

burned, and we think do not over estimate the loss, when we state it at £144,000. To what extent this property is insured it is quite impossible to say. Many of the sufferers are insured to the full amount; but many more, we hear of, who either bear the entire loss or a very large part of it. It is certain, however that all the leading insurance offices must be heavy losers."

Two young Children lost their lives, one being burned, and the second mortally injured in leaping from a window.

Montreal has on former occasions suffered severely by fire. In 1765—only two years after the cession of the country to Great Britain, one-fourth part of the City was consumed, and about the third part of its value. The loss amounted to £87,500 sterling. Again in 1768 upwards of ninety houses and two churches were burned. And on the 6th of June, 1803, a conflagration occurred greater in extent than the one which took place last month.

In Upper Canada, likewise, the number of fires during the byegone few weeks has been great; and the damage occasioned considerable. One which occurred at Cooksville, on Dundas Street, sixteen miles west of Toronto, destroyed nearly half of that village.

Messrs. Chandler and Hincks have failed to procure the Imperial guarantee for the Halifax and Quebec Railroad. The latter gentleman in a letter addressed to Sir John Pakington written on the eve of his departure for Canada, observes: "I have reason to believe that I can effect arrangements on the spot with eminent capitalists to construct all the railroads necessary for Canada, with our own unaided credit. I have likewise reason to think that the European line from Halifax to the frontier of Maine can be constructed by the unaided credit of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick."

Considerable excitement prevails in Newfoundland in consequence of the receipt of a despatch from the Home Government refusing to concede Responsible Government to that Province.

Canadian credit stands high at present in the Home market. Our six per cents were, last month, quoted three per cent higher in London than corresponding United States securities. It is to be hoped that no excessive and ill-digested railroad speculations on our

part, will have the effect of marring this gratifying state of things.

It is with pleasure we notice that an increasing desire prevails throughout the Province, to ameliorate the condition of mercantile employers, by shortening the hours of labour. In Hamilton the shopkeepers have resolved to close their places of business at 7 o'clock, p.m.; and the wholesale drygoods dealers of Toronto (with one exception) have agreed to close their establishments at 6 o'clock, p.m.

Three convict inmates of the Provincial Penitentiary have recently been transferred from that establishment to the Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, in a state of insanity. Surely it is incumbent upon our executive to inquire whether the discipline of the Penitentiary may not have been to a great extent the cause of the mental ruin of these unhappy persons.

The Crown Land Department has set apart a block of land in the thriving village of Sydenham, C.W., for a public pleasure ground. Sincerely do we trust that such an excellent precedent will be universally followed in time to come by the Provincial Government. Nothing more conduces to the health of civic communities than parks for exercise and recreation, and if the appropriation be not made at the commencement of a town the chances are great that the object will never be attained at any future period.

During the last month several persons convicted of murder both in Upper and Lower Canada have had their sentences commuted from death to that of imprisonment for life. In more than one instance the clemency of the Executive appears to have been exercised without sufficient warrant for any extenuating circumstances. We would be the last to advocate an excessive severity in the infliction of capital punishment, but at the same time must express our firm persuasion that *maudlin mercy* is the most dangerous error into which a government could fall. Unless an undoubted plea in mitigation can be advanced and made good, every crime should be visited with its statutory penalty.

That ingenious Yankee Showman, Barnum, is at present itinerating through Canada West