[From the Maritime Monthly for April.]

WHERE?

I.

The highway leads through fields of green,
And valleys odourous with flowers:
Above our heads the willows lean,
And birds with song beguile the hours:
The highway leads through scenes most fair,
But, Pilgrim, canst thou tell me, WHERE?

II.

The highway leads by rock and glen,
Through mountain gorge and desert wild,
By deep morass and tangled fen,
O'er crag on crag stupendous piled,
Till weary, sinking in despair,
With clasped hands, we question, WHERE?

III.

The highway leads unto the Sea,
The Sea that man hath ne'er re-crost:
And here it ends! ah me, ah me,
For days of sunshine, wasted, lost!
Oh Sea, our barques in safety bear
O'er thy expanse! but where, oh WHERE?

H. L. SPENCER.

THE LOVERS.

FROM THE FRENCH OF MISTRAL.

She sprang upon her feet, inspired, erect.
Oh, beauteous was her head! and well bedecked
By its dense coronal of shining hair,
Whereof the twin-coils were as broom-boughs fair:
With yellow flower, and from her eye sincere
Storms might have fled, and left the heavens clear.
White were her teeth, as the fine salt of Berre,
And shy, at times, the lofty glances were
Of the proud orbs, whose wondrous hue recalled
The steadfast splendors of the emerald.
And desert sunshine faint reflected shone
In the warm tint her peach-like cheeks upon.

So towered the lithe, tall shape divinely moulded
By the white linen robe her limbs that folded.
While, at her knee, her rapt love listening,
As in the blue he heard an angel sing,
Leaned on his elbow with up-gazing eyes,
And he—he too was made in splendid wise:

With supple limbs, yet strong as sail-yards be
(A score of years, or barely more, had he),
And large eyes sad with love, and black as night,
The down upon his lip was soft and light
As on vine branches.

Mr. John Boyd's Literary Record.

Under the impression that some facts and figures with regard to Mr. John Boyd's Lectures and Readings, will be of no less interest to the readers of the *Maritime Monthly* than himself, the Editor indulges in the following review: Mr. Boyd's first public address was to the Young Men's Temperance Association, in the Mechanics' Institute, in 1847, at the close of which, many now numbered among our leading business men, became members of the Society. His second lecture was on "The Claims of Seamen for Homes Ashore," which was followed, from year to year, by other lectures in the courses of the Mechanics' Institute, Y. M. C. A., etc. For many years Mr. Boyd presided at the weekly meetings of the Young Men's Early Closing Association, which were enlivened by debates, mock trials, etc., and which are held in happy remembrance by many of our citizens.

At the request of an old school-fellow, Hon. S. N. Stockwell, editor of the Boston *Journal*, Mr. Boyd wrote for that paper, from 1850 to 1863, a series of letters from abroad, embracing his impressions of men and things in Europe, which were widely copied and evoked much comment. In 1857 he contributed several papers on "Emigration to New Brunswick" to the Glasgow *Examiner*, then under the editorship of Dr. Smith, and in 1858 an article from his pen on "Railways in New Brunswick," pointing out the necessity of, and mode of connections westward and northward, was unanimously adopted by the Chamber of Commerce, and five thousand copies in pamphlet form were published by the Council for general circulation.

Mr. Boyd was appointed a delegate to the International Board of Trade, which held its meetings at Detroit in 1867, and was one of the three Colonists designated to speak before that body—Hon. Joseph Howe on the Fisheries, Hon. Mr. Skead on Intercommunication, and Mr Boyd on the Maritime Interests of British North America. Mr. Howe was the first to speak, and the impression made being most favorable, Mr. Skead and Mr. Boyd urged the Committee to take the vote without further remark.

In 1871, he was appointed Arbitrator by the Dominion Government to settle matters in dispute between the Dominion and the Province of Nova Scotia, which duty, in conjunction with Mr. James Duffus of N. S., and Mr. Wm. Heard of P. E. I., was performed in such a manner as to receive the cordial approbation of both governments.

Mr. Boyd has persistently declined all overtures to enter upon public political life, and refused offers of appointment to the Legislative Council of this Province, and the Dominion Senate, preferring to work outside and with the people. He took an active part by speech and pen in effecting the great political changes of the past few years, and has always been a writer and a speaker on most of the public questions of the time. Though most widely known as a speaker, aside from the papers we have enumerated, Mr. Boyd has written several short poems of considerable merit, among which our readers may remember "The Death of Argyle," "That they all may be one," "Love Unchangeable," "Nellie's Wedding," "True Pleasures," "Potatoes," and several political squibs in rhyme, which were felt long after their publication by those whom they fitted.

Mr. Boyd's Lectures have been delivered in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, some parts of the United States, and England, and in no case for a pecuniary consideration; they have been delivered for the benefit of Literary and Educational Institutions, Libraries, Churches, public and private charities, and their titles and proceeds are:

The Claims of our Seamen for homes Ashore,	$ 57
A Right Knowledge of Character,	86
What the World Worships,	110
The Russian War—its Cause and Probable Consequence,	223
The Men who make a Country,	240
The Social and Moral Evils of Strikes,	110
The Old World and the New—a Contrast,	260
Great Britain—the Hope of the World	327
What the Wild Waves are Saying,	750
Go it While You're Young,	2,200
The Peasant Poet—His Life and its Lessons,	800
A New Lesson for the Day,	270
The British Pulpit,	650
A Night in the British House of Commons,	1,800
From London to Paris in '63,	690
George Stephenson,	815
An Unwritten Page of History,	700
Our Old Homes in '69,	510
Seeking One's Fortune,	1,560
The Crop That Never Fails,	620
They That Go Down to the Sea (1874),	180
Who Giveth This Woman (1874),	250
	13,300
160 Addresses at Public Meetings, Tea Soirees, etc.,	4,000
159 Public Readings—some of these $100 to $130 each,	9,000
	$26,300

We do not include in the above, several readings given by Mr. Boyd at sea, one of which, on the "Scotia," in conjunction with Mrs. Scott Siddons, when he was returning last from England, yielded $300 for the Seamen's Orphan Asylum, Liverpool.

It cannot be amiss to say that in all his public acts Mr. Boyd has ever cast personal consideration behind him. He has not sought renown, he has not grasped for the spoils which party success sometimes places within the reach of its leaders. In political matters he has devoted time and energy to that which in his mind seemed right; and to every deserving charity and enterprise of local interest he has given such substantial aid with mind and pen as the generation will not willingly forget.

Mr. Boyd's business life began at the age of eleven, in the house where he is now a partner, when hours were longer than now—from 6 a. m. till 9 p. m., and often till past midnight. His lectures and contributions to the press have been written in the midst of a business which has ever claimed his closest attention—a business of which he is now the manager, and one of the largest and most successful in the Dominion.—*Scrapiana in Maritime Monthly for April.*

The Gown and the Surplice.

"The Gown has always been the usual dress in the Pulpit, and any Bishop attempting to enforce the use of the Surplice would find himself unsupported by the Law of the Church. The attempt made to identify the *Surplice* with the doctrine of a *sacrificing priesthood* has naturally, and justly, made the people jealous of any extension of its use."—*Rev. W. Goode, D. D., (late Dean of Ripon.)*

"I have worn my M. A. gown in the pulpit more than sixty-four years, and never in my life saw but one clergyman preaching in a Surplice, and that not from choice but from sheer necessity."—*Rev. B. Richings, author of "A Defence of the Gown and the Pulpit."*

"There are that abhor to appear as Ministers of the Church of England by wearing any black gown."—*Bishop of Worcester* (1659.)

To the Editor of the Tribune.

The universal practice is further proved, and conclusively, by the prevailing custom in English Cathedrals. This branch of the argument is well stated by Archdeacon Harrison:—

"Though provision was made, that preaching in Cathedrals should be constant, yet it was allowed that, in case of sickness, or lawful absence, the deans, prebendaries, &c., shall substitute such *licensed preachers* to supply their turns as by the Bishop of the Diocese shall be thought meet to preach in Cathedral Churches; and in such cases, I think it quite certain, from the evidence of traditionary custom in all Cathedrals, that the sermon would be preached, not in the Surplice, *but always in the Gown.* Thus, it was not the usage of the Cathedral, as the pattern of correct practice that ruled the point, but rather the *status* of the individual in regard to the Cathedral. Not only would it not be required that the preacher in the Cathedral, not being a member of the Cathedral Body, should wear the Surplice,—which would surely be the case if it rested on considerations of ecclesiastical propriety; it would not even be *permitted* him to wear in preaching this distinctive badge of a member of the Cathedral. There is not, I believe, a single Cathedral in England or Ireland, in which the Preacher, not being a member of the Cathedral Body, would be allowed to preach in the Surplice, even though it were the sermon in the morning or communion service."

Probably the statement of the Archdeacon may require some qualification today. Puseyism has circulated its corrupting influences, and gained an admission for Popish practices, since he wrote (1840.) We see in, alas, too many quarters ceremonials introduced and vestments permitted, which the temporizing temper of the times winks at, and where a few years ago they would have been prohibited with the stern spirit of the heroes of the Reformation. Thus steadily and surely, the virus of Puseyism is attacking and paralyzing, where once the Scriptural purity and power of the Reformation held strongholds; and men who profess themselves antagonists of the Puseyistical system of un-protestantizing the Episcopal Church, are doing Dr. Pusey's bidding nevertheless, and "ousting" the "teaching and practice of the Primitive Church" in favor of the cunningly devised innovations and errors of Dr. Pusey himself; who thus is "deceiving the very elect," and transforming the liturgy of the Church of England page by page into the missal of the Church of Rome.

In 1662 the present Ornaments Rubric in the prayer book was enacted, and, as I have frequently stated, it provided that such ornaments shall be *retained* as were in use by authority of Parliament in the second year of the reign of *Edward VII.* You will remember that this refers to the first book, and that book authorized or prescribed the use of Cope, Tunicle, etc., as proper garbs at the Communion Service. I need not here reiterate the contention of the Rev. Mr. Purchas, or again say anything of the decision of the highest court of competent jurisdiction as to that contention. It is wonderful, however, to notice what strangely erroneous ideas have been successfully circulated under the thin pretence that they are logically predicated upon the Purchas judgment. The general diffusion of correct information on that point, I am happy to say, has changed the opinions of many, hastily formed after a superficial perusal of that judgment, and has enabled them confidently and successfully to confute those who misinterpret it on the one hand, or on the other talk ignorantly about it, not having really read it.

Cripps, in addition to the extracts I have already given from his learned works, and in which he declared that it "never appears to have been ever contemplated either by common statute law" to wear the Surplice in the pulpit, says:

"The error may possibly have arisen from the custom of the deans, &c., in Cathedrals or Colleges to wear their Surplices while preaching in their own Cathedral or College, but these they wear on such occasions not as *Preachers* or as persons ministering, but because it is the ordinary dress which they are directed to wear, and which they do always wear, when they attend their Cathedral or College church or chapel, whether ministering or members of the congregation only, and which Surplices even Fellows of the Colleges ordinarily wear when attending service at their College chapels." Others have supposed this error to have arisen from the circumstance that the morning sermon is thought to be a part of the Order of the Administration of the Lord's Supper, which however involves manifest absurdity. The sermon is not preached in the same place where the Lord's Supper is administered, and there is therefore no argument that it shall be in the same habit.

A learned Prelate of our Church very cogently sums up the argument in an address to his clergy:

"The true state of the case I take to be, that you are directed to use the Surplice only when reading Divine Service or administering the Sacraments; you then appear in your proper character of a priest or deacon appointed to minister in holy things; but when you preach you assume the character of a teacher, and as such your proper habit is your academical gown with a hood distinguishing your degree at the University."

Do not reason, and the sound deductions from the teaching of our Lord, plainly point out, even if there were a total absence of high Church authority and plain injunctions, as well as the "contemporaneous exposition" of three centuries of history, and the undoubted "teaching and practice of the primitive Church" on the subject, there is something seemly, proper and consistent in making a marked distinction between the dress worn by the Minister when he says the prayers and ministers the sacraments of the Church, and the dress worn by the preacher when he stands in the pulpit and reads his own compositions, which, however faithful and honest, are yet but the mere words of the human understanding? True, they who contend that they are "sacrificing Priests" ministering at an "Altar" and offer up a sacrifice suplementary to the one sufficient and perfect Sacrifice of our Holy Redeemer, "once for all," on the Cross; who urge that they are lineal descendants of the immediate Apostles of our Lord, and that everytime they consecrate the sacramental bread or pronounce the words *Hoc est corpus meum* they do more than could the Apostles and transform the elements into the actual, objective and real body and blood of the Great Sacrifice; who claim that they may "bind and loose" on Earth and in Heaven with a power co-equal with that of their Divine Master, and contend that every word they speak is as infallible as the language of "holy men of old who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost;"—they all may dissent from my arguments, and revel in dogmas repugnant to the Word of God and the teaching of the Church,—but for all that the argument will remain irrefutable because it is strictly Scriptural.

R.

British Parliament—Debate on the Address.

LONDON, March 19.

In the House of Lords the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by the Marquis of Lothian, and seconded by the Earl of Cadogan.

An interesting political debate followed. The Duke of Somerset, a Palmerstonian Liberal, made a sharp attack on Mr. Gladstone for listening to, if not encouraging, parties who favored the dismemberment of the empire.

Earl Grey, Independent, described the dissolution of the last Parliament as an act of political suicide, committed during temporary insanity.

Lord Selborne, late Lord High Chancellor, came to the defence of Mr. Gladstone with a brief but eloquent vindication of his course.

The Earl of Derby, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the course of some non-committal remarks on England's policy abroad, intimated that the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the Princess Marie Alexandrowna was a matter of political importance.

The address, which is a mere echo of the royal speech, was then adopted without amendment.

In the House of Commons there was a very full attendance of members, and the galleries were crowded with spectators. Mr. Disraeli on entering the chamber was received with triumphant cheers by his supporters.

When the members had returned from the Chamber of Peers, the Speaker read a letter from Lord Chief Justice Sir Alexander Cockburn informing the House of the circumstances under which one of its members, Mr. Whalley, was adjudged guilty of and fined for contempt of court.

Mr. Anderson gave notice that on the 31st instant he would call attention to the fact that British subjects had not yet received compensation for their losses in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Washington.

An address in response to the Queen's speech, similar to that introduced in the Upper House, was moved by Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Callender.

Mr. Torrens moved an amendment to the address, declaring that Parliament is conscious of its obligation to specially care for India, and assuring Her Majesty of the interest and anxiety with which it will consider measures to alleviate the distress in that country, and to prevent its recurrence.

Mr. Gladstone said he would not seek to place any obstacle in the way of the Government in its treatment of India. He deprecated the creation of the commission to inquire into the relations of employers and employed; but concluded by promising to give the new government a fair trial.

Mr. Disraeli objected to the amendment moved by Mr. Torrens as inopportune, and it was withdrawn.

The address was then adopted and the House adjourned.

American Water-Gas Researches—Report of Professors Silliman and Henry Wurtz.

Saward's Coal Trade Journal is publishing experimental results obtained with various coals by the Gwyne-Harris process. The following will be of interest to many of our readers:

WESTMORELAND COAL.

This coal is from Western Pennsylvania, in the Pittsburgh basin, and is in great favor among gas engineers, in the United States. It has been the basis of our dydrocarbon experiments at Fair Haven.

In the dry way, by ordinary process, this coal yields on an average sample as follows:

3 h. 20 m. produced per ton	9,500 cu. feet.
Illuminating power, standard Argand	16.62 candles.
Weight of coke, per ton	1,544 pounds.
Bushels of coke, per ton	40
Maximum yield of gas per ton	10,642 cu. ft.
One bushel of lime purified	6,420 cu. ft.

Analysis of the coal:

Volatile matter	36 per cent.
Fixed carbon	58 per cent.
Ash	6 per cent.
	100

Value of the gas from one ton estimated in pounds of spermaceti. 541.26 lbs.

The above results were obtained in the experimental works of the Manhattan Gas Light Company, New York, where the daily average yield of gas from this coal and its equivalent the "Penn" is about 10,000 cu. ft. of candle gas.

ALBERT COAL—"ALBERTITE."

This very remarkable material from New Brunswick is too well known to all gas engineers in the Eastern States to require any description here. Its almost complete freedom from sulphur and from ash and its very large yield of rich gas, makes it the most highly esteem of all the enriching materials at present available for gas-making in the eastern portion of the United States. Unlike most cannels, its use does not sensibly impair the value of the coke produced; while it imparts, even in quantities as small as five per cent., a very satisfactory quality to the gas from common coaking coals. It is not well suited to carbonize alone, owing to its highly inflammable nature, in which it resembles asphaltum. But we have obtained some results with it by the hydrocarbon process which are hereafter given.

The following results on its gas-producing powers by the common process were obtained at their experimental works by the Manhattan Gas Light Co., in New York.

Weight of charge per retort, 224 lbs. Time of carbonizing, three hours and ten minutes.

Yield of gas per ton of 2,240 lbs., 14,784 ft. (equal to 6, 6 ft. per lb.) Illuminating power of three cubic feet burnt in Scotch coal tip fish-tail, 29.74 candles, equal per five cubic feet, to 49.55 candles.

Yield of coke per ton, 16.8 bushels.

Weight of coke, per ton, 806 pounds.

Gas perfectly purified by lime.

The coke burns well and rapidly, without clinkers.

ANALYSIS OF COAL.

Volatile matter	57.70
Fixed carbon	41.80
Ash	0.40

We deduce from this the value of one ton in lbs. of sperm equal 2511.57 lbs.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

James Pendergast made his escape from Rockhead prison on Friday last, and has not yet been re-captured.

One of the passengers who came out by the Nestorian, was robbed in Halifax of 16 sovereigns on Saturday morning.

Rev. Mr. Shaw, of Glace Bay, administered the temperance pledge to about 200 applicants at Bridgeport on Sunday last..

An election petition has been presented to the *ad hocs* against the election of M. Goudge and also against Dr. Borden of Kings.

In event of Coulter accepting Brown's challenge, or any other race that may take place, a race course has been measured off on the ice at Picton Harbour.

UNITED STATES.

The worst case of attempted imposition is that of a Pennsylvania editor who says that he set up a stove and didn't swear.

Miss Hannah Drury has bought a 2,200 acre plantation in North Carolina.

New York ladies are wearing vests—real masculine waistcoats—to be more explicit. They are made of bright colored silk or satin and are intended for evening wear. All kinds of trimming can be used.

A man in Wilmington, N. C., is thus described by a young lady of the same city: "He is so stingy that whenever he smiles it is always at his neighbors' expense."

The Superintendent of the E. & N. A. Railway proposes putting on another freight train to run between Fredericton Junction and Mattawamkeag, increasing business rendering it necessary.—*Bangor Whig.*

The first prize—a handsome case of surgical instruments—has been awarded in the Iowa State University to Miss Rebecca Hanna, for the best specimen of anatomy.

While the women were praying in Arcanum, Ohio, two men named Perkins and Creighton got into a fight. The former lost an eye and the latter was stabbed, probably fatally.

The United States Senate was gallant enough Thursday to confirm Miss Ada C. Sweet as Pension Agent at Chicago without the usual reference to a committee. That's more than was done for Caleb Cushing when he was up for Chief Justice. But, then, there was nothing Sweet about him.

At a recent German in New York the "favors" in the second figure of the dance were tickets for the Italian opera with reserved seats for the night succeeding the one on which the German was given. There was a brilliant and merry party at the opera the next night, and everybody praised the liberality of the hostess.

A Texas newspaper lets fly a last strike at Radicalism in that State under the head of "The Radical Hell Hounds Defeated." The article winds up with this gentle malediction: "The infamous, sneaky, sneaking, negro-loving Davis will be loathed by Texans, even unto the fourth generation. The brand of Cain is upon his brow.

Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, was crowded in every part on the occasion of a temperance meeting. Addresses were made by Rev. Drs. Reed, Cuyler and Scudder. Dr. Cuyler asked if all the steam generated on the temperance subject should go out at the nozzle in a mere snort, and said if the present movement does not take a practical turn in thirty days a blessed philanthropy will be stranded far up on the beach.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher makes this sensible reply, in the *Christian Union*, to a query as to whether it was wicked to dance: "It is wicked when it is wicked, and not wicked when it is not wicked. In itself it has no more moral character than walking, wrestling or rowing. Bad company, untimely hours, evil dances, may make the exercise evil; good company, wholesome hours, and home influences, may make it a very great benefit."

A papa in Greenville, Kentucky, has a daughter Kate, and Kate has a lover distasteful to papa. On the lover's birthday Kate bought a nice gilt-edged box of perfumery for a gift, and put into it "The contents are as delicate and innocent as your love." Papa got hold of the box before it was sent, and changed the contents for bottles of soothing syrup. Kate is now heartbroken by the continued and unexplained absence of her lover.

Three strangers arrived at Lynnfield, Mass., the other night, at the home of E. G. Russell. No one of them could speak a word of English, and they were naked and destitute, not one of them having a penny. They were furnished with food and clothing, and will be cared for till they can do better. The aggregate weight of the three was 214 pounds.

In New York Parisian bouquets of artificial flowers are now the rage and used extensively by ladies at balls, parties and the opera. They are exquisite, and, after close inspection, difficult to detect from natural exotics. Besides they are economical, and that is certainly a recommendation in these times, at all events.

At Cleveland, Ohio, the praying ladies were so rudely treated by the mob that they abandoned further visits to gin mills which were contemplated, and concluded their services in the rooms of the Y. M. Christian Association. The ladies were saluted by yells and insulting remarks when they attempted to pray or sing, and the crowd, which became larger and more excited as they moved along, finally became unmanageable. The ladies were threatened with violence, and at one place one was quite severely injured. A number of gentlemen who interfered in behalf of the ladies were badly beaten. A policeman was struck on the head with a brick while attempting to keep the mob back, and is very seriously injured.

GENERAL.

The new necklace is made of blocks of Roman gold, four inches square, fastened by chains of fine gold. They are unique, but rather overwhelming.

Masculine coats are to be worn by the ladies next summer. They are the invention of Pingat, the only acknowledged rival of Worth in the French capital.

The finances of the Celestial Empire are reported to be in a rather bad way. At the present rate there will soon be a loud wail over broken China.

Sir Robert Hodgson has accepted the Governorship of Prince Edward Island.

Rochefort is in good health, and the climate of New Caledonia perfectly suits his constitution.

The Governor of the Isle de Sainte Marguerite, having treated Marshal Bazaine with unnecessary rigor, has been dismissed.

Mr. Gladstone has it is said, written to Max Muller, telling him that he intends to devote his future time to philological researches.

The new fashion in hair, which shows us a stumpy braid hanging down a lady's back, is a rude imitation of the Heathen Chinee's pigtail, only nothing like so neat and symmetrical. Besides, it is false, while the Chinaman's is not.

Fastidious young wife says to Algernon, who, being devoted to science, makes her read all the scientific lectures and pamphlets to him: "Really, Algernon, all this about differential and integral calculus, and biostatics, and biodynamics, and molecules, and concretes, and things, seems to me rather extraordinary! You can't generally accuse me of prudishness, but *is* this the sort of book that mamma would quite approve of my reading, love?"

Olive Logan says the younger Dumas is tall and handsome, with a speaking blue eye, a courtly manner, and a smile that would ruin the heart of a tobacconist's Injun. He is less like a Frenchman than a Saxon, though it is well known his father was of half African blood. He is wealthy and a lavish patron of the arts. His conversation is as brilliant as that of one of the best characters of his plays. He writes with a steel pen with a huge ivory holder, with his feet wrapped in tiger skins.

There is some cause for anxiety in England over the decrease in the number of persons devoted to agriculture. In a population of 22,712,266 in 1871, there were but 1,820,903 male and female agricultural laborers, against 2,085,153 in 1851. The decrease in ten years between 1861 and 1871 was 189,551. The farmer's son sees a better prospect in the workshop than on the farm, and the cities and towns absorb the strength which the fields are beginning to feel the need of.

No one is prepared to say when the Anchor line company intend to cease building steamers. The company now run between New York and Glasgow more vessels than there are States in the Union, and after April will despatch steamers from both cities every other day throughout the year. The latest addition to the line is called the Utopia. She is one of the most magnificent specimens of marine architecture ever launched, and superior in some respects to any ship engaged in the transatlantic passenger trade.—*N. Y. Mail.*

The trustees of the London Peabody fund report the total on the 31st of December last to have been £578,059. The number of families now in residence at the trustees buildings is 882, occupying 1,875 rooms. The average rent per room is 1s. 10d. per week, and the average weekly earnings of the head of each family is about £1 8s. 1d. Two more blocks for the accommodation of 44 families have been built on the Black friarsroad Estate, which will shortly be opened; while 16 blocks for 352 families are in course of erection on the site near Stamford street. The net income derived from the buildings is about 2¾ per cent. per annum upon the outlay.

The Durham, Eng., coal-field owners have reduced the price of house coal three and four shillings a ton, and manufacturing coal and coke are also lower. North of England advices the last of February mentioned a general derangement of prices, indicating a further general fall, both in the iron and coal trades, and the trade of South Wales showed greater depression, instead of the long expected improvement. The Birmingham coal and iron markets were very much unsettled. It was said that the "demand on the United States account is somewhat steadier, but the business done with that market this quarter will be considerably under the average."

Victor Hugo has published "Ninety-three" at his own expense. The French publisher who paid $80,000 for "The Man Who Laughs," and did not make money by the bargain, has discouraged others from imitating his magnificent example. After a vast amount of haggling with Michael Levy, Hugo got him to take his book for ten per cent., agreeing to pay all cost. His profits in France alone cannot fall short of 300,000 francs. A Paris letter says that Hugo rarely makes use of the pen. He works with the brain and not with the hand. When composing his works he paces the floor of his room, holding high his Olympian head, and sniffing the air like Job's charger, dictating to a secretary sitting at a desk in one corner. He dictates very slowly, sentence by sentence, as Moses, to whom the poet often compares himself, must have dictated the words engraved upon the ancient tablets of stone.

In the British House of Commons, Friday, on report of the address, Dr. Butt moved an amendment representing the dissatisfaction of Ireland with the present system of government, and declaring it to be the duty of Parliament to consider speedily the means of removing such discontent. He said the Irish asked for the management of their local affairs, leaving to Parliament the control of imperial matters. The government of Ireland was based on distrust. The people asked the new Prime Minister, not for immediate home rule, but for a complete policy of conciliation. The Lord Mayor of Dublin seconded the amendment. Messrs. Newdegate and Gladstone opposed it. Mr. Gladstone argued that such a division of legislation as the amendment proposed was impracticable. There was no authority to determine what affairs could be considered as exclusively Irish. Lord Robert Montagu, Sir George Bowyer, Mr. Johnston, and others supported the amendment. Sir Michael Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, denied the gravity of the grievances. He said each party in Ireland interpreted "home rule" according to its own particular wants. The discussion then closed, and the amendment was rejected by a vote of 51 to 114.

Shipping Notes.

The S. S. Sidonian, from Liverpool for New York, put into Bermuda on the 13th inst., short of coal; would be ready to sail in a few days.

Drowned at Sea.—The schooner Adria, Brown, master, which sailed hence for Havana on the 3rd instant, was spoken on the 12th, and reported the loss of her captain, who was washed overboard; also loss of boat. Captain Brown, who was a native of Quaco, was formerly master of the Sinope, of which vessel he owned a fourth. This was his first voyage in the Adria. He leaves a wife in Portland to mourn his loss.

Shipbuilding in Nova Scotia.—The following vessels are building, or intended to be built, at Advocate Harbor during the approaching summer:—

At the ship-yard of Joshua Dewis, Esq., a bark of 140 feet keel. Mr. Wm. Purple and others, will lay the keel of a brigantine of 100 feet keel. Messrs. Kelly and N. B. Morris intend building a schooner of 90 feet keel for the coal and West India trade. Capt. William Morris, and others, are about laying the keel for a brig 116 feet keel; and they will shortly launch a schooner, now timbered, of 180 tons. At the yard of John Suthergreen the frame is now moulded for a bark of 125 or 30 feet keel. At the ship-yard of John Loomer, a schooner 90 feet keel, to be owned by Capt. W. Knowlton and others, and commanded by Capt. Dupn. At Estonville, Three Sisters, D. R & C. F. Eaton are about laying the keel for a barque or ship, 160 feet long, to be launched in August. Also a schooner 90 feet keel, to be launched in the fall or early in the spring of 1875. At Apple River, Ebor Fields and others are about building a brig of 100 or 110 feet keel, to be commanded by Capt. Edgar.

Busy times are anticipated at this place during the summer, carpenters being in great demand. Messrs. D. R. & C. F. Eaton alone will employ, in their ship-yard and steam mill, one hundred and sixty men.

Short of Provisions.—The schr. Haldemar, Parker master, at New York, 21st inst., from Rio Janiero, reports having on the 10th inst., no lat., etc., being boarded by a boat's crew from the brig Countess, of Halifax, N. S., from Cienfuegos for ——, 35 days out, short of provisions, and supplied her.

The Ship W. J. Hatfield, Churchill Master, at New York 20th inst., from Liverpool, reports:—

Jan 29, on leaving Liverpool, the first mate fell from the topgallant deck to the main deck, and was badly injured; sent him back in the pilot boat. Feb. 9, during a violent circular gale, John Robertson, seaman, of Almuich (Wales) fell overboard from the maintopsail yard and was drowned; blew away foresail and topsail trying to save him. Feb. 27, lat. 43, lon 5, experienced a terrific gale from W.N.W, in which lost lower maintopsail, foretopmast and mizen staysails; 8th inst., lat 37 40, lon 7, took another violent gale with a tremendous high and dangerous sea, which continued until the 13th; when the gale abated was in lat 36, lon 63, having been blown 400 miles; the barometer during the whole time was steady at 29; was off the lightship 18th, but could not come in on account of the dense fog prevailing.

The bark L. G. Bigelow, O'Neil, master, from Liverpool for Providence, R.I., previously reported returning to Belfast, in distress, has been beached in Cloughey Bay. She had lost mainmast. Another report states that she is a total wreck, crew saved.

The bark Abbie Thomas, McMullen master, from Philadelphia for Hamburg, arrived at Queenstown on the 23rd inst., leaky, and with loss of yards and sails split.

Ship Lizzie C. Troop, Corning, master, which arrived at New York yesterday, from Antwerp, has been chartered to take in a cargo of machinery for Valparaiso, and from thence she proceeds to San Francisco in ballast, where she will load a cargo of grain for Europe, at a very high rate of freight.

The Knights of Pythias.

This popular benevolent institution is making great headway in our city. "New Brunswick" lodge, No. 1, has already on its roll a long list of our most respected and worthy citizens, and last evening a new lodge was instituted and duly organized. The material in "Union" lodge, No. 2, is most excellent and embraces within its membership leading representatives of almost every branch of industry, with a large sprinkling from the learned professions of the gown and the scalpel. The Order is chivalric and benevolent in its tenets, and while it holds no opinion as regards religious societies or sects, it inculcates the doctrines of the true Christian in the more broad and ample sense. Its principles are from the Law of God, and its teachings are charity and loving-kindness. The society must succeed; its office is a noble one. By it we learn to be obedient to the laws of the country, to be chivalrous in the defence of its territory, to cement the ties of brotherly love, to protect the widow, to relieve the distressed, and care for the orphan. Love is the strong weapon of the Order, and faith is firmly emblazoned on its protective shield. These are the virtues which distinguish this great brotherhood and which commend it to the favorable consideration and esteem of everyone. Dr. Thos. Walker, Grand Chancellor, and the officers of the Grand Lodge, duly organized the new lodge last evening and installed the following office bearers for the ensuing term: Geo. Stewart, Jr., Chancellor Commander; A. J. Armstrong, Vice-Chancellor, Alex. McNichol, Past Chancellor; J. R. Armstrong, Prelate; J. M. Robinson, Master Exchequer; A. L. Rawlins, Master of Finance; Andrew McNichol, Keeper of Records; W. A King, Master-at-Arms; Jas. Boyd, Inner Guard; R. Clark, Outside Guard.

Fire Escape.

Mr. R. Bustin gave another exhibition of his fire escape at Chubb's corner this morning. There is to be another exhibition from the Victoria Hotel at 4 o'clock.

Five Mile House.

Mr. J. McNamara is about to open his house on the Loch Lomond Road for the accommodation of the travelling public. This place is very near where Whitenect's house was burned down a few weeks ago.

Court of Sessions.

The Sessions met Tuesday forenoon about 11 o'clock. About thirty-five Justices were present.

The grand jury asked for an extension of time to make their report, as some of the accounts were complicated and others had not been placed before them. An extra report from the Auditors was read, and, with several accounts, handed to the jury. The jury were advised by Justice Gardiner to visit the nuisances round town, such as the rotten scow and ash pile of the South Wharf, and filth of the street extensions, after which they retired.

Joseph Brockenshire was, by order of the Court, released upon his own recognizance, to keep the peace. His wife was present and expressed confidence in her husband, and that he would keep the peace without sureties.

The report of the Alms House Commissioners was laid on the table till next meeting.

The Parish officers elect were confirmed.

The following constables were appointed: John Smith, St. Martins; Thomas McKee, Wm. McBrien, Wm. Hammond and Geo. McAfee, Simonds.

Committees were appointed from each Parish to carry out the highway law, and also to see to the sureties of the Commissioners.

Jacob Babb, confined in gaol on a peace warrant, was released on his own recognizance.

Justice Tapley read a petition from a large number of the inhabitants of Lancaster asking that no tavern licenses be granted in their parish this year. On motion a committee was appointed to prepare a bill to submit to the Legislature, in order that the prayer of the petition might be complied with.

Sheriff Harding petitioned for an increase of salary, owing to more extended duties. His application was referred to a committee consisting of Justices Gcrow, Gardiner and Upham.

Justice Gregory moved that the salary of the Clerk be increased from $900 to $1200. The motion was referred to the same committee, with Justices Jardine and Baker added.

A petition was read asking that an inspector of lime casks be appointed, which was referred.

The Board adjourned, to meet next Tuesday.

Destroying Signs.

Some rowdy last night pulled down and destroyed two handsome signs in front of the Metropolitan insurance office. The signs were made of sheet iron, gilded and painted, and cost $30 each. One is only bruised while the other has been cut in two. The perpetrator of the act is not known.

Night Trains.

The night train over the E. & N. A. road will be put on in a week or so, and one over the Intercolonial a few weeks later. It is probable that a postal car will accompany the Intercolonial train and letters and papers be delivered at all the stations, the same as during the day time.

The Minister of Customs.

[From the Ottawa Citizen.]

The Ministerial organ of this city in this morning's issue announces that the "Hon. Isaac Burpee has retired from the "firm of I. & F. Burpee, hardware merchants of St. John, N. B. We hope "our Sparks street contemporary is now "quite satisfied that the national interests are no longer in peril, and that the "country is safe." It is weak for a public journal—supposed to reflect the character and opinions of the present Dominion Government—to adopt a flippant style in alluding to the retirement of Mr. Isaac Burpee from the firm of I. & F. Burpee, of St. John, N. B. In England every precedent under the constitution was strongly against Mr. Burpee holding the office of Minister of Customs, while in Canada Mr. Baldwin refused to appoint Malcolm Cameron to the Crown Lands because he was indirectly connected with the lumber interests. The retirement of Mr. Burpee from business is certainly proof positive that the ground assumed by us was tenable, and that the constitutional points were such as should have been respected when Mr. Mackenzie first formed his combination. In fact, strictly speaking, it is wrong for Mr. Burpee to remain at the head of the Customs Department even now, for his retirement cannot possibly be of such a character as to constitute him a disinterested party—more particularly now that his own brother and relatives continue a branch of business directly connected with the Customs of the Dominion. We can but hope, however, that as Mr. Burpee possesses much practical knowledge and is a careful observer, that he will endeavor to forget personal interests in the one great aim of promoting the progress of the Dominion and the welfare of the people. It would have been far better, however, had he resigned his position of Minister of Customs and an exchange of portfolios taken place; the public would then have had faith in the honesty and uprightness of his motives and confided in his honor. The simple withdrawal of his name from the business at St. John looks too much like a piece of Mackenzie legerdemain, lacking the dexterity of manipulation necessary to thoroughly deceive a rather critical audience.

A Baltimore woman has taken time by the forelock. A few days since she brought to the Register of Wills in that city a will made by her husband, and which she desired to file for probate. "When did he die?" inquired the sympathetic clerk to whom the document was handed. "Why, bless you," responded the woman, "he ain't dead yet, but he gave me that (pointing to the will), and he drinks a quart of liquor every day, and I guess," continued she with a laugh "he'll play out in about three months." The officer had no more to say, and quietly filed away the will.

It is impossible not to feel respect for the British thoroughness which seems to control the Cunard line; and if wind and wave can be trusted at all, it would seem as if the management of the vessels controlled by this line might be in all respects entitled to implicit reliance. It seems no wonder that the line maintains its standing with all passengers who desire to travel safely as well as speedily.—*London Cor. of Boston Journal.*

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