THE OBSERVER.

St. John, Tuesday, December 23, 1845.

ENGLISH DECEMBER MAIL.

The December English Mail, brought to Halifax by the steam ship Acadia, was received in this city at an early hour this morning, with the Halifax mail. We have extracted all the principal intelligence from Willmer & Smith's Times, of the 4th inst. which we subjoin, and to which we refer our readers. The Acadia arrived at Halifax on Wednesday last; she brought 70 passengers, 7 of whom landed at Halifax.

The tone of the war-breathing editorials of the Washington "Union," the acknowledged organ of the present government of the United States, had excited considerable irritation in England.

The most exciting topic in political circles was the declaration of Lord John Russell, in a letter to his constituents, the electors of the city of London, in favour of the free admission of Grain into the ports of the mother country; and the accession of Lord Morpeth to the Anti Corn Law League.

From the European Times.

Domestic.—The threatened famine continues to occupy men's minds. The subject is constantly kept before the public by the discussions in the press, by public meetings in various parts of the country, by the oratory of the league leaders, and by the indecision of the cabinet. Nothing, during the last fortnight, has altered the previous aspect of affairs as respects the extent of the deficiency. The potatoe disease continues to progress in some quarters, and to be arrested in others. The accounts from Ireland vary, but the most favourable regard a fourth of the people's food as being destroyed. In England, the disease also progresses, in the south and west more especially. In the belief that *something* will yet be done by authorities, the food markets are in a state of transition. What the "something" may be is a mystery, and the uncertainty which hangs over the future, affords abundant scope for speculation, not unmixed with angry recrimination. Every one seems to think that in a mere party point of view, looking at the present condition and prospects of the country in no higher light, Sir Robert Peel has not made the most of his position. Rumours are still abundant that he has been overruled in his desire to mitigate the severity of the evil by throwing open the ports, and the more disinterested of his supporters are even now urging upon him the admission of maiz, duty free, as an article of food. That perplexity and disunion prevail in the ministerial councils is evinced by the frequency of their meetings. Two or three cabinet meetings have been held during the past fortnight, the last of which took place on Tuesday. Parliament has been prorogued, *pro forma*, until the middle of December, and an impression prevails that it will meet little if any before its customary time. Alarmed by appearances, a requisition has been signed by many of the leading bankers and capitalists in the city of London, urging upon the Lord Mayor the necessity of calling, without delay, a public meeting; but the civic monarch hesitates. Matters may be said at the present moment to be in *statu quo*, but the popular anxiety as regards the apprehended scarcity is now participated in by the great traders and capitalists—men, too, who are above being influenced in a matter so vitally important, by idle fears, still less by party or personal predilections. Trade is already staggering under the blow which the impending scarcity,—or what is the same thing, the fear of it—has produced. In the manufacturing districts there has been a sad falling off in the demand for goods, and the gloomy prospect which the approaching winter presents, is shared by persons whose interests and temperament would induce them to look at matters in the most favourable point of view.

For *months*, nay, for years past, passing events have pointed to the extinction of the duty on corn. Public opinion has set in against the exclusion of the first necessary of life, and many respectable Conservatives, taking the initiative, have foreshadowed the extinction of the monopoly. Captain Rous, Mr. Escott, Lord Ashley, and others of the landlord class, have abandoned the sinking policy; the farmers regard it in the light of a rent question; with the commercial and manufacturing classes the law has long been odious, because it has been held to have prostrated that spirit which is the soul the vitality of commerce—barter. Such being the state of the public mind, with a general election looming in the distance, it is regarded as extraordinary that Sir Robert Peel, whose tariff denotes the liberal cast of his commercial policy, should not have seized the threatened famine with avidity, as the most prompt and ready means of putting an end to a system which has outlived the spirit of the age, and is opposed to all onward progress. That he has allowed his rival to forestal him on the question, is not only personally humiliating, but involves important political changes hereafter. The bonds of amity between the Whigs and the Free Traders will be drawn tighter than previously; the Opposition will present a more compact and unbroken line.

The Free Trade party, by this aristocratic accession, are now in a position to assume the reins of power, and to form a Government at any moment. The noblemen we have named are the foremost men, the choice spirits, the hope of the Whig party, and in thus giving their adhesion to the League, they receive as well as communicate strength and power.

The news from the western shores of the Atlantic recently, has excited more than ordinary interest. The "Great Western," on her last trip, brought home a document which created nearly as much amazement as if a shell had been unexpectedly thrown, with hostile intent, into a friendly citadel. The number of the *Washington Union* which claimed the *whole* of Oregon for the United States, and repudiated all negociation on the subject, was scanned with painful feelings—was presumed to speak the sentiments of President Polk, and to foreshadow the tone of the forthcoming Message. The effect was such as we have described it. War and all its odious horrors stared every one in the face. There appeared to be no escape from it—no loop-hole left by which an honourable exit could be made. Men move in masses—think and sympathise in herds—and "thoughts that breathe and words that burn," issuing simultaneously from a thousand lips, show how readily, under provocation, reason is subvervient to passion. The poet has finely pourtrayed it:—

"Honour! thou blood-stained god,
At whose red altar sit War and Homicide,
Oh! to what madness will *insult* drive thy votaries!"

Writhing under the influence of this excited feeling the Caledonia arrived on Friday, with intelligence a week in advance of the Great Western, and the nature of her despatches had an emollient effect on the national pulse, which now beats again with comparative coolness. It was then found that the article in the official paper was not understood by those on the spot to have an official character—that Mr. Polk had not yet thrown away the scabbard—that the Whigs, with their three P's—"peace, prosperity, and progression"—were inimical to war, and that Mr. Webster, at Boston, had made a speech of a pacific and elevated character, in which an appeal to physical force on the Oregon question was denounced as folly and madness.

We have before stated, and the repetition at the present time is almost superfluous, that, as regards England, people here care little in what way the Oregon dispute may be patched up; the value of the territory is hardly rated beyond a pin's-fee, and right glad would the thinking, intelligent portion of the country be, if the 49th parallel of latitude would hit the views and the taste of the American Government and people. The annoyance, the irritation, arises out of what is conceived to be the "bullying spirit" with which the United States' claim is advanced, which naturally wounds our national pride, and creates a frame of mind little calculated to produce amity or end in forbearance. The refusal of the President to refer the dispute to arbitration, looks like a "foregone conclusion," and is pointed to as a proof that the worst may be still apprehended from obstinate councils.

The planters of the Southern States desire peace with England, because they cannot afford to sacrifice a trade involving two millions of bales of cotton annually. The farmer of the Western States would be equally desirous to let the statesman instead of the soldier settle the dispute about Oregon, provided our laws enabled him to send his produce to so excellent a market as Great Britain. Commerce is always the soother of angry passions—the oil upon the troubled waters of contending factions. It is upon this ground that, irrespective of his war propensities, a large party in this country wish well to Mr. Polk. They dislike his pugnacity, but they are partial to the President, because he is a free trader, and is desirous of reducing the tariff from "protection" or prohibition to revenue. A compromise on the Oregon question—giving, on the part of England, a large slice of territory in exchange for a liberal American tariff—has been put forth by some of the New York papers, and cordially responded to by several of the most influential organs of opinion in this country. Such a mode of settling the dispute would be worthy of two of the most powerful nations in existence. We notice it here, not so much from a hope that the stubbornness of statesmen will carry out the suggestion, as because it indicates a desire on the part of those who create and govern public opinion in this country, to seize upon any course of all practicable by which the dispute with the United States could be amicably put to rest.

It is painful to speak of warlike preparations in the same breath that we refer to misunderstanding with a friendly country, as it savours somewhat of the Milesian mode of settling a controversy with uplifted shillelah. But the fuss and bother—the activity and incessant energy which prevail in the English dock-yards, the surveying of the coast and the steam navy,—all indicates a "black cloud" somewhere; it may be in the west or in the south, but the "powers that be" seem to be firmly impressed with a belief that events are transparent enough to make this activity and outlay necessary. Captain Austin visited Liverpool, last week, by orders of the Admiralty, to gauge the capacity of the first class steamers as regards the carrying of heavy metal. The British and North American, the West Indian, and other vessels have undergone similar inspections *Cui malo?* "Coming events cast their shadows before," and our prayer is, that all this hostilities making ready for the worst may prove superfluous, and that the "events," whatever they are, in in which they have their origin, may "come like shadows, so depart."

The froth and feebleness of the "Young Ireland" party is sickening. During the last week or two, attention has been directed to an article in its organ, the Dublin Nation, the gist of which is, that in the event of unpalatable measures being adopted towards Ireland by the present or any future Government, the iron used in the construction of railways could be very conveniently turned into pikes, and moreover that the deep cuttings on a railway afforded the best available method of destroying British soldiers in their transit through the country! The fiendish spirit involved in this suggestion is only equalled by its stupidity. Ireland has unhappily too few railways, and now that capitalists are turning their attention towards their erection, this ferocious paragraph is put forth to deter enterprize, and to disgust those who possess the power and the inclination to serve the country. The Nation's article has been largely quoted and indignantly commented on by the English press.

Rumour points to the resignation of Lord Stanley, and his retirement from the Government, probably—at least for a time—from public life. His lordship is ill at ease—unpopular, a drug upon his coalfe goes, dissatisfied with himself, gouty, and splenetic. He is an able man, but wants official industry, and his administration in the Colonies has been positively mischievous. The rumour looks like truth—many will exclaim, "we hope so!"

The extent of the injury which the potato crop has sustained, forms, as usual, an unfailing subject of inquiry and anxiety. The accounts are, upon the whole, of a sad and melancholy character; and the extent of the damage is to be seen in the conflicting accounts of a remedy given by men of high scientific attainments. In some districts from one-third to one-half of the crop is damaged; and so rapid is the progress of the disease, that another third, it is expected, will be destroyed in the pits before the spring of next year.

In the endeavour to discover some remedy as a substitute, Indian corn, so much used in the United States, has been strongly recommended.

Commercial.—The Money market exhibits a good deal of depression, but it has been for a few days ago—better than at the sailing of the last packet. Confidence is slowly but gradually reviving.

The recent account of the Cotton crops in America being equal, if not superior, to those of last year, combined with the absence of money and the gloomy prospects in the matter of the people's food, have kept down the market and reduced prices.

The railway panic has not subsided. On the contrary, it is in full force.

The import of American Wool continues.

The price of iron has receded under the embarrassment which has overtaken the speculative world. There has been a falling off in the transactions, and a considerable reduction in the price. Scotch pigs were as low, in Glasgow, a short time back, as £2 15s.; in Liverpool they stand at £3 to £3 10s.; common bars £9 to £9 5s.; hoops £11; sheets £12. For boiler-plates and for rails, the demand, notwithstanding the prevailing depression, is considerable, and the quotations for those articles are tolerably well supported.

The Corn Markets of Northern Europe are in a state of great activity. The grain marts of the Danube are said to be much excited, and prices range from 29s. to 31s. 6d. per quarter. The freight to England is enormously high—15s. per quarter. The English markets are firm, without much excitement; the advance, during the last month, being 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Every one anticipates dearth and dearness before another harvest; but, as much uncertainty exists with respect to the actions of Parliament, prices are kept within limits. The last weekly average was only 57s. 11d. per quarter, while the actual price of good Wheat, any time during the last two months, has been from 65s. to 70s. per quarter.

Liverpool, December 4.—*The Timber Market.*—The Timber trade is in a healthy and active state. The ships that have arrived here from Quebec and St. John, during the present year amount to 333, and they have brought an excess of tonnage over last year's importation of more than 36 000 tons. Stocks, consequently, are ample, without reference to the cargoes now on their homeward course. St. John Pine, of 194 inches, averages 19½d. and St. Andrew's 18d. per foot. Quebec is commanded 17½d. and 17d. per foot. In Ash, Elm, and Deal, there has been a fair business doing. There has been a heavy supply of Planks, and sales have been made of St. John's at 2½d. per foot of two inches. There has not been so much doing in Staves. There has been less business in Mahogany; one cargo of Honduras sold recently at 8½d. per foot. Of Cuba and St. Domingo, the imports this year have been extensive, and two considerable sales of Honduras will take place at this port to-morrow. All descriptions of ship-building wood are much inquired for.

State of Trade.—The manufacturing districts are not in such a prosperous condition as what we had the pleasure of previously reporting. The Woollen trade both at Leeds and Huddersfield is in a very dull condition. The Flannel market at Rochdale has felt the depression of the times. At Manchester the Cloth market has been very dull, and prices are now rapidly approaching the lowest point known in 1841-2, particularly for shirtings. The printers are alarmingly dull—so are the dyers. The Silk trade was never known to be in so depressed a state.

One leading organ of opinion in the French metropolis, the conductors of which must have been amusing themselves at the expense of the national vanity, contend that France has a greater right to the Oregon than either England or the United States! Perhaps, after all, the interference of our voluble neighbours in the quarrel about the barren waste might facilitate the settlement of the dispute.

Destruction of a Ship by Fire.—On the morning of the 29th ult., a ship was noticed on shore off Wellcombe, Devonshire: on examination, by a party of the Coast Guard, it was found that she was without masts, and burned down to the water's edge. She appeared to be about 400 tons burden, laden with timber, from which it is presumed she is from America. Nothing was found on board to lead to her identity; every portion of her, with the exception of the lower part of the hull, being destroyed. She is supposed to be the Abeona, of New Ross, from Quebec; if so, the crew have all been saved.

The amount of booty taken in Scinde is stated to be little less than half a million sterling.

Two of three suicides have lately been committed by parties who have been driven to the act by their pecuniary embarrassment arising from railway speculation; one of the suicides from this cause was a *chimney sweep!*

The docks and harbour of Hull are now crowded with shipping. The blue flag has been flying these last two or three days, signifying that no more vessels can be allowed to enter the port.

The Town Council of Edinburgh, at their weekly meeting, on the 25th ult., on the motion of the Lord Provost, unanimously voted the freedom of the city to Sir Charles Napier, who was then on a visit to the Scottish metropolis.

The late Lady Holland has left an annuity of £2,000 to Lord John Russell, as an expression of the high respect which her ladyship entertained for the noble lord. On his lordship's death, the annuity will be equally divided among the children of her late ladyship's daughter.

The *Church and State Gazette* announces several more Protestant seceders to the Roman Catholic faith—both clergymen and laymen.

Ireland.—A distressing calamity took place on the Royal canal, within about seven miles of Dublin, last week. One of the boats on the canal capsized, by which fifteen lives were lost.

Lord Primate Beresford has declared his intention of bestowing £1000 on each of the three provincial Colleges towards the foundation of divinity schools for students of the Established Church.

Messrs. Williams and Son, stock and share brokers in Dublin, have failed, to the extent of £200,000. The bulk of their creditors are country gentlemen, generally very wealthy, who, for a long period, had dealt with the house of Williams and Co. as a bank of lodgment.

The Banner of Ulster records a very generous act of self-devotion on the part of the master and three of the crew of the barque Helen, Captain Clayton, of Belfast, who, on her homeward voyage from Quebec, rescued the crew of the Harrison, a water-logged ship, with which they fell in off the coast of Newfoundland.

Maynooth College.—The board of Maynooth College recently made an application to Sir Robert Peel, stating that the sum of £30 000 allocated for repairing the old and erecting new buildings, would fall far short of the requisite amount, as appeared by the plans and estimates of Mr. Pugin, the architect, which were forwarded to the right honorable baronet, and it was submitted for the consideration of Government whether, under such circumstances, an increase of the building fund should not be made. The reply of the Treasury was read at a meeting of the board on Friday, peremptorily refusing any increase whatever.

Provincial Legislature.

There is as yet no period officially announced for the meeting of our Provincial Legislature; but the Lieut. Governor's proclamation announcing the day must soon appear. Various reports respecting a dissolution of the House, have been in circulation, but there appears to be no positive foundation for them; although the unusual delay in issuing the proclamation to meet "*the dispatch of business*," (this day being the day to which the Legislature at present stands prorogued,) certainly seems to justify the supposition that a dissolution is intended. It is late in the season for a general election; but there is plenty of time yet, as under the new law, the whole machinery must work simultaneously and promptly.

Mechanics' Institute.—Last evening, the Rev. Mr. Spurden delivered an excellent Lecture on the History of the Steam Engine, in which he traced briefly explained the various improvements and applications made in the Engine by Savary, Newcomen, and Watt.—This evening he will lecture again on the same subject.

Astronomical Lectures.—The third Lecture on Astronomy, of the course now in progress of delivery at the Mechanics' Institute, by Mr. Blatch, aided and illustrated by truly splendid representations of various parts of the Solar System and of the heavenly bodies in general, by means of Mr. Sharp's newly imported and very powerful oxy-hydrogen Microscope, was given on Thursday evening last, and gave entire satisfaction to a large and highly respectable audience, both as regards the substance of the Lecture and the beauty and brilliancy of the Diagrams.

After the lecture, a variety of splendid Dissolving Views were exhibited to the audience, by Mr. Sharp; among which we may particularly notice three beautiful representations of Mount Vesuvius in a state of repose and of eruption; two of the Cathedral at Milan; one of Melrose Abbey; Clifton, near Bristol, &c.; which were followed by the novel and very beautiful general amusement of the Dissolving Views.

The fourth lecture of the course was announced for Friday evening next, 26th instant.—We understand that the Dissolving Views, &c., are exhibited after each lecture, and that they are varied at every oscillation.

Concert.—The Sacred Music Society gave their third Concert for the season on Wednesday evening last, at the Hall of the Institute, which was numerously and fashionably attended. The performances of the evening generally were executed with superior skill, several pieces receiving the marked applause of the audience. The Society has since the previous Concert, received an accession to the number of its Members, including the performers on the Ophiclelide. We trust the Society may continue to prosper, and receive the encouraging patronage of the public.

Ordination.—The Lord Bishop of Fredericton held an Ordination in the Cathedral Church of that City, on Sunday the 21st instant, on which occasion Mr. Thomas W. Robertson, of the University of King's College, Windsor, N.S., Mr. A. W. Tippet, and Mr. H. V. Stuart, Students in Divinity, were ordained Deacons. His Lordship was assisted by several of the Clergy. The Candidates were presented by the Venerable the Archdeacon, and the Sermon was preached by his Lordship's Chaplain, from the words—"And when they had prayed they laid their hands on them." Acts vi. 6.—The first Rev. gentleman is appointed to the Parish of Lancaster; Rev. Mr. Tippet to the Curacy of St. Stephen; and Rev. Mr. Stuart to the Mission of Stanley. We wish them God speed.

The Hon. G. F. Street, of Fredericton, late Solicitor General of this Province, has been elevated to the Bench of the Supreme Court, in the room of Mr. Justice Botsford, who has lately resigned, after having ably and honorably performed the duties of the office for upwards of 22 years. Several gentlemen have been named as successor to the office of Solicitor General, but we have not learned that any appointment has yet been made.

Sacrilegious Robbery.—Some unprincipled wretch broke into the Wesleyan Chapel in this City last night, and took away seven or eight Pounds in money, which had been left by the Stewards in one of the closets inside the communion table. They were so scrupulous as to the coin, that a pile of coppers not current here were conscientiously left upon the floor; and so hasty in their leaving, that a pair of silver Cups, presented to the Wesleyan Society by the late John Ferguson, Esq., and used on Sacramental occasions at this Chapel, escaped their searching eye.—They also visited the School Room last week, and stole of the children's money about six Dollars; having made a second search there, fruitlessly, and being very needy, they forced their way to the upper part of the edifice, violently breaking open the doors with no tender feelings as to the damage they were doing to the mouldings.—We have heard of several other night robberies of late. People should be on the alert to detect the burglars.

Melancholy Disaster.—Schr. Mary Ann, Meloney, left Tynemouth Creek, for St. John, on Monday, 11th inst. and when off Maspeck, lost her sails in the gale; she then became unmanageable, and drove nearly to Grand Manan; shipped a heavy sea, which carried away the rudder, and filled her with water. Two men perished. Capt. Meloney was saved, his feet being but slightly frozen.—The schr. drifted ashore at Long Island, Grand Manan, on Tuesday night, where she now lies safe.

We learn that the barque Sir Henry Pottinger, Campbell, from this port, for Bristol, struck on the rocks at Grand Manan, during the violent snow storm of Saturday night last, but that she was subsequently got off, and had been taken into one of the harbours of that island. The Steamer North America will start for Grand Manan this afternoon to tow the ship to this port.

The Weather.—On Friday night we had a rain storm, which nearly swept away all the snow—on Saturday morning this was succeeded by an old fashioned North East snow storm, which continued without intermission till Sunday morning. The travelling has been rendered very heavy by the immense quantities of snow which has fallen, particularly in the country, where we understand, it is several feet deep. Last night and this morning, the air was very cold.

Union Fire Club.—Tuesday last being the 26th anniversary of the formation of this Club, the event was celebrated by the members supping together at the St. John Hotel, the table being spread with every luxury which the season could afford, in the usual excellent style of the Messrs. Scammell.—B. L. Peters, Esq. President of the Society, ably filled the chair, assisted by L. H. Deveber, Esq., Vice-President, as croupier.—A large number of loyal and patriotic toasts were given.

Diocesan Church Society of New-Brunswick.—The Subscribers to the funds of this Society residing in this Parish, assembled, pursuant to notice, on Wednesday last, at the National School house, and organized a local committee in accordance with the rules and constitution of the society. The Rector of the Parish was appointed chairman of the local committee, George Wheeler, Esq. Secretary, and Samuel J. Scovil, Esq., Treasurer.

The following gentlemen were named a committee to solicit subscriptions, viz: P. A. Wiggins, E. A. Peters, Joseph Fairweather, David Waterbury, L. B. Botsford, J. Peters, Jr., J. W. Lawrence, E. Sears, H. B. Smith, and A. L. Street, Esquires—and the Annual Meeting for the election of lay deputies and other purposes, was appointed to be held on 26th January next.—*Chronicle.*

Distressing Accident.—On the 8th instant Nelson Brown, of Quaco Road, was killed in his mill under the following melancholy circumstances.—His brother left him in the mill, to return to the house half a mile distant, whetting the saw, it appears after so doing he lifted the gate to start her, and finding the ice impeding her operation, he went under with his axe to cut it adrift. The ice yielding, the gate fell upon his head, and broke his skull, and the mill starting, the wheels caught him and crushed him to atoms. Some children being near ran to the house to give the alarm, and met the brother on his return, who was the first to disentangle from the machinery the mangled corpse of his brother. Deceased was an honest, industrious man, and was much respected in the settlement; he has left a wife and four children.—*Ib.*

Murder!—An Inquest was held on Tuesday last at Red Head, Parish of Simonds, before Dr. W. Bayard, Coroner, on view of the body of Henry Toole, and a verdict of Murder returned by the Jury against Alfred Hawkes, who has been committed to jail in this City, to take his trial at the Circuit Court in January next.

Coroner's Inquest.—An Inquest was held in the Parish of Kingston, King's County, on the 9th instant, before Isaac Haviland, Esquire, Coroner, on view of the body of Leverret Bradley. It appeared in evidence that on the day previous he had been skating on the Bellisle Bay, and fell through the ice and was drowned. Verdict of the Jury—"Accidental death by drowning."

Mr. B was about 30 years of age, and was unmarried. His remains were interred at the New Church Burying Ground, on the Long Reach, on Thursday the 11th inst.—*Courier.*

Union Street Church.—We regret to learn that the above Building was forcibly entered last night by some evil disposed person. Several cupboards were broken open, and some of their contents were removed.—*Ib.*

The following excellent article, which we copy from the Philadelphia *Presbyterian*, is not inapplicable to this latitude at the present season of the year:—

The Poor.—"The poor ye have always with you," and for what purpose, gentle reader? Is it that we may witness their sufferings under the rigors of winter and see them famishing for a morsel of bread? Should it make us feel more comfortable in our well warmed houses and well clothed beds, to remember that many of our fellow creatures are shivering over a few embers or freezing under a comfortless rug? Should the food on our well stored tables taste sweeter because we are surrounded by the hungry, who would fain gather the crumbs which fall from them? Have we not the poor among us rather that we may make them the objects of our beneficence, and in the spirit of Him "who though rich for our sakes became poor," tenderly nourish them, and by kind offices lighten the burden which oppresses them? Shall we excuse our neglect of them under the plea that they have become poor through improvidence or the indulgence of their vices? And should not these considerations increase our pity for them? Should we not have compassion on those whose worldly distresses have no mitigation from the sweet hope of heaven? Surely charity should be stimulated by the sight of we, which involves both soul and body. Remember, however, that there are those who are virtuous in their poverty, and who are reduced to want by other causes than their own vices. Look in pity at those on such—look at the sick who cannot work—look at those who wait but whom no man employs—look at the suffering widow who has no friend—look at the orphan who has no protector—look at the heart broken wife and starving children of the poor inebriate. O there are all around you those to whom your charity would be a blessing and upon whom it would be worthily bestowed. Harden not your heart, close not your hand against them. God has made you to differ; he has given you more than enough for your wants, and he has said to you, *Remember the poor.* If you have opportunity, go and visit them, and whisper comfort in their ear; many of them will bless you for the remembrance, and if any should prove ungrateful and abuse your charity, he not discouraged at that; you have done your duty. We ask not an indiscriminate charity—we wish not that the vicious beggar should be supplied with money to consume on his lusts; yet even such should be pitied and succoured; but we ask that each and all whom God has prospered, should appropriate a portion of their income to relieve the suffering. If you cannot visit them, there are others that can and will; only supply them with the means of making their visits effectual. Once more, gentle reader, remember it is winter, and remember too, that there is, in our large cities especially, an untold amount of human suffering. You will do something if you wipe away one tear, relieve one sob of anguish, impart a single throp of joy to a poor pilgrim, who must soon go down to the grave, and stand beside you at the bar of judgment.

From the Courier.

The St. John Grammar School.—The semi-annual Examination of this highly useful Institution took place on Friday. There were present the Rev. the Rector of the Parish, His Honor the Chief Justice, His Honor Judge Parker, Dr. Paddock, J. H. Gray, Esq. and Alfred L. Street, Esq. The Pupils were examined in Greek, Latin, Euclid, History, and Geography; and in all, they acquitted themselves greatly to the satisfaction of the Examiners. Specimens of their various weekly Prose and Verse Exercises in Greek, Latin, and English, and several well executed Maps of the World were inspected and obtained approbation. The Grammar Class, consisting of very young boys, who had, mostly, entered upon their classical *curriculum* at the commencement of the present term, by answering all the questions put to them with admirable ease and dexterity, called forth a particular meed of applause. The Rev. the Rector, the President of the Board of Directors, at the close of the Examination, said, it gave him much pleasure to observe, that a very marked improvement had been made by the Pupils generally since the Examination in July last, and pressed home upon them the duty of close application to their studies, assuring them that the way to acquire a radical and grammatical knowledge of their own language, was to make themselves fully acquainted with the Latin and Greek Grammars.

From a printed statement laid before the Directors by Dr. Paterson, the Principal, we find, that the number of Pupils at present is Forty,—that they *all* study Latin, Geography, History, Arithmetic and Writing,—that *ten* of them are in Greek, and *fourteen* in Euclid; and that all the younger boys are daily exercised in Recitation, Reading and Spelling.

The Christmas holidays now commence and will continue till Monday, the 5th of January, when the classes will resume their duties.

The Half-yearly Examination of the School taught by the Rev. Mr. Macgregor, in this City, took place yesterday, in presence of the Reverend Messrs. Stavely and Irvine, who aided in conducting the exercises of the day. The general answering was most satisfactory. The majority of the boys in each class evinced an intimate acquaintance with every subject upon which they were examined, viz.,—Grecian and English History, Arithmetic, Euclid, Greek Testament, Euripides (Iphigenia in Aulide) Livy and Horace. The examination was conducted with the proficiency of the pupils highly creditable to their own assiduity and the faithfulness of their teacher. In English Reading, Grammar, Orthography, Recitation, Geography, and Writing, the acquirements of the pupils were equally satisfactory.

The Rev. Gentlemen present concluded the exercises of the day with addresses to the children; and promised to give each a premium at the next examination—the one for proficiency in Mathematics, and the other in English History. The whole of the examination spoke highly for the indefatigable labours of Mr. Macgregor as a teacher, and the aptness of the scholars as learners.

Robert Irvine,
Alexander McLeod Stavelet.

Mr. Macgregor begs to state, in reference to the above, that his French pupils were not examined, for want of time—but were prepared to stand an examination on the Grammar, Pendon's Telemachus, and Racine's Athalie. The following young gentlemen obtained premiums for particular merits, by comparative trial:—

For Recitation, Juvenile Class, George Hewitt.
. . . 2d do. John Kerr Kirk.
. . . 3d do. Robert G. Crozier.
English History, - - John Risk.
Grecian History,—Chas. Ward & C. J. Macgregor.
Arithmetic, - - - William P. Perkins.
. . . 2d, - - John. J. Woodward.
Writing, 1st Division, C. Ward & Wm. Perkins
. . . 2d do. - - Thomas A. Crozier.
. . . 3d do. - - John K. Kirk.

N. B.—The School will be re-opened on Monday the 5th of January, after the usual holidays, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Wesleyan Academy.—The usual semi-annual Examination of this Institution was undergone on Monday and Tuesday last, before a respectable attendance of its friends and patrons. The Examination commenced at 9 o'clock on Monday morning with two classes of 42 pupils in English Grammar; three classes of 54 were then examined in Arithmetic, one of 11 in Book-keeping, and one of 13 in English History. In the afternoon, the Examination was resumed with one class of 21 in Geography; one of 8 on the Use of the Globes; and four of 50 in the French Language. In the evening a class of 12 was examined in Chemistry, and one of 10 in Intellectual Philosophy. At 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the Examination was again proceeded with. Four classes of 40 were examined in Latin; three of 18 in Greek; one of 13 in Plain Geometry; one of 14 in Algebra; and one of 11 in Land Surveying and Navigation. In the evening 24 of the Students joined in Rehearsing Exercises in Declamation, consisting of English pieces, and English and French Dialogues. The Examination, throughout, was most strict and satisfactory, and afforded the highest gratification to the visitors. The number of pupils in attendance during the Term has been 85, of whom 80 were present and examined.—This Academy is situated at Sackville, in this Province, and appears, from its central situation and methodical system of instruction, to have attracted pupils from almost every portion of the lower Provinces. We find it the subject of a lengthened and highly commendatory notice in the published Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of Public Schools, where it is described, from "its pleasant, healthy, and retired situation, the comfortable and commodious condition of the building, the religious, parental, and moral character of its government, and the moderate price of board and tuition," as "perhaps the very best educational establishment in the Province." We are glad to learn that the prospects of the Institution were never more encouraging than they are at the present time, almost all the rooms being already engaged for the next term, which begins on Thursday the 8th January next.

A fire occurred at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on the 11th Dec., which destroyed about 50 buildings on Bank, Water, and Union-streets. The loss is estimated at about $150,000—amount of insurance, $80,000.

The total exports from Great Britain in 1844, according to their *declared* value, amounted to £58 584 292; of which £16,504,069 was to British Colonies, and £42,080,223 to foreign countries.—The exports to the North American Colonies, was £3,076,801. To the United States of America, £1,198,079; Germany, £6,151,528; France, £2,656,259; East Indies, £7,695,666, &c. The largest amount to any one country, was to the United States.—At their *official* value the exports amounted to £131,564,563.

Quebec, December 5.

The Winter has set in with unusual rapidity and severity in Canada. Only eight days ago the thermometer was between 40 and 50 degrees of Farenheit, the rain was pouring down for twenty-four hours, and the St. Lawrence was as free from ice as in the Summer. The thermometer has been down to 10° below zero several mornings since, the snow, accumulated by furious easterly blasts when it is impossible to see at a distance of a few feet, lies in heaps more than fifteen feet deep in many places in the roads and the streets, and the broad St. Lawrence is not only covered with floating ice, but it is heaped, one piece above another, rendering it almost impassable even by the hardy canoemen of Point Levy. We have had worse in the course of the last eight days than the "*affreux climat*" of Moscow of 1812, which broke the strength of the greatest Conqueror of modern times, and finally sent him a prisoner to Elba and St. Helena.

We wish we had had the pleasure of the company of Mr. Senator Benton, of the United States Congress, during the last eight days. He would then have learned something about a winter attack on Quebec, of which he talked so glibly in the United States Senate some years ago. We do not wish that he had been in the field with his invading army. They would have all perished. Even if they had surrendered prisoners of war, they could hardly have been lodged, fed and kept from freezing with the assistance of all the means which the inhabitants of Canada usually provide against the *expected* rigours of winter.

If Senator Benton, and others in the United States, wish for the glories of war and conquest, we think they wished show some wisdom by preferring the risk of the yellow fever in southern latitudes, to encountering the *affreux climat* of Canada, such at least as occasionally visit us and of which we have just now a sample.—*Neilson's Gazette.*

The Quebec Gazette of the 10th inst. says—"The Winter seems to hold firm. After a few days milder temperature and some snow, the cold is again down to a few degrees above zero. We are sorry to hear that there are several cases of scarlet fever and small pox in some parts of the City and Suburbs."

The Oregon Correspondence.—The New York Courier & Enquirer remarks upon the correspondence between the British Minister and the American Secretary of State, that

"It is characterised on both sides by ability and courtesy, and in the latter respect, we think an erroneous impression was conveyed—we hope not designedly—by the President's Message—as to the manner in which the proposition on behalf of the Government to establish the 49th degree as the line of demarkation was declined by the British Plenipotentiary. There is certainly no lack of courtesy in the manner, nor could our negotiator himself be much surprised, as Mr. Pakenham intimates, that when Great Britain offered *more* and we offered *less* than each had before offered—her negotiator should 'not feel at liberty' to accept the proposal, nor that he should express the hope for some further proposal more consistent with fairness and equity and with the reasonable expectations of the British Government.'"

Extract of a letter from Washington to the New York Courier and Enquirer.

"If I am correctly informed, as I doubt not I am, there is a strong probability that our territory will before a period not very distant be again enlarged by the annexation of California. My information is that Mr. Slidell is charged with the purchase of that department of the Mexican Confederation; and the embarrassed position and the necessities of the Central Government, together with the disturbed state of the province, encourage the belief that no little sum of money, judiciously applied, may accomplish the object. As my object is merely to bring this fact to the notice of the public, I shall leave the further consideration of the subject to those more interested.

Digby, Dec. 1845. Your's, &c. F.

Passengers in the steam ship Caledonia, from Halifax for Liverpool, sailed on Thursday last—Messrs Thesiger, (Rifle Brigade,) John Jardine, Edward Allison, W. Mayburry, Capt. Huggins, Dr. Pollock, Mr. Metcalfe, Master Morrow, James Barber, W. D. Pickup, John Hastings, Vernon Hanson, and Capt. Mathieson.—From Boston, 53.

MARRIED.

On Thursday, the 11th instant, by the Rev. F. Smallwood, Mr. William Williams, to Miss Elizabeth Ann Hawkes, both of Indian Town.

On Tuesday morning, the 16th instant, at Indian Town, by the Rev. W. Harrison, Mr Joseph P. Sederquist, of Hampton, King's County, to Sarah, eldest daughter of Captain William Hayes, of Indian Town.

On the 16th instant, by the Rev. F. Smallwood, Mr. Solomon Davis, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. Stephen W. Storey, all of Portland.

On the 4th instant, by the Rev. William Allen, Mr. John Avery, to Miss Julia Dickey, both of the Parish of Studholm, County of King's.

On the 11th instant, by the same, Mr. George Oldfield, to Miss Jane Mace, all of the above place.

On the 16th, by the same, Mr. Richard Coates, to Miss Jane Blair, all of the above place.

At Amherst, (N. S.) on the 3d instant, by the Rev. Geo. Townshend, Rector, Joe Embree, Esq., to Susan, daughter of Mr. Joseph Morse.

DIED.

At his residence, Sharon, Connecticut, on the 7th inst. the Hon. John Cotton Smith, President of the American Bible Society, in the 81st year of his age.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN.

ARRIVED.

Thursday—Brig Charlotte, Colley, Philadelphia, 20—I. D. Andrews, flour, wheat, &c.

Friday—Barque Evergreen, Henry, Greenock, 47—John Hammond, coals.

Eilen, Hood, Port Rush—Jas. Alexander, ballast.

Schooner Jane, Simonson, Eastport—Master, rum.

Saturday—Brig Mary, Boddie Dublin, 70—N. Merritt, ballast.

Cushlamacree, Casey, Dublin, 50—S. Wiggins & Son, ballast.

Monday—Ship Mozambique, Pickance, Liverpool, 54—John Kirk, assorted cargo.

Tuesday—Barque Ann, Williams, Hull, 49—R. Rankin & Co.; ballast.

Brig Sir Henry Huntley, Liverpool, Liverpool, 50—Esty & Black, gen. cargo.

Brigt. Gem, Shackford, Philadelphia, 14—George Thomas, flour & meal.

Schr. Dolphin, Holder, Boston, 36 hours—Master, assorted cargo.

CLEARED.

Dec. 17th—Barque Albion Brown, Shaw, Chester, timber and deals—R. Rankin & Co.; Sir Henry Pottinger, Campbell, Bristol, timber and deals—R Rankin & Co.

18th—Ship Murchiness of Quceansbury, McCallum, Leith, timber and deals—R. Rankin & Co.; Brig Calais, Leen, Eastport, flour and corn, (part of inward cargo)—Geo. Thomas.

19th—Barque Glasgow, Cook, Liverpool, timber and deals—James Barber; Ganges, Lawson, London, timber and deals—R. Rankin & Co.

20th—Ship Bowyer Smith, Card, Glasgow, deals—Geo. Thomas; Barque Novaceotian, Ryerson, Boston, timber and deals—Chas. McLauchlan; Eliza Ann, Carruther, Carlisle, timber and deals—James Kirk; Brigt. Albert Fearing, Tucker, Eastport, chalk—Master.

23d—Ship Perseverance, Bennett, Liverpool, timber and deals—N. S. Demill; Barque Frederick, Gover, Dublin, timber and deals—S. Wiggins & Son.

Brig John, Lyons, of Sackville, put in for a harbour on Thursday, having lost an anchor and cable and a boat in the late gale.

The whale ship Pacific, of this Port, out 14 years, was reported at Monterey, Upper California, in October last, with 1200 barrels sperm oil.

Sailed from Alexandria, 10th inst., brig Lark, Faulkner, and Olive, Jeffrey, for St. John.—From Philadelphia, 11th, barque Everton, Osborne,