

## DOMESTIC.

**THE ATHENÆUM.**—We hail this publication as a great boon: It will strengthen the hands of the zealous workers in the cause of Temperance; that cause—"the cause of all mankind"—which is destined, if successfully persevered in, to raise the character of the people; to promote the wealth of the land; to send forth its sons armed to resist the temptations and allurements of the vice of intemperance;—to banish the fell destroyer and enemy of all that is moral and good; and to remove the cup of bitterness from those who partake of its poisonous ingredients. We trust that, amidst all the difficulties which beset the path of this reform movement, this little pilot the *ATHENÆUM* may combat, by moral suasion, the evils that reign through the prevalence of intemperance, and show the way to a happier and better state of things. The *Athenæum* is published in Halifax, under the direction of the Grand Division of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, of Nova Scotia, at six shillings and three pence per annum. We shall consider it our pleasing duty to extend its circulation, and advance its interests.—*Cape Breton News* Jan. 18th.

**FOUND DEAD.**—On Thursday night, about half an hour after dark, William Kennedy of Louisburg, aged about sixty years, left Main-a-Dieu—to which place he had been on a visit to his friends—on his way to a relative's house at some distance from the village.—On the following morning a person found him lying on his back, at some distance off the road, quite dead, and the body partially covered with snow. It is supposed that feeling unwell he went off the road, and laid him self down, and there died. He was subject to apoplectic attacks, and the presumption is that of one of these he died.—*Id.*

A wedding adventure of rather a romantic and amusing character took place here on Saturday last. A sturdy farmer of Cape John, who has for some months past been leading the life of a widower, and appears to have grown tired of it, came to town on that day to look for a helpmate, apparently with as much coolness and deliberation as if he had come to purchase a piece of broadcloth. Having made enquiries among his acquaintances for a suitable person to meet his views, his attention was directed to a young woman at service in a family in town. On being consulted, the lady proved to be nothing loth, and though the suit was until then a stranger to her she met his proposition promptly. The aid of a milliner was called in, the parson sent for, and in two hours, we believe, from the time of their meeting, the pair were united in the bands of wedlock.—*Eastern Chronicle*, Jan. 23rd.

**TELEGRAPH TO STRAITS OF CANO.**—Mr Hyde has been in this place for two or three days past, agitating for an extension of the Telegraph line to the Straits of Cano. He says he is bound to put it through, and he is the man to do it.—*Id.*

It is stated in some of the English papers that the Right Rev. Dr. Edward Field, Bishop of Newfoundland, is to be translated to the vacant Diocese of Nova Scotia.

## COLONIAL.

## New Brunswick.

**TEA SOIRÉE.**—The Tea Soirée in aid of the funds of the R. C. Total Abstinence Society came off in their Hall, Sydney Street, on Wednesday evening. About six hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down to tea, provided by the lady friends to Total Abstinence. The tables were spread with an abundance of good things, and all appeared to do justice to what was before them. The Temperance Band and Choir discoursed excellent music during the evening. After tea, the meeting was called to order, and was addressed by W. H. Needham, George Blatch, and Charles Doherty, Esqrs., and at 12 o'clock the party separated, highly pleased with the evening's entertainment.—*Telegraph*, St. John, N. B., Jan. 23rd.

**GOLD DIGGING.**—A party of persons have for some days past been industriously employed digging in a lot at the Back Shore, in search of hidden treasure. So implicit is their confidence of success, that previous to commencing, they leased the lot and erected an enclosure, to prevent interruption from without; and have removed fifteen or twenty feet of hard clay and stones—bailing out the water which constantly pours in upon them. We believe they work day and night, strong in the belief that when they reach the level of the sea, they will find an iron pot or chest full of yellow gold, in old Spanish Doubloons, and Plate, said to have been buried there for safety in days gone by, when specie was held to be of little value. In all this they are guided by the divining rod, which they are sure in this instance points Eastward. It is well worth while to visit the spot, to see how assiduously these men labour—standing in mud and water—proving that in these days, as in the times of witches and fairies, there are men to be found who suffer themselves to be infatuated and imposed upon by the grossest delusions which poor human nature can have inflicted upon it.—*St. John, N. B. Courier*, Jan. 25th.

**FIRE.**—Between nine and ten o'clock last evening a fire occurred in an out house belonging to Mr. George Hutchinson, in Elliott Row, which was entirely consumed. By the timely arrival of the respective Fire Companies, the dwelling house adjoining, in which Mr. Hutchinson lived, was preserved, and sustained but little injury. The

fire is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, some charcoal having been deposited in the out-house.

We noticed that on this, as on similar occasions, the crowds of persons who flocked to the neighbourhood of the fire, materially interfered with the operations of the firemen,—and we trust that the authorities will immediately establish a Fire Police, which will prevent the recurrence of this evil in future.—*Id.*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER.**—On Wednesday last, a Bill was brought up for discussion in the Common Council, having for its object certain amendments to the City Charter. This Bill provides for the election of the Mayor by the Citizens generally. The salary of the Mayor to remain the same as at present,—£400 per annum. The jurisdiction of the City Court to be extended to suits not exceeding £20, instead of £5, as at present. No Marshall to act as agent for plaintiff or defendant in the City Court. Aliens to be allowed to do business in the City. The property qualification for Mayor, Aldermen, and Councilors to be abolished; and no elector to be disfranchised for non-payment of taxes.

Since writing the above, we learn that the salary of the Mayor of Halifax has been reduced to £250 per annum, by the casting vote of the Mayor himself.

Another meeting of the Common Council took place yesterday afternoon, when some further amendments were made in the Bill, which, as passed, will be read before the Circuit Court on Monday morning next.

## Canada.

It is reported throughout Europe and America, that a novel gun has been patented, by Manton of London, the peculiar feature of which is, that 70 rounds may be fired without stopping to prime. That no doubt is a novel gun; but we can boast, in the small town of St. Catharines, Canada West, of a greater novelty than that in the same article. We have been shown by the inventor, a gun of beautiful workmanship, so arranged that it can be fired from 70 to 200 times with once priming, which he offers to part with to any one who may feel disposed to introduce it to the public.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

A Lectureship on Hebrew and Oriental Literature has been established in the Toronto University, and Mr. J. Hirschfelder, so well known amongst us for some years past, has been appointed to the office. This appointment has given general satisfaction.—*Daily Patriot*.

**RUMOURS.**—It was reported yesterday that Mr. Hincks is to be the new Post Master, and Mr. Morrison Inspector General. The Commission of public works is to be filled by some one from Lower Canada! We give the report as we heard it.—*Id.*

An important bill is now before the Senate of the Toronto University, for the establishment of a Professorship of Agriculture, and an Experimental School, in connection with the Provincial Board of Agriculture. It is supposed that the fees in the several University Classes will be reduced, and means will be taken to increase the numbers and value of the Prizes.—*Id.*

## UNITED STATES.

A Bill has been introduced into the U. S. Congress for setting apart a portion of the public lands to aid the State of Maine capitalists in constructing the North American and European railroad.

**THE LATE DR. WEBSTER'S FAMILY.**—A letter from a friend at Cambridge, says—"I observed at church yesterday, Mrs. Webster and daughters, all in deep mourning. The millionaire at Watertown, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Appleton, of Boston, have recently made a present to Mrs. Webster, of a handsome house on Ash-street, of which she will take immediate possession. One or more of her daughters, who are accomplished, give private lessons in music at their house."—*Lowell Courier*.

**HORRIBLE DEATH OF A DRUNKARD.**—On Tuesday the 3d. inst., at Vincennes, in Indiana, a German named John Sweitzer, came to his death under the following circumstances:—He had been drinking for several days previous, and on Tuesday evening, crossing the river, he proceeded to the circular saw mill of Mr. Wheeler. The men employed in the mill observing his condition, warned him of the danger, and told him to take a seat, which he did. Their attention then being directed to another part of the establishment, Sweitzer left his seat, and going towards the saw, it is supposed, fell upon it or against it, for when discovered but a few minutes after, he was *saved from the left side just below the shoulder obliquely across the belly!* He died about twelve o'clock on Tuesday night.

**FOGITIVE SLAVE BILL.**—The Telegraph from New York, of the 26th, says—"It is asserted that Mr. Rhet will, after he takes his seat in the Senate, submit a proposition requiring the general government to enter into negotiations with Great Britain for the extradition and surrender of fugitive slaves who have sought refuge in Canada.

George W. Niles and Nathaniel W. Roberts, two New York lawyers, convicted of malpractice and swindling in their legal capacity, were on Monday sentenced—Niles to the State's Prison, for two years and a half, and to pay a fine of \$2000; Roberts to confinement in the City Prison 30 days, and to pay a fine of \$250. When

the sentences were pronounced, the spectators attempted to applaud but were stopped by the court.

**GOODS.**—A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Express says:—"A number of applications have been made by our foreign ministers, to be recalled; but the President is inflexible in refusing them this privilege. I could name five missions that would be vacant this moment, had the President assented to their wishes, but he is resolved so far as consistent with duty, that if men will accept of outposts, they shall pay their own expenses home or serve out the period of their appointment."

**NEW YORK, Jan. 21.**—The ship *Envy* arrived this morning in 77 days from Liverpool, and 34 from Fayal. She has lost twenty-two passengers during the voyage, from ship fever and small pox, and is now lying off the quarantine hospital with forty sick on board.

**GREAT FIRE AT NEW ORLEANS.**—The St. Charles Hotel—the pride of the South—with Klapp's Church in Poydras street, and other buildings, were destroyed by fire on the 18th instant. The loss is estimated at not less than half a million of dollars.—It is reported that several lives were lost in the conflagration.

**LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.**—The Steamer *Cherokee* and *Prometheus* arrived at New York on Tuesday morning last from Chagres, bringing \$2,000,000 in gold dust, and dates from San Francisco to the 15th December. They did not bring the California mails.

The *Cherokee* left Chagres on the 11th ult., and brought nearly all the New-York passengers The *Philadelphia* was to leave Chagres on the 14th, with the mails for Havana and New Orleans.

The steamer *California*, from San Francisco, arrived at Panama on the 3d, and the *Isthmus* on the 7th. The former brought 200 passengers, and \$500,000 worth of gold dust, and the latter 250 passengers, and \$225,000 in gold.

Another fire had occurred at San Francisco, destroying property to the amount of \$100,000.—The fire commenced in Cook & Brothers' store, foot of Sacramento street.

Markets at San Francisco were declining, owing to an overstock of goods. No material change in prices had taken place. A strong tide of emigration was setting towards the Atlantic States.

Vessels were in moderate demand. Seamen's wages for long voyages, \$25 per month. Improvements in San Francisco are rapidly progressing, and the City is said to present a far different aspect to what it did last winter.

The Cholera had finally disappeared both from San Francisco and Sacramento City.

The news from the mines is generally of a favourable character. The miners were hard at work, and their labours yield a fair return.—Thousands intended wintering at the mines.

An exceedingly rich silver placer has been discovered a few leagues from Montevideo, where a company is forming to work the mines upon an extensive scale.

The *Stockton Journal* records a collision in the vicinity of Gratiama Hill in which fifteen Americans and a large number of Indians were killed.

The accounts from Oregon report favourably of the prosperity of that region.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**NEW ELECTRO-CHEMICAL TELEGRAPH.**—Recent and wonderful improvements in the transmission of messages by the electric telegraph, have recently been exhibited in France. The instrument is the invention of Mr. Bain, is called an electro-chemical telegraph, and conveys its messages in the very handwriting of the persons who send them! It claims to have great advantages over the electro-magnetic telegraphs in general use. While the latter transmit despatches at an average rate of eight words per minute for each conducting wire, this new invention can transmit from 250 to 400 words per minute. A committee of the French Legislative Assembly, at the head of which was the celebrated astronomer Le Verrier, was appointed to investigate the merits of this invention. They caused the experiments to be repeated in their presence. A message consisting of several thousand words was transmitted to Lille and back, along a single wire (the wire being united at Lille so as to carry back the message), at the rate of about 1500 letters, or nearly 400 telegraphic words per minute. The committee reported favourably of the project, and the Government ordered a set of apparatus to be constructed, to be placed in the first instance on the line between Paris and Calais. This line was completed in the early part of the last month, and their performance was witnessed by the correspondent of a London journal, from whose account of the discovery we gather our information. His own despatch, which would occupy about a column of the *Atlas*, was transmitted and written by the apparatus in his presence, at the rate of 1200 letters per minute. The characters were perfectly distinct and legible, and the despatch was read from them also in his presence.—*Boston Atlas*.

Mr. Robert Gillilan, a Scotch poet of some note, and the author of several beautiful songs in the Scottish dialect, died suddenly on the 4th ult. at his residence in Leith. He has held for many years the office of Grand Bard to the Masonic Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Mr. Gillilan's emigrant song, "Oh why left I my home," is well known, and may be considered among his best productions. A few hours before his decease, he penned the following hurried lines:

By wintry blasts and ocean waves,  
My bark tossed to and fro,  
Now quietly rests at anchor, where  
Nor storms nor tempests blow,  
And when the sea gives up its dead,  
And earth's foundation's riven,  
I hope, through Christ to make good soil,  
Swift for the Port of Heaven.

The queerest object in nature is a Spanish beggar, for these beggars beg on horseback; and it is an odd thing to see a man riding up to a poor foot passenger asking alms. A gentleman in Valparaiso, being accosted by one of these mounted beggars, replied "Why sir, you come to beg of me who have to go on foot, while you ride on horseback." "Very true sir," said the beggar, "and I have the more need to beg, as I have to support my horse as well as myself."

Three thousand ivory tusks were imported into Southampton in the steamer *Ripon* on her last voyage, the whole producing nearly £25,000.

The cholera has entirely disappeared from Kingston, Jamaica.

**IMPORTANCE OF A SINGLE VOTE.**—One single vote sent Oliver Cromwell to the Long Parliament, Charles Stuart to the Scaffold, revolutionized England, and made Great Britain free. Four votes in the City of New York, made Thomas Jefferson President of the United States. One vote gave us Texas, made war with Mexico, slew thousands of people and purchased California.—*Amer. Paper*.

**PAWNBROKING WITHOUT INTEREST.**—The city of Barcelona in Spain possesses a peculiar pawn-broking establishment, where loans are made without interest to necessitous persons on the deposit of any articles. Two-thirds of the value of the deposit are at once advanced, and the loan is made for six months and a day; but if, at the expiration of that period, the depositor should declare himself unable to redeem it, another period of six months is allowed. At the end of the second six months the pledges are sold; but if they yield more than the amount advanced, the difference is given to the original owner. In the year 1849, 5666 persons availed themselves of its generosity.—*Galignani's Mes.*

A book of 550 pages has been published in London, with plates and a map of North America down to the 40th degree of north latitude, detailing the plan of a railroad across Nova Scotia and the Canadas from Halifax to the Pacific. The idea is magnificent. The route from Halifax to Quebec is already surveyed. The distance from England to China by this proposed road is shown to be fifteen hundred miles shorter than the nearest route across the United States. The cost of the road is estimated at £14,000,000, averaging £5000 a mile. To build it 20,000 convicts are to be set at work at once, paupers are to be sent over, and Canada is to be raised to great dignity in the United Kingdom. Five millions of people can be spared from England, Ireland and Scotland, to settle along the route and populate it to the Pacific. The scheme is to relieve Great Britain of her pauper burdens, regenerate the old monarchy, and establish her firmly on the American continent.—*N. Bkr.*

**ENGLISH CARDINALS.**—Since the death of Wolsey, which took place in 1530, only ten Englishmen have been raised to the dignity of Cardinal by the Pope of Rome; and of these ten, five have been created within the last twenty years.

**PAPER.**—Paper from tow is stated to have been invented and made at Berlin, so difficult, if not impossible to be counterfeited, that it will supersede all other fabrics for bank notes, stamps, &c.

## EUROPEAN ITEMS.

It is announced that the Dublin and Galway Railway will be opened for travel on the first of June.

Property to the amount of thirty thousand pounds was destroyed by fire in Dublin on the fourth. It broke out in the coach building establishment of Messrs. Hutton of Summer Hill.

Great excitement had prevailed at Paris during the week in consequence of the resignation, en masse, of the Ministry. This was first caused by the open hostility of the President towards General Changarnier, who, in defiance of the earnest protestations of the ministry was given permission on the instant, and by a decided majority to justify his conduct before the Assembly. Both the Right and Left warmly applauded the general, when the Ministry abruptly withdrew, and with equal abruptness resigned in a body. The President experienced great difficulty in the formation of a new Cabinet, Barrat and others having refused to accept office.

In regard to the German question, though there are many probable and improbable rumours, nothing is actually known, the purport of the conferences at Dresden being kept scrupulously secret, which, it is judged, is not a favourable augury.

The tone of triumph which pervades the bearing of Prince Schwartzburg, and the growing hostility of the Chambers at Berlin, which met on the 3d instant, are also named as evidences of an unsatisfactory state of the negotiations, at least at present, seventh instant.

Prince Schwartzburg's mission to Vienna is stated to have failed of its intended objects.

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