

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

The election of Mayor by the Common Council at St. John, N. B., took place on Tuesday, when Alderman Harding was unanimously chosen. This gentleman has been a member of the Board for a period of over forty years, and his elevation to the Mayoralty is considered by the public as an act of justice for his long servitude.—*New Brunswick.*

REVOLT AND DESERTION OF SOLDIERS.—Early on Thursday morning, the Corporal's guard, consisting of nine men, stationed at the Ordnance Stores, Lower Cove, deserted in a body, carrying off their arms with them. The affair must have been previously arranged, as at a given signal, they seized the Corporal and bound his arms and legs, and gagged him by thrusting a piece of broom-stick in his mouth, and tying it around his head, to prevent him from making the least noise. They then started, taking their muskets with them, but the course they took has not yet been ascertained. It is most probable they went by water, in an open boat, and ere this have no doubt reached the United States, but if pursued and discovered they can be taken under the Ashburton treaty. It is seldom that we have to record so cool and daring a revolt among the Military stationed in these Colonies.—*Id.* 10th.

We learn from the Miramichi Gleaner that the navigation of that river is open, and that several vessels have arrived, and a number were reported below fast in the ice. A very large quantity of ice is reported along the north shore, driven there from the St. Lawrence and Labrador, by the long continuation of easterly winds.

ST. ANDREW'S AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.—The annual general meeting of the stockholders of the St. Andrew's and Quebec Railway Company was held on the 6th inst. A statement of the proceeding, from which we learn that the grading of ten miles of the line has nearly been completed. This includes a substantial pile bridge over an arm of the sea contiguous to St. Andrew's, called Kary's Cove, which spans 550 feet, and is ready for the rails. The actual expenditure of the Board up to this period, is £33,000. This embraces a large amount for surveying and engineering expended on the route through to Woodstock previous to the letting of any portion of the line. The Directors have estimated the engineering expenses apart from the general outlay, and feel confident that, exclusive of these expenses, the amount already laid out on the part of the Company has not exceeded £3,000 per mile. This sum will be understood to cover the cost of locomotive, tender, rail, bridges, &c. and in fact the whole outlay of the road for the ten miles under contract. From the report of Mr. Light, the engineer of the Company, and other engineers preceding that gentleman, as to the local character of the line between St. Andrew's and Woodstock, and its adaptation to railways, the Directors feel confident that the remainder of the road will not exceed \$10,000 per mile.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE ST. JOHN.—In the House of Assembly, on the 29th ult., the following resolution was passed on motion of Mr. Partelow:—

Whereas the construction of a bridge over the River St. John, at or near the Grand Falls, would be of great public utility and advantage, and indeed it has become a measure of absolute necessity since the establishment of the boundary line between the State of Maine and this Province under the Treaty of Washington; Therefore Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to bring the subject under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and beg the sanction of Her Majesty's Government for the appropriation of such part of the surplus Civil List Fund towards the erection of such bridge as will effect the accomplishment of so desirable an object.—*Courier*, 10th.

BUREAUCRAT.—The Provincial Government have opened Buctouche as a free port for foreign trade, and Mr. Peter McPhelin, sen., has been appointed Deputy Treasurer and Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws there. The opening of these small ports on various parts of the coast of the Province is a great accommodation to the trade at the Out-Bays, and a decided improvement on the old system of having so few free ports.—*Id.*

By the last Mail from England a copy of a new work by Professor Johnston was received—"Notes on North America, Agricultural, Social and Economical." From a hasty glance over the contents of this work, we are inclined to think that it will prove of more service in giving New Brunswick a high place as a field for farming emigrants from Great Britain than anything that has hitherto been done. New Brunswick, its resources, its people, their manners and habits, occupy more than half the work, and as the notice taken of us is highly favourable, it must produce a good result.—*Id.*

Canada.

RAILWAY MEETING AT QUEBEC.—A public meeting was held at Quebec on the 29th ult., in favour of the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway. There were about 300 persons present, for the most part of the highest respectability, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. The *Morning Chronicle* says:—The news was the great theme on which the speakers all loved to dwell. Gratitude to England was on every

tongue, the praises of Mr. Howe on every lip. Even Mr. Young came in for a meed of praise and the important services of Lord Durham were not forgotten; indeed they were made honourable mention of by one fully competent to do it, the Hon. Mr. Black.

Among the Resolutions, we give the following as the most important:—

Resolved,—That the citizens of Quebec acknowledge with gratitude the liberal offer of the Imperial Government contained in the despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary for the Colonies of the 14th March last, in regard to the contemplated Railroad from Halifax to Quebec, as affording most satisfactory evidence that the Mother Country, while not unmindful of its own political and commercial welfare, is at the same time most anxious to promote the prosperity of its North American Colonies, by assisting in the development of their vast internal resources.

Resolved,—That in as much as a Railroad between Halifax, Quebec and Montreal, would open a direct communication from Canada to the Ocean during all seasons of the year extending the means of transport now afforded by our canals in the summer and entirely superseding them in the winter, such an undertaking, being eminently one of a national character, ought, like our great canals, to be accomplished at the expense of the public treasuries of the Provinces.

Resolved,—That this meeting expressed the hope that the other Provinces who are equally interested with Canada in the realization of this great enterprise will not render it impossible by refusing their concurrence, or by imposing conditions which cannot be accepted.

Resolved,—That a committee draft a Petition founded upon the said Resolutions, to be presented to the three Branches of the Legislature praying them to adopt without delay such measures as they may deem calculated to meet the views of the Imperial Government and to place the Provincial Government in a condition to enter with all possible diligence upon this great undertaking, and that His Worship the Mayor be respectfully requested to sign and transmit the same to His Excellency the Governor-General and the two Houses of Parliament.

FATAL FIRE AT CLARENCEVILLE.—On Sunday, the 20th ult., a most melancholy and fatal accident occurred at Clarenceville, Caldwell's Manor. It appears that during the time of religious worship, the house of Mr. Harrington was discovered to be on fire. The alarm soon spread, and the people in the Churches and elsewhere were soon on the spot. Every effort was made to save the moveable property; to save the building was impossible. A young man of the name of Hunter, son of Mr. Hunter, who resides on Missiquoi Bay, west shore, when attempting to reach some article of property the door of the room closed, at the same instant the roof of the building fell in, and enveloped him in flames from which there was no escape. He was burned to death. It would be in vain to attempt any description of the emotions of the bystanders. They could render no assistance, and a fine young man, probably about 21 years of age, was burnt to death before their eyes. He was so completely destroyed by fire that only a few charred bones and the inwards could be recovered for his sorrowing and bereaved parents to consign to the grave.—*Montreal Gazette*.

A great fire in Galt has destroyed from \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of property.

The Agency of the Gore Bank, at St. Thomas, has been robbed of £1,000 in bills and £50 in gold.

The late Secretary of General Kossuth is delivering lectures on Chemistry in Toronto.

Prince Edward Island.

APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments have been made:—

Hon. Joseph Pope, to be Treasurer, in the room of the Hon. Charles Hensley, resigned.

Hon. Stephen Rice, to be a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council in this Island.

And to nominate James C. Pope, Esq. to be Controller of Navigation Laws, in the room of the Hon. Joseph Pope appointed to the Treasury.

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—On Tuesday last the 6th inst., Mr. Arthur Agassiz, Elliot River, went down a Well on his premises, by means of a rope, and a stick tied in the centre, for the purpose of getting up a bucket, and while there, was suddenly seized with a fit—of which he was subject—and fell into the water, then seven and a half feet deep, and before his servants, who were at the mouth of the well, could obtain assistance, he perished. Mr. Agassiz was a native of Exeter, England, and, with his mother, came to this Island in the Spring of 1850, and purchased a beautiful property of Mr. Simpson, Elliot River, where he was residing at the time of the melancholy accident.—*Islander* 9th.

ARTICLES DUTY FREE.—From His Excellency's Proclamation:—Whereas it has been officially made known to me that the articles hereinafter enumerated, the growth or production of this Island, are admitted free of duty, into the Province of Nova Scotia, *videlicet*:—Grain and Breadstuffs of all kinds and description, Vegetables, Fruits, Seeds, Hay and Straw, Animals, Salted and Fresh Meats, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Tallow, Hides, Horns, Wool, undressed Skins and Furs of all kinds, Ores of all kinds, Iron in Pigs and Blooms, Copper, Lead in Pigs, Grindstones and Stones of all kinds, Earth, Coal, Lime, Ochres, Gypsum (ground and unground,) Rock Salt, Wood, Timber and Lumber of all kinds, Firewood, Ashes, Fish, Fish Oil, *videlicet*:—Train Oil, Spermacei Oil, Head Matter and Blubber, Fins and Skins, the Produce of Fish or creatures

living in the Sea: I do therefore hereby proclaim and declare, that the like Articles, the growth or production of the Province of Nova Scotia, when imported direct from the said Province, shall until the first day of May 1852, be admitted free of Duty into this Island.

West Indies.

HAYTI.—The schr. C. H. Hale, at N. York, from St. Domingo, reports that quite a commotion has been occasioned at Cape Haytien, and in consequence of the desertion of Prince Bobo, who had gone into the interior to raise forces for the purpose of supplanting the Black Emperor, Faustin the First. In about six days Bobo returned with 20 men. With these he approached the gates of the city of Cape Haytien, where he gained an accession of 40 others.

This force being too small to warrant success in case of attack, he then withdrew and led off into the mountains. All this was done without molestation, the people of that place having no authority from Port au Prince to act in opposition to him.

At about the time of sailing, Capt. Colkey was informed by the American Consul, Mr. Wilson, that an army had then been ten days on a march towards Cape Haytien, probably to settle the disturbance. He also stated his intention of sailing with his family in about a week or ten days for Philadelphia. So great was the panic caused by these movements, that the Custom House had been closed, and business was in some measure suspended.

From Jamaica we have accounts to the 23d. The Cholera has again broken out in the parish of Hanover and also made its appearance in Westmoreland.

TRINIDAD.—Three smart shocks of Earthquake were felt on the morning of the 8th. The census of the whole Island was just completed, showing the population to be 36,349.

TRINIDAD.—The Legislative Council had the important subject of Education under deliberation it having been brought before the Council by a message from the Governor. The manufacture of Sugar was progressing rapidly. The Cocoa Crop had closed, with a falling off in quantity as compared with last year's return.

St. VINCENT.—Trade was very languid, and, altho' ground provisions were scarce, no advance in the price of breadstuffs had taken place. The weather was very favourable for sugar making.

GUAYANA.—The sugar crop was expected to yield this year 2000 hogheads more than it did in the last year.

TURKS ISLAND.—The session of the Legislature was opened on the 9th by Pres. Forth who congratulated the Council on the satisfactory state of the Revenue, there being a surplus of upwards of £1200. The salt crop of 1850 was 238,320 bushels less than that of 1849.

UNITED STATES.

STEAMBOAT DISASTER!—A despatch from Vicksburg, dated the 3d inst., says that the steamboat Webster took fire the day previous, 100 miles above that place, and was burned to the water's edge. The number of passengers and hands on board was about one hundred, of whom only about sixty could be found; the rest are supposed to have perished with the boat. It was with difficulty that any of the females could be saved, many of them being separated from their husbands and friends. The flames spread with great rapidity, and the scene was terrible in the extreme.

A CHURCH BURNED.—A despatch from Pittsburgh, dated the 6th, says, that St. Paul's Cathedral, which is the largest church edifice in that city, was then in flames, and it was feared would be totally destroyed.

OCEAN STEAMERS.—Seventeen Ocean steamers are announced to sail from the ports of New York, Boston and Philadelphia, during the month of May. Of these eight are for Liverpool, three for Chagres, one for Southampton and Bremen, one for Southampton and Havre, one for Bermuda and St. Thomas, and one for New Orleans, Savannah and Charleston.

A destructive fire broke out in Cincinnati on the 3d inst, which destroyed about 20 buildings, causing a very heavy loss. The city is dreadfully infested with thieves, and it is thought the fire was the work of an incendiary.

The largest individual tax paid in New York is by William B. Astor. Last year he paid into the City Treasury the sum of twenty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-one dollars, for taxes. The assessed value of his property in the city is \$2,060,300.

BALTIMORE, May 5.—The New Orleans mail of 2nd ult., has arrived. Gov. Quitman, Generals O'Hara, Lopez and Gonzales are announced in Savannah papers as leaders of the Cuba expedition, and they were mustering forces in that State.

SLEIGHING IN MAY.—A despatch from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, dated the 6th instant, says, that snow fell there the day previous to the depth of 18 inches, and that it was then fine sleighing.

The steamship Georgia, via Havana, arrived at New York, on 6th inst., from Chagres, with the California mails. She had \$1,500,000 in gold and 500 passengers. The Georgia left Havana on the 1st instant.

There was great excitement in Havana in relation to the expected invasion, and every approaching steamer and vessel were looked upon with suspicion. Many persons have been arrest-

ed on suspicion of being concerned in the anticipated invasion and attempt to overturn the government; and these persons have been thrust into prison—among them are three priests. One man has been executed after having been subject to severe tortures for the purpose of getting from him a confession.

A row occurred between some American seamen and the inhabitants of Havana, when the seamen were arrested and their heads put into the stocks, where they were so ill treated that two of them subsequently died.

The fourth of the Chagres murderers has been arrested at Porto Cabello and brought to Panama, where he was confined in prison. The Georgia reports that they were all to be shot in a few days.

The railroad will, it is said, be finished to Gorgona by the last of July if the weather continued good.

Chagres was healthy. The inhabitants have established a regular police, and life and property are much more safe than they have been heretofore.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31st, 1851.—Lumber continues inactive and the additions to the stock on hand fully equals the sales. There is little probability of any advance for some months. A heavy business for the latter part of next month is confidently anticipated.

Financial affairs of the city are in a most favourable condition.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A VISIT TO A MEXICAN CATHEDRAL.—A correspondent of the Washington Union, writing from the city of Mexico, says:—

"One day last week I spent a whole morning (six hours) in examining the Cathedral, and its treasures. By special favour, they showed us everything, among others the custodian, in which the consecrated host is exposed on certain occasions. It cost \$200,000, but is worth \$500,000; and you will not wonder at this when I inform you that it is full four feet high, made of solid gold, and studded with precious stones. The pedestal is a foot and a half square, inlaid with diamonds and rubies. At each corner is the golden figure of an angel, exquisitely carved. Around his waist and neck are strings of the finest pearls. His wings are inlaid or covered with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. In his right hand he holds sheaves of wheat, made of yellow topaz; in his left bunches of grapes made of amethysts. The shaft is also studded with diamonds and rubies. The upper part, containing the host, is made to represent the sun, and is a foot and a half in circumference; the rays that emanate on one side are made entirely of diamonds of the first water, beginning with some of large size, and gradually tapering off. The cross that surrounds the top is also, on this side, made of diamonds, and is superb. On the other side, both the cross and the rays are of the most beautiful emeralds—perhaps larger than the diamonds."

SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.—Professor Mapes, editor of the Working Farmer, has raised 1,500 bushels of parsnips per acre, 900 bushels of carrots per acre, and 800 bushels of turnips per acre, by proper preparation of the soil. He also instances a farmer in Freehold, N. J., who raised last season about 5,000 cabbages on half an acre, the sales of which were at the rate of \$500 per acre.

COST OF COMMERCE.—Muscovado sugar in Cuba and pork in Illinois are usually about the same price. Yet in Illinois it usually takes about four pounds of pork to buy one of sugar, while in Cuba one pound of pork is worth about four pounds of sugar. The carriers and custom house officers get about three fourths of the produce each way for effecting the exchange. It would be worth while for the consumer to inquire how much of this cost is produced by the unnecessary expense of government.

SOMNAMBULISM IN CHURCH.—During the services in the Tabernacle Church on Sunday evening last a boy about twelve years of age, who was in the sleeping state, arose from his seat in the congregation, and steadily walked up the main aisle to the platform surrounding the pulpit, where he stumbled and fell. He readily regained his perpendicular, and stepped up into the pulpit, and grasped the officiating minister by the hand. Some gentlemen near him soon saw that he was in the somnambulist state, and quietly conducted him back to the seat from whence he came.—*St. Louis Times*.

REFINED TASTE.—A wealthy Creole lady, of Royal-st., who keeps her carriage, and perhaps livery servants, but notwithstanding these external, must not be overburdened with brains, nor very discriminate, despatched her servant with a note to Jenny Lind, a few days since, requesting Jenny Lind to call and see her; that she desired to look on her; to examine the lady, we presume, as she would an animal she contemplated purchasing. Miss Lind, without appearing to feel annoyed, by the uncourteous request, placed a very diminutive lap-dog on a large salver and told the servant she might take it to her mistress, as it was handsomer than she (Jenny) was, and better worth looking at. The above we have from a reliable source.—*Orleanian*.

Capt. Wilkes, of the United States Exploring Expedition to the Antarctic Seas, has just received an elegant gold medal from the British Government, as an acknowledgment that he was the true discoverer of a disputed continent.

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