

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Monday, 17th inst. George N. Smith, Esq., lectured before a full and most respectable audience on the modes of calculation used by Astronomers to ascertain the distances, magnitudes, densities, motions, &c., of the heavenly bodies.

TELEGRAPH BETWEEN MICHIGAN AND THE BEAR OF PETTICODIAC.—We are gratified in being enabled to report that the whole of the Stock for the construction of this line has been subscribed, and the company advertised for the supplying of the posts.

A promising lad of 11 years of age, son of Charles Upton, Esq., of Simonds, Carleton County, was so severely kicked by a colt on the 5th Feb., that he died in three days after.

Finnemore, who has been confined for some time in the goal of this County on a charge of murder, made his escape on Friday evening, but has since been retaken and committed.

ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—We have not yet received a copy of this important Bill, but we learn that the following are its principal features.

The Bill commences by declaring that after it becomes law, and receives the Royal assent, the present Legislative Council shall be dissolved, and all appointments thereto annulled, the Members, however, retaining their title of "Honourable."

Each of these districts will return four members to serve in the Council; the qualification for members is the possession, in freehold, of real estate, of the value of £200, which must be free of all encumbrances.

Members of the Council are to be elected for eight years; but one member in each district, to be determined in the first instance by lot, must go out every two years.

All powers and authorities now vested by law in the Legislative Council, are to be exercised by the Elective Council, with this addition—the Elective Council may amend or alter any Revenue or Money bills sent up by the Assembly, where alone such bills can originate.

Such are the most striking features of a Bill which is of the greatest interest to this Province, and which there is little doubt will be fully and ably discussed before becoming the law of the land.

This Bill was presented in the Legislative Council on Thursday last, by the Hon. Mr. Chandler. It was read a first time and ordered to be printed; and it was agreed that a call of the Council should take place, on a day to be specially named for the discussion of the measure.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.—We have been favoured with a copy of the Bill for the establishment of Municipal Corporations in this Province, introduced in the Assembly by the Hon. Attorney General, on Tuesday last.

This Bill provides, that if it be desired to incorporate any County, the same shall be signified as follows.—At least fifty rate-payers must petition the Sheriff, praying him to call a public meeting, at the County Court House, to take the subject into consideration; the Sheriff shall call such meeting giving at least three months' notice; if one hundred householders and rate-payers are present at the meeting, it shall be put to vote whether the County shall be incorporated;

if two-thirds of those who vote decide in the affirmative, the Sheriff shall certify the same, under his hand and seal, to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

On receiving this Certificate, the Governor in Council shall issue a Charter, under the Great Seal, incorporating the County, with all the necessary corporate powers and privileges, and with power to hold real estate, for public purposes, to the value of £200 per annum.

The business of the County then becomes vested in a County Council, consisting of two Councillors from each Parish, elected by the rate-payers; when the Councillors meet, they choose a Warden, who presides at all their meetings; they appoint an officer called the Secretary-Treasurer, who is both Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, as in Canada; a County Surveyor is appointed, who oversees all public work done in the County, and takes care of all public buildings and real estate; no public work of any kind can be undertaken, unless a report thereon from the County Surveyor, and an estimate of the cost, is first submitted to the Council.

All the powers and authorities now vested by law, in Justices of the Peace, in Sessions, after the County is incorporated, are transferred wholly and entirely to the County Council, without any exception or reservation; the Justices are thus deprived of the slightest control over County affairs, and are restricted to their legitimate duties, as conservators of the public peace.

THE RAILWAY FACILITY BILL.—This Bill has not yet been introduced, being still under the consideration of the Executive. We understand, however, that the mode of assisting the construction of the European and North American Railway, will be by loan of Provincial Debentures, to the extent of £300,000 sterling, bearing interest at not more than six, or perhaps five, per cent. There will probably be grants of wilderness land in addition, but we cannot speak with sufficient accuracy to make a precise statement.

HONOUR TO NEW BRUNSWICK.—We are happy to state, that M. H. Perley, Esquire, of this City, was on the 15th ult. elected a Corresponding Member of the Natural History Society of Boston, and that a Diploma, under the Seal of the Society, has been received by Mr. Perley. We believe that this is the first compliment of the kind which has been paid to a native of New Brunswick.

THE ELECTIONS in the Counties of York and Carleton have terminated. In the former County the Candidates were, Charles Fisher and Charles Macpherson, Esquires. The official return of the votes polled amounted to 813 for Mr. Macpherson, and 646 for Mr. Fisher—giving a majority of 167 to the former.

In Carleton County, all the candidates but Richard English and H. E. Dibblee, Esquires, retired on the day of nomination. The votes polled were as follows:—English, 492; Dibblee, 372—majority for Mr. English, 120.

The Fredericton Telegraph line, is said to be nearing 30 per cent.

The Members' Pay Bill has passed. The allowances are—15s. per day for Members during the Session, and travelling expenses at the rate of 15s. for every twenty miles. The Speaker's allowance was fixed at £100.

A general Census of the Province of New Brunswick is to be taken during this year.

Prince Edward Island.

LAUNCHING OF TWO VESSELS ON THE ICE.—Saturday, the 15th inst., was quite a gala day at Rustico—upwards of 500 persons, and some 250 horses, were collected together, some to assist, and others to witness, the launching of the *Brigs Regina and Thrasher*, the one 199 and the other 164 tons, which vessels it will be recollected were driven up high and dry in the great gale of November last, just as they were loaded and ready for sea. Three *Sleighs* were placed under each vessel, then 120 horses were attached to one, and she was drawn, broadside on, for about one mile and a half to the channel, the other was then served in a similar manner.

On the night of the 26th ult., the Barn and Stable (under the one roof) of Mr. Henry Mooney, of Cardigan Road, Lot 51, with all their contents—3 valuable cows, an ox, a lot of poultry, a large stack of oats put in the previous day, all his hay and straw, and about 15 bushels of wheat—were entirely consumed by fire.

origin of the fire, unless it was a spark from the chimney of his dwelling, situated about 1 1/2 chains from the barn. When the fire was observed, it had made such progress that nothing could be saved.—*Royal Gazette*.

Martin Cody, jun., of Lot 30, was fully committed to Jail, to take his trial, by Robert Hutchinson, and Theo. Mesbriay, Esqrs., J. P., charged with a violent Assault and Battery on the bodies of Alexander M'Leod, John M'Leod, Duncan Nicholson and Sarah, his wife, with a sleigh-stake, on the night of the 5th inst. Alex. M'Leod's life was despaired of for some time; John M'Leod is seriously injured; and Duncan Nicholson's arm splintered.—*Id.*

Canada.

THE ANNIVERSARIES.—The hearts of the Christian people of Montreal are full on account of their Anniversary Meetings, during the past week;—full of admiration at the size of the audiences and the eloquence of the speakers—full of joy at the evident presence of the Spirit of God, with power—full of enthusiasm in the cause of Christ and his truth, so nobly advocated—full of faith in the will and power of God to prosper his own cause—full of hope and confidence in the future, on account of the soul cherishing tokens of union and zeal, so clearly and publicly given—full of high aspirations and noble resolves, and saying to their societies in the name of the Lord, only, "Be thou strong and of good courage; go up and possess the land."—*Witness*.

MONOPOLIES.—By a recent decision it is declared to be the law of Lower Canada, that no one has any right to carry on the business of milling grain, within the limits of the seigniors, i. e., the greatest part of Lower Canada, except the seigniors themselves. A free country this! Seigniors and priests have its advantages pretty well divided between them.—*Id.*

DROWNED.—We have been informed that on Monday evening, as five teams were crossing on the ice from Fairfield's Tavern, Bath Road, the ice gave way, drowning the whole five, and four out of five men driving them.—*Kingston Herald*.

TAVERN LICENSES.—The teetotalers of Kingston have made choice of seven of their number to act as Inspectors of Taverns for the ensuing year, and the *Whig* is so wroth at what he terms their "consummate impudence," that even at the risk of pocket and person, he is inciting the Kingstonsians to tar and feather the Sons of Temperance.—*Patriot*.

QUEENSTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—The wonderful work of bridging the Niagara at Queenston has been accomplished! One can now stand in the centre of that mighty chasm, and if the brain trembles not, look down on the fearful depth below, where the green torrent rushes ever onward! On the 4th instant the work was so far completed as to enable foot passengers to cross. The Engineer, Mr. Serrell, and his lady, were the first to cross; they went from the Canadian to the American shore, and were followed by the Warden of the United Counties of Lincoln and Welland, Major Brown, the chief Carpenter, Mr. McKenzie, and an immense crowd of people of all ranks and degrees. Upon reaching *terra firma* the party were received by a crowd who gave three cheers for the Engineer, three for his lady, three for good feeling between the two countries, and three for the interest of the Company.—*Globe*.

LAW AT A DISCOUNT.—We are informed that a considerable number of the law students in this city have it in contemplation to abandon the profession for mercantile pursuits; and amongst those who have taken this resolution are some of the most promising students in the place. Last week two students, setting the example to others, threw aside their Blackstones and bid adieu to the profession they had formerly chosen.—*Toronto Examiner*.

UNITED STATES.

ATLANTIC AND ST. LAWRENCE RAILROAD.—The receipts of this road for the six months ending Dec 31, 1-50, were \$91,888,12—expenses \$30,383,21—net earnings, \$61,504,91. It must be borne in mind that the above receipts are from operating the road from Portland to South Paris, a distance of 47 1/2 miles, which is as far as the road has been opened. The road will be opened in a few days from South Paris to Bethel, a further distance of 22 1/2 miles. The whole cost of the road from Portland to South Paris, including equipment and cost of its extensive depot grounds, wharves, stores, &c., in Portland, is \$1,521,646,96, which it will be seen gives to the Stockholders on the investment for the last six months net earnings of the road, within a fraction of four per cent, or at the rate of eight per cent annually.—*Boston Atlas*.

The recent arrest of a fugitive slave in Boston and his subsequent liberation by the mob, continues to produce a strong feeling in that city. Elizer Wright, one of the editors of the Commonwealth, and several other persons, have been arrested and held to bail for aiding the fugitive in his escape. Mr. Wright was held in the sum of \$2000, to answer at the March term of the United States District Court. Joseph R. Hayes, keeper of the Tremont Temple, has also been arrested, and ordered to give surety in the sum of \$3000. The President has issued a proclamation, calling upon all well disposed citizens to support the law.

TELEGRAPH TO CALIFORNIA.—Josiah Snow, A. Bangs, and others, having presented a petition to Congress, praying for the right of way and subscription to the stock of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company; their petition was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, who have reported favourably to the project.

The petitioners propose to connect the valley of the Mississippi with San Francisco, in California, by Telegraphic wires, and ask the aid of the Government in behalf of the undertaking, offering in return the use of the wires for all Government purposes for the term of ten years from the time of the completion of the work.

THE HUDSON RIVER.—The ice has broken up at Albany. Two young men who were crossing the river about the time of the first movement of the ice were unable to reach the shore, and were drowned.—*Boston Daily Adr.*

The consignees of the American steamer Atlantic, in Liverpool, gave her entire freight list to the Canada Company, and a bonus besides of £3000, for forwarding her freights in the Cambria, being a loss to the owners of the Atlantic of \$35,000.

MISSIONARY FOR OREGON.—The Rev. Edward R. Geary has taken passage in the Empire City, from New York, on Thursday, on his way to Oregon, as a missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMSHIP OHIO.—United States Mail Steamship Ohio, arrived at New York on 23rd ult., from Chagres and Havana. She left Havana on the evening of the 17th. She brings from Chagres \$200,000 in gold dust on freight.

The Ohio's homeward passage was exceedingly boisterous, having experienced a succession of easterly gales from the time of leaving Havana until her arrival at Barnegat. She brings one hundred and fifty passengers, the mails, and a large amount of gold dust in the hands of the passengers.

Crime in California stalks abroad with an unchecked hand, rendering life and property dangerous in the extreme.

The California Courier, in an able article of over two columns, advocates the establishment of a line of steamers between San Francisco, China and Japan.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—The Hay Press below the Navy Yard was destroyed by fire this morning. Two men were burned to death.

The population of New Jersey, according to the official returns, is 400,070; of Maryland, 492,661 free persons, and 90,355 slaves.

Portland (Maine) harbour has been frozen up so that loaded teams passed on the ice to Cape Elizabeth.

GLEANINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE DISSESTERS.—A fact came to our knowledge the other day, which deserves to be known. A domestic of the palace was observed by her Majesty to have been crying, and sympathizingly inquiring the cause of her sorrow, learned that Lady Mary Fox had given the girl notice to quit her Majesty's service, for having attended a dissenting place of worship. This officious lady was immediately sent for and severely censured, the Queen observing that she desired the girl to be retained, and that for the future it would be distinctly understood that her desire was for all the domestics of the palace to have full liberty to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences.

Lord John Russell has addressed a letter to the President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, announcing the intention of Government to place £1000 at the disposal of the Society this year for scientific purposes.

Her Majesty has conferred the honour of Knighthood on Alexander Bannerman, Esquire, the newly-appointed Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

The father of the late Marquis of Hastings had his life insured for £100,000, which cleared off the encumbrances on his estate.

Lord Byron has contradicted the report of his having left the Church of England for the Church of Rome.

The Clerks of the Peace in Ireland have been called upon by Government to make a return of all the Jesuits and Monks registered since the 1st of January, 1850.

THE SLAVE TRADE ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.—Our private accounts from the coast of Africa state that the slave trade for the present, is on its last legs, and that nearly all the slave dealers on the south coast are bankrupt. Such was the vigilance of the cruisers that there were 8000 slaves in the barracoons at Ambriz, which they would not run the risk of shipping.—*United Service Gazette*.

Captain Andrew Drew, formerly of Canada, and well known in connection with the burning of the Pirate Steamer *Carolina*, has been appointed Naval Store Keeper at the Cape of Good Hope.

FROM BRAZIL.—Pernambuco, Jan. 16.—The supplies of sugar are very large, and superior whites and Muscovado are in demand at high prices. 6000 bags of white sold at 24s. per cwt. including freight, commission and exchange.—The city is free from disease. All evidence of war between this country and Buenos Ayres has been stayed.