St. John, 23d January, 1843.

Mr. Editor.—Among the inquiries to be encountered in this age of wonders, I meet with none more frequent, and, at times, more puzzling, having a small elevation upon my head which phrenologists would call "the bump of caution," than the question "what do you think of Mesmerism?"—Really, sir, it is difficult to meet a lady in the street, or to turn one's head an inch to the right or left at a public meeting, without hearing "and pray, sir what is *your* opinion about this new and wonderful discovery?" Now to some men, I confess, this question presents no difficulty: as quick as thought they reply, "why it is all a humbug." Others with equal promptness respond, "it is a most important discovery, and likely to lead to very surprising results." But there is a third class of men, who either not having had the opportunity of investigating the matter fully, or who being less capable of "gaining remote conclusions at a jump," are not a little perplexed at this teazing question. Now sir, as I am one of this last class, and really wish to know what answer to give my inquirers, it has occurred to me that it would be a good plan to propose two or three simple propositions upon the subject, through the medium of your paper, and to beg of some scientific person, who has calmly investigated the subject, to throw light upon the points they refer to. I propose then, rather in the way of inquiry than as matters which I am pledged to substantiate, the following very simple propositions:

1. The testimony of credible witnesses to matters of fact ought to be received.

2. Those are to be deemed credible witnesses who are persons of acknowledged veracity and prudence, and who have had adequate opportunity of witnessing the facts they attest.

3. Various phenomena of a very remarkable kind, attendant upon the physical and metaphysical conditions of persons under the mesmeric influence, are thus attested.

4. Satisfactory evidence has *not* been adduced to shew that all these phenomena can result from the influence of the imagination upon the nervous system.

I am, sir, &c.

VIGIL.

United States.

Steam Navigation.—According to the information which has come to us from a source that may be relied on, Portland is to be the centre of far more extensive arrangements in regard to steam Navigation the coming season than heretofore. Two additional boats are to be brought on,—the Charter Oak, well known to travellers on the Sound, as one of the finest boats that ever swam, and a new boat now being built under the superintendence of the experienced firm of Lawrence & Sneeden of New York—to be called the Penobscot. The Charter Oak is very large and convenient, being 230 feet in length—and for strength and speed has few equals. She can easily make the trip from this port to Boston in *eight hours!* The new boat is to be fitted expressly for a sea route. She is to be 190 feet in lenght, 26 feet beam, and 10 feet hold. Engine 11 feet stroke and 42 inch cylinder.—The latest improvements in regard to machinery, internal and external arrangements, are to be adopted, and no pains are to be spared in making her a perfect model of a boat.

In connection with the line from Bangor to this place and Boston, a boat is to be employed on the route from St. John, Eastport, and Calais,—touching at some intermediate point in this State, hereafter to be selected. Which of the boats are to be run on the Penobscot and Boston route, has not as yet, we believe, been settled.

Operations will commence as early as practicable in the spring.—*Portland Bulletin.*

The Oregon Bill.—This Bill, as ordered to be engrossed for a third reading in the Senate, provides

1st. For a chain of forts, not exceeding five, from the Missouri, or Arkansas river, to some point on the Columbia river.

2d. For grants of 640 acres to every settler in the Oregon, who shall cultivate the same for five consecutive years, and 160 additional acres for the wife and each child (under the age of eighteen.) of such settler.

3d. For the appointment of two Indian agencies in the Oregon.

4th. For the extension, to a certain extent, of the jurisdiction of the Courts of Iowa, over the Oregon settlers.

An Act Worthy of all Praise.—A mercantile firm in this city, extensively engaged in business, became embarrassed in 1837, and settled with their creditors by paying sixty cents on the dollar. They recommenced business, and fortune has since smiled upon their undertakings, insomuch that on Monday they sent as a "new year's gift" to each of their creditors, the balance, forty per cent, amounting in the aggregate to about fifteen thousand dollars!

It is such acts as these, which redeem human nature from the charge of culpable selfishness, which is so often urged. It may be, that such acts are not very rare in our community—but we wish that they were more frequently.—*Boston Merc. Journal.*

It seems by a paragraph in the New Orleans Picayune of the 27th ult. that a reinforcement of one hundred and forty-eight Mormons had arrived in that city in the ship Emerald, from Liverpool

Naval.—We understand that orders have just been received at this naval station, to get ready for sea, with all despatch, the frigate Potomac, and the and the new frigate Cumberland, now lying at the Navy Yard. It is said that the frigate Savannah, in New York, will also be got ready for sea without delay.—*Boston Merc. Joounal.*

Hogs were selling at Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 9th ult. at $1,62 a $1, 87 per hundred. Lard was selling at 4½ cents per pound.

Commerce of 1842.—According to statements of the Register of Treasury, which accompanies the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the amount of the value of imports to the United States in the year ending September 30, 1842, was $99,537,399; and the amount of exports $104,117,960. Of the latter, $11,558,831 in value consisted in foreign products, and $92,559,089 of domestic produce. These statements, so far as they regard the items for the last quarter of the year, are founded partly on estimates.

This amount of imports is less than in any year since 1830, and what is a more striking proof of the diminution of business, although this year followed two years of diminished imports, the amount is less by $34,000,000 than the average of annual imports for the preceding ten years.

The falling off of exports in 1842, compared with those of preceding years, was not so great as that of imports. The amount however was less than in any year for the last preceding eight years. The amount of duties raised in 1842 was greater than might have been expected, viz; $8,260,830. This amount is larger than that of duties received in either of the two preceding years, and larger than the receipts in any of the preceding eight years with three exceptions.—*Boston Daily Adv.*

Washington, Jan. 3.—I observed to-day the new steamer Union from the windows of the Capitol. Hunter's new war steamer the Union passing down the east branch from the Navy yard to the Potomac, on her first experimental trial before proceeding to sea. She passed slowly down the narrow and intricate channel to the Potomac, but soon after put about and returned to the Yard. I believe that some slight accident to her machinery occasioned her return. This ship is a great novelty in every respect. She has the appearance of a vessel of two or three hundred tons, though she measures something over eleven hundred, so deceptive is her appearance. She is upwards of 180 feet long, about 30 feet extreme width on deck, very sharp built without bulwarks, but with a light moveable iron rail instead, and carries four 62 pounder Paixan guns, worked on a pivot. She is flush deck without wheel house or any other incumbrances or interruptions to perfect symmetry, carries three short masts without yards and with very little rigging. Her draught is about eleven feet with everything on board. Notwithstanding her extreme sharpness of build it is thought that she will prove a good sea vessel, being flat bottomed, and some eighteen or twenty feet across her floor. Her whole appearance is most singular, and is more like the "long, low, black" piratical looking craft which are never seen except inCooper's and other naval stories when they perform such astonishing deeds. Her paddles, however, are the great novelty of the ship. I regret that I have not at hand the means of describing them minutely accurately. They are placed in the sides of the ship under water near her bottom work horizontally and partly inclosed in a case, the paddles or buckets projecting about twenty two inches outside the ship. The buckets are inserted into the outer circumference of an iron cylinder made water tight, (which constitutes the axis of the wheel) five feet in diameter and of about the same depth. The engine is an improved one and high pressure. It is thought that this will prove a successful experiment—if so it will be the greatest improvement in the means of naval warfare in the age.—It is thought not unlikely by some that it will prove that the engine and wheels are too small for a ship of her size and carrying so much weight, but at present all is mere conjecture. She is now under orders for a cruise to New Orleans and up the Mississippi, and perhaps the Ohio to Louisville.—*New York Tribune.*

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 27, 1843.

The English Mail, which was despatched from Liverpool 4th January, arrived here yesterday morning. The steamer had a long and stormy passage of 18 and a half days to Halifax. We have copied below the principal items of intelligence contained in the British papers.

LONDON, Jan. 3.

The income tax is still very unpopular, and the hatred of it increases daily. Meetings have been held in London, and elsewhere, to petition for its repeal. Now that the war in China and Affghanistan have terminated, it ought, the people think, to be repealed.

Lord Huntingtower, who contrived to incur liabilities to the extent of £200,000 before he was 21 years of age, has been remanded.

Five large steam frigates, it is said, are now building at Blackwall, London, for the Emperor of Russia, to be used in the Black Sea for the prosecution of the war against the Circassians. One of the steam frigates is now completed.

The Duke of Wellington had a very narrow escape from choking a few days back at dinner, in consequence of one of the small bones of a partridge sticking in his throat. Had it not been forced down it would have killed him.

The Royal Mail Steamship Acadia, arrived at Liverpool on the 16th ult.; and the Columbia on the 29th.

There was another destructive fire at Liverpool, on Thursday morning the 22d ult. The fire commenced in a turpentine distillery in Parliament street. "This distillery was flanked by two extensive warehouses, one of which was filled with cotton, the other with hemp and grain, the communication with the distillery on each side, being kept up through the ground belonging to the latter, with ranges of barrels filled with resin and turpentine, which were piled several yards high. The two warehouses were of great depth, their ends being presented to both Greenland-street and Parliament-street, while the side of the eastern one extended along Newhall-street, and of the western one along Jamaica-street. The fire broke out in the very centre of this area, which is bounded on the north and south by Greenland street and Parliament st., and on the east and west by Newhall street and Jamaica street. It spread till all the buildings included within that area, not less than 3300 square yards in extent were destroyed. The loss from this disastrous event will be very considerable—not less it is feared than from sixty to seventy thousand pounds

The insurrection in Barcelona appears to have been instigated by France. Espartero has ordered a contribution of twelve millions of reals to be levied upon the inhabitants of Barcelona, with a view to rebuild that portion of the citadel which was demolished last year, and as a reparation to the wives and families of the soldiers slain in the [illegible]

Mount Etna has been in a state of eruption since the 26th November.

The Marquis of Anglesea is to succeed the late Lord Hill in the colonelcy of the Blues; and Sir Edward Kerrison, from the 14th Light Dragoons, will succeed the noble marquis in the command of the 7th Hussars.—*Globe.*

The Town Council of Liverpool on the 14th ult. refused, by a majority of 39 to 30, to give the children of the Catholic poor a secular education in the corporation schools.

Sir Robert and Lady Sale are to have £500 per annum, with benefit of survivorship, for services in India.

On the 27th ult. Sir Alexander Croke, many years Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Nova Scotia, died at his seat, Studley Prior, Oxfordshire, at the advanced age of 84 years.

Sir Robert Peel has given £150 of what is termed the Royal Bounty to Mrs. Dwyer, sister of the late Sir Sydney Smith, who is in very indigent circumstances, and her son, who has been bred to the sea, has received a situation on board the Thunderbolt.

Fight between the "American Giant" and Tipton Slasher.—Freeman, who is known in this country by the *sobriquet* of the "American giant," is upwards of seven feet in height, 18 stone weight, and 23 years of age, has been pitted in a boxing match against "Tipton Slasher," a powerful man also, and who claims to be the champion of England. The first time the belligerents met, Freeman had the advantage, but night terminated the sport without deciding the battle. They met again on the 15th ult., but owing to the interference of the magistrates and the police, the object was frustrated. They met again on the 20th, near Gravesend, on the Thames, about twenty miles below London, whither they proceeded in a steam-boat, hired for the occasion, accompanied by about 400 of the "fancy," each of whom paid two dollars and a half for the passage. Freeman, the American, was attended by Tom Spring, who acted as his second, and the "Tipton slasher" by Johnny Broome, who officiated for his friend in a similar capacity. They fought thirty-seven rounds in thirty-nine minutes. The fight throughout was in favour of Freeman, who was superior in height, in muscular power, and in activity, to his opponent. The "slasher" often dropped down to avoid the American's blows, and, indeed, the fight was prematurely brought to a conclusion by one of these ingenious feints on his part to avoid punishment. The referee, when appealed to, pronounced it *foul*, and the stakes amounting to £200, were given up to Freeman. The punishment on either side was not severe. A popular sporting paper has the following remarks on the issue:—"The match was unequal, and the difference in the size of the man left no room for speculation on the issue. Every body foresaw that the giant must be triumphant, notwithstanding he fought badly: in fact, he did not hit at points, and missed most of his well-intentioned, but ill-directed blows, from the shifty character of his opponent, as well as from his own wild and uncertain mode of delivery. He hits round with his right, as the "slasher's" ear testified, and his left-handed deliveries are more like pokes than punishing hits. That he is a game man we have no doubt, but he is too unwieldy, and possesses too much of the "milk of human kindness" ever to become a "star" in the ring, even if his equal could be found." It may be observed that this fight has caused great interest throughout the country, and that it will go a long way to revive a barbarous and during the last twenty years, almost obsolete "sport."

General sir W. Nott, G. C. B., the hero of Candahar and Ghuznee, is the son of a respectable innkeeper at Carmarthen, who kept the Ivy Bush in that town. General Nott, when a lad, assisted in husbandry operations, ploughing and harrowing with his own hands.

Friday night's Gazette announces that the Poor law Commissioners have appointed sir Francis Hastings Doyle, Bart. of the Inner Temple, barrister at law, a Commissioner to inquire into the employment of women and children in agriculture.

The Revenue.—It is stated in quarters likely to be well informed, that the official returns of the revenue to the 5th January, 1843, will exhibit a fearful deficiency—much larger than was shown by the returns of the preceding quarter.—*Globe.*

Willmer's News Letter in speaking of the Message of the President of the United States, in which he complains that the United States cannot effect a Loan in Europe, makes the following remarks:—

"Whatever diversity of opinion may be entertained by the Americans on the merits of President Tyler's Message. In England unbounded astonishment is expressed at his effrontery in complaining of the impossibility of negociating a loan with any nation in Europe. This avowal was useless, because all the world was aware of the fact—it was impolitic, because it authoritively acknowledges the existence of a state of discredit which it had been prudent to deny or to screen, and it was pitiful, because the flattering excuse with which it is sought to explain away the ignominious condition into which America had sank the President must have known that it was a silly artifice, and a transparent fraud. It is not because of the 'indebtedness' of the States that Europe refused to assist them. It is because of their repeated attempts to continue that 'indebtedness.' It is not because it is feared that America is absolutely unable to meet her engagements, that no one will stretch out a hand to help her, but it is because it is known she is resolutely unwilling to discharge them. Her capabilities are cheerfully admitted, her inclination stoutly denied. There never was a subject on which the English public were so unequivocally unanimous. Mr. Tyler seems to consider that the Republic over which he by accident presides, is hardly treated, and grossly and gratuitously insulted. Does he suppose that those losses are already retrieved which the stoppage of the United States Bank entailed on this country? Crippling its resources, embezzling its treasure and paralyzing its strength. Of course it is idle to suppose that the absolute abstraction of the millions, out of which, by fair promises and false quotations. Europe was cajoled, is either felt, remembered, or resented. The Eastern world is too magunanimous to complain. 'Honest indignation' is a vice to which Europeans are not prone. Their destiny is, that they are born to be mercilessly pillaged, and what right have they to murmur against their inevitable fate. To be unblushingly robbed is the avowed doom of confiding Europe, and the States are the chosen instruments of the unerring decree. There is one omission of which every one complains. Why did not the federal government, if it really was aggrieved, volunteer to guarantee the debts of the several states? That course would have been manly and noble. If the congress refused to support the President in enforcing the pledge, his personal honour would have been unstained; and to John Tyler would have been accorded the universal homage which unflinching honesty invariably claims. How does he know that the proposition would have been rejected had it emanated from himself. If he be not assured that defeat was inevitable, how dare he tacitly but unequivocally to heap insult on the character of the whole realm. If it be assured that the scheme must eventually have failed, why does he complain of the unwillingness of Europe to advance money to a people whom their own President suspects to be systematic knaves.

'The formal cognovits of the individual states are not valued in Europe beyond the price of the rag on which they are written. The plain I OU of the federal government, officially countersigned by the President, would open the coffers of all the money-lenders in the land."

Tranquillity in Portugal.—The news from Portugal is not unimportant. The aspect of affairs is said to be unusually cheering. The dispute between the Pope and the Queen has ended as might have been anticipated—His Holiness has triumphed.

The tariff question still continues perplexed and entangled. The English Foreign Secretary has insisted upon a reduction of the duties on butter, wollens and salt fish. It is supposed that Portugal will eventually be compelled to modify the rate of impost exacted from importers.

The finances of the Kingdom are flourishing. In fact a saving of £20,000 per annum in the expenditure has been declared by royal decree.

The Lisbon advices state the extent of damage done to the vineyards of Madeira was more extensive than had been originally declared. Subsequent advices of the date Dec. 19th state that the tariff question was still the subject of anxious discussion.

The ministry have completed a 'list of economie,' by which they declare a saving of £40,000 annually. The national debt they are resolved vigorously to reduce. Their Majesties, after the fashion of the army and marine, have, it is said, agreed to accept diminished allowances.

A captured slaver from Mozambique and Pernambuco had bean brought into the Tagus. By advices to the 26th ult, it appears that the adjustment of the tariff question is daily expected.

Mr. Dunn, a great corn factor, at Wakefield is amongst the sliding scale. He has failed in $1,500,000.

The King of Hanover will visit England after the marriage of the Crown Prince. He wishes to consult Sir Henry Halford, the physician, on the state of his health.

Madrid Journals of the 12th ult., says that Messrs. Baring & Co have advanced to the Spanish Minister of Finance, 40 millions of reals, on the security of the Quicksilver Mines, and that English Capitalists are expected to supply the other 600 millions.

Despatches were received on Monday at the Colonial Office, from the Governor of Gibraltar.

The amount already subscribed to the public monument to the memory of the late Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, is £4,440 6s. 6d.

The "Dramatic and Musical Review," says that Mr. John Barnett is engaged upon the composition of a new oratorio, called Daniel in the Den of Lions.

The hundredth anniversary of the birth of Marshal Blucher was celebrated on the 15th ult., throughout all the great towns of Prussia, with great splendour.

The Royal West India Mail Company have chartered the *Trident*, belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company, to take out the mails of the 1st January.

A monument to the celebrated African traveller, Mungo Park, by Mr. Ritchie, an Edinburgh sculptor, has just been erected at Galashiel, in the burying place of the family.

The house of Rothschild, in concert with that of Minucci, has engaged, from the beginning of 1843, for the entire monopoly of the tobacco of Naples, but not including Sicily.

The Canadian loan of £300,000, has been taken by Messrs. Maubert and Satke'd at 108 per cent., with the exception of £5000 which has been taken by another party at a higher rate.

The Liverpool Mercury, of the 30th instant, states the Money Market is easy and abundant; but little doing in the Corn Market. The demand for cotton had increased, and an advance of ½d. per lb. on American cotton has been maintained. There is not much stock of any kind offering, and the market is in favor of the sellers.

The Duke of Wellington, as leader to the ministerial party in the House of Lords, will give a banquet to a numerous party on the 1st of the ensuing month, at apsly House, when the Queen's speech will be read. The cards of invitation were issued yesterday. Sir RobertPeel will receive a large party of noblemen and gentlemen, members of the House of Commons, in the same evening.

The freedom of the city of Glasgow has been voted to Richard Cobden, Esq, M.P., the champion of free trade.

The Hamburgh galliot Die Gute Hoffnung, from Livonia, in Italy, with valuable marble statuary, including a splendid statue of Diana for the King of Prussia, valued at £2000, was totally lost on the 17th ult., on a sand bank, amid a tremendous surf, in Carmarthen bay. The crew were saved with great difficulty.

The host of the Angel Hotel, at Whitby, last week, set before his friends a Yorkshire Christmas pie, seven feet in circumference and containing four stones of flour, 12 lbs. of butter and suet, a brace of pheasants, a brace of partridges, two geese, two rabbits, ten chickens, six ducks, two tongues, one turkey, and 6 lbs. of ham.

Thirty thousand persons visited the British Museum on Monday, the day after Christmas day. In the evening, eight new pantomimes at the different theatres contributed to entertain the holiday makers.

The Earl of Leicester is certainly affianced to Miss Whitbread, the lovely and accomplished daughter of Samuel Whitbread, Esq.: but the marriage, it is said will not take place till his Lordship comes of age, at Christmas, 1843.

England and France—The Right of Search [From the Standard] We have, since the announcement of the determination of the French Cabinet to abide by the treaties of 1831 and 1833, been put in possession of the train of negotiation entered into between the Count St. Aulaire and Lord Aberdeen, relative to those treaties.

It is quite true, as stated by the Journal des Debats, that the protocol of December, 1841, was closed at the express requisition of the French ambassador. It is equally true that M. de St Aulaire accompanied this requisition by a demand for the abrogation of the treaties of 1831 and 1833; and he did so upon this ground—that inasmuch as the protocol of 1831 was based upon the two former treaties, being the same in principle and differing only, if it could be called a difference, by the greater extent of action which it gave to their operation, the objections to ratify that protocol applied equally to the continuance of those treaties, and were supported by the same argument; and that hence he felt obliged to call upon the British Government to release France from her obligation, and to open negotiations for a new treaty founded upon other principles.

M. de St. Aulaire considered that the principle of the late treaty entered it, to between the United States and England was such as might safely be made the basis of an arrangement between the latter country and France: and we believe the French representative stated as a reason for his demand not only that the protocol of December, 1841, should be closed, but that existing treaties should be abrogated, the state of public opinion in France.

Lord Aberdeen met at once the supposed precedent of the American treaty by a denial that it applied in any way to the state of relations between Great Britain and France upon the subject of the anti-slavery question. Up to the period of the treaty with America there had never (said his lordship) been any treaty whatever relative to slavery between Great Britain and that country.

The Americans, therefore, so far from asking for the modification of an existing treaty, did, on the contrary, advance to meet the feelings of England, by a voluntary offer to take upon their own part more efficacious measures in putting down slavery. As the American Government could not, as it conceived, according to the received traditions of the people of the United States, nor according to their constitution, enter into an engagement to admit a mutual right of search, there was not, and could not be, a question of any such principle. The American Government offered to do all that it could, and it was not for Great Britain to refuse. The case as regarded France was very different. No fundamental objection existed as to the right of search. The principle has been embodied in treaties, and acted upon for a series of years without one word of complaint having been raised. In consequence of the security offered to the British people for the effectual accomplishment of an object which they so ardently desired, great sacrifices had been made.

They had, in fact, been taxed twenty millions; and if now called upon to consent to the abatement of that security by the abrogation of the treaties of 1831 and 1833, they would reject such a proposition. In fact, no minister dare make it to Parliament. Lord Aberdeen referred to his own letter to the Lords of the Admiralty as affording a proof of his desire to meet the susceptibilities of the French, and as affording an assurance that in the execution of these treaties there should be no breach of convenance tolerated upon the part of the British officers engaged upon the coast of Africa. In fine, Lord Aberdeen assured Count St. Aulaire that if, notwithstanding the views represented by him, the French Government proceeded violently to the abrogation of the treaties of 1831 and 1833, it would be the duty of her Majesty's Ministers to advise the recall of the British Ambassador from Paris.

Parliament was further prorogued on the 13th of December, to the 2d of February.

Lord Hill, the late commander in-chief, died on the 10th, in the 71st year of his age, at his seat, Hardwicke Grange, Shropshire.

An accident occurred on the London and Birmingham railroad, December 8th, by which one person was killed and three others were dangerously wounded.

The failure of J. L. Fernandes & Son, corn dealers &c. at Wakefield, is announced. Their liabilities are £90,000.

The fog had been so dense on the Thames that a large number of vessels ready for sea were unable to leave port. The Quebec was the only one that got to sea after a lapse of several days.

It has been stated in a paragraph which originated (we believe) with the *Sheffield Iris*, that Lord Morpeth was preparing a work on the subject of the United States. We may say with confidence that there is no ground for the statement.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Major Malcolm the bearer of the treaty of peace concluded by her Majesty's plenipotentiary, Sir H. Pottinger, with the Emperor of China, arrived in England on the 9th December. It bears the signatures of the three high commissioners deputed by the Emperor and sent to Nankin to arrange the terms, &c. Major Malcolm brings a letter of assent from the Emperor himself, solemnly engaging to ratify the treaty as soon as it shall be returned to him with the signature of her Majesty attached thereto.

Liverpool, Dec. 13.—The Wheat crop is coming up beautifully every where, the seed having been got into the ground better this season than for many years before. It is so luxuriant in some places as to require eating down with sheep.

State of Trade.—The burst of speculation produced by the news from China and India has passed away, but a fair business is doing in cotton, and the price of that great staple continues so moderate as to give every encouragement to the revival of the trade. The new crop is coming in freely. Business generally is in an improving state, and confident hopes are felt in all quarters that next year will be one of commercial activity. We are glad to learn that the last accounts from Australia, as well as those from India and China, are more favorable than they have been for some time, and we are also happy to learn that the good news from the East, and the hope of a revival of trade, have had the effect of considerably improving the value of British shipping. Owing to the expectation of further legislative changes, little is doing either in the corn or sugar trades at present, and the tea trade is also at a stand still, owing to the recent news from the East, and the uncertainty as to the effects which will be produced on the supply and the price of tea by the changes of our relations with Chin.

The Nottinghamshire trade has, we are glad to say, a good deal revived in some branches.

Belfast, Dec. 2.—We have experienced an improved demand for linen yarns during the present week.

Leeds.—In the White Cloth Hall nearly all the goods produced continue to be taken off as fast as they are brought in and can be made suitable to assortments; but in the Mixed Cloth Hall, the business is not remarkably active.

Manchester, Friday Evening.—We have had a continued good demand for all kinds of grey cloth, but especially for 4-4 shirtings and Madapalanes, things suitable for China and India.

Bradford, Thursday.—During the week there is quite a new feature in the wool trade, a spirited demand having sprung up. The recent sales in London, of colonial and other wools, having found buyers at advanced rates, has inspired a confidence among the holders of English wool; and the result is, that higher prices have been demanded by both growers and dealers, which have been acceded to by the buyers. The late advance in noiles and brokes is fully supported.

London, Dec. 10.—An opposition journal of last night announces with an ostention of wide lines and whatever else could attract attention, the purpose of her majesty's advisers to repeal the present corn laws, substituting two several scales of fixed duty, to be applied according to the terms upon which different countries would admit British manufactures—12s per quarter or 6s., as the case might be.

We believe that we can safely affirm that in this announcement *there is not one word of truth.* They who are not disposed to rely upon our simple contradiction will do well to remember that the thing announced is impossible, inasmuch as Great Britain is *already bound by various treaties*, as to the *proportions* in which she will burthen the admission of the produce of those countries with which we trade—treaties for the violation of which no modification of our corn laws can afford any pretext.—*Standard.*

Liverpool, Jan. 4.—The country has been agitated in various districts by the repealers of the corn Law. The demonstration which they have effected is, in despite of the sneering indifference with which it has been treated, more formidable than their antagonists are willing to allow. It is certain that a further alteration in the Corn Laws is projected. The only dispute now maintained is, not whether there will be a change at all, but what the nature of that change will be.

Parliament is summoned to meet on the second day of February. Sir Robert Peel, it is expected will introduce a salutary and wholesale alteration of the restrictions by which trade is fettered. With characteristic caution he has carefully abstained from divulging a hint of his purpose or his plans. The opening of the Session is most anxiously awaited.

Although business has greatly improved, yet generally there is a very great want of confidence arising from the continued failures connected with the Corn Trade, among whom we must notice Messrs. Fermandez & Son, Swallow & Son, and Dunn & Son, all of Wakefield, and for very heavy amounts, while the break down of the Yorkshire Agricultural Bank, which having expended all its capital, now come on the share-holders for a deficit of £100,000, is not at all calculated to improve commercial affairs, but on the whole, the prospects for the new year are encouraging.

The Great Western Steamer, it is said, has been purchased by the Mehemet Ali, who intends to convert her into a Steam Frigate. It is fortunate for the British Directory, that they have at last found a purchaser for a property which at one time appeared unsaleable.

The New Tariff and the German League will not as it was feared, augment the duty on English figured goods, Orleans, Merinos, Alpacas, fancy Castings, &c. &c.

The higher duty will only apply to printed Goods and Waist-coatings, which contain a pattern produced by a second waft. The Tariff came into operation on the first day of this year.

Madrid Journals of the 12th ult., say that Messrs Baring & Co. have advanced to the Spanish Minister of Finance, 40 millions of reals, on the security of the Quicksilver mines, and that English Capitalists are expected to supply the other 600 millions.

China.—It appears that after the conclusion of the Treaty, the restless French resident authorities offered to mediate between the Chinese and Great Britain. The Chinese, however, who are constitutionally averse to all acts of foreign interference, and who considered it an annoyance sufficiently galling that they were driven into intercourse with one barbarian race, adjusted the affair themselves, quietly refusing to avail themselves of the inestimable advantages which the tricksomeness of Gallic diplomacy might have gained for them. Indeed it is said, that the [illegible] England all the privileges which, at the risk of defeat, the loss of life, and at the expenditure of treasure, England alone and unaided has challenged and and won.

The Glasgow East India Association have memorialized the government to reduce the duty on tea. They urge that as tea is the staple commodity which China must return for our exports, a reduction in the duty imposed upon it by this country, would induce a greater demand for British manufactures in China.

It is rumoured that the steamers engaged in the late war are to be employed as mail-boats between India and China:—Bombay is recommended as the rendezvous, and the despatches which reach Europe under existing arrangements but once, will, in the event of the suggested alterations being completed, be forwarded twice in each month.—*Willmer's News Letter.*

MOST AWFUL CATASTROPHE.

Thirty Lives Lost in a Roman Catholic Chapel.

We (*Evening Mail*) are indebted to the politeness of the editor of the *Galway Standard* for the following particulars of a melancholy catastrophe, resulting in the loss of no less than thirty lives, which occurred in the Roman Catholic chapel of Galway on Sunday:—

"Galway, Dec. 25, 1842.—A melancholy accident occurred in this town this morning; and, as I do not publish before Friday, I beg leave to send you the intelligence exclusively. At early mass, in the parish chapel, there was an immense concourse of people—the gallery, as is usual on Christmas mornings, was crowded to excess—one of the rails of the stair case, by the pressure of the multitude, was broken, and some persons in the vicinity, having heard the crackling noise, gave the alarm, and cried out that the gallery was giving way; an indescribable but tremendous rush was made by the dense mass to escape. The catastrophe was awful—thirty individuals, up to the time I am going to post, have been made the victims of the rashness of the assemblage. I enclose you the names of the killed, as supplied to me by Mr. Patrick Broughal, the apothecary of the town Dispensary, whose exertions to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded are most laudable. Doctors Calahan, Browne, Gray, Moran, and O'Grady are also at their posts, and exercising all their skill for the sufferers. The gallery did not give way.

"John Philips, James Walsh, Thomas Hardiman, Mary Laffey, John Downes, Thomas Cummins, Honor Laffey, John Summerville, John Burke, John Murray, Mark Laffey, Mary Synot, Honor Kelly, Michael Rooney, Mary Clougherty, Celia Cummins, Pat. Cronelly, Pat. Forde, Luke Costello, Dooley, Connely, Mary Curley, P. Hemple, Kiddy Reardon, Boulger, Henry—four names unknown."

Colliery Steam Engine Explosion at Messrs. Joshua Bower and Co., Allerton Main Colliery, Yorkshire.—On Saturday last, the 31st ult. about noon, in consequence it is supposed of the inattention of the engine-man neglecting to shut off the steam and furnish a sufficient supply of water to the boiler, a most awful explosion took place, and the boiler was lifted off its seat and carried into the air to the supposed height of 200 yards, and fell in an adjoining field nearly 100 yards from its original place. Iron and slates, bricks and stones, flew about in all directions, and covered the yard, orchard and adjoining fields for a distance of 250 yards. The windows and doors of the workshops, cottages, and counting house were all blown in and shattered to pieces, and what is more remarkable, a shower of bricks, iron, and stones were thrown through one of the cottage windows across the house in a slanting direction, where the family were seated in an opposite corner at dinner; the inmates were knocked down and bruised, the clock case and the cupboard, with its contents were destroyed. The most dreadful part of the affair is, the serious injury done to two of the colliers who were in the yard (if the accident had occurred a quarter of an hour sooner 14 men might have been destroyed as they were leaving their work). One old man of the name of Firth had his thigh broken by some of the missiles from the boiler and was conveyed to his house and immediately attended by the surgeon, but it is feared he will be unable to work any more. Another man had his skull dreadfully fractured, and was otherwise mangled in a shocking manner, but it is hoped he will recover. The engine man had a narrow escape, being nearly crushed by the falling materials, but, wonderful to relate, he is uninjured. Although this lamentable accident will occasion a temporary stoppage of Messrs. J. Bower & Co.'s coal works; still in consequence of having an extra boiler, which is only displaced and removed from its seat by the explosion, they will be able to resume working the colliery in a few days. The damage is estimated at £500.

APPALLING OCCURENCE IN RENFREWSHIRE. NINE LIVES LOST.

It is our painful duty to record one of the most distressing occurrences, which has taken place in this part of the country for many years past. On Friday night about nine o'clock, the embankment or breast of Glanderston Dam, near Barrhead, gave way, and the contents of the reservoir, accumulated at the time to an extraordinary extent by the storm, rushed down the channel of the burn with fearful and irresistable velocity, carrying death and destruction in their train. The first place which suffered from the destruction of the flood was the print-works of Springfield, occupied by Messrs. Hardie, Stark, & Co., where three entire houses were swept off; two gables of two other houses, and the counting-house, or under flat of the master's house, where the water rushed in at the one side, making a breach at the other, and carrying with it the whole furniture and other contents.

The only human victim was the son of a person named Maxwell, who used to drive the field cart. His father had sent him to hang up his coat to dry at a stove in the works. The father went into the house and escaped the rush of the water; the boy was carried off. Though the youth Maxwell was the only person who lost his life at Springfield, a number of other persons narrowly escaped. Four persons in one house were saved on the rush of the water by breaking their way through the roof, and so sudden was the rise on them that the watchman, the last of their number, had to be held up by the neck by his companions for some time before he effected his escape. In a few minutes afterwards the house was swept down, and the whole materials of the building rendered a mass of floating rubbish. The works of Springfield present a truely frightful appearance; the whole machinery of the work, the goods in course of finishing, and the vessels and stock of printing materials (including about 300l. worth of indigo), were all carried before the devastating current, inflicting a most serious, and as yet unascertaind loss on the owners.

The next place which suffered from the flood was the print works of South Arthurlie, occupied by Messrs. Hays and Sons, and situated about a quarter of a mile below Springfield. Two dwelling houses, a large out shed and a byre, with all they contained, were instantly carried away. And we are sorry to relate that, with one of the houses, they entire family of occupants, except one child, were instantaneously drowned and buried in the ruins. With the exception of the husband, the other family shared the same fate as their neighbours. The names of the unfortunate occupants of the first of these houses alluded to were Robert Johnstone and his wife both aged about 50, one widowed daughter Henrietta, aged 23, with her child, a girl of about 4 years old; another daughter Margaret, aged 15; and a son Archibald, aged about 17. This family had retired earlier than usual with the intention of rising early this morning to pay a visit during the approaching holidays to some relations at Cumberland.

The inmates of the other house who were drowned, were Mrs. M'Intyre, aged about 40, and her child about four years old. M'Intyre, the husband was absent at some part of the works at the time, and, with one girl belonging to the deceased family of the Johnstones, he is all that is left of the ten persons occupying the two houses referred to. The bodies of the whole of the sufferers have been found this forenoon, but that of Robert Johnstone, but workmen were busily engaged digging up the rubbish for his remains, and for what of the furniture and other articles that could be found. There were two cows in the byre swept off, both of which are drowned also.

Besides this damage at the print works, the accumulated current also swept down a portion of the garden wall at Arthurlie House, the property of Mr. Lowndes. At two farm steadings a little further down a good deal of property was likewise carried off, as likewise the bridge at Darnley. During the forenoon a great number of visitors were hurrying to the fatal spot from miles round the neighbourhood.—*Glasgow Post.*

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.

For the month ending Dec. 31.

Pine Timber—The business of the month has been generally satisfactory, and prices have gradually improved; the last sale of Quebec, of middling quality, was at 13½ per foot: the exact rates have not transpired for two cargoes of better quality also sold off the quay this week. A cargo of good quality of last year's import, was sold at 13¾ per foot. Earlier in the month middling Quebec was sold by auction at from 12¼ to 12½ per foot. For better qualities in dock, holders now demand 14½ per foot, with reasonable hope of success; for now that the season for importing from Quebec is at an end, the whole sums up to only 86,234 tons of shipping, against 169,883 tons during the year 1841. The import from Quebec itself being only 37,219 tons, against 83,783 tons last year. Again, though the usual period for estimating the stock is at the end of the ensuing month, it is just now roughly guessed at under 2¾ millions feet, including, of course, all the wood in the dock, while on the 31st January last, the stock was 4,248,000 feet, against an average stock of 2,800,000 feet held at the corresponding period of a series of years previous to the 31st Jan. 1842. The last of st. John Pine was at 18½d per foot, for 18¾ inches, calliper size, with Red Pine at 12½d per foot, though early in the month a cargo of middling quality Yellow was sold at 14d per foot.—*Quebec Red Pine* has been sold apart from cargo at 21d per foot; it is in request, and the stock is light. *Quebec Oak* of small size and middling quality, has been sold by auction at 16¼d and 17½ per foot; with cargo off the quay it has been sold at 18½d per foot; large has been sold at 19d per foot. *Quebec Elm* has advanced; middling with cargo has been sold at 14¼d per foot, and apart at 15d per foot. *New-brunswick Spruce, Planks, &c.* St. John spruce have been sold at from 2⅛d to 2¼d per foot of two inches, with Boards at the higher rate. Prices are likely to be fully supported because of low stocks here, and the London and other markets ruling high.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber would beg leave to acquaint his friends and the public in general, that, having taken the store in King street formerly occupied by Mr. James E. M'Donald, he intends carrying on an Auctioneer and General Commission Business, and hopes by strict punctuality in Business, to merit a share of public patronage.

Jan. 20. JAMES S. KNOWLES.

☞ Storage may be had for about 1500 barrels.

Cellar Shop to Let.

TO Let from the first of May next, the Cellar SHOP, No. 1, North Market Wharf. This is an excellent stand for a Retail Grocery or Spirit Business. Apply to J. G. SHARP.

Jan. 20. *Corner of North M. Wharf.*

FEATHERS.—2 Bales, received on consignment, and for sale by.

Jan. 20. W. H. STREET.

INDIA RUBBER SHOES.

JUST received, a large assortment of Men's, Women's and Children's *INDIA RUBBER SHOES*, of the best quality; for sale cheap.

Dec. 23. S. K. FOSTER.

White Pine Timber.

600 TONS White Pine TIMBER, averaging 18 inches:

200,000 superficial feet Pine Boards;

200,000 do. Pine Deals, 9 to 16 inches wide, for sale by WM. CARVILL.

30th December.

POOR COPY