

Arrival of the "Cambria."

NEW-YORK, APRIL 27, TEN O'CLOCK, A.M.—The *Cambria*, with Liverpool dates to the 14th, and London to the 13th April, reached Halifax on Wednesday, at half-past two o'clock. Her news reached St. Johns at ten o'clock yesterday morning.

Cotton declined $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny. Market for breadstuffs improving. Consols for Friday evening 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. Exchequer Bills 27 to 50 premium.

Latest quotations of Western Canal Flour, 24s., and some 23s. 6d. Wheat, United States and Canadian, white and mixed, 6s. 4d. to 6s. 10d. per 70lbs.; red, 5s. 5d. to 6s. 6d. Corn, per quarter, yellow 30s. to 32s., white 28s. 6d. to 30s. Corn Meal, per brl., 13s. to 14s. Pork is in limited demand, with receding prices for Western. Bacon has sold freely during the week at 31s. to 35s. 6d. for fair Western. The market is considerably reduced. Hams are in dull enquiry. Shoulders (9 cwt.) brought the extreme price of 31s. per cwt.

The *Cambria* brought \$52,000 in specie.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY OF NEW SUBSTANCES FOR PRODUCING INSENSIBILITY TO PAIN.

During the last summer, says the *Leeds Mercury*, we gave a short abstract of the discovery of the powers that chloroform and other substances, which by medical men are called anæsthetics, have to paralyse and render insensible one portion of the body (the faculties and other parts of the body retaining their natural powers), which had been made by our townsman, Mr. Nunneley. That gentleman had just then brought the subject, and performed experiments in proof of it, before the Yorkshire branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, at its meeting held in the Philosophical Hall, Leeds. From the subjoined notice, which we copy from the Journal of the Association, we see that Mr. Nunneley has been actively at work upon the subject since that time. The detailed results of his investigations will shortly be laid before the profession, but in the mean time he has made the following important announcement of the discovery of an altogether new substance, which appears to possess advantages over those hitherto known:—

NEW ANÆSTHETICS.

To the Editor of the *Med. and Surgical Journal*.

Sir,—Though my paper, "On Anæsthesia, and the Agents by which it may be produced," will appear in the forthcoming part of the next volume of the *Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association*, now in the press, yet as some little time will necessarily elapse before it can be published, it may not be improper, nor without interest, to state, that amongst the many substances upon which I have experimented, there are two which are most worthy of attention, as of easy practical application.

The one, which was amongst the earliest I tried, is common coal gas. It is a safe, manageable, and effective anæsthetic, and very cheap, as everybody knows: though the smell is at first unpleasant, it is abated without difficulty or repugnance.

The second is a substance which I have more recently discovered; and if my anticipations be well

founded, it will be found to be the best agent yet mentioned, and will, I think, supersede those now employed.

I believe it to be possessed of all the good properties of chloroform, and in a great degree free from those which are objectionable. It is equally pleasant, potent, and speedy in its action. The anæsthesia produced by it may be rendered as profound and as prolonged as may be wished. While a smaller quantity of it than of chloroform will produce a sufficient degree of insensibility, a larger quantity may be given with impunity. The state of collapse is not so great. The animal may be recovered from a more dead-like condition than where this is induced by chloroform; at the same time the process of recovery is more rapid, and it is unattended by any of those distressing symptoms so often witnessed in animals rallying from a large dose of chloroform.

The substance is the *chloride of olefiant gas*, as named in "Fownes' Manual;" the hydrochlorate of *chloride of acetylene*, or *oil of olefiant gas*, in the eighth edition of "Turner's Chemistry;" and formerly called *Dutch oil*, or *oil of the Dutch chemists*.

In appearance and smell it is not very dissimilar from chloroform, but in composition it differs most materially. Chloroform is composed of two atoms of carbon, one of hydrogen, and three of chlorine, with a boiling point of 140 degrees, the specific gravity of the liquid being 1.410, of the vapour 4.2; while the chloride of olefiant gas is composed of four atoms of carbon, four of hydrogen, and one of chlorine; its boiling-point is 180 degrees; the specific gravity of the liquid 1.247; of the vapour 3.448; constituting differences which are very important, and sufficient, I believe, to explain the fact of its superiority. THOS. NUNNELEY.

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Toronto, April, 1849.