MR. WEBSTERIS SPERCH From the Albany Evening Jour .. al.

We shall publish Mr Webster's Speech to morzow. It will be extensively and attentively read. Its aim is to tranquilize the public mind and to calm the elements of discord. Whether. with this very laudable object in view, Mr Web ster has not drawn too largely upon the magnanimity of the friends of Free Soil, remains to be seen. Profoundly as we respect Mr Web ster, and desirous as we always are of sustain ing him, we are unable to assent to all of his propositions. And while members of Congress are bound by a written compact to dissolve the Union for no better reason than that the North refuses to extend Slavery into territory now Free, we cannot think that Northern statesmen are called upon to compromise.

But, in his opening, Mr Webster gave notice that he did not, that day, "speak as a Massa-chusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American." Viewed in this respect, his speech is enlightened and liberal. Standing as au American citizen, upon neutral ground, he has dealt tairly and impartially with both sections of the Union. This, however, is a standard of patriotism too high for those who cannot separate themselves from the influences that surround them.

Conceding both to Mr Clay and to Mr Webster, a patriotic and praiseworthy desire to pre-serve the Union—a Union under which they have stood as strong pillars, for forty years--we are constrained to say, that we cannot discover in the plan of either, means so practical, direct and simple, for accomplishing that object, as recommended by Gen. Taylor. California waits as a State for admission into the Union. New Mexico will soon present herself in the same attitude. Thus admitted into the American Confederacy, with Constitutions of their own framing; the whole difficulty is at an end.

But Mr. Webster favors the organization of a Territorial Government for New Mexico without any Prohibition of Slavery. This, in our judgment, is an impossibility. We are among the friends of the Union who would rejoice to see the necessity for a "Proviso" obviated. And hence we approved and adhere to the Administration Platform. But if the question of a Territorial Government for New Mexico comes up for action in Congress, the Northern member who records his vote against a Prohibition of Slavery therein, will greatly misapprehend the sentiments and painfully disappoint the hopes of his constituents.

Slavery was Prohibited in certain territory of the United States by an Ordinance of 1787.— The Prohibition prepared such Territory for admission into the Union as Free States. Ordinance or Proviso of 1787 worked well. The principle was sound then-is sound now-and will be sound in all future time.

## THE BANKERS IN LONDON.

The oldest banking-houses in London are:—Child's, at Temple Bar; Hoare's. in Fleet Street; Strahan's (formerly Snow's), in the Strand; and Gosling's, in Fleet Street. None date earlier than the restoration of Charles II The original were Goldsmiths'-'Goldsmiths that kept running cashes"—and their shops were distinguished by signs. Child's was known by "The Marygold," still to be seen where cheques are cashed; Hoare's by "The Golden bottle," still remaining over the outer door; Snow's by the "Golden Anchor," to be seen inside; and Gosling's by "The three Squirrels," still prominent in the ironwork of their windows towards the street. The founder of Child's house was John Blackwell, an Alderinan of the City of London, ruined by the shutting up of the Exchequer, in the reign of Charles II. Stone and Martin's, in Lombard Street, is said to have been founded by Sir Thomas Gresham; and the Grasshopper sign banking house till late in the last century. Of the West-end banking houses Drummond's, at Charing Cross, is the oldest; and, next to Drummond's Coutts', in the Strand. The found er of Drummond's obtained his great position by advancing money to the Pretender, and by the king's consequent withdrawal of his account.-The king's withdrawal led to a rush of the Scottish nobility and gentry with their accounts, and to the ultimate advancement of the bank to its present footing. Coutts's house was founded by George Middleton, and originally stood in St. Martin's Lane, near St. Martin's Church .-Coutts removed it to its present site.

FIRE AND DEATH.-On Monday night last, about 11 o'clock, Mr John Allan, residing near Mr McDougall's Mills, discovered his house to be on fire. He instanly ran out and alarmed the neighbors opposite, and then cushed back to his burning house. On his neighbors arriving they could not see him, but heard him

Pre St. Lawrence Route.—We have heard of a transaction which affords most satisfactory proof that the St. Lawrence route will prove much cheaper than the Erie Canal. One of our finest propellers, the Western Miller, has been chartered to take a cargo of flour to Halifax, at 3s. 6d. currency, per barrel, and bring a West India cargo back to Toronto at 2s. per cwt. It is confidently expected that these respective cargoes will be the first of the season at the respect tive ports. We have reuson to know that fieights can be engage I on mich lower terms by sailing crafts than those which we have stated above. We need not add another word to convince those who have been sceptical as to the superiority of the St. Lawrence route, that goods can be carried cheaper by it than by the Eric Canal. When the route becomes known there is no doubt that the great bulk of the Western produce must come by it, and that we shall be perfectly independent of the United States. We shall watch with much interest future transactions with regard to freights to and from the ports of the Sister Colonies .- Globe.

An Impostor Caught.—A fellow answering to the name of Walter Belleville, and perhaps a score of other names, was detected in this town on Wednesday, whilst attempting to play off some of his pranks before the astonished "natives." The scamp obtained from Mrs. Poole, the sum of £4, under the pretence that he had paid charges and duties to that amount, on a couple of boxes sent out to her from England, which he (Belleville) had left at Boston. He attempted the same game on an officer of the Garrison, by passing himselt off as the son of the Hon. Mr. Gladstone, England; but being suspected he was fully committed for trial at the the next Assizes. Among the papers found in his possession, were certificates from the Rev Mr. Egerton Ryerson, Rev. Mr. Evans, Rector of Woodhouse, and the School Superintendent of Oxford, also a letter from some party at or near Brantford. From these papers it was evidont he had been practising his fraudulent tricks on h s way up to this place. - London ( C.

Fire.-A fire broke out in a small building, used as a blacksunth's shop, on York Street, about twelve o'clock on Tuesday night last .-Fortunately the wind was not high at the time, or the consequences would have been disastrous. The tavern known as the "ProvincialInn," occupied by Mr. Robertson, was consumed, with an adjoining waggon shop. The firemen were speedily on the ground, but for want of an efficient engine, their efforts were of little avail.-The military were also on the spot, but arrived too late to be of much service; they, however, exerted themselves in preventing the flames spreading to the adjacent buildings. We beheve Mr. Robertson saved the greatest part of his furniture, but have not heard whether the owners of the other buildings secured anything.

RECIPROCITY OF TRADE -We learn from Washington that the British Ministry, and the American Cabinet, are in frequent communication on the subject of Reciprocity of trade between the British Provinces, and the United States. It is believed that, as soon as the vexed question of Slavery is decided, a treaty will be concluded which will give to Canada all the Commercial advantages that the Americans themselves possess, respecting the natural products of the country. The Nova Scotia Legislature have passed resolutions, by which the fisheries will be thrown open to the Americans, when they agree to the terms of Reciprocity.

A meeting has been held in the township of Emily, to raise a subscription, to be offered as off into the stream carrying her boilers with her-she was a reward for the apprehension of the person or found to have broken amidships, and when the remains persons who have several times attempted to were found by captains Meaher and Shaw, the next mornof the Gresham family was preserved in the set fire to the premises of Mr. James Mitchell ing, there was nothing left but her kelson, with the timof that township, in which they at last succeeded. The sum of £80 was subscribed at the

> A public Meeting has been held at the Mechanics Institute, Kingston, for the purpose of taking crops to establish in that city, an Annual Provincial Fair, or exhibition of Manufactures and Works of Art, to be called the Central Provincial Institute.—Ib.

> We observe, that by a decision given by the Court of Common Pleas last Friday, Mail-carriers throughout this province are considered to be exempt from tolls, under the Imperial Statutes on this subject, in which this provision is extend. ed expressly to the Colonies. No exception lies in consequence of the nature, size, or weight of the carriage or luggage, or the number of pas. sengers.-1b.

INCERDIARISM .- On Sunday morning about half-past four o'clock, a fire broke out in an unoccupied brick buildinside the house; for some minutes no one ing, on Market Street. The interior of the house was dewould enter owing to the flames and smoke, stroyed and some adjoining frame buildings were pulled At last, Mr Nicholas Chapman, at the immi- down, by which the further spreading of the flames was nent risk of his life, rushed through the blaze prevented. The Fire Companies were speedily on the and succeeded in dragging Mr Allan out — spot, and exerted themselves very successfully. There is spot, and exerted themselves very successfully. There is The unfortunate man, however, survived only not the least doubt that some incendiary fired the buildings. till yesterday morning. The family in the A magisterial investigation into the cause of every fire, house at the time consisted of Mr and Mrs would do much to check this growing evil. The property

BURNING OF THE STEAMBOAT ORLINE ST.

From the New York Herald.

The Orline St. John steamboat, as has been previously amounced in our telegraphic accounts, left Mobile on Monday, the 4th inst, at 5 P. M., for Montgomery, Alabama. She had, as nearly as can be ascertained, about 6) cabin passengers, 18 deck passengers, and her complement of erew and attendants, numbering 30 persons more The boat ran well-averaging about fifteen miles against the current till half-past four o'clock P. M., on the bil uiste, when the startling and portentous cry of "Fire!" aroused nearly every one on board to a sense of the penious situation of the boat and all on board. The large qualities of pitched pine wood, about hity cords, stoned near the boilers and on the boiler-deck, had ignited, and in the course of a few seconds, say two minutes, had enveloped the cabin portion of the boat above the boilers.-The construction was general, and it was only by the caution of those who escaped that their lives were preserved. Many leaped into the stream, and were swept under the boat, and down by the current, almost Instantaneously losing their lives by this dreadful easualty, and their anxiety to preserve their lives. Others saved themselves by catching floating fragments thrown from the deck, with which they were buoyed down the stream, and, finally, to safety. Mr. Bass had hoped to have saved Mrs. Half and daughter, a beautiful girl of ten years of ege, but Mrs. Hall returned to the cabin to assist another lady, and the whole party, except Mr. Bass, were lost, the flames flashing upon every part of the boat, and adding terrors to the scene, already awfully painful from the sacrifice of valuable fives.

It is supposed that there was not a living being in the boat after the lapse of two minutes from the alarm, though many had jumped into the water, and some were clinging to the rudder. In this short space of time, human energy was exerted to its utmost, both by the officers of the boat and the engineers. Captain Meaher and his brother, the first mate, exerted themselves to the utmost to save the lives of the passengers. Mr. Benjamin Pearce, the pilot, stood at the wheel till the vessel was run ashore on the western bank of the river, which was about six hundred yards wide at the scene of the catastrophe, viz:-about four miles above Bridgeport, and two hundred and twenty miles from Montgomery. The engineers with remarkable presence of mind, attended to the boilers, and opened all the valves in an instant, and thereby prevented the loss of life that might have resulted from an explosion. The promptitude of Mr. Pearce, who ran the boat ashore while she was about the distance of four lengths off, is highly commended, as he was only enabled to escape from the wheel by leaping into the water through a sheet of fire When the boat struck, she ploughed into the shore about four feet deep, and thus those on the bow were preserved. For those on the rudder, who were cut off by the flames from this means of escape, there was still great danger .-The flames were over their heads, and they were driven down to hold by the rudder till they could be assisted .-Among these was Capt. Shaw, who was ultimately saved by a boat manned by Captain Meaher and his brother, whose noble conduct will long be remembered. Capt. S. just before the fire broke out, had retired to his state room and had fallen to sleep. He was awakened by an unusual noise, and, in his night clothes only, succeeded in reaching the rudder, where he was finally rescued by Captain M. Many who jumped into the river at the first alarm, were lost. Among these was Judge Lindsay, of Mobile, who was whitled under the boat by the current, and probably crushed by its force. Some of those who floated down upón coops, spare plank, and the like, were found safe at a distance of six or seven miles from the scene of the disas-

The conduct of Abram, a slave of Judge Bridges, is said to have been truly noble. By a small canoe, he was enabled to save nine persons, six of whom gave him a purse of about \$150. The others were too destitute to offer more than their sincere thanks.

The spread of the fire was exceedingly rapid. The chimneys fell in seven minutes from the time of the alarm. In ten minutes, nothing was left but the hull, then burning as it became buoyant. As she became lighter, she floated bers burnt half through. The second mate Mr. Hugh Hughes, was burned to death in his berth. All the crew except him, saved themselves. The steward, stewardess, second cook, and eight negroes were lost.

ANOTHER ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS. From the Corres. of the London Athenaum.

Naples, Feb. 8, 1850.

Never surely did the elements of confusion and combustion abound in any one place to such a degree as in Naples. For two years past have we been looking backwards and forwards with political convulsions; and though we can now keep our seats, still we feel that we are on dangerous ground and that at any moment an explosion may take place. At present, however, two rival destructive powers of a veryklifferent character have started up and are occupying the attention of all the inhabitants of this great city. On the evening of the 5th there burst forth an cruption of Vesuvius so brilliant and tremendous as has not been witnessed for many years. No one expected it; none of the ment. usual signs had preceded it,—so that our astonishment and admiration were the greater. The mountain literally roared with the efforts which it made to disgorge itself,the noise being not unlike that of the firing of a cannon at sea; and at every discharge there was thrown up a: mass of lava and of rocks which by night showed like balls of fire. It is impossible to describe the beauty of the scene; the light from Vesuvius that every point was brought out burdensome. Allan and a servant girl. The two latter belonged to T. Strinson Esq., and the brick house was in relief for miles round. Castella Mare, Sorrento, even in the Watchman will be published every Monday evenover to Capri, were more distinctly visible than by day, ing, by and for the undersigned.

whilst the sea looked like a mass of liquid fire. The report of a guide who was on the mountain at the time, and which is now before me, is as follows -" In the middle of the mountain toward. Somma man instant a grotto was formed full of stalactites of salt and marine salt. I was about to gather some parties of it when the grotto began to open as if we ler the influence of an earthquake, and as I fled I found that my challes were burnt upon my back .-Had I not quickened my speed my life would have been sacrificed, for in the same moment, there is sued forth a current of lava forty pulms in his - whence, as also from the crater, were thrown up tombs and lightnings. In ten minutes the lava extended to the 150f of Somma, forming a most wonderful and beautiful scene." Some of the crystals of salt I have seen this morning—white ingolor, lightly shaded with green, and extremely deheate and elegantin

BOSTON, 19th.

This morning at half past seven o'clock. Professor Webster was removed from his prison cell in Leverett street gaol in a backney coach with temate prisoners and a guard of police. As he emerged from the prison limits he seemed calm and confident and stopped from the carriagelightly, Before the opening of the Court the gatteries were numerously filled by ladies and representatives of the press, and precisely at 9 o'clock the Protessor entered the Court and stepped to the seat aliotted to him. Untaking his seat Professor W. smited as he saluted several of this friends and to some of whom he familiarly nodded and a stranger would have taken him to be an ordinary spectator. He wore his spectacles with case and dignified calmness and the hands of friends were occasionally shaken. The countenance of the prisoner indicates to the physiognomist strong animal passion and a risible temperament. His check bones are high and his mouth betrays great resolution. A breathless silence prevailed, broken only by the associate judge enquiring what number of Jurors had been summoned to serve in this inquiry. The Clerk answered 91. When the Jury were sworn and the Clerk of the Court proceeded to read to the prisoner who stood up in the dock and listened with marked attention. Shaw and the associate Judges

Fletcher was too ill to attend. For a few moments death like silence prevailed, which was first broken by Justice Shaw. He ordered the Clerk to read the list of jurors summoned there, whereupon he rose and enquired if any of the jurors had any excuse to make as to their detention, when four replied to the affirmative, leaving 87 on

PROSPECTUS OF "THE WATCHMAN." RELIGIOUS AND LÎTERARY JOURNAL,

PUBLISHED WEELY IN THE CITY OF TORONTO:

This Journal will vindicate the great principles of Protestantism; but especially that form of Protestantism termed dissent or non-conformity. The equal civil rights of the several sections of the Christian Church, the support of the Gospel Ministry by voluntary contributions, the introduction of lay agency into all the Councils of the Church, are some of the positions which will be advocated in the Watchman. Error and sin, wherever existent, or however high the earthly authority by which they may be sanctioned, will be fearlessly exposed; but party politics will never be admitted in the columns of the above Journal.

The Watchman will not be the official organ of any religious community; yet the undersigned will feel great pleasure in inserting brief notices (if furnished) of the progress of evangelical denominations. Especially is it expected that in the absence of a connexional organ, the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion Church, will consider this Journal their medium of acquaining the public with their operations and progress.

Great care will be taken to render the Watchman not only unobjectionable, but interesting and instructive as a family newspaper. It is intended that this periodical shall maintain a position equally distant from the arry region of romance and the spiritless monotony of an uninteresting compilation. The following plan of Departments nas, after much consideration, been adopted.

- 1. THE MISCELLANY—containing original and selected articles-religious, moral, literary, scientifiz, &c-
- 2. THE FAMILY CIRCLE—in which the duties, responsibilities, advantages, &c., &c., of this most ancient compact will be discussed.
- 3. THE GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC-which will fornish notices of the position, history, habits and customs, &c., of the various nations of the earth.
- 4. THE PRESS AND GENERAL REVIEW.-Here the sentiments of the leading periodicals on the great topics affecting the interests of the Church and the world, will be inserted; also occasional reviews of late works.
- 5. Ecclesiastical, -or an index of the progress or decline of evangelical Christianity in the world.
- 6. THE WATCHMAN or principal editorial departmentcontaining a faithful testimony for the truth, a solemn protest against the prevailing errors in the doctrines, prantice, polity, &c., of, professedly Christian Churches; also a review of news.
- 7. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE-containing Provincial, American, British and Foreign news. Special attention will be paid to the proceedings of the Canadian parlia-
- 8. THE AGRICULTURAL department will contain general selections, notices of the latest improvements, &c., in thu most important branch of Canadian industry.

By engaging in this enterprise, the undersigned places nimself under heavy responsibilities-moral, literary and financial; and he is fully aware that without divine assistance and the hearty co-operation of brethren in Christ and for the night itself was pitch dark,—yet so brilliant was personal friends, those responsibilities will be extremely