of release, [illegible] their expressions of impatience. Another exhibited the most remarkable constancy and firmness. After he had been in that fiery tomb for more that six hours, and suffered extensive injuries by burning and compression, the rubbish was so far removed as to give access to his head, and brandy and water were tendered to him; but he steadfastly refused any stimulant, on account of his belonging to a temperance society, and would partake of no refreshment but water. His recovery is doubtful.

The scenes in the vicinity of Hague street and of the Fourth Ward Station House, were harrowing in the extreme. Women and children in mournful anxiety as to the fate of those most dear to them, crowded every avenue, and heart-rending were the cries of distress when a blackened corpse was found to be all that remained of the husband and father.

The immediate cause of the catastrophe can only be conjectured. Those who had the management of the engine can never appear at any earthly bar. The supposition is a reasonable one, however, that Sunday night being unusually cold, the feed pipe to the boiler became frozen. The fire being started under the boiler evaporated all the water it contained, and heated its plates to redness. The warmth then affected the frozen pipe,—a jet of water rushed in, and the explosion followed inevitably.

At the Hospital extensive arrangements were made to afford instant surgical assistance to such as might need it, and those we saw there last evening, were receiving every attention which humanity could dictate or skill bestow.

At 7 o'clock last evening, the men had dug into the ruins to where a small boy lay, whose body they extricated, but his feet and a portion of his legs were so tightly wedged fast in the timber and brick, that he could not be got out without moving a pile of rubbish that was above him, to the depth of about ten or fifteen feet. The little fellow bore his sufferings with the utmost patience, and freely partook of bread and milk and a quantity of brandy, while the men were busily employed in removing the rubbish from off him. He told the men that he was not injured, and if they would release his feet he could walk home. We have not yet heard of his release. At the time the building fell, there were two females passing along Hague street, on the opposite side of the street, both of whom were crushed to death by the mass of brick.

The conduct of the City Authorities on this occasion is worthy of all praise. The Mayor was early on the spot, as was also Alderman Oakley. The Mayor gave directions to spare no pains or expense to save those that were alive, and to secure the remains of the dead, and he remained at the place nearly the whole day, encouraging by his presence, the exertions of the men.

The intrepidity of the members of the Fire Department was characteristic,—freely perilling their own lives where there was the remotest possibility of saving that of another. Many of them carried the marks of fire upon their persons. More honorable scars were never borne.

The efforts of all, as we have said, were strenuously directed to the saving of life; yet that very anxiety began difficulties. There was no department which felt that it was entitled to the control of the measures in use, and the consequence was, that efforts always well meant, were sometimes misdirected.

The Board of Assistant Aldermen met last evening for the transaction of general business, but restricted itself to an expression of the public sentiment of regret at the deplorable catastrophe we record.

The bodies of those who were burned presented a horrible aspect, some being consumed to a crisp. But we will not dwell upon that scene.

The little boy, alluded to as found at 7 o'clock in the evening, was not extricated until half-past four in the morning; his legs and knees were a good deal burnt, and his senses were deranged.

By the latest accounts from New York, we regret to learn that this heroic little fellow, who endured the greatest sufferings for twenty hours without a murmur, died of the shock occasioned to the nervous system, in five hours after his release. Sixty-two dead bodies, in all, had been taken from the ruins up to Wednesday night, but nearly as many more are still missing.

State of New York.—In Assembly, Feb. 6.

Concurrent Resolutions on Reciprocal Trade.

[Offered by Mr. Lewis.]

Whereas, The Canadian Parliament has passed a resolve to admit into Canada free of duty certain articles of agriculture of the growth and production of the United States, whenever the like articles of the growth and production of Canada shall be admitted into the United States free of duty;

And whereas, It is for the manifest advantage of the people of the United States and Canada, bordering as they do upon each other, that their commercial intercourse should be exempt from all unnecessary burdens and restrictions, and especially in the interchange of products common to both:

And whereas, It is eminently proper to respond in the liberal spirit which the people and government of the United States have always carried into their intercommunications with other countries, to the friendly overtures of the people and government of Canada, in a matter of reciprocal interest, not only because it concerns their mutual convenience, but it will tend to cement and perpetuate, by means of a free intercourse, the good understanding which happily subsists between them; therefore,

Resolved, (if the Senate concur,) That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested, to use their best endeavors to procure the passage of a law, which shall place the commercial exchanges of Canada and the United States, in agricultural products, on a footing of reciprocity:

Resolved, (if the Senate concur,) That the Governor be requested to transmit to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of the foregoing Preamble and Resolution, to be presented to the respective Houses of which they are members, as an expression of the opinions and wishes of the Legislature of this State, in the matter to which they relate.

The United States Navy.—The estimates for this year are over eleven millions of dollars.

The United States Census.—This is the year in which the Census will be taken, it being taken every ten years. The estimate of the expense is $1,116,000.

The United States Army, will cost, for 1851, probably six millions; Fortifications, $700,000; Surveys, $65,000; Ordnance Department, $200,000.

The Hudson.—The River from Albany to New York is filled with drift ice.

Railroad to Montreal.—The business men of our village held a meeting on Wednesday evening last, at which the project of building a road to the Canada line in Moores, there to meet a proposed road from Montreal, was discussed. The meeting proved to be really an enthusiastic one, and there was evidently a full conviction, not only of the immense advantage such a road would be to Plattsburgh and all northern New York, but of the practicability of speedily securing its construction. Remarks were made by Messrs. Swetland, A. C. Moore, Ketchum, Prescott, Skinner, and William Palmer.

The distance by this route to Montreal is only sixty miles, and the grade of the road will be very small. The proposed route is nearly in a direct line to the termination of Lachine railroad nine miles from Montreal; so that the road will be nearly free from curves. The original cost of building the road and the current expenses of running the cars will be as small as those of any road in the Union. Passengers leaving Montreal by this route would arrive in St. Johns by the route now usually travelled from that city south; thus saving the whole distance between St. Johns and this place, and enabling them to reach New York in a day.

A charter has been granted, and a company already organized for the construction of the road from Montreal to the Canada line at Moores, and the public utility of the remaining portion of the road from the Canada line to Plattsburgh has already been declared by our Legislature. Assurances have been given, by those interested in the lines of communication between this place and New York, of efficient co-operation in pushing the road to completion if our citizens will take the steps necessary to an organization of a company. In order to organize under the general railroad Act, $1000 per mile must first be subscribed—making the sum necessary to be raised $23,000. About $8000 was subscribed on the evening of the meeting. Several thousand more are promised, and a Committee are now soliciting subscriptions to make up the necessary amount. The present prospect is that this valuable improvement will be speedily constructed; and it will prove valuable, not only to Plattsburgh and the surrounding country, but to the travelling public on the route between Montreal and New York, and to the general business of the cities south.—*Plattsburgh Whig, 2nd instant.*

California.—The steamer *Empire City* has arrived at New York, bringing thirty days later news from California, via Panama and Chagres. By this mail we learn the result of the elections, and of the first meeting of the Legislature, and of the inauguration of the Governor. Colonel Freemont and Mr. Gwin have been elected Senators, and several other gentleman, whose names are of no interest to Canadians, Representatives to the Congress of the United States, and many of them have arrived in the *Empire City*. The *New York Herald* publishes a detailed statement of the amount of gold dust brought by the steamer, the total of which "consigned" is $1,132,647,54. It is supposed that the passengers have brought, at least, another million. There was also an immense amount of specie lying at Chagres, waiting for shipment to England. Nearly half of St. Francisco has been burnt down. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at a million and a half of dollars. There has also been a large fire at Stockton, by which about $150,000 of property has been destroyed. It appears that no fire departments have yet been organized in these towns. New lines of steamers are being organized between Panama and San Francisco, and also to the Sandwich Islands and China. There is no doubt but that the population now in California fully entitles it to admission as a State of the Union, with two Senators and two Representatives in Congress. Two or three atrocious murders have been perpetrated, and there has been a sort of fight between the Chilenos and Americans.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The following further details of foreign news, per steamship *Europa*, were brought by the Stage of the Vermont and Central Railroad,—and we have to thank Mr. Duley, the Agent, for Boston papers of Monday last, containing it:—

Two Weeks Later from Europe.—Marine Disasters.—Wreck of the N. Y. Packet Ship Hottingueur, and 13 Lives Lost.—Packetship Guy Mannering run aground and damaged.

Halifax Telegraph Office,
Friday, 6½ o'clock, P. M.

The *Europa*, Captain Lott, arrived at about 7 o'clock this morning, bringing Liverpool dates of the 26th ultimo.

The splendid New York Packet Ship *Hottingeur*, Captain Bursley, has fallen a prey to the fury of the elements, and from the tenor of the last accounts respecting her, a melancholy loss of life attended the disaster. The *Hottingeur* sailed from Liverpool for New York on the 10th ultimo. She had 26 cabin and steerage passengers, together with the Captain and crew, men and boys, and had a very full freight of various descriptions of goods. She had only passed as far as Blackwater Bank, which is off the coast of Wexford, when she struck on one of those dangerous ledges of rock which lie concealed in that quarter. This occurred on the morning of the 12th. On the occurrence of this mishap, a part of the crew and all the passengers were sent ashore. Captain Bursley and thirteen of his men remained on board, determined not to leave the ship, while there was the remotest chance of saving her. On the following morning, the 13th, the ship floated off Blackwater Bank, borne away before the wind, and struck on Arklow Bank, when she afterwards went to pieces, and, sad to relate, Capt. Bursley and twelve of the noble band, who determined to see the last of the ship, met a watery grave. At the time the passengers left the ship, her situation seemed to be utterly hopeless—her hold was full of water, and the sea making clear breaches over her. It was with extreme difficulty and peril that the passengers and seamen were passed in the boats, the sea breaking with dreadful violence on the bank. The passengers were unable to take anything out of the ship except the clothes they had on at the time. The boats happily succeeded in reaching the shore, although with extreme difficulty, from the length of the sea and great distance—7 miles or more—from the bank to the island. Capt. Bursley's son, who was on board the *Hottingeur* up to the time she struck on Blackwater Bank, is a passenger on board the *Europa*.

The *Guy Mannering*, for New York, got aground on the outer silt of the Princes' Dock on Monday. The fine goods having been landed in good order, she was afterwards hauled into the Princes' Dock. She had at one time eight to ten feet of water in her hold, and appeared very much strained. The *Guy Mannering* had discharged her cargo, and will be taken into the Graving Dock for any necessary repairs in her caulking and lower planks where crushed.

The Bombay and Calcutta markets are essentially the same as by previous mail. Under date of Canton, Nov. 28th, it is stated that the extent of business done in imports has been limited, and prices generally most unsatisfactory. Iron and Grey Shirtings are a little firmer than last month, and these are the only goods that have maintained their value.

The foreign news is almost devoid of interest. The British Consul at Varna has discovered a diabolical attempt, instigated by the Austrian Government, to murder Kossuth.

The barbarous, blood-thirsty character of the Austrians in Hungary—[broken off.]

Commercial.

Liverpool, *Friday Evening*.—Commercial affairs are still in a satisfactory state, but less buoyant than a week ago. The sales of Foreign and Colonial produce are to a moderate extent during the last eight days, but, holders being firm in their demands, full prices have generally been paid. The improved tone with which our Cotton market closed on the 18th instant, manifested itself upon its opening on Monday. The demand was to a fair extent, and tolerably well supplied by holders at the full rates of this day sennight.—On Tuesday morning the Boston steamer of the 9th instant arrived from New York, advising an advance of 1 cent per pound in the market, and decided by more unfavorable accounts as to the probable amount of the crop. The market immediately manifested a very excited appearance—speculators became exceedingly anxious purchasers, and an advance of ¾d., and, in some instances, ½d. per pound was at once obtained by holders, and the day's sales reached 30,000 bales—20,000 on speculation. Since Tuesday there has been less activity. The demand has been upon a smaller scale, which holders freely supply at a decline of ¼d. from the extreme prices current on Tuesday, and the market closed to-day quietly at an advance of ¼d. to ½d. per pound upon the quotations of Friday last. The sales to-day are 7000 bales—2000 on speculation. The total sales this week are 83,000 bales, of which speculators have taken 28,000 American. The authorized quotations to-day for fair bowed at 7d., Mobile 7¼., Orleans 7¾d.

The Corn market continues to exhibit much languor. Buyers confine their purchases to immediate wants—still at present there is not much likelihood of prices going much lower than our present quotations. At our market held here to-day, the best Western Canal Flour sold at 23s. 6d. to 24s.; Philadelphia and Baltimore, 25s. to 25s. 6d.; new Ohio, 24s. to 25s. 6d.; Indian Corn is steady at 31s. to 31s. 6d. for White; 29s. to 29s. 3d. for Yellow; and 28s. 6d. to 29s. for Mixed.

The iron market continues firm, with an improved tendency. The last American mail brought considerable orders for rails, and there is a disposition to buy for the completion of some of the English lines. Scotch Pig Iron has been in demand, and prices have improved. The quotations are: Merchant Bar Iron, £5 15s.; best rolled, £7; Hoops, £7 10s.; Sheet, £8 5s.; Scotch Pig, No. 1, net cash, £2 16s.

We have very few remarks to offer on the state of the Money market for the past week.—Cash remains abundant, but is expected by the lending discount houses to become tighter, in consequence of the large accession of the speculation bills, and the operation of the Prussian loan.

The impetus given to produce of all descriptions by the abundance of money, has this week, to some extent, been checked, and a reaction on the value of Coffee and other products. The future course of the markets, some time, will be downward.

In Consols, no fluctuations of any moment have occurred. The market has been very quiet, and closes to-night at 96¼, being a quarter per cent lower than last Friday. The Russian loan has been actively dealt in, at prices varying from 4¼ to 5 premium, although the scrip is not issued.—It closes to-night at 3½ to 4 premium.

Coffee.—There has been less activity in the demand, but holders generally are firm. Sugar.—There has been less disposition to purchase Colonial this week. In foreign, the transactions in Porto Rico are 30s. @ 40s., being full rates. Brazil at 34s. @ 35s. 6d., duty paid, for ordinary brown. Tobacco—The sales since the 1st are 1260 hhds., of which 430 were from Ireland, 160 for exportation, and 670 by the trade. The market has been very firm throughout, and full prices paid for all descriptions.

Provisions.—Bacon—holders of new do not appear inclined to give way in price, and the stock sold having become much reduced, an advance of 1s. per cwt. has been obtained on low qualities. Beef—The sales are 400 to 500 tierces; ordinary old brought 50s.; good brands of new 75s. @ 77s. 6d. Pork—Old Prime Mess is in demand for export; good new realised 50s. @ 55s.; very fine, 56s. @ 58s. Shoulders—Ordinary are selling at 16s. @ 17s.; good at 18s. @ 19s. 6d. Choice of fine quality is in fair demand. Lard—The transactions have again been extensive. The sales for the last 14 days being fully 500 tons, at an advance of 1s. per cwt., 35s. being now the lowest quotation for ordinary refining qualities.

Freights have been on the whole well supported, notwithstanding some interruption to the inland communications by foot, and considerable arrivals of shipping; but in passengers we can notice no improvement—they continue scarce, and are taken at unremunerating rates.

THE COURIER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1850.

☞ *SEE FIRST PAGE.*

The Fortina again.

The following report of some extraordinary proceedings in the Police Court has been handed to us. It causes us to reflect in the first place on the extreme impropriety of allowing two Police Magistrates, both of whom are in the direct pay of the Government, to occupy the Bench at the same time, without the presence of a third or independent Justice of the Peace, because when the two Stipendiaries differ in opinion, and this has been the case in more instances than this present one, no judgment can be rendered, and the really aggrieved party has to suffer costs. In the next place, if it be true that this Stipendiary Johnson is also the Chief Officer of the Fortin Police, it is manifestly improper, and an outrage on public decency, that he should be permitted to act in any case in which they are concerned. Thirdly, when a Magistrate so far forgets himself as to give the slightest intimation before he hears the evidence, of what his decision will be, it is clear that he does not understand his duty, and to continue him in an office for which he is unfit, is also an outrage on public justice. Furthermore, we are informed, that as long as this person, whose antecedents are well known in Montreal, does continue to sit on the Bench, no Magistrate, except perhaps one of the clique under Ministerial control, will sit there with him. The Bench is thus made a purely political partisan tribunal, before which no one opposed to them can expect justice. All this is a scandalous immorality.

We should recommend Mr. Brault to take this case before the Quarter Sessions, where cases are not tried in a hole-and-corner manner, and there ascertain whether the public of Montreal cannot be protected against this illegal force.

Tuesday, February 12.

Before Col. Ermatinger and Major Johnson. The Queen upon the prosecution of Alexis Brault, *against* Louis Lachapelle, (one of the Fortins.)

This was a charge brought by Mr. Brault, merchant, of Notre Dame Street, against the Defendant, one of the brave Fortins. From the statement of the prosecutor, it appeared that on Sunday last he sent his two sons, aged from 8 to 12, to see their grandmother, who resides in Jacques Cartier Place, next house to the *Fortin* Station. The children, on arriving opposite the gateway, stared at the *mustachiod brave* on entering, and probably smiled at his *warlike look*, whereupon he ordered the boy off the pavement. The boys then went to their grandmother's door, which was closed, and upon knocking at it, the brave Fortin assaulted the boy, and took him a prisoner, and confined him in the guard-house, from whence another of the *gang* discharged him, but on the boy going out, the Defendant again laid hold of him, and again imprisoned him in the guard-house.

It appears that yesterday, when Mr. Brault came to the Police Office to seek for justice, he was told by Major Johnson that he had better take care what he was doing, as he would have to pay the costs, for he, the Major, was determined to protect the Fortins.

To-day the case came on for trial.

Mr. F. Pelletier, for prosecution, recused or challenged the Major sitting in the case, he being in fact the commandant of the Corps; and as one Magistrate alone could try a cause, no injury could have resulted from the Major's retiring, as Mr. P. had every confidence in Col. Ermatinger. But Major Johnson, notwithstanding, persisted in sitting in the cause, and reiterating the same language as he used yesterday to Mr. Brault—that is to say, declaring he would protect the Corps; and Mr. Pelletier, seeing that justice was not very likely to be administered, such as he had a right to expect—for should the Magistrates differ in opinion, no judgment could be given—withdrew the case, and paid the costs.

Reciprocal Trade.—The following portion of a debate in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly confirms the statement made by the Canadian papers during last summer. The Nova Scotians are not likely to surrender their Fisheries:—

The Hon. Attorney-General rose to lay on the table of the House various minutes of conference on the subject of Reciprocal Trade with the United States. He explained that the conference had taken place with the Hon. Mr. Inglis Clark, the Hon. Mr. Merritt, from Canada; Hon. L. A. Wilmot and Hon. J. B. Pickslay, of New Brunswick; Hon. Messrs. Hensham and Thornton, of Prince Edward Island, and the Executive Council of Nova Scotia. A very important topic had arisen in this conference—that was the exclusive privilege over the fisheries of these Colonies, which was held by British subjects, and which was required by the United States in exchange for Reciprocity. Canada was ready to give up all exclusive privilege—so was New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island—because they contended that rivalry of foreigners would tend to the greater prosperity of the country. On the part of Nova Scotia, the Council had abstained from giving any opinion. Even the Fisheries of the Bay of Fundy, which were claimed by New Brunswick on behalf of British subjects exclusively, had been conceded to the Americans; and the only part now exclusively in the power of Nova Scotia was from the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, round to Cape St. George, including Cape Breton. It seemed to be even what would be the views of this Legislature, on the subject; and he hoped the whole question would be taken up at an early day, and disposed of in a manner that would reflect credit on the wisdom of the Legislature, and promote the permanent welfare of the country.

Mr. Beckwith would ask what we were to get in return for giving up our right to the shore Fisheries?

Hon. Attorney-General said that the papers, when read, would answer the question of the hon. gentleman. The Report of the committee of Delegates advocated the principles of Reciprocal Free-Trade—it was for the House to accept or reject the proposed Resolutions.

The Despatches and Report were read, and embodied Resolutions of the conference in favor of the Honorable Commissioner proposing for Reciprocity with the United States in the productions of both countries—Bread, Flour, Fish, &c.

The Militia Dismissals.

Not only does a public expression of our opinion that the country of our adoption would be benefitted by a peaceable and warranted disunion from Great Britain, bring on us the petty revenge of a petty and corrupt Government, but our letters also—our letters written to the honored and esteemed of our friends, approving of their manly course, in endeavoring, by a discussion, warranted here, because not only tolerated, but fostered at Home, to call forth the golden opinions of the wise on a measure for the common good of our common country.

We refer to the case of J. S. Walton, Esq., whose letter to A. T. Galt, Esq., M.P.P., approving of that gentleman's praiseworthy exertions for the public good, was a pretext for the exercise of a pretended prerogative right in the Governor General to dismiss that gentleman from the Militia service.

If such a prerogative right existed, (which we deny,) never was any right so prostituted—so tyrannically exercised; but no such right exists as that of dismissing any Militia Officer without a trial, unless the prerogative right is superior to a written statutary law waiving that right in favor of the inhabitants of this Province, which it could only become upon a suspension of the constitution.

In every Section of the Militia Act in which Officers are spoken of, we find the words, that for every such offence Militiamen and Officers *shall be tried*. Every offence which does not come immediately within the range or scope of other laws or provisions, is provided for in the Militia Act; every offence directly or indirectly connected with sedition and treason, is particularly therein set forth; and for every such offence the offender *shall be tried*. If, as the Government pretends, the promulgation of Annexation doctrines be seditious or treasonable, or approaching in its character or tendency to either, then the Militiamen and Officers who are supporters of those doctrines, *should be tried*. It is not optional with the Government to waive a trial, because it is the acquired right of the Militiaman to be tried; it is his protection from insult and tyranny.

As to the correct meaning and import of the words "may and shall," and "may or shall," in a statute, we beg to refer to Smith's Commentaries on statutary and constitutional construction—pages 725, 726, and 727. He there lays down the doctrine, "That it is considered the true rule of construction applicable to statutes, that the word "'may' means '*must or shall*' only in cases "where the public interest and rights are concerned, and where the public, or third persons, "have a claim *de juré*, that the power should be "exercised."

So that applying this rule to the Militia Act, even if that Act used the words *may be tried*, as the Militia have clearly a claim *de jure* to a trial by general Court Martial, the power to try *should be exercised*.

At page 726, the same writer says—the words "*shall or may*" are *imperative* only when the public interests and *rights are concerned*. And again at p. 727, he says—"The words '*shall or may*' "are to be construed as imperative in all cases "where a public Body, or Officers, have been "clothed by statute to do an Act which concerns the public interest, *or the rights of third "persons*, and that in such cases the exercise of "the power, or the doing of the thing required, "*may be insisted on as a duty*, though the phraseology of the statute be *permissive merely, and "not peremptory*."

Will Government tell us that the words in the Militia Act mean nothing—that Government pleasure is superior to constitutional enactments, and may override them? Or that without a suspension of our Constitution, unconstitutional measures may be resorted to?

But leaving the legal right alone, let us trace a legal wrong, if we can, in the Annexationists' doctrine.

The discussion of a warranted means of exciting the energies of a people, or of calling forth the commercial resources of a country, has, in all ages, and by all classes of men, been approved of as worthy of the intelligent and the thinking. But petty spite and party spirit have carried men in power in this Province even so far as to give a *treasonable* coloring to a discussion in this country, which in England is not only considered proper in itself, but beneficial in its tendency—"the question of the advantage or disadvantage of retaining Colonial dependencies." If such a discussion in England, by men holding high office—a discussion of the advantage to arise from striking from the Crown of *England the expensive Canadian jewel*—be not treason there, how can it be so considered here—are we not British subjects? Does traversing the Atlantic add fresh import to our words? We know that the Italian language is the softest and purest when spoken with Tuscan correctness and Roman intonation; but we cannot, by any process of reasoning, satisfactorily account for words spoken in Great Britain by British subjects, being *sweet*, when the same words spoken by British subjects in a British Colony, are *sour* to the constitutional taste.

Men in England openly and unhesitatingly declare that it would be beneficial both to England and to Canada, if England would cut our tow line, and leave us to raise the wind, or to steam up on our own account. That is not considered treason *there*, nor is any seditious motive attributed to men who thus declare themselves. We, on our part, reply, as openly and as unhesitatingly:—"Yes, John Bull, you have tugged us long enough, "and besides you have cut off your steam, as far "as our progress is concerned; we are in dead "water—you do not pull us through it; our tow "rope is quite useless now, so cut it, and we will "thank you. There is no danger of our dropping "much astern, we shall soon get up our independent steam, and puff along right merrily. It is "possible, indeed, that our speed may soon become "so great, that we may come alongside and assist "you when your old sides become leaky, and "right glad we shall be to serve you." *All that is treasonable.* England may calmly discuss the advantage to herself of sending Canada adrift, but we are not even to whisper that we can steer ourselves if she does. No, the voice of public discussion on the subject of the benefits of a separation between Great Britain and her Canadian Colony, is treason here—it is praiseworthy there—it is an experte discussion.

Did any reasoning ever exist so perfectly untenable as that of our present petty Government? Our position is, in fact, that of a son who has grown to a considerable size, whose father openly, at his own table, informs his family that his said son should no longer receive any food from that table, and yet that he should not dare to talk of getting any food elsewhere.

We understand that Mr. Dinning is about to establish a Registry Office for the sale and purchasing of Lands and Houses, also, an Agency for the letting of Houses.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Quebec, 9th Feb., 1850.

A few words on the late Election may not be altogether devoid of interest.

I think I can make it clear we were not wrong in bringing forward a Candidate distinctly on the Annexation Ticket, and that our choice of a Candidate was not a bad one.

From the first we determined that, as Annexationists, we would strictly adhere to the principle of not mixing ourselves up with party politics, and, consequently, would not join in opposition to Mr. Chabot, because he was a Ministerialist. This course we knew would lose us the British Connectionist votes; but we preferred being beaten under our own colours, to triumphing simply as anti-Ministerialists.

Before going further, I would state that the result of the Election is not at all discouraging to us. We commenced the struggle, not confident of success, but agreeing that if we could poll 800 votes it would be a victory, and be more advantageous to the cause than our declining the contest would have been. It has all along been said we had no party (worth calling such) in Quebec. We show against every disadvantage 1200 votes. If 1200 votes, at least double the number of men. I will further on give you my reasons for believing we might have polled considerably more votes.

First, as to our selection of a Candidate, the French gentlemen of our Committee would very willingly have nominated an English merchant—and one was named (Mr. Noad) whose opinions were ours, but who declined, for personal reasons, to offer himself. A Lawyer, French or English, we would not have,—and as Mr. Legare was well known to the Electors of St. John's and St. Roch's Wards, and had already contested an Election on the Democratic Ticket, we fixed on him. The Old Country Electors holding Annexation opinions cared little who they voted for, provided he was an Annexationist; and it was politic to consult the feelings of the French Electors, as well as to avoid giving the opposite party an opportunity of working on national origin prejudices, or of representing the move as a Tory ruse.

After a few meetings in St. Roch and St. John's Wards, we became more confident of success, and I feel convinced, had we the ground to go over again, we should win. Our organization was, however, very deficient, and we had no money; while our speakers carried all before them at public meetings, Chabot's private friends and paid agents diligently canvassed the Electors in their houses, and with every argument and insinuation they could think of, worked on their hopes and fears. Religious jealousy was excited, threats used to sue at once for the interest due on the Fire Debentures, and they even warned the people that the Sheriff had been expressly named Returning Officer, that the Government might know who voted against them. A very charitable feeling was suddenly manifested, and flour and potatoes (some say pork, also,) distributed amongst the poorer classes; then, there was the promise of the Seat of Government and of work in making the necessary preparations; finally, the dollars were not far off when required—and with their aid a very material gap was made in our ranks. Times are hard, money scarce, and $4, $5, or $6, per day, for the hire of a cariole, no bad wages in flourishing periods. The carters are a very numerous class here, and all necessarily have votes, as they must have a stable to their house, and this, of course, brings the rent of the domicile to the required mark. It is said Chabot polled at least 300 of them; but this was not all; their influence was very considerable, and added to that of the tavern keepers, who were paid for entertaining all comers, was enough of itself to turn the Election.

I know very well it will be said a beaten party always finds good excuses, but I ask our friends to weigh the reasons I have given, and they will, perhaps, think we are not too confident when we say that Quebec is safe for Annexation at the next General Election.

I must inform you we did not receive the number of votes we were led to expect from the Irish part of the community. Their strength in Quebec is estimated at 600 votes, and had they been guided by their principles, we should have had their whole weight on our side. Better things are expected of them in future. I see Chabot's Committee have felt obliged to pass a particular vote of thanks to the Irish Electors. This is the last time they will have such a duty to perform. Our principles will be better understood by the Irish before another Election, and they will heartily respond to them.

Another point, though apparently trivial, I must mention as having told against us. Saturday was pay-day at the ship-yards, and the carpenters very generally put off voting until the Monday, not wishing to break their day or week, and on the chance of Monday not being suitable for out-door work, and being for that reason lost, whether occupied at the Polls or not. Chabot undoubtedly had a large majority of the "Notables" on his side, and Monday and Saturday being alike to Lawyers, Notaries, Shopkeepers, and others, having no set work to go through, they voted at once, and left us in such a minority on the first day that many of our friends were discouraged; and Monday being a fine day, they thought it useless to make any sacrifice to vote—(the sacrifice would have been at least half a day's time).

The British party refused to vote. This will be evident to all who look at the Returns. "St. Lewis" and "Palace" Wards include the whole Upper Town of Quebec; "St. Peter's" the whole Lower Town. In these Wards the Ministerialists are very weak, and had the British voted with us, our majority would have been considerable.

I have spoken of our deficient organization. We wanted active men to organize Committees, and to canvass. Our deficiency was greatest in this respect in the Wards in which the Old Country Electors principally reside. In St. Peter's Ward (the whole Lower Town) I believe not a single meeting of our party was held. The gentlemen of British origin who side with us are generally indisposed to take a prominent part in politics, and though very ready to express their opinions in private, do not like to see their names in print, or to be set down as politicians. Immediately previous to the polling days they took a more lively interest in the contest, but it was then too late to retrieve the loss sustained by previous inaction. There was also a feeling (which proved very erroneous) that if they made themselves very active they would do as much harm as good, from the distrust the Canadians and Irish would feel of their sincerity in their present confession of faith.

Yours truly, R. S. T.

Seignorial Tenure.—Two meetings have been held in the County of Vaudreuil, at which Resolutions were passed against the longer continuance of this remnant of feudality.

A Liberal Journal.—The Kingston *Herald* recommends "the vindictive Humbug" to dismiss the Sheriff of Frontenac for putting an advertisement in an Annexation journal.

Reciprocity.—It is said that the Toronto merchants have deputed Mr. Malcolm Cameron to urge the Reciprocity of Trade at Washington.

Election for Halton.—It is said that the "old Reformers" are likely to bring forward Mr. M. Cameron for this County, in which case, we suppose, Mr. Hopkins will retire in his favor. If two Reformers stand for this County, and so split the interest, a Ministerialist or Obstructive is sure to get in.

Sherbrooke.—Mr. Sanborn, the Candidate for this County, has resided in Canada seven years, and is a naturalized British subject. The Writ for this County has been issued. A Mr. Cleveland has come forward to oppose Mr. Sanborn.

In the town of Sherbrooke, on Tuesday week, the thermometer indicated 28° below zero at 8 o'clock, and at daylight, on Thursday, 30° below.—Mr. C. G. Stevens, of Compton, has slaughtered a hog, which, when dressed, weighed 703 pounds.

Belleville.—On the 6th instant, four houses on Front Street were destroyed by an accidental fire.

Colonel Prince.—The Quebec *Mercury* has a long and elaborate article, in which he attempts to prove that it is not possible for Colonel Prince to have become an advocate either for Annexation or Independence. We have read a letter from him, in which he declares himself prepared to advocate the total Independence of Canada in his place in Parliament.

Fraudulent Bakers.—Mr. Jeremiah [illegible] down upon the Bakers, and confiscated [illegible] and 145 small loaves, of light weight. [illegible] as it should be, but we venture to tell the auth[illegible] ties that until they adopt the English system [illegible] publishing the names of the swindlers, the [illegible] on the public will not be put a stop to [illegible] terror of exposure will do more than the [illegible] of the loaves.

Law Courts, Montreal.—Nothing of [illegible] portance was done in any of the Courts on [illegible] day.

Fresh Halibut, Lobsters and Oysters.—On reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that Mr. Janes, corner of McGill College Streets, has received a supply of the [illegible] delicious eatables by express.

Mr Justice Meredith.—This gentleman [illegible] lately appointed to the Superior Court for Lower Canada, as one of the Resident Judges in Quebec, arrived in that city in the early part of last week.

The Episcopal Church.—The Lord Bishop of Montreal left Quebec, on the 8th instant, for Megantic and the Eastern Townships; his Lordship's tour will last a month.—The Lord Bishop of Toronto has appointed ten Clergymen to the Rural Deans of the several districts of Canada West. We do not know what duties these Rural Deans may be expected to discharge in Canada, in England, their chief duty is to visit annually the Parish Churches throughout their Deaneries and see that they are kept in proper repair and provided with all things necessary for the administration of the rites and ceremonies of the Church.

Kingston.—At the monthly meeting of the Building Society, on the 4th instant, £600 of the funds were disposed of at an average bonus of 31 3-16 per cent.

Sporting Portrait Club.—The *Witness* mentions that he has received instructions to insert an advertisement of this affair, and forward his account to England, and gives his reasons which are very proper ones, for declining to do so. His good principle has saved his pocket, for we were long ago warned by our London Agent that the thing is a swindle, he having noticed that we had been caught, and had inserted the advertisement.

Lusus Naturæ.—We translate from *L'Avenir* the following extraordinary story, merely observing that we since heard that the thing is dead:—

Human Monster.—We learn that a female in the Parish of St. Timothy, has just given birth to an extraordinary child, which in grotesque horror exceeds all that humanity has yet produced in the way of infant phenomena. The new-born child has nothing human about it but the head and arms; the rest is literally a tortoise. The back and belly being covered with a hard shell, and the feet perfectly resembling the paws of the amphibious reptile. Like the tortoise, it can protrude and retract its feet within the shell, and articulates sounds which have not the slightest resemblance to the usual cry of a new-born child. We are even told that it can retract its head within the shell, until the top of it is level with the shoulders. The parents obeying the first sentiments of horror, and dreading the disagreeable reputation which this occurrence might attach to their names, desired to destroy this prodigy immediately after its birth, but having consulted their priest, they resigned themselves and the child received baptism, and is likely to live.

Office of Board of Trade,
Montreal, 1st Feb. 1850.

Sir,—I was duly honoured with your letter of the 19th Dec. last, acknowledging the receipt of a Memorial from the Montreal Board of Trade on the subject of the Imperial Navigation Act, 12 and 13 Vic., cap. 29.

As a difference of opinion exists in some quarters as to the extent of the privileges granted under this Act to Foreign Vessels navigating the St. Lawrence, I have now the honor to inquire whether the views taken of the question by the Council of the Board, with relation to this Act, have been laid before the legal advisers of the Crown, and if so, whether the Board is confirmed in the opinions expressed in its Memorial?

As it is very important that the scope and bearings of this Act, with reference to the navigation of the St. Lawrence, should be clearly understood, I would respectfully suggest, if it be not competent to the Provincial Authorities to define them, that the Memorial of the Board should be referred to be submitted, by His Excellency the Governor General, to the Imperial Authorities for their consideration and decision.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your very obdt. servant,
Thomas Ryan,
President Montreal Board of Trade.

The Hon. J. Leslie, Secretary of the Province,
&c., &c., Toronto.

Secretary's Office,
Toronto, Feb. 6, 1850

Sir,—In reply to the Memorial of the Board of Trade of Montreal, which accompanied your letter of the 14th December last, I am commanded by the Governor General to transmit to you, for the information of the Board, the enclosed copy of an approved Report of the Executive Council, to whom it was referred by His Excellency's command, which will also meet the object of your letter of the 1st instant, received this day.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt. servant,
(Signed) J. Leslie,
Secretary.

Thomas Ryan, Esquire, President Board of Trade,
Montreal.

Extract of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, on matters of State, dated the 29th day of January, 1850, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 1st February, 1850:—

The Committee of the Executive Council, have had under consideration, on Your Excellency's reference, a Memorial from the Montreal Board of Trade, praying that Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to convene at the earliest possible day, the Provincial Parliament, in order that the necessary action may be taken to establish the footing upon which our Coasting and Inter-Colonial Trades are to be permanently placed.

The Memorial of the Board of Trade has reference to several clauses of the Imperial Act 12 and 13 Vict., cap. 29; and its object is to pray Your Excellency to call the Provincial Parliament together, with the view of exercising the powers with which it is invested by the Imperial Act.

The Committee of the Council, after mature consideration of the subject, are of opinion that there is no immediate necessity for the intervention of the Provincial Parliament. It would not be expedient, in the opinion of the Committee of Council, to throw upon the Internal Coasting Trade of the Americans, unless there were some certainty that the Americans would act on the principle of reciprocity. The Committee of Council hope, that Your Excellency will be able to obtain some information as to the views of the United States on the subject, prior to the meeting of Parliament. The Committee of Council are not prepared at present, in view of pending negociation with the Government of the United States, to recommend to Parliament to adopt any measure with the view of placing the Inter-Colonial Trade, on the footing of a Coasting Trade. With regard to the employment of Foreign Ships, the Committee of Council concur in the opinion of the Board of Trade, that no statutary impediment exists to the employment of such shipping, in the conveyance of goods or passengers between any port of Canada, and all parts of the world. The Committee of Council are, however, of opinion, that irresperative altogether of the Navigation laws, the prerogative of the Crown is sufficient to place restrictions on the navigation by Foreign Vessels, of a river flowing through the territory of Her Majesty, and the Committee of Council cannot advise Your Excellency, as the Representative of Her Majesty, to extend any privileges to American citizens, pending the decision of the Congress of the United States, on the Bill for establishing