, to about £1263, a sum which it was stated could readily be made up to at least £1800. This, with the funds already in hand, and an assessment of one fourth of their original upset price for the restoration of the pews, was considered sufficient to ensure the preservation of the ground, and the resolution rescinding the former vote, was put and carried by a majority of 35 to 20. Other resolutions to the same effect were proposed and adopted, including one to authorise the architect, F. Cumberland, Esq., to prepare a sketch of a Gothic Church, to be erected on the old foundation, at an expense not exceeding £10,000, exclusive of the spire,—such sketch to be submitted to a special meeting of the vestry, on Saturday April 6th.—Patriot.

THE CITY COUNCIL.—On Monday evening last the City Council granted the application of certain parties for a block of land on the Garrison Reserve for an Episcopal Church. This is liberal, both on the part of the Ordnance Department and the Council; but it is a question whether the same liberality would be extended to any other denomination. We hope the question will soon be tested by the application of some other denomination for a similar grant in the same quarter of the City.—Christian Guar.

NEW BRUNSWICK PARLIAMENT.

From the St. John Courier.

On the House going into committee of the whole on consideration of the bill to amend and consolidate the Laws relating to the local government of towns and parishes in this Province, the Attorney General explained that the laws on this subject were very numerous and confused, and that his object in the present instance was to simplify them as much as possible, and relieve the House from a great deal of local legislation by putting the management of local affairs in the hands of the County sessions, as also the appointment of all local officers in the hands of the parish. The Attorney-General expressed himself in favour of municipal corporations, but did not hold out much hope that they would be able to carry out that measure this season, he was of opinion, however, that the bill before the House would pave the way, and prepare the minds of the people for its adoption at a future time.

On the presentation of some petitions praying that an act may pass to incorporate the Grand and subordinate Orange Lodges in this Province, in connection with the Grand Lodge of Canada, the Attorney General informed Mr. Earle, who presented them, that their objects were unconstitutional, and that he would oppose such a bill as was asked for; that he would call on the hon. member to inform him of the origin and objects of these Lodges and of the general benefits which they had produced. The Attorney General also stated that he would be prepared to show, when the bill came under discussion, the many evils which had resulted from those Lodges, and the manner in which they had trampled upon that holy principle of our divine religion which inculcates peace and goodwill throughout the world, and that, fearless of consequences, he cautioned all who might hear him to beware of their unholy influences. He would never lend his influence to sanction anything so unchristian in its objects, and so melancholy in its consequences. He further gave notice of his intention to oppose any such bill, in all its stages, and should it pass, to advise the Lieutenant Governor to refuse his assent to it.

THE CAMPAIGN ON THE LAKE, RIVER AND BAY.

A very material alteration is proposed to take place in the mode of steamboat conveyance, between Montreal and the head of the Lake, next season. Messrs. McPherson & Crane and Messrs. Hooker & Holton, in conjunction with the Hon. John Hamilton, have an entirely new plan of operation to carry into effect, very much to the advantage of themselves and the public. Consequently, they propose to run two lines of steamers from Montreal upwards; the one the Mail Line Daily to Kingston, and the other, a Tri Weekly Line to Hamilton. The Mail Line will consist of the Canada, Capt. O'Connor, the Lord Elgin, Capt. Stearns, and the Ottawa Chief, Capt. Lawless. The Hamilton Line to consist of the Passport, Capt. Bowen the New Era, Capt. Maxwell, and the Comet, Capt. Taylor. A vessel is now building at Lachine to receive the engine of the Highlander, to be ready in July; and then these seven steamers will be found amply sufficient to do the work out for them. Mr. Bethune will have his Lake Mail Line as last year, consisting of the Princess Royal, Capt. Twohy, the City of Toronto, Capt. Dick, and the Magnet, Capt. Sutherland; with the Sovereign Capt. J. Twohy, in reserve. On the Bay of Quinte the Henry Gildersleeve, Capt. Gilpin, the Farmer, Capt. Chambers, and the Prince of Wales, Capt. Noworthy, are getting ready for summer operations.—Kingston Whig.

THE OLD OAK OF ROSS.—This gigantic tree, which has for centuries been an object of attraction to the town of Ross, was destroyed by fire on the evening of Wednesday last. The "old oak of Ross" is supposed to have been 1500 years old. The circumference at base was 15 yards, and 11 yards at three feet from the ground. Its destruction was caused by some boys lighting a fire in its trunk, and notwithstanding the efforts of the people, assisted by the town engine, it was all but totally destroyed, nothing being left but a heap of blackened ruins.—Bristol Jour.

LARGE SNAKE.—The Montreal Times of Oct. 23 states that on the previous Tuesday a large snake, measuring 15 feet 6 inches long, was killed by Lieutenant West, of the 11th Regiment Madras Native Infantry. The snake was first seen while in the act of swallowing a fowl, the noise of the fowl having brought the servants to the spot. Lieutenant West, on the snake being pointed out to him, with his sword pierced the head through and fixed the blade in the ground. The snake, feeling the sudden shock, immediately turned round by the tail, and in a moment coiled round Lieutenant West, but, his servants being present they succeeded in uncoiling it from his body after a long struggle, fortunately without his sustaining any injury.

A VEGETARIAN EATING-HOUSE has been opened at Manchester, and the ceremony of a house-warming took place on Tuesday week at which Mr. Brotherton, M. P., presided, supported by Messrs. Harvey and Tysoe, large cotton spinners. Many ladies were present, and the company dined strongly. The bill of fare consisted of carrots and macaroni, soups, savoury omelets and fritters; roast potatoes; boiled turnips, potatoes, cauliflower, and beetroot; stewed celery and onions; fried buttered eggs; baked potato pie; apple tarts; rice puddings, preserves, &c.—Mr. Brotherton congratulated the company on the institution of the establishment; he said that vegetarians were on the increase, and he trusted that the cruel practice of feeding animals for slaughter would be discontinued.—Other members of the company spoke to the same effect.

TEMPERANCE IN NORWAY.—The February number of the American and Foreign Christian Union states that the temperance cause is making "glorious progress in Norway." A few years ago the Diet passed an act to abolish all the distilleries of the kingdom in ten years. They next imposed a heavy tax on all stills, which broke up all the small distilleries. In addition to this, they have employed agents to visit the distillers, with authority to compensate them for losses, if they will abandon the business. This

is regarded as only preparatory to an act to sweep away all distilleries from the land. The members of the craft in this country will doubtless stigmatize these as summary laws, but they are no more so than those which regulate the sale of poisons by the druggists.

A CELESTIAL STRANGER.—Capt. Perkins, arrived yesterday morning from Porto Cabelo, reports that on Feb. 12, in lat. 14° 10' and long. 61° 58', at 8 o'clock, P. M. he observed a luminous appearance in the heavens resembling a large ball of fire, about ten feet in diameter. It appeared in the west moving eastward rather slowly, and was in sight a little more than a minute. It appeared to travel about ten degrees high, and, during its continuance the heavens were illumined with a brightness nearly equal to that of moon-day. When disappearing it broke into a thousand fragments.—New York Tribune.

FROM MARTINIQUE.—Our advices from Martinique mention the departure, on board of the last steamer, of Mr. Bissette, for France, to assume his functions as Representative of Martinique in the National Assembly. Great preparations were made for the departure of the community, were made for several days before this worshipped patriot's embarkation: the general regret on the occasion of his withdrawal from the society of so many who loved him, seems tempered only by the consolatory knowledge of the better opportunities of being useful to the Colonists, which he must derive from a residence at the seat of legislation. Mr. Bissette had sojourned some ten or eleven months in the Colony, and during that time the immense influence he possessed over the laboring classes was most successfully exercised to general advantage of a community greatly exposed to the hazards of disorganization and illness.—St. Lucia Palladium.

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4. THE PRESS AND GENERAL REVIEW.—Here the sentiments of the leading periodicals on the great topics affecting the interests of the Church and the world, will be inserted; also occasional reviews of late works.
5. ECCLESIASTICAL.—or an index of the progress or decline of evangelical Christianity in the world.
6. THE WATCHMAN or principal editorial department—containing a faithful testimony for the truth, a solemn protest against the prevailing errors in the doctrines, practices, polity, &c., of, professedly Christian Churches; also a review of news.
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Toronto, Jan. 21, 1850.