

COLONIAL.

QUEBEC, July 18.

The drought still continues in this District with very little appearance of mitigation. It is to be hoped that our friends in England will send us a few more ship loads of bonded grain in exchange for our timber, and that the honorable member for Bath who represents the representatives of Lower Canada, will give his consent that we should continue to enjoy the only trade, by means of which we shall be able to keep ourselves alive. Perhaps our neighbours in Upper Canada and on the upper waters of the St. Lawrence will be able to send us down on their rafts, before the close of the navigation, some hay, straw, and other necessary articles, as we understand they have not been so severely afflicted as the district of Quebec. The low grounds and the woods, in many places, are now on fire, and the soil and every thing upon it is literally burning up. The nights are cool, but there is no moisture in the ground to be evaporated to form dew. The scarcity of water is not one of the least of the evils which at present afflict the farmer.—*Gazette.*

The Upper Canada elections have closed, giving a decided majority in favor of Sir Francis Head and the Constitution. It is expected that the House will number about 45 constitutionalists and 15 radicals—of the latter party, Messrs Bidwell, (late speaker) and McKenzie and Perry have lost their election.

DESTRUCTION OF A STEAMBOAT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE BY FIRE.—The Montreal Herald thus relates the particulars:—The *Union Canadienne*, which runs from this port to Chambly basin, was, on Saturday night at 11 o'clock, discovered to be on fire, while near the wharf at the latter place, and notwithstanding all the exertions made to save her, was destroyed to the water's edge. The fire was distinctly seen in the City. The accident, melancholy to relate, has been attended with the loss of several lives. A Mrs Holmes, of Sorel, in the consternation of the moment, jumped from the ladies' cabin with her child, when both were drowned, and the steward was burnt to death in the vessel. The goods on board the steamboat were principally intended for St. John's, and are all destroyed, the fire is supposed to have been produced by a candle, left burning in the ladies' cabin.

The *British Albatross*, on her last trip up, was very near sharing a similar fate, while at the wharf at Sorel. The wood work, near the larboard boiler, caught fire, and the flames obtained such an ascendancy ere they could be extinguished, that her paddle box was nearly destroyed. The greatest praise has been awarded to the Captain and Purser, for their exertions on this trying occasion. It is a most fortunate circumstance, that the affair took place during the day time, and while the boat was near the wharf of Sorel, for, in any other case, among the two hundred passengers she had on board, it is more than probable that many would have been lost through fear or otherwise.

ST. JOHN, N. B., July 26.

New potatoes were for sale in our market on Saturday, for the first time this season. Old ones find ready sale at 3s. to 3s. 9d. per bushel. The weather of late has been highly favorable for agricultural purposes, and the crops are in every direction looking well, with perhaps the exception of grass, which is rather light.—*Observer.*

MODERATE DIPLOMACY.—The Editor of the St. John Courier, having copied the late correspondence between the two countries, relative to their disputed territory, says, "We think it is high time that this question was settled, for, besides the continual expense and present unproductive state to either power of a large

tract of fine country, we have some reason to fear, from the continued extravagant proposals of the Americans, and which have hitherto not been rejected with sufficient firmness on our part, that eventually they will only be satisfied with obtaining possession of the whole Province! When the negotiations were first commenced, the *Penobscot*, we believe, was generally thought to be the river alluded to in the treaty; but the sharp-sighted Americans succeeded so far in hoodwinking the British Commissioners as to make it appear that the *Saint Croix* was the river intended; and not content with their success, we now hear of the startling proposition, that if the British Government will accede to it, the United States will apply to the State of Maine for its assent to make the river SAINT JOHN, from its source to its mouth, the boundary between Maine and His Majesty's Dominions!! We are at a loss to conjecture what terms will next be proposed."

EARTHQUAKE.—On Wednesday the 6th July, the shock of an earthquake was experienced in this Province. We have been informed that it was very sensibly felt at Wickham, in Queen's County. At St. Stephen's, County of Charlotte, it occasioned a heavy rumbling sound, not unlike the distant discharge of artillery. It was also observed at Milltown, in the same County; two gentlemen who were sitting in a house engaged in conversation at about 3 o'clock on that day, had their attention suddenly arrested by a violent concussion resembling the fall of a very heavy substance upon the building in which they were. The raftsmen on the river near the last mentioned place, saw the water much agitated, although it was perfectly calm at the time. The cattle were seen to run into the woods as if affrighted. We have not learned if this phenomenon has arrested attention in other parts of the Province.—*Fredericton Gazette.*

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., July 19.

A public meeting of the Charlottetown Temperance Society, was held last evening at the old Methodist chapel, which was numerously attended, when the Rev. Mr Knight was chosen president, who delivered a short address, embracing an interesting account of a large and influential meeting, recently held at Exeter Hall in London, at which, as we understood, the Bishop of Chester presided. It appeared also from the statement of the Secretary last evening, that the Society here contains 266 members, and the Youth's Society numbers 100.—*Gazette.*

A Conventional meeting was held at the same place on the Wednesday following.

TEMPERANCE IN NOVA SCOTIA.—We understand that the convention for the Eastern part of Nova-Scotia, assembled at Antigonish on Wednesday last, (July 13). There were present Delegates from various parts of the County of Pictou, the County of Sydney, and from Margaree, in the island of Cape Breton. The delegates met in the morning, and made the necessary arrangements previous to the public meeting, which took place at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the Court House, which was well filled by the public, and a deep interest was manifested in the proceedings of the meeting. Various Resolutions were passed, and the members of the convention separated at a late hour in the day, with the conviction that the information which had been diffused during the discussion of the various subjects that were brought under the consideration of the convention, will have a beneficial influence upon the community at large, and have a tendency to dissipate the prejudice and misconception as respects Temperance societies, which has unhappily been fostered in that part of the country.—*Ib.*

The Convention for 1837 will be held at Tatamagouche in the District of Colechester.

THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUG. 3, 1836.

THE Editors of some of our exchange papers, we observe, are in possession of London dates to the 12th June, and Paris to the 11th, and they have furnished extracts from which we have selected a few items of news. The House of Commons on the 10th rejected the amendments of the Lords to the Irish Municipal Bill, by a vote of 321 to 233, majority 86, showing a material increase on the Ministerial side.

The *Heiress* apparent to the British Throne, has, it appears, condescended to announce our future king.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—We lay aside, for a time, all speculations on the news and politics of the day, which are of themselves unimportant, for the purpose of noticing those humble and unpretending institutions which have sprung up around us, during the last ten or fifteen years, in which Religious Instruction, and in some instances, though very few, Elementary Knowledge, are communicated gratuitously, on a portion of the Sabbath day, to a large proportion of our youth. Than this, we can conceive nothing so truly characteristic of the Benevolence of the age in which we live; it is indeed a *labour of love*, one which is eminently calculated to promote the growth of religion in the hearts of the teachers, implant it in the tender minds of the children, and thus give a tone to the character of the succeeding Generation, the fruits of which may, under the blessing of God, go on increasing to the latest period of time.

Until very lately, a society was in active operation in this town, for the twofold purpose of importing and retailing suitable publications for Sabbath Schools, and for collecting and publishing such local information connected with these schools, as might be deemed sufficiently interesting: but for want of funds, the Society eventually found itself unable to carry its operations beyond the limits of the schools in and about the Town. At present, such reward books and catechisms as are generally used in these schools, may be had at this establishment on nearly the same terms on which they were furnished by the Society; and with a view to supply the deficiency of information relative to the general and particular state of Sabbath Schools, throughout this and the adjoining Counties, we propose publishing a yearly abstract of the standing of these useful institutions, about the first week of January in each year.

But as this abstract must necessarily consist of such materials as are furnished to us, we invite the Teachers of the various Schools to favour us with the following particulars:—place of location, number of scholars both male and female, number of Teachers, and whether male or female, together with any incident that might be sufficiently interesting to lay before the public.

The School in this Town connected with the First Presbyterian Church, which, we believe is the oldest in the County, has been carried on with steady, if not increasing, activity and usefulness, up to this date. Besides this, another School has lately been commenced in the Second Presbyterian Church, so that, between the two, there are now probably 300 or more youths and children receiving weekly moral and religious instruction in this town alone; we hope the accounts from the country will be equally, if not more gratifying, so that, at the end of the year, we may be enabled to present our readers with such an account of their standing as will cheer onward the friends of the cause in their philanthropic and truly honourable work.

LAUNCH.—On Friday last, was launched from the ship yard of Messrs Campbell, Tatamagouche, ship "SIR COLIN CAMPBELL," of about 518 tons measurement. She is said to be a very superior and handsome looking vessel, and reflects great credit to the skill, and we hope will result to the profit, of her enterprising owners.