

Late Despatches.

New York, Sept. 23. Advice from the Cape of Good Hope report renewed excitement there. Diamonds of great value are found daily.

It is reported that the members of the "ring" are transferring their property to friends not involved in the public frauds.

A Honolulu letter states that the hurricane of 9th August was the most severe ever experienced in the Sandwich Islands.

The despatch announcing the death of Earl Derby was a mistake.

There was a great fire in San Francisco on Saturday. Loss \$1,000,000. Several firemen were injured.

Nine deaths from yellow fever at Charleston during the last 48 hours, and five in Yekoburg during the last 24 hours.

The Coulter-Bigin crew have challenged any crew in the United States to row a 5 or 6 mile race for from \$1000 to \$5000.

London, Sept. 20. Marshal McMahon, in his examination before a committee on the conduct of the war, assumes the entire responsibility for the disastrous results of his march from Chalons to Sedan.

The declaration has produced a profound sensation, and the "Bonapartist" journals are joyful over it.

M. Thiers is afraid of assassination, and his chamber is guarded nightly.

Queen Victoria suffers from rheumatism in the foot.

The Princess of Wales will soon return from the continent.

Correspondence has been discovered in the Tuileries developing a plan to put Napoleon on the throne of Belgium.

The discovery occasioned a sensation in Belgium.

The Standard to-day says advice from Berlin report that the relations between Russia, France and Turkey become more intimate.

The Free Press.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 1871.

BRIDGETOWN—LONG AGO.

A half century is something in the world's history. When imagination turns to the "buried past," the lapse of by-gone ages seems almost interminable, and a century of the long ago dwindles into an exceedingly brief period in the march of time.

The past of Bridgetown is not without interest in the memory of those who have been intimately cognizant of its beginning and progress. Fifty years ago it had not even an embryo existence.

Mr. Enoch Dodge reared the building in which the Post Office now is. Next year five other houses were built; and from year to year additions were made.

Fifty years ago!—As we remember the events of that period, the time seems short; but in this locality there have been changes, and marvellous vicissitudes in the career of individuals and families.

the folly of licentiousness and dissipation. Some of the school-boys of the period referred to, have been successful in life, respected and honored as useful members of society.

RETROSPECTIVE.

Next Sunday will be the anniversary of the inauguration of the FREE PRESS. On the 1st of October 1863 its first number was issued.

When the FREE PRESS was started, there had been a recent General Election, and a new Government formed, pledged to protect the rights of the people, and to carry out a rigid system of RETRENCHMENT in our public expenditures.

Our first number had scarcely been issued, when the speedy death of the FREE PRESS was predicted. The prophets who foretold its demise, spoke with an exultant confidence.

In the darkest hour of our country's history, we have been faithful to its rights and interests. We have been identified with the conflicts of two General Elections, in which our policy and our principles were triumphant.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.

It is not so able and luminous as they were in their early career. When Sir Walter Scott, Jeffrey, Brindley, Sydney Smith, Professor Wilson, Lockhart and others were living contemporaries, they imparted to literature an interest and a value which powerfully operated upon the aggregate mind of the whole civilized world.

The October number is now before us, replete in all those attractions—artistic and literary—which have rendered it a welcome visitor into thousands of those circles, where the endearments of home-life are cherished and enjoyed.

PETER'S MUSICAL MONTHLY.—This admirable aid to those who excel in song, is a great favorite in musical circles. We acknowledge the receipt of the October number.

THE TEA MEETING.

On the 20th instant there was quite a gathering in the basement of the Wesleyan Church, now in course of erection in this town, to participate in social greetings, and in a most sumptuous repast prepared by a bevy of Eve's beautiful daughters.

THE TOPPER SCANDAL.

DR. TOPPER TRIED AND FOUND GUILTY.

Our Nova Scotian exchanges throw some further light on the charges made against Dr. Topper in connection with the Spring Hill coal mines.

It will be remembered that Dr. Topper was charged with having, when Provincial Secretary in 1865, in collusion with other persons, deliberately connived at the withholding from publication in the official Gazette and order in council relating to licenses to search for coal for other minerals.

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The affidavit of John McDonald, the foreman, then follows, in which he confirms the statement of the ex-Queen's Printer. But if this were true, it would only half meet the case it is intended to overturn.

The confederates had already their eyes fixed on Spring Hill; but an important bar stood in their way. Three of the acres included in Mr. Black's applications on Thursday morning were already covered by licenses of search, which expired on the 29th of June.

We have here, then, not only a purely negative attempt to disprove the statement as to the delay in issuing the Gazette, but an absence of any effort to account for the delay in the publication of the "Order," and finally, the strongest possible motive on the part of the conspirators for doing exactly as they are alleged to have done.

Contagious diseases, such as horse cholera, glanders, &c., may be prevented by the use of Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders.

Mr. Black in their applications. But the other side bring the books of the Mines office into court to show that the two names which appear next to Mr. Black's are those of old and faithful supporters of Dr. Topper.

He now openly admits his partnership in the Spring Hill mines, but denies that, when in the Local Government, he engaged in mining speculations. The truth of this assertion is, it is said, to be tested in the law courts, and it is quite possible that it is technically accurate.

As to these later transactions his organ is absolutely silent. It does not deny the promotion of the Intercolonial branch lines to benefit the Spring Hill property, nor yet the purchase of land in expectation that the lines so promoted would require it.

EASILY CONSUMPTION CURED BY FELLOWS HYPOPHOSPHITES.

CAMBRIAN NEWSPAPER, JAN. 8, 1871.—MR. JAMES I. FELLOWS.—Sir: I came to this country in May, 1869. I found a countryman of mine laboring under some affection of the lungs.

He happened to be in W. H. Thompson's shop your first shipment arrived and took at once six bottles to the Labrador which he was very anxious to do but had not occasion to use them himself.

We have chronicled so many Railway Excursions of late that the mere mention of them has grown monotonous; but it will be expected that we say something of that which came off on Tuesday between Annapolis and Kentville.

The very best medicine in use for a horse among us is that prepared by Professor Clark, called Clark's Duetty Condition Powders.

THE GREAT FIRE IN ST. JOHN.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The fire broke out shortly after half-past 12 o'clock; so far as can be ascertained, in a building in the rear of Mr. B. McCrossin's house on Sydney street, either that used for the storage of rags to be conveyed into flock for mattresses or that close by it known as Donohue's stables.

through the old sheds and barns which cover the entire space between the buildings, and as a great many of these were used as stables by various persons, the first efforts of those who arrived on the ground were directed to saving the live stock, and so successful were they that, so far as we can learn, neither horse nor cow perished.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE quickly assembled, and their services were willingly given to aid in removing property from the stores and houses threatened.

THE UTILITY OF BRICK BUILDINGS. was clearly demonstrated, as, notwithstanding the tremendous heat of two acres of towering flame and solid walls of fire beneath, the four brick buildings nobly stood the attack and checked its power, and it is to be hoped that no building of a less inflammable character will be erected on the ground now occupied.

THE LOSS SUSTAINED will probably amount to \$75,000 or \$100,000, and of this not more than \$50,000 or \$60,000 is covered by insurance.

THE NEW BRIDGE.

This structure across the Annapolis River, near our office, is nearly completed. Its roof is covered with cedar and its sides with spruce shingles of superior quality.

THE HON. L. J. PAPINEAU, formerly a leading politician in Lower Canada, died last Saturday, aged 82 years.

On Tuesday the Railway train, on the way east, broke the bonnet of two cows, and threw them from the track, where they were trespassers.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at Fredericton, N. B. eight days ago.

A WONDERFUL YEAR.

The present year is characterized by marvellous occurrences. There have been drought and inundations—great extremes of heat and cold—destructive thunder storms—hurricanes—cyclones—earthquakes—steam-boat disasters and railway accidents—potatoes and grasshoppers.

Another tidal wave is to sweep the whole Atlantic coast, to the height of fifty or sixty feet, on the night of the 5th or the morning of the 6th of October.

What is Howe doing down here among the Blue Noses? Perhaps some of our readers may be curious to know? Well he has been sent down to tamper with certain members of the Local Legislature.

The last British soldier left St. John yesterday morning, and the barracks are now deserted except by one man, an old pensioner, employed as caretaker by the Imperial Government.

The boat-racing excitement in Halifax has partially subsided; and the Civic Elections, to come off in a few days, are causing a bubble in the pot of popular agitation.

The gratifying intelligence has been received that Savin, the escaped convict, was caught this morning at McAdam Junction, Charlotte Co., by Mr. Sproule, who recognized him by the descriptions published in the newspapers.

It is reported that Mr. Mann's negotiations with the Dominion Government relative to the right of way over the Windsor branch of the Nova Scotia Railway have been successful.

This valuable Indian Combination has been successfully used by physicians, and found to be safe and sure in eradicating worms in persons of all ages.

The negotiations for a match race between the Benfouth and St. John crews have fallen through, and there consequently be no race.

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The Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia will be opened at Nictaux on Saturday next at 10 o'clock, A. M.

FIRST

New Goods this Season, DIRECT FROM MANCHESTER!

ENGLISH TWEEDS and COATINGS, FANCY FLANNELS and SHIRTINGS, GREY and WHITE COTTONS,

Fancy Dress Goods, In Winceys and Lutres, Thibet, Colours, Satin, Belgian Cord, &c.

From St. John and Halifax: Groceries, Hardware, China, Glass and Earthenware, Boots and Shoes, Slippers and Rubbers, Fancy Goods, Hats and Caps.