THE SEAT OF WAR.

A VISIT TO THE RUINS OF SEBASTOPOL.

The following graphic account of this desolated city which we copy from the *Scotsman*, is taken from a private letter written by the intelligent master of a merchant vessel to his family in Edinburgh, Sebastopol place. We may premise that his vessel was chartered from Barcelona by an agent of the French Government, for the conveyance of stores from Algiers to the French army in the Crimea :—

BALACLAVA, Nov. 23, 1855.

"I was at Sebastopol last week to see the ruins. It was a long walk from Balaclava, but I would have walked twice the distance for the sights I saw. We walked through the camps of the Allies nearly the whole way. It was fatiguing, as the road was over a succession of hills and across deep valleys, and every place telling the work which had been going on—plenty of graves and large number of shot and broken shells and broken muskets, military caps, and all sorts of military equipments. We passed through part of the valley of the Inkerman, and then came into what is called the Valley of Death. It is a deep ravine with high cliffs on each side, and is commanded by the Redan fortress. In the valley the shot and shell and musket balls were literally as thick as the stones in other places. The carnage there must have been dreadful. We arrived at the Redan about eleven o'clock, and in the last the sight that met us beggars all description.

"In the first place the guns—and very large they were—were all mostly broken or damaged, the musket balletts and Minie ball were innumerable. There were soldiers' clothes, books, letters, and some of them with the unwearied legs still in them!—lots of the slain only half buried, some with the head partly above the ground, and some with the face partly exposed. All was silent, however, with the exception of an immense quantity of rats, which were gnawing the unburied bodies before our faces. I left the place in great disgust, as every now and then, when a faint breeze of wind would come across, the smell of the dead was very strong. We descended the hill and entered Sebastopol, entering by the way of the arsenal. It is hardly possible to trace out the streets, as the greater part of the houses are nearly level with the ground, some of them entirely so. It seems to have been a well built city from the appearance of the cut stones strewn about; but all the houses were completely gutted of furniture. On our road down from the camp we met droves after droves of mules driven by soldiers; the mules laden with rafters, broken chairs and tables, and all sorts of wooden furniture, to take to their tents to burn. From the arsenal we passed into the granaries, the hospital and other public offices, the barracks and officers' houses—all beautiful buildings. The walls were entire, but pierced thickly by the Allied balls. One house, the naval commandant's, was superb—the cornices and carving very rich. In one room there was still hanging to the wall a large mirror; a ball had come in at the window and completely smashed it. All the house in this part of the city, and also the graving docks and patent slip, are to be blown up. Our troops are busy undermining them at present, and there is a constant cannonade towards them from Fort Constantine, still in possession of the Russians.

"During our stay in this part, two shells landed and exploded within fifty yards of where we stood. Our party was about five in number, but there were about thirty persons close to us. We all fell flat, but the shells did no other damage than killing a mule. The Russians, whenever they see a party of people together, immediately fire amongst them. I cannot say I thought much about it, but some of our party were very pale. I brought a piece of the shell with me. We next went to another part of the town—the largest.—Some most beautiful and large houses are there, but all are despoiled of furniture and numbers of them partly burned. Indeed, the whole city puts one in mind of the remains of a great fire, nothing but broken walls, and the street filled with rubbish. The great church is still standing, but all the ornaments are gone. Some of the paintings are on the wall, but all torn and pierced with shot. I was also through the Malakoff. The scene there was somewhat the same as in the Redan. After seeing everything we could we left Sebastopol at dusk, and walked back here. We had to take out our own provisions with us, but managed to get a bottle or two of porter from the camps, and sat down in the Malakoff and made a hearty dinner on salt junk and biscuit and porter. It is hardly possible to get anything fresh in this place. I paid 4s. 6d. for a bullock's head.

"We did not get back to Balaklava before eight o'clock, as we were detained on the road by the different patrols, and had to show our passes to the officers on guard. I was very tired, as I had a load of 15lbs. on my back, consisting of bullets, rifle balls, pieces of the shells which fell while I was there, two helmets, a musket, two bayonets, and a host of other things—all trophies of war.—It was a great walk—about 27 miles in all. To the French head-quarters the distance is seven miles from here. It is a very cheerful walk to pass through a complete city of tents (the camp.) They are all laid out in the form of streets. The horses are in a sort of pits—covered with the spoils of Sebastopol. The troops are in high spirits, and look remarkably well. They are all very dark with the sun, and all wear their beards and moustaches. When we passed through the camp from Sebastopol, some of them wanted us to stop all night. I should have liked it fine, but the others would not consent. I have a dog from Sebastopol which I picked up. There were hundreds of them starving about the ruins; both them and cats have taken service with the Allies; every other tent has a Russian cat."

RUSSIAN PLAN OF NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN.

A letter from Moscow of the 20th ultimo says:—The grand council of generals lately convoked at St. Petersburg under the personal presidency of the Emperor have settled the principles on which the forthcoming campaign shall be carried on. St. Petersburg and Moscow are to be fortified, and, together with Warsaw, will form the three first-class fortresses of the empire. General Todleben has arrived here, and, notwithstanding the extreme rigour of the weather—the frost having set in here with all the proverbial violence of a Russian winter—may be seen every day, accompanied by his staff of engineers, all wrapped in bears' skins, surveying the ground and fixing the poles to designate the line of circumvallation, which will be commenced on the breaking up of the frost.

Besides this, other fixed principles of strategy have been agreed on for the prosecution of the war, though it must be confessed that as it is so essentially a defensive war on the part of the Russians, all these plans may be completely upset, or at all events greatly modified, by any change in the system of attack on the part of the Western Powers. It is fully expected in Russia that next year the principal seat of the war will be transferred to the North, and the greatest exertions are making for efficient defence. For the safety of Cronstadt and Helsingfors no fears are entertained, as the experience of the last two years has shown that the enemy are not able to inflict much damage; nor is it thought that even if the fleets are increased in strength and gun-boats they could take any of those strongholds unless with the co-operation of a numerous and well-disciplined army on shore. The system of defence adopted on the great council of generals is summed up as follows:—The fortification of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Kharkoff, and Nicolaieff; secondly, the construction of but unimportant bastions; thirdly, the strengthening of all the ports, including Sebastopol, Riga, and even Cronstadt, to be deprived of regular garrisons, and to be left to the fate and the tender mercies of the enemy.

THE CAMPAIGN OF NEXT YEAR.

The London Times has some speculations as to the coming campaign, but which are of a very general character. It shows in three months the Crimean winter will be at an end; and if the Crimea is to be conquered, their armies, then probably a quarter of a million strong, take the field before April is far advanced. As the Russians will destroy all corn and grass, and fill up every well "as they retreat," the commissariat and land transport will be taxed beyond the example of any former war; and immediate preparations are therefore urged.

"We believe (says the Times) that with this view a council of war will shortly be held at Paris, at which the Duke of Cambridge attended by Sir R. Airey, will be present. Sir E. Lyons, too, will join in the conference, and may be daily expected at Marseilles. The object of this meeting will be to weigh thoroughly the several plans for the next campaign, and, when a decision is formed, to carry out combined operations with energy and completeness. Marshal Pelissier is said to have given his opinion that no campaign is possible from the present base of operations. The Russians, more than two months since, held the passes with a force which could resist any assault. The roads were scarped, the hills strengthened by works. By April they might be made absolutely impregnable, or, if determined valor might force them, it would be after a slaughter from which it is the duty of a general to shrink. What plan of campaign is resolved on will, of course, be a secret until the hour of its execution arrives. It is evident, however, that the allies have a great advantage in possessing two bases accessible to their fleets and impregnable by the enemy. Eupatoria and Yenikale are now converted into two entrenched camps, from both of which Simpferopol and the Russian rear are threatened. The country is not difficult, but the chief difficulty is likely to be the want of water. Perhaps this cause may lead to the abandonment of any operations from Eupatoria. The enemy, on the other hand, has the advantage of a central position, from which he may oppose the converging forces which operate from the points of the coast. We cannot doubt that all which military science can effect, after eighteen months of preparation, awaits us in our march against the Russian positions. Though of success there can be no doubt."

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The Globe gives as nearly as possible, an accurate list of the Baltic fleet for 1855. It is to consist of thirty-eight line-of-battle ships and heavily armed frigates, mounting 2812 guns; eighteen corvettes and steam-frigates, mounting 302 guns; twenty smaller steamers, with 105 guns; seventeen dispatch gunboats, with 78 guns; three floating batteries, with 52 guns; four heavy mortar-ships, mounting 41 pieces; 137 gunboats and mortarboats, carrying two heavy pieces of ordnance on an average. There will also be a store ammunition-ship, hospital-ship, and a floating battery. Total, 242 ships-of-war; all, with the exception of a store-ship and a hospital-ship, propelled by steam. Total guns, 3667.

The London Times seems to think the war a benefit in a commercial point of view. It says:—"The value of the goods imported from foreign countries in 1854 was £94,000,000, and the value of manufactures and produce of the British isles exported during the same period to foreign countries was £97,000,000. There is every reason to believe that the prosperity of the present year equals, if it does not surpass, the prosperity of 1854, and that the deeper we have plunged into war the more extended have been our commercial transaction. We have, in very truth, called a new world into existence. The vast sums which we have expended in maintaining and provisioning our armies, have not been swallowed up in the earth nor whelmed into the depths of the ocean. They have been scattered among a population which till now has lacked a market for its produce and capital to stimulate its production."

THE LATE CAPTAIN VAUGHAN, OF THE 90TH.

The following narrative of the very distressing circumstance under which this gallant young officer came by his death at the Great Redan, is extracted from a private letter:—"He was found at 8 a.m., on the 8th of September sitting on the lower step of a staircase that led to the upper floor of the building. His leg was badly broken; he had nothing on him but a flannel shirt and a pair of socks, and when first spoken to he was delirious; he appeared to be very cold, as he was shivering. I procured him water, and it was distressing to see the avidity with which he swallowed it. I procured a stretcher, and placed a feather bed on it, and I never left him till I deposited him safely in the lines of the 90th, under the care of Dr. Anderson the excellent surgeon of that regiment. The first stretcher did not do, and I had it changed at the Redan. His mind wandered frequently, and he then almost always spoke in French, but by speaking gently to him, and holding his hand, I was generally enabled to make him understand what he was talking about; then gave me a clear account of what had occurred to him. He was wounded very soon after entering the Redan; after our attack was repulsed, the Russian officers gave orders that he should be taken carefully to the rear, and while in their presence he was well treated, but I fear he was treated with much brutality as he was being conveyed to the rear. He complained that the men who were taking him dragged him along roughly, and that his broken limb frequently came in contact with gabions, stones, &c., giving him great pain. Upon arriving at the building where I found him, which was full of dead and dying, he appears to have been kindly treated. His wound had not been dressed; he repeatedly supplicated for water, but no one gave him a drop. Thank God they were not Englishmen. It is impossible to conceal that the gallant gentleman's sufferings must have been intense, but he had a gallant heart to meet his fate, and endure the pain that God thought fit to inflict upon him."

It was rumoured at Constantinople that in consequence of the surrender of Kars the Seraskier would be compelled to resign, and that Salim Pacha, the commander of the corps which was destined to advance to the relief of Kars, would be brought before a court-martial.

Miscellaneous News.

The Allies have fortified Kinburn, and consider it equal to any attack that can possibly be made.

St. Petersburg advices say that a vast train of sleighs had entered the Crimea, by the Perekop road, with provisions, stores, &c.; also that the Allies have 20 batteries ready to attack the northern forts, and 350 guns on the Tchernaya.

The United States frigate Independence saluted the French flag of the corvette Embuscade, as a reparation for the arrest of Mr. Consul Dillon, who then raised his flag.

At San Francisco a festival was celebrated in honor of the fall of Sebastopol, which ended in a general row. 10,000 persons were present.

A court-martial was held on the 17th ult. on Mr. Doherty, second master of the *Lynx*, on a charge of cowardice during the action against the forts at Kinburn. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged.

At New York on Monday last, a splendid steamer built for the Portland Steam Packet Company, for the Portland and Boston line was launched. She is named the Lewiston, and will probably cost about $100,000.

The London *Daily News* says the majority of the French cabinet think that Russia will accept the terms proposed, and the majority of the English cabinet think they will not.

Contracts have been made in Sweden for the French fleets and for an accompanying army.

A hurricane had occurred in the Crimea, and the Tchernaya had overflowed, doing considerable damage.

A lady in New York received as a present on Christmas Day last, an opal breast pin set in a circle of diamonds, worth about $7000.

A vessel has lately sailed from Brooklyn, N. Y. with a quantity of cannon and small arms, also large quantities of munitions of war. Her destination is not stated.

An infant, 6 months old, the son of James Atkinson, bricklayer, Preston, fell from its mother's knees one evening last week, while she was intoxicated and asleep, and was suffocated in a mug of dough she had prepared and placed on the floor for making bread.—*Cambria paper.*

The contractors in the English army have a profitable business. Some of them clear $300,000 a year. One man who furnished fodder for horses made the sum of $238,000 the first year of his contract.

It is intended by the Government to effect a further increase in the Army Work Corps. This contemplated augmentation will consist of 750 men, comprising persons of every trade, but principally masons, bricklayers, carpenters, bakers, butchers, smiths, wheelwrights, collar-makers, and excavators. There are at present ready for embarkation upwards of 300 men for this corps.

Lord Panmure has directed that the title of Secretary-at-War be no longer used, and that in all future communications and correspondence his lordship is to be addressed only as Secretary for War.

Bangor and Portland, the head-quarters of "republicanism," have sold the past year from the city agencies, $3100 worth of liquor. Elder Weaver flourished in the first named city. Their was a great deal of sickness during the Morrill campaign among his friends.

The New York *Examiner*, a Baptist paper, declares that the scramble of clergymen at Washington for the chaplaincies of the two Houses, is getting to be absolutely disgraceful.

A few days since a man left his home in Boston, leaving $100 with his wife, who had it about the fire-place for safe keeping. Upon his return, his wife was away from home, and he kindled a fire, which destroyed the money before her return.

The State of Maine can now boast of owning a fleet of merchant vessels, valued at $30,000,000, and greater than the commercial marine of any European power, Great Britain alone, excepted!

New York is believed by many persons to be deeply concerned in the slave trade, and it is said that a certain Portuguese captain, who has just covertly landed six hundred and fifty slaves in Cuba, left Havana on the 23d ult., in the Crescent City, to renew his labors in that and other Northern cities.

Eleven Russian infantry divisions are now in the Crimea, two having gone north. Prince Gortchakoff has extensively fortified the Tchernaya road by batteries.

In Chicago, a few days since, while the judge of the Recorder's court, was trying a case of horse stealing, his own horse and buggy were stolen from the vicinity of the Court room.

The contract for supplying H. M. Troops for the ensuing year was taken, on Saturday last, by Messrs. Cunard & Co., at forty-two shillings and sixpence per barrel.

Dr. Bowering states that the entire population of the Chinese empire is 400,000,000.

The operator of the Cape Cod telegraph played a game of chequers on Monday night, with the operator of Provincetown, and was magnetically beaten by the latter.

The snow has been so heavy in Virginia as, in one instance to block up a train on the Orange at Alexandria railroad, from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday morning. The passengers suffered severely for want of food.

The London Morning Chronicle says that the Russian reply will be sent to Vienna direct and not to be handed to Count Esterhazy. The return reply of Austria will be sent to Count Nesselrode. This mode of transaction will create at least a month's delay.

The wolves in Pottawattamie county Iowa, have been driven by the extreme cold to prey upon human beings. Two persons are reported killed by them, while several others have been chased.

According to the correspondence of the London Times, the acceptance or rejection by Russia of the Austrian propositions depends a great deal, if not entirely on Prussia.

Count O'Donnell, the Emperor's aid-de-camp, is to visit several of the German Courts.

The Emperor Napoleon has again taken the idea of assuming actual command of an army, and the report goes that he has stated to General Bosquet that he would accompany him to Finland in the spring. Rumour goes further and says, that the government will be administered in the Emperor's absence by a commission, composed of Marshals Magnan, Vaillant, General Canrobert, and Prince Napoleon.

Letters from Constantinople state that the Russians have intercepted all communications with Kutais, Suchum Kale, and with the coast, and that he has applied to the Allies for assistance.

An immense gun is in course of construction at the Mersey Steel Iron works, Liverpool, which, when finished, is expected to weigh 24 tons, will be 15 feet long, 13 inch bore, and will project a ball of upwards of 800 lbs. at a distance of five miles.

The Washington Union denies all the rumours afloat, as to the warlike intentions of the Pierce Administration towards England.

The Earl of Erne has invested something like £105,000 in the construction of the Dundalk and Enniskillen line of railway. Of this amount £75,000 was cash down.

The melancholy intelligence was received by telegraph, that the house of the Rev. Dr. Cramp was, this morning, burned to the ground. The furniture saved—but greatly damaged; and his library (probably unequalled in value by any in Nova Scotia) almost a total loss. Partially insured.—*Halifax Recorder.*

On Monday last, two horses, working upon Messrs. Crossman & Tupper's section of the railway line, were precipitated over the lofty embankment adjoining the viaduct at Sackville, and both killed. The driver had a very narrow escape, but fortunately, escaped unhurt.—*Ib.*

The cremation of the Bible, at the present time, is past calculation. No man knows even the number of editions. At least fifty millions of copies have been issued within the last fifty years. So said Mr. Taylor, in his late sermon before the Philadelphia Society.

SUMNER'S RIFLE.—The recently invented weapon, which possesses one half of the power and capacity claimed for it by its proprietor, is destined soon to supersede every other weapon for warlike purposes now in existence. It is the most efficacious and terrible firearm in existence. The small carbine now used by the United States mounted men throws a ball with deadly accuracy one quarter of a mile, and can be fired ten times per minute. It is not complicated in structure, is easily cleaned, and suffers no injury from wet weather. Mr. Sharps is now preparing models for four new species of his weapon, namely: A small pocket pistol, calculated to throw a Minie ball one hundred yards; a cavalry pistol, with a range of five hundred yards; a rifle suitable for footmen with a range of one mile; and a large gun to throw a two ounce ball or a small shell one mile and a half, or as far as a man or a horse can be seen to advantage. With this latter weapon Mr. S. declares he can set on fire a house or a ship at a distance of ninety two miles, and prevent the use of field artillery by killing the horses before the guns are brought within good range. His rifle, in the hands of good marksman, is equal to ten muskets bayonets and all; for, place a man six rods distant with a musket and bayonet, and before he can bring the bayonet into use the rifle can be loaded and discharged ten times. They carry balls with great precision and force. Mr. S. intends these rifles to become a national weapon; and should Congress by using a little liberality purchase the patent; the country would be possessed of a means of warfare unequalled in the world.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

RAPIDITY OF THE IRISH EXODUS.—The Exodus are coming back. Vast numbers of our nomadic tribes to whom we thought old Ireland had bitden farewell when we dropping homewards, and talking about "a cabin door close by the wild-wood," with a strong feeling of the immortality of tenant right. Politicians may be disposed to regard this as the advance-guard of the projected invasion, but, if they are connected in any way with the promoters of that scheme, we should say that they belong to the commissariat, for they come unarmed. No revolvers, no bowie knives, no pistols are in sight. But they bring dollars, and like the Earl of Mountcashel, go at once into the bowels of the land, their first requisites being about potato soil, and the probability of obtaining manure for the next year's crop. Some are even so provident as to have written over from the States to bespeak seaweed and guano, to be deposited against the time of their arrival in the locality where they purpose to commence operations. The most probable solution, therefore, of this turn of the tide is, that the soundness of last year's potato crops has revived a faith in the old soil, and these poor people are coming back in a full belief in the restitution of things to the *status quo.*—*Dublin Evening Mail.*

A WHIPPAIL.—A young man named Harry Grey, who is engaged as watchman at the Kentucky Locomotive Works, has recently had left him, conditionally, by a deceased uncle in England, $260,000. Mr. Grey is said to be a very clever fellow—only 24 years of age—already having inherited $45,000 from his father, which he spent for the benefit of himself and mankind in general. His prudent old uncle, knowing his wild habits in his youth, and not knowing his industrious habits now inverted, as a condition of the inheritance, that if the said Harry was in debt at the age, 30, five hundred dollars, he should forfeit the inheritance. Here is a stronger incentive keep ahead of one's debts than we have even seen before.—*Louisville Dem.*

The Chronicle!

Saint John, N. B., February 1, 1856.

The *Arabia* Mail Steamer arrived yesterday at Halifax. News unimportant, and from the Seat of War, is *status quo.* Rumour says that Russia has accepted the proposal of the Alleys, and that Consols had risen in consequence. The "quid nunncs," however, look upon the whole as Flour speculation.

PUBLIC MEETING.

It is a little extraordinary that in all public matters this City appears to be the last place in the Province to make a move. In Railroad matters, we have dreamt over the possibilities and probabilities, until every section of the North American have commenced, and in some instances completed their construction. Just so it was with the Reciprocity Bill, no one took the trouble to enquire into the effect it was to produce on our business prospects, until its fatal effects are felt after it went into operation. In precisely the same state are we with respect to the coercive and oppressive "Liquor Law." Everybody said it would never pass, and therefore made no movement to stay its disgracing the statutes of a once FREE PEOPLE. And even now, when the business of the country has been seriously damaged, and the "Bill of Rights" abrogated, no one appears to know what steps to take to regain the privileges granted us by "Magna Charta." A public meeting has, it is true been called and ended in smoke, because an insignificant number of the juvenile port on of the community who were organized, fairly outwitted the other nine-tenths of the people, Sheriff and all. We will not recapitulate the detail of the proceedings, as they will be found in our extract from the *New Brunswicker*, in an other column. Suffice it to say, that the trickery of the Sons, was a complete scene of dishonesty and rowdyism, and such as spoke but too plainly that they are guided alone by a desire to rule with a rod of iron, their more respectable fellow-citizens, among whom none stood more conspicuous than a man by the name of POTTER, who very *Irreverently* and impudently browbeated the Sheriff. He forsooth, finding his party beaten, pronounced the meeting an illegal one, and attempted to address the people, although he said he was merely speaking on sufferance.—Now this POTTER is neither a freeholder nor a freeman, although he does hold the office of Secretary to Messrs. OGILBY & Co. He is a perfect stranger in this country, and is as yet, only one of the kind feathers of the tail of an imbecile and shattered administration.

It is to be regretted that knowing as did the friends of freedom, that the rowdy Sons were devoid of honesty of purpose and common manners; that they were at all allowed to occupy the platform, as this was the main strategem of their arrangements, to get possession, and hold it, while Messrs. Demill and Lawrence "*used up*" the time, froze the audience, who stood half leg deep in snow, until they imagined all would retire but their own party.

Another and a very obnoxious partizan of the Sons, was that "*Cerberus*" GAMMA STOCKROOM, whose conduct was both impertinent and tyrannical in the last degree. Such men, and with such a want of principle, should instantly be removed from office, as we trust he will be, if the authorities who placed him there have any respect for the opinions and feelings of their fellow citizens.

With respect to the public votes on the question of Repeal of the Prohibitory Law, in order to obtain a fair return of *who is* and who *is not*, for such an innovation of our rights, we would suggest, to those gentlemen who called the public meeting, to get up a Petition for its repeal, and appoint persons to visit every voter in the city and county of St. John, leaving the children and babies in arms, to sign the Petition of the League, as was their practice on a former occasion.

To the politeness of Mr. Simpson, Her Majesty's Printer, we are indebted for a Copy of the third edition of the revised Laws, we beg to return him our best thanks.

THE LEAGUE TRIUMPHANT.

DISCOVERING DESPOTISM.—We learn that a man in the employ of Mr. James O'Connor, was arrested by two of the Carleton Justices, on suspicion of having Ale in kegs, on his dray, the contents of which were Hops and Molasses beer, thus violating the 7th section of the Law—taking the nameless man on a *blank* warrant—browbeated the witnesses, and fined the owner of the beer £20.—This outrage of these Solomons has been properly met by Mr. O'Connor, who has prosecuted both the Justices, and will most assuredly obtain a verdict from twelve honest men and true.

ANOTHER.—Mr. W. Sowell, of Carleton, had his shop forcibly entered by the rowdies of the League, who destroyed property to the amount of £20, and in default of payment was imprisoned. He was taking out by *Habeas Corpus* brought before his Honor Judge Parker, who seeing the iniquity of the case dismissed the man. We are yet to learn who is to make good the losses sustained by the injured party.

We copy the following from the *Head Quarters*, which clearly demonstrates the working of this Law:—

We believe, from all we can see and hear, that in the primitive days of Jacobin Paris was never more completely under a system of espionage than is Fredericton at this day. One man (William Thomas) received twenty summonses on Monday, to attend at the Mayor's Court to day to answer as many complaints and a number of persons, *not voluntary informers* have been subpoenaed to testify against him! From this it would appear that there has been no direct information lodged, as required by the 15th section of the Prohibitory Act! We should like to know where the Mayor, *de his factotum*, found the law for this arbitrary proceeding?

"A day or two ago a respectable farmer from Douglas happening to be in town, was arrested by a constable named Robertson, had requested in a business like manner to call on the Mayor, as his Worship wanted to see him *particularly*. The unsuspecting farmer went to the Mayor's office, when Robertson immediately followed him in and gave him in charge *for being drunk in the streets on the previous day!* The farmer proved that not he, but his brother was in town on the day before, and was discharged; but what if he failed in his proof! The law authorises an officer to arrest a man that is drunk in the public place, and retain him in custody until he is sober, and then take him before a Justice to give evidence. No; but he has no authority to arrest a man because he has been drunk at any time previous. Then look at the sneaking, dastardly manner in which this man was inveigled to the Mayor's office! Are the country people frequenting our market to be subjected to such indignities at the hands of the unprincipled hirelings of the League?

We presume "Lorna Doone," and the Jackall in his employ, are making a Harvest out of that budget of blunders, The Prohibitory Law.

A tree shall be known by its fruits.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Pursuant to notice by the High Sheriff, in compliance with a requisition previously addressed to him by a large number of the respectable inhabitants of this city, a public meeting was held at the Court House on Wednesday, at noon, to consider the propriety of petitioning the Legislature to repeal the Prohibitory Law. We copy the following report of the proceeding from the *New Brunswicker*:—

The High Sheriff took the Chair, and requested George Eaton, Esq., to act as Secretary.

The Circuit Court being in session, the Court Room could not be used for the occasion; and the Common Council chamber, (the use of which had been kindly granted by the proper authority), being far too small, the Sheriff very properly decided that the meeting should be an out-door meeting; the speakers speaking from the step platform in front of the door; the meeting having been convened to assemble at the Court House, and therefore being legally held either within or without the walls. In fact, there being at least from two to three thousand persons present, no room in the whole building could possibly have held them. Orders were were given by the High Sheriff, that no persons should be permitted to assemble within the building; but to the amazement of the lovers of fair play and free discussion, it was discovered that long before the hour of meeting, (even as early, it is said, as 10 o'clock,) the High Constable, Mr. George Stockford, in defiance of these orders had allowed the City Court Room to be densely packed with several hundreds of the *Sons of Temperance*, who were evidently well organized for combined operations.

At 12 o'clock, the High Sheriff opened the meeting, by reading the Requisition addressed to him; immediately after which the Hon. Charles Simonds, formerly for many years Speaker of the House of Assembly, moved the first resolution, which was seconded by William Jack, Esq., Barrister-at-law; and it is as follows:

"Whereas the act to prevent the importation, manufacture and traffic in intoxicating liquors which came into operation on the first day of January instant, is arbitrary, unjust and oppressive in its enactments, and is in consequence creating hostile feelings between different portions of the people of New Brunswick, thus disturbing the quiet and well-being of society;

And whereas, in its operation, the said act is ruinous to many of Her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, and is utterly inconsistent with the privileges of a free people;

Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, that every constitutional means should be used to procure the repeal of the said act, and the passing of an act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors, and prevent the abuse thereof, by establishing a well considered, judicious and stringent license system."

The mover and seconder of this Resolution supported it, by eloquent, temperate and convincing speeches; and if the question had then been immediately taken, it was evident from the demonstrated feelings of the people, that it would have been carried by an overwhelming majority, of at least ten to one.

An opposition, however, was at hand; and Mr. J. W. Lawrence came forward to move a counter-resolution. Immediately upon Mr. Lawrence mounting the stand, the whole body of "the Sons" packed in the City Court-Room, (who had been at the same time holding a farcical and illegal opposition meeting of their own body, making speeches and passing Resolutions of their own,) sallied out to sustain the opposition outside, being accommodated for the occasion by *passing through Mr. Stockford's private apartments* into the back-yard, and so round to the front. Immediately upon this accession of strength being perceivable, Messrs. J. W. Lawrence, James Porter and N. S. Demill commenced talking against time, with the evident intent of wearing out the patience of the audience and so diminishing the hostile ranks.—The ruse perfectly succeeded; some 500 or 600 at least of the supporters of the first Resolution, gradually walked off to their dinners, rather than listen to the fanatical rant and absurdity of their opponents, while the "Sons" about two-thirds, or at least half of whom were boys, and young men under age, maintained their ground, to clamour and outvote if possible.

Mr. Lawrence moved the following "*amendment*" to the Resolution; and was followed in support by Messrs. Porter and Demill, the former of whom was the seconder of the Resolution. The speeches of these parties, being evidently against time, were of the most rambling, irrelevant and intolerant nature; and were repeatedly greeted by groans and derision from the multitude.

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the Prohibitory Liquor Law deserves a fair and impartial trial by the country, and therefore it is not expedient to petition the Legislature for its repeal."

In speaking to this amendment, Mr. Porter very absurdly said, that as this was an out-door meeting, he considered it was not the meeting convened by the Sheriff, and that therefore he was merely speaking on sufferance, and had no *right* to speak at all.

The High Sheriff very properly rebuked Mr. Porter, by stating that it was his (the Sheriff's) right and prerogative to call the meeting wherever he pleased; that he had called it at the Court House, (not in the Court House,) and therefore could hold it either within or without the walls as he pleased; and that, as the Supreme Court was sitting in the Court Room, and there was no other portion of the building wherein the meeting could be held, he had used his discretion and unquestionable right in holding it out of doors; and that Mr. Porter or any one else who spoke there, spoke to the meeting legally convened by him as Sheriff, and had a right to be heard.

The speeches being ended, the Sheriff took the question on the amendment first; and from the state of confusion outside, it being impossible to obtain the vote correctly, the question was also taken on the original resolution; the voters on both sides being divided into separate parties to right and left.

The Sheriff then declared that the several divisions appeared to him so equal, that it was impossible for him to decide between them; and finding therefore that the object of this meeting could not be attained in that way, *he declared the meeting dissolved.* And so ended the whole proceedings; leaving matters exactly in *statu quo*, without arriving at any determination.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

EXPIRATION PATENT.—We have from time to time hinted, remonstrated, and we may add, groaned, to have our honest dues paid by our subscribers. We now find on reference to our books, that in small sums, we have over THREE THOUSAND POUNDS due us, out of the whole of which we are unable to obtain as much as will meet our daily requirements. We have therefore handed over all unsettled accounts to Chas. W. Stockton, Esq., for collection, without discrimination, and now request all persons having claims against us to hand them in for settlement. All persons due us will please take our notice and govern themselves accordingly.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The London Herald of the 20th ult., devotes an article of more than a column in length to the concerns of this flourishing and well managed institution, of which it speaks in the most complimentary manner. After alluding to the constantly recurring duty of the daily press to warn the public to be on their guard against the specious promises and delusive hopes too often held out by life insurance companies, it adds:

"Considerations such as these, we are sure, have led many of our contemporaries in the metropolis and elsewhere recently to draw the attention of their readers to the position which has been established by one of the many excellent institutions now in existence connected with life and fire assurance. We allude to the Royal Insurance Company; and certainly the success of that company has been so rapid, and has so manifestly followed on sound guidance in the management of its affairs, that we consider it advisable to refer to it as one of the as example to the conductors of similar institutions.

The attention of the public appears to have been first and mainly drawn to this company by the wisdom which marked its financial operations in the year 1845. From the annual report read at that time it appears that, after paying ample interest to its proprietors during the now preceding years, there remained a reserved fund of £50,000 to be disposed of. Considering the prevailing and baneful example of many unsound public companies, here was clearly a strong temptation to divide a large sum among the shareholders, which, as it turns out, might have been done in safety, as the managers stated in his report, a year or two after, that any subsequent year has yielded a profit and loss to the surplus capital, in spite of paying a dividend to the proprietors.

However, instead of doing the course we have indicated, the directors of this company contented themselves from the sum named to add £20,000 to their permanent capital for the increased protection of its insurers. It is a fact worthy of remark that the company has always acted on the principle enunciated by one of the directors at the last annual meeting of the proprietors—(that the interest of the assured have a paramount claim on the directors—a claim superior to that of the share holders themselves.

From that moment, no fright be expected, the company attained the highest confidence throughout the country, and has retained it ever since.—The result is known to the mercantile world, that its fire revenue alone rose in about five years from little more than 20,000 to about 130,000!

A further cause of this rapid growth has somewhat more below the surface, but is yet of importance. From enquiry we learn that no fire office possessing half the above revenue submits deposits for accounts with the registrar general.

This fact has recently been noticed with just commendation by one of our contemporaries. Instances have followed each other of late years of firms and companies enjoying a celebrity almost the growth of generations flourishing by the side and of their established prestige multiplying by these means their year responsibilities, and thus heaping up by the aid of their annual resources, which serve but to deter the final catastrophe, an ultimately greater weight of domestic and public woe.

These events could never have happened to the same extent if the public had the means to sift and examine the position of those establishments annually during their existence. It has been truly said that the "wealth of the oldest companies may have dwindled instead into unmasked," so far as the information which they afford to the public gives any sign.

The resources and balance-sheets of this great company are, on the contrary, ample in regard, and unmistakable evidence is thus given periodically of its capacity to meet its engagements.

James J. Kaye, Esq., is the agent of this association for New Brunswick.

Married.

At Wolfville, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. Stephen W. Dodge, Mr. John Stewart, of Saint John, N. B., to Emma, daughter of the late Mr. Jos. Woodworth, of Wolfville.

At the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Dr. Clay, on the 24 inst., Mr. Samuel S. Mays, to Jane K., second daughter of Mr. Robert V. Hanson, both of Carleton.

In Boston, Jan. 17th, by Rev. Mr. Williams, Bartholomew Cremor, to Catherine Donovan, both of St. John, N. B.

Died.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sarah Elizabeth, wife of W. O. Smith, Esq., in the 43d year of her age, leaving a husband and eleven children, with a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Funeral on Saturday, at 2 o'clock P. M. when friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

On Sunday morning, at half past 2 o'clock James Briggs, Esq., in the 61st year of his age.

On Sunday evening, after a lingering illness, Mr. John G. Waterbury, in the 35th year of his age.

In Carleton, on Sunday morning last, George Henry, infant son of Mr. George H. Estey, aged 1 months and 17 days.

At Westfield, King's County, on Wednesday morning, 30th Jan., Sarah, relict of the late Mr. Obediah Purdy, in the 75th year of her age.

January 17th, at Petersville, Q. C., after four months illness, Mr. William Allingham, aged 68 years, leaving a wife and four children to mourn his loss.

Marine List.

PORT OF ST. JOHN—ARRIVED—

Sunday—Schr. Abby P. Fenno Mussels, Boston, E. D. Jewett & Co., ballast.

Wednesday—Brigt. Lucy Ann, Simpson Malaga—G & J. Salter, general cargo.

Thursday—Brig R. B. Clark, Rubamy, Boston—Hall & Fairweather, flour and meal.

CLEARED.

23th—Barque Romulus, Day, Brazos Santiago, Wm. Wood; Schr. Rachel, Bowers, Boston, J. & C. Connell; Schr. Conductor, W. Bell, Boston, Charles McLaughlin.