The Mechanics' Register.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1851.

CURLING.—The accompanying seasonable song we find in the *Niagara Chronicle*:—

A Curling Song.

AIR—"*Ha, ha, the wooing o't.*"

Up, my lads, and to the ice,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
Yer stanes and cous get in a trice,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
For Jock has challenged Will to play,
Davy and Sawny both are gay,
And Sam and Jeemy are to fray,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!

Toronto chiels are to the Bay,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
Newmarket craps are in a fey,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
Dundas and Hamilton noo may try,
Whilk stanes can near the Tee hie lie,
And Galt and Paris do not die!
Ha, ha, the curling, O!

Noo Kingston lads jist at Quebec,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
And Montrealers show yer pluck,
Ha, ha, the curling, O!
Scotia's sons will watch yer play,
Their medals gie and cry hurra;
Wi' beef and greens and toasts they'll say
Ha, ha, the curling, O!

Definitions.

(*Continued.*)

14 *Progress of Time.*—A clock denotes the progress of time, because it counts the oscillations of the pendulum. The peculiar property of the pendulum is that one vibration commences exactly where the last terminates, and therefore no part of time is lost or gained in the juxtaposition of the units so counted, so that the precise fractional parts of a day which each unit measures, can be perfectly ascertained.

The origin of the pendulum is traced to Galileo's observation of a hanging lamp in a church at Pisa, continuing to vibrate long and with singular uniformity, after any accidental cause of disturbance. Hence he was led to investigate the laws of the phenomenon, and out of what, in some shape or other, had been before men's eyes from the beginning of the world, his powerful genius extracted the most important results.

The invention of pendulum clocks took place about the middle of the seventeenth century, and the honour of the discovery is disputed between Galileo and Huygens. Becher contends for Galileo, and states that one Trifler made the first pendulum clock at Florence, under the direction of Galileo Galilei, and that a model of it was sent to Holland. The Academia del Cemento also declared that the application of the pendulum to the movement of a clock was first proposed by Galileo, and put in practice by his son, Vincenzo Galileo, in 1649. Huygens, however, contests the priority, and made a pendulum clock in 1658; and he insists that if ever Galileo had entertained such an idea, he never brought it to perfection. Beckmann says that the first pendulum clock made in England was constructed in the year 1662, by one Tromantil, a Dutchman; but Grignon affirms that the first pendulum clock was made in England by Robert Harris, in 1641, and erected in the church of St. Paul's Covent Garden, which was built by Inigo Jones.

15. *Exact length of the Pendulum.*—It is extremely difficult to ascertain the length of the pendulum exactly from various causes:—1st. The various expansive power of different metals, according to their density. 2nd. The changeable nature of the atmosphere at different times in the same place. 3rd. The uncertainty as to the true level of the sea. 4th. The extreme difficulty of measuring accurately the distance between the point of suspension and the centre of oscillation, and even of finding the centre itself; and, 5thly. The variety of terrestrial attraction, from which cause the motions of the pendulum are also liable to variation, even in the same latitude. In pursuing his researches, Captain Kater discovered that the motions of the pendulum are affected by the nature of the strata over which it vibrates.

(*To be continued.*)

Tailors.

It would be difficult, perhaps, to discover why so much ridicule has been poured upon the heads of professors of this trade, while others of a more menial, and certainly less useful character, have escaped. We can see no difference between a man who makes a boot and another who makes a pair of trousers, yet the former is admitted to all the supposed privileges of verility, while the latter is reduced to a vulgar fraction. This is by no means even poetical justice—in fact it is poetical injustice, since many men notoriously owe their shape, their dignity, and their *presentability* in society, solely to their Tailor—and that too, if the truth were known, while their bill was unpaid.—The very coat on their backs supplied to them by the good nature of a tradesman whom they contemptuously denominate *Snip*, and whom they think it a kind of honour to victimise; yet men of this profession have not been behind others in the walks of literature,—for instance, the celebrated SPEED, the author of a valuable History of Great Britain, which is often quoted as an authority by the learned, and who wrote several other learned works, was a Tailor.

The celebrated Indian Writer, Golli, who was appointed to the high dignity of a Member of the Florentine Academy, was a Tailor, and was so fond of his trade, that he worked at it even while delivering the scientific lectures, to which he was deputed by the head of the realm.

The renowned surgeon John Christian Heden, who became a great scholar, and was appointed by Frederick II, Surgeon General to the Russian Army, served as a Tailor.

Mr. Stow, whose "Survey of London and other works" did him so much honour, was a Tailor.

Robert Hill, who turned out to be an excellent self-taught Greek and Latin Scholar, and left some valuable works, served his time as a Tailor at Maswell, near Tring, in Hertfordshire.

George Ballard, author of "Memiors of Learned British Ladies," was a Tailor, and not only wrote his valuable works, but made himself a good Saxon Scholar while practicing his occupation.

ANECDOTES OF JAMES WATT.—Some interesting anecdotes are preserved of James Watt, a native of Greenock, in Scotland, who flourished during the latter part of the last century, and whose name will long be remembered, and honored, as belonging to one of the strongest minds and the greatest mechanical geniuses that Great Britain has ever produced. His long continued and successful efforts to introduce and establish steam as a great motive power, increased to an almost unlimited extent the wealth and prosperity of Great Britain:—

"A friend of Mr. Watt one day came upon the young James stretched upon the ground, tracing with chalk all sorts of cross lines. 'Why do you suffer this child thus to trifle away his time?' exclaimed the visitor, 'send him to school.' 'You will do well to delay your judgment,' said the father; 'before condemning him, be good enough to find out his occupation.' The harsh judgment was speedily reversed. The child of six was solving a problem in geometry."

"James," said his aunt one day to her nephew, "I never saw any boy more given to trifling than you are; can't you take a book and employ yourself usefully? There you have been sitting a whole hour without speaking a single word. Do you know what you have been about all this time? You have done nothing but shut and open and open and shut the lid of the tea-kettle, and first you have put the saucer in the steam from the spout, and then you have held the silver teaspoon in it; and then you have done nothing but pore over them and bring together the drops formed by condensation on the surface of the china or the clear spoon. Aren't you ashamed of spending your time in that way?"

WHAT MAY BE DONE WITH OLD RAGS.—There is a church actually existing, near Bergen, which can contain nearly one thousand persons. It is circular within, octagonal without. The pillars outside, and the stalls within, the roof, the ceiling, the Corinthian capital, are all of papier mache, rendered water proof by saturation in vitriol, lime water, whey, and white of egg. We have not yet reached this pitch of audacity in our use of paper; but it should hardly surprise us, inasmuch as we employ the same material in private houses, in steamboats, and in some public buildings, instead of carved decorations and plaster cornices. When Frederick the Second of Prussia set up a limited papier-mache manufactory at Berlin, in 1765, he little thought that paper cathedrals might, within a century, spring out of his snuff-boxes, by the sleight of hand of advancing art. At present, we old-fashioned English, who haunt cathedrals, and build churches, like stone better. But there is no saying what we may come to. It is not very long since it would have seemed as impossible to cover eighteen acres of ground with glass as to erect a pagoda of soap-bubbles; yet the thing is done. When we think of a psalm sung by one thousand voices pealing though an edifice made of old rags, and the universal elements bound down to carry our messages with the speed of lightning, it would be presumptuous to say what can and what cannot be achieved by Science and Art, under the training of a ready old Time.—*Dickens's Household Words.*

THE PUZZLED DRIVER.—The *Wheeling Argus* tells the following anecdote:—

A gentleman who has been driving horses for twenty years or more, from the West to our Eastern market, came into town with a drove of fine horses. He drove his animals to the livery stable here, and on counting them missed one of the number. He counted again, found he was the loser, and rode hastily down to the boat, but no intelligence could be obtained there of the lost horse. He rode back to the stable, offered a reward for the missing beast, and almost gave up in despair of recovering it. But he soon diamounted the horse he was riding—counted again—and lo! the number was correct.—He declares he will never look for a lost critter again until he takes a circumspective view of the one under the saddle.

If you wish to earn the respect and everlasting gratitude of an editor *let his exchanges alone.* Don't touch a paper. He has laid them where he can find what he wants with the least possible trouble. All he asks is that you will keep your hands off. When he wishes you to read a paper, rely upon it he will give it to you. He can't endure your pitchforking his pile of exchanges all about the room.

HEIGHT OF MEANNESS.—The *Boston Museum* states that not a hundred miles from its office there lives a woman occupying a high position in society, who is a subscriber to one of the leading religious journals of Boston. This woman is in the habit of *renting* her paper every week to a poor old woman for one cent per copy, the paper to be returned in twenty-four hours. The *Museum* thinks this case has no parallel.

PROVINCIAL.

MORE OUTRAGES.—We are sorry to say that Sherbrooke and its vicinity is getting into bad odor on account of the numerous violations of the peace which are constantly occurring among the floating population which the construction of the railroad has brought amongst us. Scarcely a day passes but some peaceable person is insulted, and in several instances persons driving on the highway, between this and Lennoxville, have been stopped and abused; and in one instance, a few miles below Sherbrooke, robbery was attempted. It was on Saturday last, as J. Johnston, Esq., of Ascot, was coming up the river, about 7 o'clock in the evening, with a two-horse sleigh, he was ordered to stop by a man who seized his horse by the head in the edge of the wood a few rods below the Moffatt bridge, who demanded his money, or his life. Mr. J., not caring to part with either, told the fellow he had but $2, which if he wanted, he must come and get; as soon as he let go the horse's head, J. applied his whip, when the ruffian laid hold of the sleigh and was dragged some rods, when he let go and was left in the snow.

These repeated outrages demand some more efficient efforts than have heretofore been made by the authorities. It is well known that most of the minor assaults and disturbances have grown out of the use of intoxicating drinks, which is fearfully on the increase in this vicinity. We have not only a great number of unlicensed grog shops, but under the new license law, numerous tavern and shop licenses have been given out, and from these flow streams which are exerting a most polluting and demoralizing influence. We are told that licenses have been given to the keepers of shanties on the highway, between here and Lennoxville, and that it is from these government-sanctioned dens that the men have sallied out who have stopped and insulted travellers. We have been told that the Inspector is obliged by law to grant shop licenses. If this is so, it is the more shame to the Legislature which passed such an infamous law. It is the business of Government to protect the public from such nuisances, not to inflict them upon it. If the Government cannot forego the "price of blood," received for licenses, it is certainly bound to keep a sufficient police force to guard their drunkeries, and to protect peaceable subjects from outrage and insult from those who support them.—*Sherbrooke Gazette.*

EXTENSIVE FIRE!—DESTRUCTION OF THE ARTILLERY BARRACKS, AND THE ORDNANCE OFFICE AND STORES.—On Friday morning at about four o'clock, the alarm of fire was sounded from the Royal Artillery Barracks, Arsenal street, near Palace Gate, in consequence of flames seen issuing from a part of the barracks opposite the Guard House. The fire, which originated near the western end of the whole range of buildings spread with such rapidity as to prevent the soldiers in the second story of the barracks from saving their effects. With the view of checking its threatening progress to the westward, Col. Higgins caused a portion of the Officers' Quarters to be at once blown up, which had the desired effect. The fire however continued to extend in the opposite direction, aided by the keen westerly wind, and was just reaching the Ordnance Stores, when a second, and we believe increased charge of powder, was fired in the ground floor of the building; but in vain, for the flames were immediately seen issuing from the attic windows beyond which were probably opened by the shock. The explosion was most terrific, a large portion of the roof was raised to a great height in the air, and carried across the street, where it fell on the top of Dr. Painchaud's house; the concussion also overturned one of the government fire engines stationed in front of the building. After a little while it was thought necessary to renew the attempt at checking the fire with powder. Another charge was placed about the centre of the Ordnance Stores, and though its explosion made less noise than the second, it produced some more serious results, causing a fall of a considerable portion of the solid masonry of the building, besides shattering doors and windows and entirely demolishing the interior of the houses opposite. Its effects were also felt at some distance in various directions.

The fire companies from the city wards, were early on the ground, but the extreme cold (the thermometer being about 21° below zero!) prevented any of them from working with efficiency, (being the interval that elapsed in the preparations for the explosions, the firemen had to cease working, and in the meantime the greater part of the leather hose pipes, as they lay extended, full of water, became frozen and unfit for use. To renew this with more hose, occasioned still further delay, and the firemen were laboriously employed till past nine, when the flames having reached the eastern extremity of the range, could extend no further.

The soldiers from the Jesuits' Barracks, with their officiers, were present, and occasionally aided the firemen to work the engines. We observed the Ordnance Storekeeper and his assistants busily employed at an early hour. Many persons, especially among the firemen, were severely frost-bitten.

It may be mentioned that this range was destroyed by fire in 1820, at the same cold period of the year, when a quantity of military stores and arms in the armoury were destroyed. Part of it was then occupied as a Jail.

A quantity of stores was consumed, but the actual value of the loss cannot be at present ascertained. It has been estimated as high as £200,000, but this is founded upon conjecture, as some time must elapse before the actual loss can be ascertained. We have reason to believe, however, that it does not altogether exceed £20,000.

The buildings, which have the appearance of a substantial row of about a dozen two-story stone dwellings, were constructed in a very strong manner, and to a certain extent were fire-proof.

We regret to hear that W. Antrobus Holwell, Esq., Ordnance Storekeeper, has been a severe sufferer by the fire; that gentleman having at the time in the place a quantity of philosophical apparatus and other property. We also learn that some private effects, including about £300 worth of plate, the property of Col. Streathfeld, were saved.

We have been requested to state that the greatest praise is due to the exertions of R. Symes, Esq., J. P., who was one of the first on the spot, and to whose perseverance and determined energy, jointly with some of the gentlemen connected with the Ordnance, the military government and the public are indebted for the saving of valuable documents and other property. We are happy to state that most of the official records and books have been saved.

The Office of the Ordnance Department will, for the present, be located in the north-east wing of the Jesuit Barracks.—*Quebec Mercury.*

☞ THE MONTREAL COURIER is published daily during the six business months of the year, viz., from the 1st of May to the 1st of November, and the other six months tri-weekly, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Subscription, six dollars ($6) per annum, payable in advance.

☞ THE EVENING COURIER (bi-weekly) is published on Monday and Thursday evenings, in time for the Mails, at the low price of three dollars ($3) per annum, payable in advance.

☞ All LETTERS must be post-paid, or else the postage will be deducted from the amount sent.

☞ VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE solicited from all parts of the Continent of America. If made use of, the person transmitting the information will be liberally remunerated.

THE COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1851.

☞ *We are not answerable for the opinions and sentiments of our correspondents.*

We attended the meeting elsewhere reported to have taken place in Moffatt's Hotel, and were pleased with the zeal manifested by the gentlemen present, for supplying the poor with fire-wood.—There was, however, a good deal of discussion respecting supplies to be given to charitable societies. This we thought might be, and was, all very well in its way; but we thought the time of the meeting might have been much better occupied in arranging means for the supply of those poor who were objects of no organized society. In a city numbering so many inhabitants as Montreal, there must be many destitute strangers—a great number of floating poor—to whom public benevolence ought to be directed, and which we thought would have been the more legitimate object of the meeting.

MONTREAL, 29th December, 1851.

To the Editor of the MONTREAL COURIER:

SIR,—May I ask you, if you have the authority of the Lord Bishop of Montreal, for saying, in your paper of the 26th instant, that "No Bishop would interfere with any Presbyter for employing as many Catechists in his Parish as he thought proper"? The point-being one of considerable importance is extended Parishes.

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
EPISCOPALIAN.

We received the above letter yesterday, and we hasten to state that we had no authority from the Bishop of Montreal for stating that no Bishop would interfere with any Presbyter for employing as many Catechists in his Parish as he thought proper. We said so then, and we repeat it now, on our own authority. But let our correspondent remember this—we did not say that Bishops have *no right* to interfere, because, in common with every right-minded Presbyter, we acknowledge the Bishop's perfect ecclesiastical authority with his Diocese over the public and private conduct of every Presbyter, who is only the Bishop's delegate in a Parish or Cure. We say that no Bishop usually interferes with the employment of Catechists, who are under the superintendence of any of his Presbyters; but when he does so, we infer, and come to the pointed conclusion, that he has weighty and just reasons for interfering, and that such interference implies censure.

We think it proper and necessary to state here, that we have not now, nor had we ever, any authority from the Bishop of Montreal for any statement or opinion on the subject to which our correspondent's letter refers. *We never even conversed with his Lordship upon the subject*—our remarks have arisen solely and spontaneously from the Pastoral Letter, and from notices elsewhere which it has called forth.

We would suggest to our "Episcopalian" correspondent, and to all others on both sides, the propriety of dropping this subject altogether. On our side, we have no pleasure in writing confutation after confutation, and filling our columns with matter which every sound Churchman knows better than we can tell him. Surely our friends on the other side must by this time see the weakness of their arguments, and the baselessness of the position they seem so willing to establish. The time may come when fanaticism, as in the days of Cromwell, shall destroy the Episcopate; but we charitably hope, for their sakes, as well as our own, that we will, all of us, outlive so melancholy a consummation.

KINGSTON ARGUS.—Had we previously known that our "brother Sawney" of the *Kingston Argus* was really a "Sawney," we would not have been so savage upon him. We love the "land of the mountain and the flood," and all that it inherits. No wandering footstep that has ever trod the heath,—no blue bonnet that has ever worn the heather bell,—sweetest and most modest of flowers,—can at any time be to us an object of indifference. We are glad that the "*parritch pat*" boils over in the "*dwalling o' the yedeter o' the Argus,*" and we say to him, in new-year complimentary phraseology, "*may it always be up to the lip.*" The *Courier* agrees with the *Argus* that, however savoury and nutrimental "*parritch*" may be to the inner man, to be clothed with it outwardly is not quite so pleasant, more especially when it is hot. We speak feelingly on this point, because we have spoken through the "*jaw hole*" in our time, and if the *Argus* is a true Scot, he will understand what we mean without any further explanation. The *Argus* must know also that the true spot in which to plant "*parritch*" hot and heavy, as he calls it, is the "stamack," and if he does so, we can tell him that we would rather "phraze him than fight him" any day. As to the "cauld kail," which the *Argus* speaks of, the Editor of the *Courier* assures his "*brither Sawney*" that he would much rather present his readers with what costs him nothing, than with the articles of the *Argus*, which are worth nothing.

PUBLIC MEETING FOR SUPPLYING WOOD TO THE POOR.—This meeting took place at Moffatt's Hotel on Monday evening, Dr. Sewell in the Chair, and Mr. R. B. Noxon acting as Secretary. After the meeting had been opened for the transaction of business, it was

Moved by Mr. LAIRD, Seconded by Mr. ROBERT NOXON, and unanimously

Resolved,—That from the self-evident fact of the advancing price of Fire-Wood, scarcity of labour, and the increasing inclemency of the weather, it behoves the Citizens of Montreal to take some energetic step for the relief of their indigent fellow townsmen.

Moved by Mr. MCPHERSON, Seconded by Mr. MCCONKEY:

That this Meeting, deeply sympathizing with the Poor in this inclement season, do respectfully recommend to the Mayor and Corporation of this City, to purchase such a supply of Fire-Wood as by them shall be deemed sufficient, to be paid out of the City Funds in the first instance, and to be delivered to the Poor at cost and charges.

This being the main motion, a lengthy discussion upon its merits took place.—After speeches had been made by Alderman Macfarlane, Councillor Thompson, B. Devlin, Esq., Dr. Fraser, and Messrs. McPherson, Rodden and McConkey, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Moved by Mr. ELLIOT, Seconded by Mr. G. MCGIBBON, and unanimously

Resolved,—That a Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Dr. Fraser, Messrs. Devlin, Noxon and Gorrie, be appointed to transmit to the Mayor and Corporation, the Resolutions passed at this Meeting, and soliciting their concurrence in its views, and in the event of their not deeming it expedient to accede to the foregoing recommendation, that the Mayor be requested by the Committee, to call a Public Meeting of the Citizens, to take the subject into consideration.

Dr. Sewell having vacated the Chair, Mr. Rodden was called thereto, when votes of thanks were returned to Dr. Sewell for his able conduct in the Chair, to Mr. R. B. Noxon for his performance of the duties of Secretary, and to Mr. Moffatt for his kindness in allowing them the use of the room. After which, the Meeting adjourned.

At the annual meeting of the Montreal Rifle Club, held on Friday evening, the 26th instant, the following office-bearers were elected for 1852:

Joshua Bell—President.
George Fellows—Vice-President.
John Barry—Treasurer.
Alex. Murray—Secretary.
Managing Committee—A. Bertram, G. Smith, G. Horne, J. B. Smith, H. Horne.

It will be observed from the Advertisement, that the New City Gas Company, announce considerable reduction in the price of Coke. That is more important when wood is so high. Coke and wood burn very well together in stoves.

A new steamer, the *Queen of the West*, was launched lately at Oswego. She has been sold to a company in Canada, and will run between Hamilton, Toronto and Oswego next season.

On Sunday morning early, a servant girl, in the employ of John Levy, Esq., Notre Dame Street, was found dead in her bed. She had retired to rest the previous evening in comparatively good health, and her fellow-servants observed nothing extraordinary in her manner, save an unusual flow of spirits. She was an orphan, and taken by Mr. Levy, about 18 months ago, from the Grey Nunnery, was well liked, and considered an honest and good girl. Dr. David gave as his opinion that the deceased's death was caused by sanguineous apoplexy. Her remains were respectably interred in the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Mr. John Tobin, a tailor by trade, residing in the village of Varennes, fell from a hay-loft and fractured his skull on the 22nd instant, thereby causing his death. Mr. T. has resided in the village of Varennes for the last 25 years, and leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss.

ACCIDENT AND PRESENCE OF MIND.—In crossing the ice on Monday last, at Longueuil, a gentleman from Upper Canada, Mr. McDougall, fell through, and would, in all probability, have perished, but for the presence of mind and daring of Mr. A. Gundlack, of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Company's office. Mr. Gundlack seeing the emergency, plunged into the river and brought Mr. McD. safe to shore. This is not the first time that Mr. G. has rendered similar service, and we hope he may receive some testimony to commemorate his gallantry.

The annual meeting of Teachers and Scholars in connection with the Wesleyan Sabbath Schools will be held on the morning of New Year's Day, in the Great St. James Street Church, at half-past ten o'clock; and the annual soiree on the evening of the following day, January 2, in the basement story of the same building. Tickets 1s. 3d. each.

The American, United Presbyterian, St. Paul's, Baptist, Congregational, and Free Church Sabbath Schools, will hold their usual annual meeting on the morning of New Year's Day, in the American Presbyterian Church, at ten o'clock; the service not to extend, if possible, beyond one hour.

We are requested to state that Morning Service in Christ's Church Cathedral will commence on New Year's Day at half-past 10 o'clock, and that his Lordship the Bishop will preach.

At a meeting of the friends of education, held in the Mechanics' Institute on the 23rd inst., the Bishop of Montreal in the chair, the Rev. Mr. McGill, Dr. Davis, and Wm. Lunn, Esq., were appointed a committee to draft a memorial to the government, urging the immediate establishment of a Normal School in Lower Canada.

Mr. Becket's illuminated Counting-House Calendar has been received. The typography reflects great credit on the establishment.

Free Trade, Reciprocity, and Protection.

LETTER No. 9.

TUESDAY, December 26, 1851.

To the Editor of the MONTREAL COURIER:

SIR,—I shall shortly lay before your readers a comparative statement, 1850-'51, of the total *declared value* of British and Irish manufactures and produce exported from the United Kingdom, specifying the countries and colonies to which the same were exported, with some comments thereon, relative to exports to British North America. I may notice, meantime, these amounted in 1850 to £3,235,051—three millions two hundred and thirty-five thousand and fifty-one pounds sterling!!! In your paper, of date 24th instant, I find a communication subscribed L. W., informing me that "I was unfortunate in selecting the Port of St. Johns as an example, and assuring me that there is not a Port in the British Provinces where the Customs' Department is better regulated—that he had often heard it remarked by merchants of this city, who have transacted business at St. Johns, that, if every Port in the Province was as well supplied with efficient officers, *Her Majesty's Customs would seldom be defrauded.* Entries at St. Johns are principally passed by agents, who hold power of Attorney from the parties to whom the goods belong, and I can vouch for the fact that every entry is sworn to. There is also a room set apart in one of the Warehouses—the key of which is kept by the officers—in which *all goods without invoice* are examined, and valued, by the Appraiser. If 12½ per cent. is not collected at St. Johns, it must be that merchants of this city and elsewhere furnish false invoices, &c., &c. *The Custom House* at St. Johns is open from 9 o'clock till 5 in summer—three hours longer than in Montreal—and no holydays are kept but the Queen's Birthday."

I feel obliged to L. W. for the information contained in his communication. I shall take the liberty of asking him a few questions, which I hope he will be kind enough to reply to. It remains to be seen whether I have been "unfortunate in selecting the Port of St. Johns as an example." I thought of that Port as being the channel for the largest share of import's into Lower Canada. I suppose the current will now be turned to Rouse's Point, whence goods can be received *direct*, and thus brought under the notice of the far-seeing Customs' authorities here.

Does L. W. know that such things exist as a Custom House invoice for entry, and a consignee's invoice of actual cost of the goods, with 7½ to 10 per cent. added, to show the profit expected or wished for?—Has L. W. ever had an opportunity of placing two such invoices alongside of each other?

I believe the Queen's interest to be pretty tolerably looked after at St. Johns; but I also believe that there, as well as everywhere along our extensive frontier, there is great room for improvement: extensive seizures of goods, for attempts to defraud the revenue, are to be read of, in almost every English paper you take up for perusal, *giving the names of all the parties concerned.* Will L. W. be good enough to inform me why this first-rate practice is not adopted here? Perhaps L. W. will say, "oh, there are no seizures here to report!!! it would be cruel to suppose that our high-minded and *intelligent* neighbours would even think of such a thing as defrauding 'little Miss Victoria' out of one British six-pence of her rights, as by law established." If such are L. W.'s ideas, and his letter would lead me to conclude so, I fear he wears green glasses. Some of our beloved Queen's own beloved subjects, *in this city*, have no fear of God, nor honour for Her Majesty. L. W. will ascertain this for a fact by a few minutes conversation with Mr. Drummond. I could tell L. W. some queer stories about pianos, fiddles, flutes, horse-shoe nails, clout and rose nails, hats well lined inside, &c., &c., &c.

"And I can vouch for the fact that every entry is sworn to." Will L. W. have the goodness to make copy of one of the affidavits made use of at the Port of St. Johns—perhaps the form could be amended. Does L. W. think that Her Majesty's Appraisers, *generally*, know a 7 lb. horse-shoe nail from a 9 lb?—a box of Crawshay iron from a box of common Canada plates?—a box of best BB. IC. tin from a box of Waster tin?—or a box of treble X. from a box of Waster, if the former were branded IC?—a box of black tea worth 4s. from a box worth 1s. 9d.?—a box of segars worth $10 from a box worth $20?—a piano worth £50 from one worth £75 or £100?—sperm oil from lard oil?—or palm oil from yellow soap? I should like them *all* to answer for themselves. Before asking any more questions *for the benefit* of the *Free-Trader*, I shall await L. W.'s reply.

I am, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
SPECTATOR.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

NEW YORK, December 26.

HALIFAX, Dec. 26.—The Royal Mail Steamer *Canada* arrived this morning, with 32 passengers for Boston, and 10 for Halifax. She left Liverpool on the 13th, having been delayed beyond the hour of departure by a dense fog. After the third day out she experienced a constant succession of gales, and squalls, and very high seas. At 8, A. M., on the 17th, saw the steamer *Asia* from Boston bound to Liverpool. No American steamer had arrived at Liverpool subsequent to the departure of the *Baltic* on the 10th.

French affairs continue to be the great subject of attention, but no fresh incidents of much importance had occurred. The vote of the army, so far as reported, was 65,000 in favour of Louis Napoleon to 3,500 against him. The total number of arrests is stated at 1,800.

M. Thiers is again arrested and sent to the Prussian frontier. Many of the members of the Mountain have fled the country. Girardin has resigned the editorship of *La Presse*, and is said to be going to the United States.

In the Nievre, the Socialists, during a short ascendency, had burned the registers and archives, and destroyed much property. Compte D'Chambord Henri 5th had sought an interview with Prince Schwartzenberg at Vienna, but had been told that Louis Napoleon must receive the countenance of all Monarchial Cabinets.

Seventy-three newspapers are said to be suspended in France.

Eight horses, from the Sultan to the President, arrived at Marseilles Dec. 9th.

A letter from Jerome Bonaparte to the President is published, advising moderation and a genuine appeal to the people.

Several legions of National Guard have been disarmed for exhibiting disaffection.

The movements for custom reforms are progressing vigorously.

The Smithfield Club Cattle Show, going on in London, is not so well attended as usual.

Beyond a violent agitation in the other capitals of Europe, consequent upon the critical state of affairs in France, there is no interruption of the public peace. Negotiations respecting the dispute in the Duchies have been resumed suddenly, with more disposition to bring matters to a solution.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope to Nov. 4, state that a severe chastisement had been inflicted upon the enemy by the force under command of Gen. Somerset. The Kaffirs in Fish River, Bush District, have been repulsed in several skirmishes. In the Water Kloof the enemy was beaten back, after several hours hard fighting, and their camp destroyed. The British loss amounts to 40 killed and wounded. The number of Kaffirs killed is estimated at from four to five hundred.

France.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Globe* writes: "Four more departments are declared in a state of siege, and the Minister of War has sent a circular to the Generals throughout France to cause immediate execution of all persons taken for the commission of acts of murder and pillage.

The *Constitutional* states from an official source that the whole of the Department of the Basses Alpes is in the hands of the Socialists. This is an exaggeration, probably, for the purpose of creating alarm against the enemies of order, and rousing its friends to exertion. I learn from authentic sources that many of these communes in the Basses Alpes are already free from the presence of the Socialists.

Several distinguished members of the Legitimist and Orleanist parties sent in their adhesion to-day to the Government.

On the statement of a London Journal that the Prince de Joinville and the Duke De Aumale intended to place themselves at the head of a movement in France, there has been a meeting of some of the chiefs of the Orleanist party, at which it was unanimously resolved to write to the Prince and declare that they would not support any attempt on his part to keep up a civil war.

Most of the leading members of the Mountain against whom warrants are out, have avoided arrest, but it is supposed that they are still in Paris. Victor Hugo was safe up to yesterday. It appears to be true that M. Theirs has left Paris. It is said that he was obliged to go sooner than he intended, as he had been imprudent enough immediately after his release to declare against the government.

The Council of Louis Napoleon had a sitting to-day, but nothing had transpired respecting the proceedings.

The correspondent of the *London Times* writes: Paris, Thursday, Dec. 11th—A decree places the departments on the Gers, the Var, the Lot, and the Lot et Garonne in a state of siege.

The *Moniteur* announces the loss of the army in the late events, as one officer and twenty-four privates killed, and seventeen officers and one hundred and sixty-seven privates wounded.

The *Patrie* contradicts the report circulated at the Bourse, relative to a modification in the system of taxation. The inspector of the Var writes from Toulon, 9th December, that the mail from Dagnitau brings news that two thousand insurgents were marching on that town, in the direction of Brignolles and Barjols, making some hundred Bourgeoise and public functionaries march at their head, with strong chains round their necks. The insurgents had dismounted the Post-Office at Luc was among the prisoners. In the Despatch from Luc on Dec. 7, for Paris, is enclosed a regular sheet of advice, signed by the Provisional Director, named by the sovereign people Bouchet.

A change in the persons composing the administration are about to effected. The time of employ is to be reduced. The commencement has already been made.

The Minister of War has addressed a despatch to the Generals of corps; he orders that any person resisting shall be at once shot. The Minister of the Interior, in a report to the President, states that the insurgents have attacked the public forces, and engaged in sanguinary collision. They have attacked and taken towns and communes, which, thanks to the energy of the authorities and the troops, have been taken from them.

It is said that a veral of the troops of two or three legions of the National Guard have tendered their resignation. More than four thousand insurgents have invested the Chief Lieu Digne. 3000 men at Listeron endeavoured to take possession of the Citadel, defended by only 80 men. The municipal authorities have been compelled to resign, and a Socialist Committee sits in the Hotel De Ville. The town has the appearance of a place taken by assault. Government is adopting energetic means to repress insurrection.

The Bourse was firmer to-day.

Spain.

Accounts from Madrid are of the 6th inst. The *Heraldo* announces, that on the telegraphic despatches mentioning the occurrence in Paris, the Government had forwarded an energetic circular to all the Captain-Generals and Provincial Governors recommending them to adopt measures for the maintenance of public order.

The Minister of Public Works submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the 6th, a project of law relative to the construction of railroads in different parts of Spain. The Chambers afterwards resumed the discussion on the War estimates.

Italy.

The Council General of Genoa has just contributed 15,000 francs towards the erection of the monument to Columbus, which is to be erected in that city.

Prussia.

The Berlin correspondent of the *London Times* writes under date of Dec. 9th: The Postal Conference has succeeded in drawing up a series of articles regulating the intercourse of the German States with each other, to which all the Governments but that of Lanenbergh agreed. There is no doubt that as soon as the change in the Government in France is announced officially, it will be recognized by the Government of Prussia. In the diplomatic and official circles, the *coup d'etat* of the President has met with considerable approval.

HALIFAX, Dec. 26.—The weather here has been unusually severe for the season; scarcely any snow has fallen, but the winds are high and the air piercing. The oldest inhabitant does not remember so cold a winter. Our Legislature has been summoned again to meet for despatch of business, on the 28th day of January next. A reorganization of the government is inevitable. The present does not satisfy even its friends.

English Markets.

LIVERPOOL, December 13.

Flour market again quiet, and a reduction of 6d ⅌ bbl yielded, the buyers acting very cautiously. In London, Flour continued in moderate demand. Indian Corn has been in good demand, and the supply being moderate, prices had advanced. Wheat—Prices had favored the buyer since the 10th; sales limited, at a decline of 1d ⅌ 70 lbs. In London holders evinced much firmness; sales limited. Provisions—Beef remains without improvement; dealers buy sparingly.—Pork—Three hundred bbls sold, leaving the market very bare of American. The Bacon per barter has been sold, the quality being fair. Hams and Shoulders inactive. Lard—The advance of 2s ⅌ cwt noted on Wednesday is maintained.—Cheese dull; sales of middling have been made at a decline of 1s to 2s ⅌ cwt. Sugar—holders having given way 6d ⅌ cwt, refiners and dealers have taken freely. Coffee remains without change and prices firm. The sales of the week were exclusively of Jamaica, which commanded full rate. Tea—Increased arrivals have checked the demand, although in London a reduction of a 1d ⅌ lb has taken place; buyers operate with reluctance. Molasses—No sales have been effected in Liverpool. West India meets an active demand in London. Rice—Sales for the week 460 tierces Carolina at 17s 9d ⅌ 19s 3d. In London dressed brings 20s ⅌ 27s ⅌ cwt. Iron—The market still continues quiet. Copper firm. Lead—demand limited. Quicksilver—Active at 3s 3d ⅌ lb.—Timber—The demand has flattened, and prices have become a shade lower. Sales of Fitch Pine merely retail.

The London Stock Market was rather active, and prices had rallied to almost their former point. Consols on the 12th closed at 98¼ to 98⅛, and after business hours advanced ⅛ to ¼ farthing. Even foreign securities sympathized in the rise. Railway stocks also were strongly on the advance.—In American stock no change remarked since the last mail.

State of Trade in Manchester:—The comparative cessation of violence in France has operated favorably upon business, but the apprehension felt for the tranquillity of Germany has inspired extreme caution in all operations relating to that trade. German and Italian houses are consequently acting with the utmost weariness in the execution of small orders; but notwithstanding this, as well as other individual causes of depression, the tone of trade throughout the week must be considered decidedly healthy. This feeling can hardly be arrested unless by the recurrence of disturbances in France, or a sudden outbreak on the Continent, which but too many indications would seem to portend. Pending results however regarded, business engagements previously entered into would of themselves preclude any extensive operations at present.

Members Elected to Parliament.

Beauharnois	Labrie.
Berthier	Jobin.
Bellechase	Cloutier.
Bytown	McLachlin.
Brockville	Crawford.
Bonaventure	L. Pelletier.
Carleton	Malloch.
Chambly	Lacoste.
Champlain	Niarchildon.
Cornwall	Mowatt.
Dorchester	Lemieux.
Dundas	Rose.
Durham	Smith.
Drummond	McDougall.
Essex	Prince.
Frontenac	Smith.
Glengarry	McDonald.
Grenville	Patrick.
Huron	Cameron.
Hamilton	McNab.
Haldimand	McKenzie.
Halton	White.
Hastings	Murney.
Huntingdon	Varin.
Kamouraska	Chapais.
Kingston	Macdonald.
Kent	Brown.
Leinster	Vigeant.
Lennox	Richards.
London	Dawson.
Lennox and Addington	Seymour.
Lincoln	Merritt.
Lanark and Renfrew	Wilkes.
Lotbiniere	Lemieux.
L'Islet	Fournier.
Montreal City	Young. Badgley.
Montreal County	Valois.
Missisquoi	Paige.
Montmorenci	Cauchon.
Megantic	Clapham.
Middlesex	Wilson.
Niagara	Hincks.
Nicolet	Fortier.
Norfolk	Ralph.
Northumberland	Burnham.
Ottawa	Egan.
Oxford	Hincks.
Portneuf	Tessier.
Peterborough	Langton.
Prince Edward	Stevenson.
Prescott	Johnson.
Quebec City	Stuart. Dubord.
Quebec County	Chauveau.
Richelieu