

DOMESTIC.

FIRE AT RICHMOND.—A fire broke out on Friday evening about six o'clock in the large Store on the Richmond Wharf, which, together with a valuable stock of fish, oil, &c., amounting in value to about £2,500, was totally consumed. The Fire Department and strong parties from the Garrison, were early at the scene of disaster, but the Dock Yard Engine was the only one that went to work. The stock in the store, owned by Messrs. Fairbanks & Allison and Joseph Starr, Esq., was partly saved, and the remainder, we understand, is fully covered by insurance in the different offices. The store belonged to Mr. Starr, and was also simply insured. As to the origin of the disaster nothing is known.—*Rec.*

FATAL OCCURRENCE.—A case of Small Pox having been detected on board the brigantine Undoras, Garrett, master, which arrived from New York on the 22nd ult., the Health Officer ordered the vessel to quarantine on the 24th.—The sufferer, named William Siteman, of Sheet Harbour, expired last Saturday evening in the 24th year of his age. The corpse was brought from the vessel to the Market Slip on Sunday morning and conveyed thence to the Cemetery, where it was interred in the plot assigned to paupers. On passing through the city, not a single friend followed the coffin. If the poor fellow were lodged in a comfortable hospital, and attended by a skilful, devoted nurse, perhaps his deplorable doom could not have been averted; but situated as he was, confined to an insulated vessel, and deprived of all means of relief beyond the sympathy of a few hardy seamen, he had not the least imaginable chance of recovery. The Undoras was released from quarantine on Thursday last.—*lb.*

IMPORTANT RUMOUR.—There is a rumour afloat in the city that the Galway Company have instructed their Agent in Halifax to prepare for the reception of a line of four powerful steamships which they intend to establish forthwith between Ireland, Halifax and a port in the United States.—*British N. A.*

THE RAILWAY.—A Public Meeting has been held at Antigonish, relative to the proposed Railway, at which resolutions were passed asking for Survey of the route in order to select the most eligible Terminus.—*lb.*

POLICE COURT.—Five boys were arraigned at the Police Court on Wednesday for theft, and committed for trial. On the same day a man named Sorlie was fined 5s. for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.—*lb.*

A SAD ACCIDENT.—Serjeant Steward, of the Royal Regiment, has been missing since the night after the fire at the North Barracks, on the morning of the 11th December. He bore an excellent character in the Regiment, and no person believed that he could have possibly deserted. The good opinion of the officers and comrades was confirmed yesterday, from the fact of his remains having been discovered in a well in the citadel, at which place the Royals have been quartered since they were burned out at the recent conflagration.—*Chronicle, Feb. 6.*

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—On Thursday last, at 12 o'clock precisely, nearly all the Members elect being assembled, His Honour Judge Street produced his Commission under the Great Seal, and proceeded to administer the usual Oath. At two o'clock His Excellency arrived at the Province Hall, and was received by the usual Guard of Honour from the 97th Regiment.

The House, being summoned by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, appeared at the Bar of the Council, headed by their Clerk, when they were directed to return to their usual place of meeting, and elect a Speaker, whom they would present to His Excellency for approval.

The choice of a Speaker occupied but a very short time—the Hon. Charles Simonds being nominated by George Hayward, Esq., Member for Sunbury. The nomination was seconded by the Hon. D. Hanington, Member for Westmorland, and no opposition being offered, Mr. Simonds was declared to be unanimously elected Speaker.

The House then returned to the Chamber, and Mr. Simonds being presented, was formally approved by His Excellency, who then delivered the Speech, to parts of which we now refer.

The first important paragraph relates to the construction of the European and North American Railway. His Excellency, after noticing the enterprise of the County of Charlotte, states that it would give him great pleasure to see the fertile lands of Sussex and Westmorland and this thriving City united by Railway, with Halifax on the one side, and with the United States on the other. His Excellency expresses his decided opinion, that the Railway will be best constructed by a private Company, instead of being undertaken by the Government. In this respect His Excellency and the Executive have arrived at a conclusion directly the reverse of that which has been adopted by the Executive of Nova Scotia; the opinion of the Executive in this particular will be fully sustained by the people of New Brunswick.

We infer from the next paragraph, that Her Majesty's Government view the European and North American Railway with especial favour, more especially as it is likely to advance the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway.

Then comes the pleasing announcement, that the management of the Post Office is to be given up to these Colonies on the 6th July next. The benefits and blessings of cheap Postage will, after that date, be enjoyed by the Colonists of British North America, and for this they cannot but be thankful.

The expediency of a new School Law—the settlement of our Boundary with Canada—the Surrender of the Initiation of Money Votes to the Executive, coupled with the introduction of Municipal Institutions—the appointment of a Law Commission to consider what alterations are necessary to render justice easier of access, and less expensive—are all matters of the deepest interest to the whole people of this Province.

But the most important announcement is made at the conclusion of the Speech. It will be remembered, that at the last Session of the Assembly it was moved by Dr. S. Z. Earle and thereupon resolved, "that the Legislative Council of this Province ought to be elected by the people, under such restrictions as may be most conducive to the public welfare." An address founded on this resolution was transmitted to her Majesty; and the Speech acquaints us, that Her Majesty's advisers are disposed to meet the wishes of the Assembly on this question. In other words, an Elective Legislative Council is conceded to New Brunswick; and this Province will have the honour of first introducing in North America this great change in Colonial Government, which can scarcely fail to advance the interests of the country and the people, if judiciously adopted.

On the return of the Assembly to their House new writs were ordered to issue to the Counties of York, Northumberland, and Carleton, to supply the vacancies occasioned by the Hon. L. A. Wilmot becoming a Judge of the Supreme Court—Mr. J. A. Strett, Attorney General, and Mr. Charles Connell, a Member of the Legislative Council.

The Speech being formally read by the Speaker, the Address, in reply, was moved by Dr. Thomson, of Charlotte, and seconded by Mr. Hayward, of Sunbury. Mr. Ritchie, then, in a speech of nearly two hours, reviewed the proceedings of the Executive, and moved as an amendment, that the House should not proceed to consider the Address until a change took place in His Excellency's advisers, it having no confidence in the present Executive. Mr. Ritchie's speech lasted until it was nearly dark, when the House adjourned. Yesterday, Mr. Partelow in an able and powerful speech, explained a variety of matters alleged against the Executive. The debate was going on up to our latest advices yesterday, and it is quite possible it may be continued for some days, as many of the new Members may wish to express their sentiments before voting.

The Hon. Charles Connell, of Woodstock, and the Hon. James Brown, of Charlotte, were severally sworn in, and took their seats in the Legislative Council yesterday.

Every Member of the Assembly was present yesterday; the House, at present, consists of thirty-eight Members, including the Speaker; there being just now three vacancies, as before stated.—*Abridged from the St. John N. B. Courier 8th.*

SEIZURE.—The officers of the Provincial Revenue service made a seizure of sixteen barrels of contraband American Spirits on Sunday last, at Musquash.—*lb.*

THE BURNED DISTRICT.—This part of our city, so lately wearing such a gloomy aspect, begins to assume something of a village-like appearance. Several new buildings are already occupied, and many more are now being erected.—We observed, on Tuesday evening last, notwithstanding the extremely severe cold of that day, a large frame, on Queen Street, in course of erection. We look forward to next summer, in prospect, as being a lively one.—*Fredericton Advertiser.*

Canada.

We learn from late Canada papers that there is no prospect of the American Government granting reciprocal trade with the Colonies. On the contrary, the Montreal Pilot intimates that the Americans are contemplating a still more restrictive policy with regard to lumber imported from Canada.

The Rev. Mr. Churchill's lecture on "Quebec—its commercial position and its capabilities," was most respectfully and numerously attended. To say that the learned lecturer did his subject ample justice would be but a poor compliment—his lecture was a most able one, and gave the greatest satisfaction. Indeed on its conclusion John Bonner, Esq., seconded by G. Henderson, Esq., moved a resolution which was passed, with cheers, thanking the lecturer in the name of the audience for his most excellent, instructive and interesting discourse, and asking his permission to have it published.—*Quebec Morning Chronicle, 19th ult.*

GREAT MECHANICAL NOVELTY.—Mr. Capreol, has, at his own expense, caused to be made a model of the "Remington Bridge," which is considered one of the greatest novelties of the age. A Remington Bridge has lately been constructed at Montgomery, Alabama, 406 feet span, 12 feet wide, and it carries out the idea of the inventor, that a bridge of that peculiar construction has no oscillating motion. The idea of Mr. Remington is this, we quote his own words:—"To illustrate more clearly this point, I will add that the tensile strength of timber, when in nearly a horizontal position, is made to sustain nearly the entire weight necessary to separate the

fibres. This, I claim, is a new idea in Mechanics. I applied it in the use of timber in constructing bridges for the first time. The same fact does not apply in any suspension bridge, whether constructed of hemp or iron. This tensile strength is beautifully illustrated in Mr. Capreol's Model, which consists of two stringers of pine, 25 feet long and half an inch the side of the square. These stringers are supported in a peculiar manner at each end, and on them are placed steps or foot-boards of pine, let down upon the stringers by a groove of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch depth, and this is quite capable of supporting any person to walk along. We have seen a gentleman, perhaps not far short of being the heaviest in the city, walk along this feeble looking structure. It is really worthy the attention of all mechanics. For no one scarcely would believe that two slips of half-inch pine would carry a man 250 lbs. weight—but such is the fact.—*lb.*

EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING IN MID-WINTER.—We regret to learn that St. Luke's Church in Wellington Square was struck by lightning during the storm of Thursday afternoon, and seriously damaged. The electric fluid caught the lightning rod which led from the steeple to the ground, and tore it down, melting the ends: from thence it passed to the body of the Church, and literally traversed it in all directions, running along beams, knocking off plaster, and tearing up the flooring. Fortunately the building was not fired, but it has been shaken to its very foundation. The estimated injury we have not learned.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

BIOLOGY TRIUMPHANTLY USEFUL.—We have just heard of the first useful application of this science to surgery. William Corrigan, farmer of Valcartier, had a large portion of the jaw-bone removed in a diseased state (*osteosarcoma*)—this morning, under its influence, without feeling or evincing the slightest sense of pain, although otherwise in full possession of his mental faculties. This we are informed is one of the most painful operations of surgery. The biological operation originated with, and was effected by Dr. Marsden, and the surgical operation by Dr. James Douglas, in the presence of Drs. Fremont and Hall, and a number of persons.—*Quebec Gazette, of the 10th.*

A FACT FOR FARMERS.—Dr. R. T. Baldwin has recently made known the result of three or four years' investigations and experiments upon manures, and various ways of fertilizing the soil. He states that the best and speediest way to fertilize any soil is to cover it over with straw, bushes, or any raw material, so as to completely shade it. The surface of the earth, thus being made cool, dark, damp, and close, soon undergoes a chemical process like putrefaction, and becomes highly fertilized. This plan of fertilizing, he says, may be applied with success to any soil whatever, no matter how poor, and the result will be astonishing.

UNITED STATES.

BUFFALO, Jan. 30.—*Awful Steamboat Accident.*—Over 100 lives lost. The steamer Jno. Adams, bound from New Orleans for Cincinnati, sunk yesterday at 3 o'clock, near Greenville. In five minutes afterwards her cabin parted from her hull and broke in two. All the deck passengers, numbering over 100 were lost; also the deck hands and firemen, excepting two. None of the cabin passengers were lost, though they did not succeed in saving any of their baggage.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 1.—Some further particulars have been received as to the loss of the John Adams, steamer. The hull sunk in two minutes, in sixty feet water. The number of souls on board was 230—of whom about sixteen cabin passengers, eighty-two deck passengers, and twenty-five of the crew were lost. It was about three o'clock in the morning, and they were nearly all in bed. The deck passengers were Californians, and German and Irish emigrants bound for Cincinnati.

MAINE RAILWAY.—Messrs. S. Wood & Co., have contracted to erect the whole line of Railway between Waterville and Bangor, for \$1,200,000, and have engaged to complete it by the 1st of June, 1852. It is likewise confidently expected that the whole line to the New Brunswick boundary will be completed about that time.—*Observer.*

A HEAVY DRAFT.—The largest draft ever drawn by the Post Office Department was drawn on Wednesday last, in this city. It was in favour of the English Government, to balance the postage account, and amounts to \$187,000.—*N. Y. Post.*

The total number of miles of Railroad in operation in the United States, at the beginning of the present year, was 8,797, which cost to build them \$26,455,070.

A shock of an earthquake was felt throughout Calais, Me., at half past 5 o'clock on Thursday last, producing a rumbling and rattling sound, which lasted about fifty seconds.—*New Brunswick 10th.*

The bridge over the Allegheny, from Pittsburgh, has been destroyed by fire. It cost \$75,000, and was insured for \$20,000.

The British Consul for South Carolina is endeavouring to induce that State to abolish the law under which coloured seamen are imprisoned upon arriving there. The matter has been laid before the State Legislature.

GAS BURNERS.—Mr. Andrews, of Cincinnati, has made an improvement in gas burners. It consists in this: an additional burner attached to

the one now in use, but leaving an opening doubly as large for the escape of gas. The gas, rushing out of the small orifice now in use, expands in the larger tube, where it becomes rarified by the heat of the flame, and the gas, flowing with less force, is all ignited, giving a much larger flame, and consequently a much greater light. It is a much of the gas, forced, by the head necessarily kept on it, through the small aperture of the present burner, escapes unconsumed, inflicting more what is deemed to be smoke. A trial of the improvement will show at once the great additional light obtained.—*Burritt's Christian Citizen.*

PERJURY AND FORGERY.—Jesse Porter, aged 23, and his son Dennis, of Waterbury, Conn., have been bound over in the sum of \$5000 for forging deeds of conveyance to them of the estate of Joseph Porter, who died in 1848, leaving \$20,000 worth of property. The old manperished much affected during the investigation. He is said to be worth from \$25,000 to \$40,000. His son, Dennis, has not a good reputation.—*lb.*

Amongst the articles announced for sale in one of the week's auctions, we perceive an article entitled a *Mahogany child's chair*. The father of this wonderful infant must have been of the Wood family.—*lb.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.—The declared value of British Woollen Manufactures exported from the United Kingdom in 1849, according to the Parliamentary returns, was £7,342,723, or over \$36,000,000. The quantity of wool, foreign and colonial, imported in the same period, was 75,113,347 lbs., of which 12,234,415 were re-exported. There were also imported 1,655,300 lbs. of Alpaca and Lama wool, of which 126,083 lbs. were re-exported; and 2,530,038 lbs. of goats' wool or Mohair, of which 130,145 lbs. were re-exported.

Mr. Wm. Kennedy, of Kingston, latterly of Sangame, has proceeded to New York on his way to England at the request of Lady Franklin, to assist in the search for her lost Sir John. Mr. Kennedy some time ago proposed a plan of search which it appears has at length been adopted. From his experience in Arctic journeying and his vigour both of body and mind, and remarkable firmness of character, we think the choice could not have been better made. May his labours be attended with success.—*Quebec Gazette.*

The Portsmouth (Eng.) Times states that there is now living in that town a man named Wade, 119 years old, who sailed twice round the world with Capt. Cook, and was with him in the South Seas when he was killed. He was wounded in the arm by a spear in the conflict which proved fatal to that famous navigator, and is thought to be the only man now living who sailed with Captain Cook.

The cost of powder alone for a single discharge of the armament of a line of battle ship of 120 guns is upwards of £20. The cost for powder alone for the firing of a morning and evening gun exceeds £100 a year.

DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE.—A Newcastle paper gives the following interesting fact illustrative of the rapid spread of intellectual culture among a large and deserving class of the population:—A bookseller in the market, recently had upon his stall 10 copies of Emerson's work on Fluxions, all of which he sold at 7s. 6d. a copy to pitmen. He said, they were by far his best customers, and that a standard mathematical work never laid long on his stall. On a subsequent day, at the same stall, there were three men; one bought a work on algebra, another requested a Greek delectus, the third was pursuing a Spanish grammar. These three were all hewers of coal.

A prefatorial notice in the new edition of Major-General Napier's History of War in the Peninsula, states that the gallant author is indebted to Lady Napier, his wife, not only for the arrangement and translation of an enormous pile of official correspondence written in three languages, but for that which is far more extraordinary, the elucidation of the secret cypher of Jerome Bonaparte and others, by her own untiring perseverance and labour. The value which this discovery has been to the history, speaks for itself; but in this, as in a thousand other instances, the honour is due to the woman, whose simple trust and patient endurance read the other sex a lesson day by day, which they will do well to follow, and strive to imitate.

Railways are now a prominent topic in Spain. The Madrid and Aranjuez Railway was opened by a special train on the 12th; and although the day was rainy, the bridge and principal works were shown to the guests. The engineers and parties employed are all Spaniards. Mr. Locke's assistants, appointed to make the surveys for the Austrian Railway, have left for Paris to meet him, and furnish him with the information for drawing up his report. The Madrid and Valencia Railway is at present being surveyed by French capitalists. The Barcelona Railway continues to work well.—*Architect.*

Lord Brougham recently lectured at the Academy of Sciences, Paris, when he read a paper on light, which excited much attention.

Several colliers from Kilmarnock have been hired by the Hudson's Bay Company to proceed to Vancouver's Island in order to work the coal mines.