ENGLISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—VOTE OF THANKS TO THE ARMY IN INDIA.—The Marquis of Lansdowne moved a vote of thanks to the Governor-General, the Commander-in-Chief, and the officers and soldiers of the army in India, for their services in the late operations in that country—(hear, hear.) He had the satisfaction of feeling that he was speaking in the presence of those who were familiar with the scenes in which those services were rendered, and therefore he would refer as briefly as possible to the termination of the war. The war had originated in an act of treachery committed at Mooltan by Moolraj, one of the native chiefs. An insurrection broke out and excesses were committed, and two gentlemen, named Anderson and Agnew, were barbarously murdered. That insurrection was followed by another which extended throughout the whole of the frontier, from every part of which sallied forth hordes of a most formidable character. It became necessary to put an end to this state of things, and no time was lost in preparing an army for the purpose, and he had no hesitation in saying that the valour and courage of our troops had been most conspicuous in the series of conflicts which had taken place. In the month of February Lord Gough felt himself in a situation to act against the united forces of the enemy—against the Sikhs and Afghans, consisting of 60,000 men, and 59 pieces of cannon. The commander-in-chief, with an army of 25,000 men and 100 pieces of cannon, attacked the enemy, and accomplished a complete victory over those who a few months ago threatened the safety of India. He believed the campaign had been fought by our troops under the greatest difficulties; and although it had not been concluded without considerable loss of blood, eventually the result had been most glorious—(hear, hear.) The noble marquis then proceeded to point out the services of some of the parties who particularly distinguished themselves during the campaign, and concluded by moving, the thanks of this house to the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Gough, Generals Gilbert, Thackwell, and Whish, and the other officers, commissed and non commissioned, and soldiers who had taken part in the recent operations in India for the distinguished and eminent services they had rendered to their country, more particularly on the 21st February, 1849, in the battle of Goojeerat, and that the Lord Chancellor communicate the same to the Governor-General of India, whom he requested to communicate the same to the respective officers and soldiers.

Lord Stanley said he was rejoiced to find that our gallant regiments had had an opportunity of showing that it still was worthy its prestine fame, and nobly vindicated itself for that temporary cloud which for a moment had lowered over it.—He would move that, to the words of the motion, the words *Nemine contradicente* be added—(loud cheers.)

A Noble Lord suggested the propriety of ordering a day of public thanksgiving.

The Duke of Wellington thought that if the noble lord would make such a proposition at the proper time, the house would take it into consideration, but the object for which the Lords were summoned that day was to vote their thanks to the officers who had brought this war to such a glorious termination, and he entirely concurred in all that had fallen from the noble marquis in moving the vote of thanks.

After remarks from several noble lords, the resolutions were agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

Adjourned.

THE PLUMPER AND REYNARD SCREW SLOOP.—A new screw was cast in the foundry at Portsmouth, on Tuesday for the plumper, Commander Nolloth, which vessel is getting out her broadside medium-guns, and will receive in lieu cannonades of the same calibre, which will not occupy so much room on her deck, nor require so many men to handle them. She will retain her 32-pounder pivot-guns of 56 cwt. The Reynard, Commander Crscroft, will also receive 32-pounder cannonades as broadside guns, but will retain only her bow pivot guns.

NEW SWORD FOR THE ROYAL ARTILLERY.—General Order, April 30, 1849.—His lordship the Master General having approved of the following alterations in the sword, belt, &c., for the officers of battalions of Royal Artillery, viz:—"Sword (Cavalry): The same as worn by the Royal Artillery. Sword Knot: Gold cord with a corn. Belt (Waist): Of white patent buffalo leather, one inch and seven-tenths wide with slings. Plate (Gilt): Device, the Royal arms, encircled with a wreath of the rose, shamrock and thistles, surmounted with a motto 'Ubique' beneath. All officers at head quarters are required to provide themselves with the above articles by the 19th May, and at out stations as soon after as possible. The alterations in the belt do not apply to quarter-masters, medical officers, or veterinary surgeons, who will continue to wear the black belt, in conformity to the regulations of the army.—H. D. Ross, Deputy Adjutant General." The cavalry sword worn by Royal Horse Artillery is a very useful arm, and has a steel scabbard. The above order has given the greatest satisfaction, and all approve of raising the battalions to the standard of the Royal Horse Artillery, rather than to reduce the latter to the present standard of the battalions and field batteries.

Several frightful murders have lately been committed in England, and among those marked with circumstances of a peculiarly atrocious character, is the murder of a whole family of females and children, at Liverpool, by a man named John Gleeson Wilson, who, it would appear procured lodgings in the House for the purpose of better carrying out his wicked designs of robbery and murder.

The family lived at No. 20, Leveson street, and consisted of Mrs. J. H. Hinrickson, (who was within a month of her third confinement;) her two sons, one five and the other three years of age; and the servant girl, named Mary Parr. These were all put to death by the monster in human form in the most cruel manner; the weapons used being two pairs of tongs, a shovel and a poker.—The appalling spectacle which presented itself to those who first entered the premises, is described as being sufficient to appal the stoutest heart.—Three human beings were lying on the floor, weltering in a pool of their own blood, their skulls and faces smashed and mutilated in the most frightful manner. The body of the youngest child was found in a distant part of the house, the head having been nearly severed from the body by a large table knife which laid at his side. The servant girl lived long enough to identify the author of this sad and heart-rending spectacle, and immediately afterwards expired.

The late Mrs. Hinrichson had been a regular, consistent member of St. Mark's congregation; and the Rev. Wm. Pollock, the respected and talented minister of that church, on Sunday morning, introduced the melancholy subject at the close of his stated discourse, in nearly the following words:—

I have detained you long already; but I am sure you will forgive me for detaining you longer still, and that with a subject of exceeding sadness and solemnity. We have all been horror-struck during the last week by that most appalling tragedy which has been enacted in the midst of us: and I feel that I should not be discharging my duty towards you if I did not seek to improve this terrible event, as God would have it improved with you. That murdered lady, beloved, was one of ourselves; even on Sunday last she was with you in this holy place, joining her prayers with yours, and seeking, with you, to be delivered, among the rest, from "murder and sudden death." Some months since I remember to have had a very interesting conversation with her, in which I was greatly struck with the whole tone and temper of her mind. The subject on which we spoke was that of the Holy Communion; and I rejoice to be able to say that, in consequence, she became a communicant, and, I believe, regularly communicated with us. She was thus further bound to us by the closest spiritual tie that can be formed on earth. I may also mention what was stated to me last night, by one who was most intimately acquainted with her. "She has been taken," he said, "at the right time; she was ready to meet her God." These things, then, encourage me to entertain a good hope concerning her. She departed, last night, at ten o'clock, and I doubt not she departed in peace. Sure I am, that, however terrible her death, there is no true reason to mourn for her, if she has, indeed, "departed to be with Christ, which is far better;" if she has, indeed, entered into happier scene, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." And then, as to her little ones, who, as they were so close to her in life, in death were not divided from her, I think we may trust our Father, that He did not ordain for them so sad a destiny on earth without providing for them in the fatness and abundance of his house in heaven. Yes, surely, we will believe that these fair flowers, which were plucked so early and so rudely, have been transplanted only into a more kindly soil and genial climate, and that they are blooming, even now, in the very Paradise of God. The servant, I am sorry to say, is still in extreme danger, and much she needs, as well she deserves, our prayers. (Mary Parr had been prayed for during the service.)

"Let me now conclude by a word of practical exhortation. Surely, beloved, it ought not to be, that one should be torn so suddenly and so violently from the midst of us, and that we should gather no wisdom by it. Methinks the Blood that has been shed has yet a voice that saith to us, "Be ye also ready." And however we trust that a deed so dark is not again to be repeated, yet the very possibility of its occurrence tearless us that none is safe, save he only whose "life is hid with Christ in God." Again: ought it not, I ask you, to humble us to the very dust,—to cover us with confusion of faces for our nature and its deep corruption, that crimes so damnable could be wrought by any human hand,—that devices could be entertained in any heart on earth which one might think almost too fiendish for the very atmosphere of hell. For let us not fix these things only on an individual, they belong, in truth, to our common nature. "From within," saith the faithful witness "from within, out of the heart of man,) not any particular man, but man as a family,) from within proceed evil thoughts, *murders*."

"Finally, as to the wretched criminal, while we rejoice to know that the strong hand of the law is surely and strongly armed against him, while we will never impeach the righteousness of that sentence, which has gone forth out of the mouth of Deity,—"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man let his blood be shed;" still, as Christians, we will exult to think that, black as is the guilt of this unhappy man, there is yet "a fountain opened for all uncleanness, where even it may be washed away. As Christians, I say, we will not fail to mingle our tears for the murdered with supplications for the murderer: and earnestly we will trust and pray that the last words which shall be addressed to him by the minister of the law on earth may be heard and verified in heaven, and that the "Lord" may, indeed, "have mercy on his soul."

The church was exceedingly crowded; and during the Reverend Gentleman's observations many of the congregation were subdued to tears.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, MAY 25, 1849.

MUNICIPAL REFORM, AND BANKRUPT REPRESENTATIVES.

While we of Saint John have lately been agitated by portentous party struggles, acrimonious debates in Common Council, and violent Newspaper controversy on the exciting subject of an Amendment of the Civic Charter, it appears that the venerable City of London, the oldest Corporation in Great Britain, and the municipal rulers of the first commercial City in the world, have spontaneously, without any pressure from without or violent contests from within, determined to apply to the Imperial Legislature for certain improvements and re-adaptations of their Civic privileges and regulations. This movement proves, that however torpid or un-elastic the antiquated powers of corporative bodies may erroneously be supposed to be, yet the progress of new ideas and new social wants being brought to bear upon them, even the most ancient institutions will be found capable of adaptation to the present condition of the communities they affect.

A Committee of the Common Council of London have lately prepared a "Bill," which has been also sanctioned by a special Court of Aldermen, "To amend an Act passed in the 11th year of the reign of King George I., for regulating elections within the City of London, and for preserving the peace, good order, and government of the said City," which Bill is now before the Imperial Parliament, and will without question be passed into a Law, inasmuch as it is a measure of self-reform initiated by the Corporation of London itself. By this Bill, a variety of improvements will be effected; qualification will be simplified, franchise extended, the duration of elections abridged, superfluous oaths abolished, and, *above all*, the *degradation of civic offices by the insolvency* or negligence of their holders *entirely prevented*! The London *Morning Chronicle*, of the 29th March last, after noticing in detail the various proposed improvements, proceeds as follows:—

"The limitation of elections to a single day, and the substitution of simple declarations for the oaths heretofore exacted of freemen, are minor, though material, improvements on the existing system.—Not so, however, the admirable provision for disqualifying such civic functionaries as either causelessly absent themselves from their duties, or fail in the discharge of that primary civil and social obligation—*the payment of just and lawful debts*.—Under the 7th clause of the new Bill, bankruptcy, insolvency, composition with creditors—in a word, all forms of that offence which consists in paying less than twenty shillings in the pound—together with absenteeism of more than six months' duration, unless occasioned by "illness or "other reasonable cause," involve, *ipso facto*, deprivation of office. With a regard for the commercial virtues, which well becomes the rulers of the first commercial city in the world, and which might be creditably imitated by the Legislature of a commercial empire, the Corporation of London *declines availing itself of the talents of men who do not pay their way*. We have pleasure in adding—and we hope that the lesson will not be altogether lost in "another place"—that there appears to be a *perfect unanimity* about this part of the Bill. The only discussion to which it gave rise, at the recent special Court, was with respect to an amendment, having for its object to disqualify insolvent aldermen and common-councilmen from being *re-elected*, while their debts remained unpaid; and the only objection made to this amendment was, that there was no need of it—the legal effect of the original wording of the clause being precisely that which the proposer of the alteration had in view.—So that there are *not two opinions among our civic dignitaries yet to the flagrant incompatibility of personal insolvency with public trustworthiness*. The city of London is more than contented to dispense with the services of the hypothetical PITTS, or the possible FOXES and SHERIDANS, who manage everybody's business better than their own: *and it has no notion of public men who forget to liquidate private debts*. Nor is it for a moment imagined, eastward of Temple-bar, that there is anything "unconstitutional" in so far restricting the choice of electors, as to forbid them from conferring official honours on gentlemen who live at their creditors' expense. Regardless of the scandal which they know they must be giving to the patriotic advocates of the great insolvent interest, in a more fashionable quarter of the metropolis, the Court of Aldermen and Common Council flatly deny that any particular constituency has a right to indulge its personal or party predilections, to the detriment and dishonour of a public representative body.

"We hope that we shall soon see this very creditable example followed elsewhere, and that the Imperial Legislature will evince the same scrupulous regard for its corporate reputation which has been shown by the city of London.—It would really be too bad, if the "reformed" Parliament of the United Kingdom proved itself less sensitive on a point of honour and morality, and less solicitous for the respectability of its component parts, than the "unreformed," yet self-reforming, Corporation of London. In any case, we view with much satisfaction this new evidence of youthful vigour on the part of the oldest and most venerable of our municipalities; and we sincerely thank the authors and promoters of this City of London Reform Bill for the service which they are rendering to the cause of local self-government."

The above observations are peculiarly applicable to our own atmosphere. It is earnestly to be wished, that the same incontrovertible principles of honour and expediency should be adopted in all their fullness in New Brunswick, and indiscriminately applied to all public-office-holders in the Province, whether Municipal, Magisterial, Legislative or Governmental. Then, and then only, would the public at large feel an assurance, that their affairs would be conducted by perfectly disinterested and honest men, acting with a single eye to personal integrity and the public good.

EMIGRATION FROM NEW-BRUNSWICK.

We grieve to notice, that owing to the present untoward state of our Provincial affairs, the tide of emigration from our shores is still in progress.—Every steamer leaving this Port for the United States is crowded with emigrants; and although a portion of them are individuals lately arrived from Ireland, and merely passing through New-Brunswick, yet many of them have been members of our own industrious and valuable population, and the majority migrate with an intention of becoming American Citizens. In the impossibility of at present preventing this evil, we would at least as far as possible mitigate its effects. We would therefore earnestly remind those who are either determined or compelled to leave us, (whether old settlers or recent immigrants,) that it is unnecessary for them to dissever their national ties, or to cease to be British subjects. Let them refer to the advertisement of the CANADA COMPANY in our columns, and let them learn from thence, that by transferring themselves to the fertile and salubrious region of *Canada West*, they will preserve their allegiance and national characteristics, at the same time that they will assuredly find the means of improving their own circumstances, and realising prosperity. British subjects thus merely removing from one Province or portion of the Empire to another, will still assist in promoting the welfare of the whole, and will not be wholly lost to their natural community; while the contrary will be the result of their settling in a foreign territory.—The natural advantages of Canada West are so great, its soil and climate so genial, and the success of Agricultural pursuits so certain, that we earnestly recommend all those who *must* or *will* leave our shores, to settle themselves in that favoured region; and the simple fact, that, during the last five years, the Canada Company have remitted to the Mother Country upwards of £50,000, entirely composed of small sums transmitted by their own settlers, to enable their relatives from home to join them, speaks volumes in evidence of the comfort and prosperity attending those who have already established themselves on the Company's domains.

Since writing the above, we have been favoured with a sight of a statistical paper, compiled from official documents by T. M. Jones, Esq., the Canada Company's Commissioner in the Huron District, and shewing the rise and astonishing progress of the Township of *Blanshard*, one of the most recently established Townships in that fertile section of Canada West, from which we condense the following particulars:—

The settlement of the Township of Blanshard was commenced only in the summer of 1842,—it contains 49,140 acres of Land, of the finest quality, and of the description best adapted to the growth of Wheat, which is now extensively cultivated by its settlers. Blanshard is now the *third* in population and importance, of the Townships in the Huron District, the only two superior to it being *Goderich* and *Downie*, both of which latter were commenced in 1829. The fine River Thames passes through the Township of Blanshard, having along its course excellent sites for Hydraulic machinery; and several tributary streams intersect the Township in various directions, and fall into the Thames. At its first settlement in 1842, the Township of Blanshard had a population of 77 souls, occupying 2732 acres of uncultivated land; the amount of assessable property was £767 8s., and the amount of taxes to be collected was £12 14s. 1d.—In 1848, only *six years* from its first settlement, the population of the Township was 1874; occupying 32461 acres of uncultivated but assessed land, and 4198 acres of *cultivated* and assessed land; the valuation of property assessed was £17091 1s. 0d., and the amount of taxes £260 9s. 5d.; while the produce of the Township in that year was 23119 bushels of wheat, 9286 do. of Oats, 1266 do. of rye and barley, 1055 do. of Indian Corn, 12066 do. of Potatoes; and the stock of Cattle consisted of 2419 neat cattle, 68 horses, 1528 sheep, and 1998 hogs. These returns are taken from the official Assessment Rolls, and therefore are more probably less than more than the truth. By the Canada Company's books it also appears, that out of the 49,140 acres of Land in the Township, only 3551 acres were undisposed of on the 31st December, 1848. The whole Tract of Land belonging to the Company in the Huron District was 948,576 acres; of which, up to the 31st December last, 562,541 acres had been disposed of, leaving 385,837 acres now available; and proving the rapidity with which this fertile district is filling with an industrial and thriving population.

If such, then, be the rapid progress of agricultural settlements in the Huron District, in less than seven years, no further evidence need be required, in favour of the superior eligibility for settlement of so genial and productive a Country. We may, however, add in corroboration, an extract from a communication in the *Halifax Morning Herald*, of 20th January last, written by the Rev. Ephraim Evans, a Wesleyan Minister, who resided for many years in Canada West, and is also personally acquainted with the District above alluded to.—This gentleman, writing on the subject of emigration from these lower provinces, and whose testimony being disinterested and the result of personal knowledge is unquestionably valuable, remarks as follows:—

"I am persuaded that if the present disposition to emigrate shall continue to prevail, there is no portion of the American Continent which can vie with the Province of Western Canada, as to the remuneration reasonably to be expected as the fruit of honest industry. To that field I think it highly desirable that public attention should be turned, and that the stream of emigration, if we must suffer from its flow, should be directed thither, rather than to the Western States of the neighbouring republic. This desire is prompted alike by principles of patriotism, which would lament the loss of such valuable and tried adherents to the Crown and Institutions of the British Empire as the inhabitants of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are known to be,—and by a settled conviction that the interests of such a class of emigrants would be most effectually promoted, by their seeking a home among their fellow-subjects in Canada West.

"A residence of about twenty-five years in that country, twenty-one of which have been spent in a public vocation, affording peculiar facilities for personal observation, and for forming a correct estimate of the advantages it offers to settlers, and a tolerable acquaintance with the general results of emigration to the Western States, may be here noted, as a basis for public reliance upon any statements I may think proper to make upon these subjects. During that period, notwithstanding the occasional depressions to which all countries are from time to time subjected, there has been a steady and rapid advancement in the state of society in Canada, in all particulars usually relied upon as *data* from which to estimate the prosperity of a country; such as increase of population, of agricultural and manufactured productions, extension of trade, and of internal improvements, as roads, canals, harbours, &c., the progress of educational effort and refinement, and religious feeling and character.

"Possessing an intimate knowledge of these facts, I am concerned to find the condition of that fine Province is here imperfectly understood, and that prejudices wholly unfounded should induce persons to expatriate themselves and families, and become residents in a foreign country, who would be in every respect more advantageously situated under the ample folds of the *British Standard*, among a people of congenial tastes and habits, in a more healthy climate, varying little in its temperature from that to which they have been accustomed, on a soil unsurpassed in fertility, where they will hold unimpaired their political *status* and privileges, where, from closer proximity to markets, the facilities for transit, and the proverbial stability of monetary institutions, better prices can be secured in cash payments for every disposable article of produce, and where intercourse, whether by letter or visit, with the friends they leave, is not liable to interruption, either under peaceful or hostile relations with the United States."

In conclusion, we may observe, that the late political ebullition in Lower Canada (or Canada *East*,) is not at all likely to have any permanent or injurious effect on the internal welfare of the Upper Province. The rural population of Canada West will, with sound discretion, diligently pursue their ordinary avocations and thereby best promote their real interests; leaving political excitement in the Lower Province to work its own cure in a constitutional manner. An influential gentleman of Toronto, writing to a friend in this City, speaks thus of the recent unhappy disturbances at Montreal: "You, who are so well acquainted with the political and social condition of the Colonies, may easily understand the ins and outs of the excitement which prevails, and be led to believe that *after the present fervour has had its run, matters will subside into their ordinary course, without however in the meanwhile affecting the substantial prosperity of the Farmer.*"

FIRE.—On Sunday morning, at about 10 o'clock, a fire broke out at North Slip, in a barn on Mr. Joseph Fairweather's wharf, which belonged to him, and contained about 7 tons of hay. The flames spread rapidly, and besides the barn and its contents, a large quantity of lumber was burned, which belonged to Messrs. W. Parks and Captain McMann.—The fire is supposed to have originated by the carelessness of some idle boys, who were at their usual Sunday work of playing ball and smoking cigars.

FIRE IN FREDERICTON.—A destructive fire broke out at Fredericton on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock, in the Premises on Queen street, owned by the heirs of the late Richard Staples.—A letter to the *News* thus desribes the scene of conflagration:—

"The building where the fire took at first is directly in front of the Insurance Office and known as the 'Staples House'—that house, the late Mr. Willot's, the Messrs. Taylors Buildings, Stewart and Neil's Store, and all the adjoining buildings belonging to Mr. Stewart, are clean burnt; all the houses from Mr. Taylor's to H. S. Beck's Book Store are also destroyed; so far the fire raged on Queen street; and the whole of the houses occupying the same front on King street are also burnt, including those on both sides of Taylor's Alley, and of another alley leading from opposite the Central Bank to King street. There were ten buildings on Queen street, and some 10 or 14 of an inferior description on King street, opposite; with those on the two alleys, I think 40 at least were burnt; Mr. James Taylor's dwelling house among them, J. G. Harding's Cabinet warehouse and dwelling, and many others. Most of the goods and furniture were saved. The exertions of the military and towns'-people were beyond all praise. The Governor was everywhere, assisted by the officers, who all worked hard."

NEW PAPER.—We have been handed the Prospectus of a Newspaper to be published in London, entitled the *Colonial Advocate*, to be specially devoted to the interests and advocacy of the British Colonies, and edited by Dr. BARTLETT, late Editor and proprietor of the New York Albion.—We hail with pleasure this new design, and as its consequence demands something more than a passing notice, shall at a future time again refer to an undertaking which seems to us fraught with vast advantage to these Colonies.—The names of subscribers will be forwarded by M. H. Perley, Esq., of this city.

Yesterday, being the 29th anniversary of the Queen's Birth Day, was duly celebrated as such in this City.—British Ensigns were displayed in various places:—the public offices were closed.—At noon a Royal Salute and *fue de joie* were fired by the Royal Artillery and infantry in garrison, accompanied by the usual parade movements.—The evening of the day was enlivened with an excellent display of fireworks by Mr. Forster, of the Customs Department, near his residence on "Jeffrey's Hill." The concluding part of this exhibition was a large crown, which had the appearance of being set with stones of all imaginable colors and of the greatest brilliancy, and which formed a scene of surpassing splendour.—The display was highly creditable to the gentleman who thus devoted a large portion of time and expence for public gratification.

GREAT FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.—On Thursday night, a fire broke out in Saint Louis, which consumed Three Hundred Buildings in the business part of the City, including all the Insurance Offices—four Banks, and five Printing Offices. Twenty-seven Steam-Boats were also destroyed.

The loss of life has been very large. No less than from twenty to thirty Citizens were killed in blowing up the buildings!

The loss is estimated at two millions of dollars.

GREAT RISE IN THE MISSISSIPI!

The Mississippi river has risen to a great heighth, and a portion of Nolands is overflowed causing great alarm and destruction of property.

GREAT BATTLES AT ST. DOMINGO! LARGE NUMBERS KILLED ON BOTH SIDES!!—Three battles have been fought between the Dominicans and the Haytiens. The latter were beaten both North and South at the same time. The Haytiens were within thirty miles of the city when a most bloody battle ensued, and large number were killed on both sides. No prisoners were spared.—Returning they had burned Argue and destroyed a large amount of property.

Assistance had been offered by the American Consul for the protection of American life and property. Merchants had shipped their goods to other islands for preservation. No business doing.

THE FLOOD AT NEW ORLEANS—IMMENSE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY!—NEW ORLEANS, May 15.—The water is rising in the rear of the first and second municipalities—the work-house is surrounded, and the water is advancing. The Charity Hospital and all the streets in the rear of St. Mary's-street are flooded. The Gas Works have been in danger the last 24 hours; the water has risen 7 inches at the Works, and is rapidly advancing.

Accounts from the Crevasse are extremely discouraging;—many workmen are sick and leaving. The Crevasse above the City was still unchecked; the water was flowing out rapidly, and thousands of acres were overflowed. Fears were entertained that the whole City would be inundated. Great excitement and distress prevails.

CALIFORNIA.—The New Orleans papers of the 9th furnish a few items of California news:

The news from California continues to be more and more interesting. General Smith, the Governor of the Territory had organized an efficient police, and tacitly permitted all nations to dig gold, for the sufficient reason that he could not prevent it.

Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, and the excessive fall of snow, the gold diggers continued at work. It was expected, however, that they would soon cease operation, as the river had commenced to rise.

Several meetings in San Francisco had adopted resolutions against the introduction of slavery into the country. In the event of its exclusion, it was anticipated that the labor of the Indians would increase in value.

The Indian population of California is 16,830, and that of New Mexico 21,900.

A gold placer has been discovered in Oregon, but persons who explored the banks of the Power River were unsuccessful in their researches.

Nearly the whole crew of the U. S. ship Ohio, stationed off San Francisco, had mutinied, causing great trouble and inconvenience to the officers.—Several of the mutineers had been tried and sentenced to be hung.

Several of the officers of the U. S. slop St. Mary, had also been tried before a Court Martial, for mutiny.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER EMPIRE.—The New York papers received yesterday, give the particulars of the loss of the steamer Empire on the Hudson, from which we take the following from the Journal of Commerce:—

It appears that the boat left New York at ten minutes after 6 o'clock, (the Oregon having left at 6½,) and kept about a mile and a half astern of the latter all the way up. The Rip Van Winkle was behind the Empire. At about ten o'clock, or between that and half past ten, the Empire was nearly abreast of Newburgh, when a large echr. was seen bearing down upon them. Captain Tupper supposed the schooner would bear up, and the captain of the schooner doubtless supposed the steamer would do the same. A scream was heard on deck, and the next instant the schooner struck the bow. The boat commenced filling instantly, and in five minutes the forward deck was under water. In about ten minutes more, she sank so as to leave only the upper part of her state rooms visible.

Her passengers numbered, according to the best estimates, about 250.

The gentlemen below sprang out of their berths, but the water was already in the cabin. The usual consternation prevailed, and every means was used to save life.

About seventy or eighty of the passengers got on board the schooner, which was loaded with lumber. Others, it was impossible to say how many, among them three ladies, were seen to spring overboard, and lumber was thrown to them from the schooner. Loud shrieks continued to be heard at Newburgh, nearly a mile distant, and boats were dispatched to the wreck. The Rip Van Winkle now came alongside, between the schooner and the Empire, and took off large numbers of the passengers. Others were taken from the schooner and picked up in the river by fishermen's boats, and conveyed to Newburgh.

Probably within twenty minutes of the collison the whole was over, and the boat had gone down with a number of her unfortunate passengers.

In the confusion of the night, and in consequence of the scattering of the passengers, it was impossible to make out a list of the saved, and compare it with the whole number on board. Mr. Wooster, one of the officers of the Empire made a list of all who were on the Rip Van Winkle, and that will probably be published at Albany.

It is reported that about 20 were lost in all.

We saw at Newburgh a gentlemen, Mr. Noyes Ladd, of Stonington, Conn., who was with a company of fourteen going to Illinois, consisting of himself, his wife, his mother, three children, four brothers, and one sister, Mrs. Gallop, Miss Delia Avery, and Miss Elizabeth Miller. Of these, the four brothers, (boys,) Mrs. Gallop and Miss Avery, were missing. He hopes they are on the Rip Van Winkle, or saved in some other way.

A family of emigrants, John Carson, and wife, Isabella Carson, Janette McCullough, Eliz. McMurray, Margaret Duncan, all missing except John Carson. The body of Isabella Carson is found.

The passengers escaped with a very little and some with no clothing whatever, except their night clothes. All the baggage and freight went down with the boat. One gentleman of our acquaintance escaped with his little boy wrapped in a blanket, but otherwise destitute of clothes.

Rev. N. S. Prime, D. D., of Ballston Spa, and his lady, were on board, and reached the schooner, and thence were conveyed to the shore by a fisherman's boat.

Immediately after the boat went down, so that the state-room deck was on the surface of the water, this deck was scuttled, and two ladies taken out from the ladies' saloon underneath, nearly exhausted. The voice of a third was heard, but she could not be found, and was lost.

A Coroner's Jury at Newburgh are occupied in investigating the circumstances of this and disaster. We are happy to be able to add, that Capt. Tupper and the officers of the Empire behaved with the greatest kindness, and paid every attention that could be asked, to the passengers. The citizens of Newburgh were equally kind. The passengers who reached the shore nearly naked, and wet and cold, were warmed and clothed and cared for instantly. One gentleman on the deck took off his shoes and gave them to a lady who was barefoot, while all united in similar attention.

The Empire lies at Dunning's Point, (north of the Matteawan creek,) on the Fishkill shore, about a quarter of a mile from land. It was thought that the baggage could be got out in the course of the afternoon by scuttling the baggage room.

It appears to us probable from the circumstances and the information obtained by conversation with a large number of passengers, that not many were lost in proportion to the number of passengers.—But the dead may never be found, and it may be impossible to tell the exact number who have perished, until the rivers and sea give up the dead that are in them.

We understand that the schooner was the Noah Brown,—that a gentleman from Troy named Robinson, a passenger on the Empire, was her owner, and that he went on board and took charge of her after the accident occurred.

The boat will be raised without much difficulty. She was apparently stove in at the bows, in the wash room. The other parts of her remain uninjured.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have received later information by Telegraph, from which it appears that seven bodies had been already recovered.

The latest edition of the N. Y. Express thinks the number of deaths has been exaggerated in the previous published accounts. The Pic Nic of yesterday has a telegraphic despatch from New York, dated Saturday, 5 o'clock, P. M.

The steamer has drifted up with the tide. Two additional bodies have been found between decks, making the total number 9. The lower berths and gentlemen's cabin are supposed to contain several new bodies, but nothing certain is yet known. The steamer St. Nicholas is alongside.

A part of the baggage has been recovered, and been put on board the steamer John Mason, of Troy. The coroner's inquest has not yet commenced its sitting. The coroner waiting the arrival of the boat from New York. The true numbers of the dead cannot be ascertained until the rising of the boat.

ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.—A company has been incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York for the purpose of constructing a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama. The capital of the Company is placed at $1,000,000, but the charter contains a clause permitting an increase to 5'000,000.

[From the Montreal Courier.]

JOE HUME ON CANADA.

"There was no Colony in a satisfactory state except Canada, which was now self-governed, the Government having the support of 67 Members against 5; the Government, it must be remembered, being in the hands of the men who were—at least some of them—transported a few years ago as Rebels. He hoped that next year the whole of the 10,000 troops there might be withdrawn. Other Colonies might also be left to manage their own affairs.—*Extract from a Speech made by Mr. Joseph Hume, in the House of Commons, on the 4th of April.*

A very satisfactory state indeed Canada is in! On the 4th of April Mr. Hume congratulates the British House of Commons on the "satisfactory state" of this Colony, and on the 25th of the same month a furious populace, exasperated to the last pitch of indignation by insult, injury, and deception, drives the Members of their Parliament from the Halls of the Legislature, consumes the building itself by fire, and stones the Governor General through the streets! In the mean time the flame spreads throughout the country; threats are uttered, and they will be found to be no vain ones, of marching on the Capital to effect a violent Revolution; the capital itself is in a state that requires the presence of two thousand soldiers; neither the Legislative nor the Executive Council can meet in safety without an armed guard; some of the Ministers, the most guilty and most obnoxious, dare not sleep for more than a night at a time in the same house; the Governor General dares not show his face in the city without the escort of a troop of Horse, and is pelted in spite of them; the excitement is spreading to the United States, and men of British birth there promise to come to the assistance of their countrymen; and, with all this, Canada is in a "satisfactory state!" Truly there be men who are thankful for small mercies, and Joe Hume seems to be of the number.

Neither is Joe Hume, well informed of the state of affairs, even among that party whom he delights to honor—the quondam Rebels of '37 and '38, for there are no men in the Ministry who were actually "transported a few years ago as Rebels"—there is one man who fled to escape hanging or transportation, and we believe one who consented to his own exile to Bermuda, but no one who was actually punished by sentence of a Court of Justice.

Joseph Hume also sets the relative strength of parties in the Lower House at 67 to 5; but there are 84 Members in the House, so Joseph, who, being such a capital arithmetician, ought to know better, has left 12 Members yet to be accounted for.

As to Joseph's hope that next year the whole of the 10,000 troops might be withdrawn, we don't think his Radical friends will thank him for the suggestion; according to our ideas of the state of affairs, those friends of his have, within the last few days, had every reason to be thankful for the presence of those troops; but for the soldiers they would have been made pretty mince-meat of.

We suppose that Mr. Hume will be in a nice pucker when he hears of the recent occurrences in Canada. He, like the Ministers here, will be accusing the British Conservatives of treason, sedition, and all sorts of enormities, but, "*Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione querentes.*" The men who, at the beginning of this Session, defended the treason, the arson, the murders of '37 and '38, cannot, with any very good grace, eat up their words at the end of it. The least thing they can do, if they have any consistency, is to bring in a Bill of indemnity for the actors in the insurrection of the 25th of April. We look on it that these gentlemen are in very unfortunate predicament, for there is no way in which a man can be more effectually smitten than by turning his own words against him. Mr. Blake and others, defended the Rebels of '37 and '38 on the ground that they were driven to revolt by bad government; well, bad government brought about the catastrophe of the 25th of April; Mr. Blake, if he have any consistency, is bound to defend those who were concerned in it.

There is a private letter in town, from New York, which states that great excitement prevailed among the peculiarly English residents of that city, on the receipt of the intelligence that a struggle was impending between the French and British races in Canada. The writer says that, to his own knowledge, six hundred Englishmen have made arrangements to come on here the moment that their services are needed, and this with no idea whatever of assisting in annexing Canada to the States, but simply to help their countrymen against that race which have been our enemies for centuries. This is the true Anglo-Saxon spirit. A paragraph in the New York Sun confirms this information.

Mrs. Moore, wife of David Moore, Philad., on the 17th inst., gave birth to four children, three of which are alive and hearty. The mother is a woman about 29 years of age, a native of Ireland. She has had two husbands. Her first husband, whose name was Bell, was an Irishman, and a middle aged man. She was married to him about ten years ago. Her present husband, to whom she was married about nine months since, is a young man, only 21 years old. Mrs. Moore had six children by her former husband, at three births. At the first birth she was delivered of two—a boy and a girl. The boy is living, and is now eight years of age. At the second birth, she was delivered of a single child—a girl—which is living. At the third birth she had triplets—two boys and a girl. The girl still survives, and is five years of age. The surviving children are hearty, and some of them have survived severe attacks of malignant disease.—*American paper.*

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