THE LONDON TIMES AND THE LATE PRINCIPAL PROPRIETOR, MR. WALTER.

The following tribute to the memory of Mr. John Walter, long known as the active proprietor and principal conductor of the London Times, who died in London on the 28th July, we copy from an article in that journal of the following day. Besides the united testimony to the character of the deceased, it records an important event in the history of the daily press. After some historical notices of the life of Mr. Walter, the article proceeds as follows:—

His public spirit was not of that exclusive or theoretical character which comprehends only a class or a constituency within the range of its affections; which cares for nothing lower than a forty-shilling freeholder, a tenant farmer renting at £50, or a £10 householder. He considered every Englishman his fellow citizen and friend, and sought the suffrage of affection from the humblest laborer, and the feeblest and most desolate pauper, as anxiously as the vote and interest of the all-important elector. They only who knew Mr. Walter can be aware how much his feelings for the poor had been formed and cherished by the associations of his personal experience, and how much the bereavements, the separations, the denials, and indignities from which he sought to rescue the unprivileged and persecuted classes of this country, were those which he had personally felt or witnessed, or both. His private life and experience were deeply written in his political sympathies; nor can any stranger be aware of the incessant toil, the discomfort, the utter neglect of health and comfort, not to say life itself, the perpetual combination of bodily and mental fatigue which he went through for the sake of that people whose great organ of opinion it had been his glory to found, and was still his chief pleasure to assist and advise.

It was a matter of life-long regret to Mr. Walter, that engaged, as he had been, in the most various and responsible business from a very early age, and surprised, as it were, by a continual succession of arduous undertakings, he had never rendered a due portion of his time to the duties and enjoyments of domestic life. Most public men feel this; but Mr. Walter felt it enough to regard with great jealousy any addition to his political engagements. It was under this feeling, that, contrary to the advice of his friends, he resigned in 1837 his seat for the county of Berks. His indignation at the injustice and cruelty done to the poor by a notorious act, and at the triumphant tone of its advocates in Parliament, hurried him again into harassing, tedious and expensive contests. It was his desire to re-enter the House of Commons with the *prestige* of a great popular constituency, and, armed with a public commission, to throw back in the face of the Minister the oft-repeated vaunt that the Poor Law was acceptable to the people of England. Time, however, reserved his triumph. The verdict of England reached Mr. Walter in the chamber of death. It was there that he heard the fate of the once potent Commission; and it was almost in his last hours that he was told there was scarcely a Parliamentary candidate who did not pledge himself to some extent against the inhumanities of that law against which for so many years he had waged a single-handed war. He died with the news of victory in his ear.

It would be scarcely possible to enumerate or describe the whole of what not merely this journal, but all the journals of the civilized world, owe to Mr. Walter. He first imparted to the daily press its vast range and celerity of information, its authentic accuracy, its universal correspondence, its lucid arrangement and marvellous despatch, and, more than all, its dignity in the social scale, and its political position as what has been called the fourth estate of the realm. He was not only a great tribune, but the founder of a tribunitial rank and authority. Amongst other acts of his early exertions for the press may be mentioned his successful competition for priority of intelligence with the Government during the European war, which (to mention a single instance) enabled this journal to announce the capitulation of Flushing 48 hours before the news had arrived through any other channel; and the extinction of what before his time had been an invariable practice with the General post-office, strange as it may now appear,—the systematic retardation of foreign intelligence, and the public sale of foreign news for the benefit of the Lombard street officials.

But one achievement alone is sufficient to place Mr. Walter high in that list which the world, as it grows older and wiser, will more and more appreciate—

"Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes,
"Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo."

He first brought the steam engine to the assistance of the public press. Familiar as the discovery is now, there was a time when it seemed fraught with difficulties as great as those which Fulton has overcome on one element and Stephenson on another. To take off 5,000 impressions in an hour was once as ridiculous a conception as to paddle a ship 15 miles against wind and tide, or to drag in that time a train of carriages weighing a hundred tons 50 miles. Mr. Walter, who, without being a visionary, may be said to have thought nothing impossible that was useful and good, was early resolved that there should be no impossibility in printing by steam. It took a long time in those days to strike off the 3,000 or 4,000 copies of the *Times*. Mr. Walter could not brook the tedium of the manual process. As early as the year 1804 an ingenious compositor, named Thomas Martyn, had invented a self acting machine for working the press, and had produced a model which satisfied Mr. Walter of the feasibility of the scheme. Being assisted by Mr. Walter with the necessary funds, he made considerable progress towards the completion of his work, in the course of which he was exposed to much personal danger from the hostility of the pressmen, who vowed vengeance against the man whose innovations threatened destruction to their craft. To such a length was their opposition carried, that it was found necessary to introduce the various pieces of the machine into the premises with the utmost possible secresy, while Martyn himself was obliged to shelter himself under various disguises in order to escape their fury. Mr. Walter however, was not yet permitted to reap the fruits of his enterprise. On the very eve of success he was doomed to bitter disappointment. He had exhausted his own funds in the attempt, and his father, who had hitherto assisted him, became disheartened, and refused him any further aid. The project was therefore for the time abandoned.

Mr. Walter, however, was not the man to be deterred from what he had once resolved to do. He gave his mind incessantly to the subject, and courted aid from all quarters, with his usual munificence. In the year 1814 he was induced, by a clerical friend, in whose judgment he confided, to make a fresh experiment; and accordingly, the machinery of the amiable Kœnig, assisted by his young friend Bauer, was introduced—not, indeed, at first into *The Times* office, but into the adjoining premises, such caution being thought necessary from the threatened violence of the pressmen. Here the work advanced, under the frequent inspection and advice of the friend alluded to. At one period these two able mechanics suspended their anxious toil, and left the premises in disgust. After the lapse, however, of about three days, the same gentleman discovered their retreat, induced them to return, showed them to their surprise their difficulty conquered, and the work still in progress. The night on which this curious machine was first brought into use in its new abode was one of great anxiety, and even alarm. The suspicious pressmen had threatened destruction to any one whose inventions might suspend their employment—"destruction to him and his traps." They were directed to wait for expected news from the continent. It was about six o'clock in the morning when Mr. Walter went into the press-room, and astonished its occupants by telling them that "*The Times* was already printed by steam! That if they attempted violence there was a force ready to suppress it: but that if they were peaceable, their wages should be continued to every one of them till similar employment could be procured;"—a promise which was, no doubt, faithfully performed; and, having so said, he distributed several copies among them. Thus was this most hazardous enterprise undertaken and successfully carried through, and printing by steam on an almost gigantic scale given to the world. On that memorable day, the 29th of November, 1814, the following announcement appeared in the Times:—

"Our journal of this day presents to the public the practical result of the greatest improvement connected with printing since the discovery of the art itself. The reader of this paragraph now holds in his hand one of the many thousand impressions of the Times newspaper, which were taken off last night by a mechanical apparatus. A system of machinery almost organic has been devised and arranged, which, while it relieves the human frame of its most laborious efforts in printing, far exceeds all human powers in rapidity and despatch. That the magnitude of the invention may be justly appreciated by its effects, we shall inform the public, that after the letters are placed by the compositors and enclosed in what is called the form, little more remains for man to do than to attend upon and watch this unconscious agent in its operations. The machine is then merely supplied with paper—itself places the form, inks it, adjusts the paper to the form newly inked, stamps the sheet, and gives it forth to the hands of the attendant, at the same time withdrawing the form for a fresh coat of ink, which itself again distributes, to meet the ensuing sheet, now advancing for impression; and the whole of these complicated acts is performed with such a velocity and simultaneousness of movement that no less than 1,100 sheets are impressed in one hour.

"That the completion of an invention of this kind, not the effect of chance, but the result of mechanical combinations methodically arranged in the mind of the artist, should be attended with many obstructions and much delay, may be readily admitted. Our share in the event has indeed only been the application of the discovery under an agreement with the patentees to our own particular business; yet few can conceive—even with this limited interest—the various disappointments and deep anxiety to which we have for a long course of time been subjected."

From that day to the end of his life Mr. Walter never ceased to improve on the original plan; and if we should soon be able to accelerate the press, considerably but safely beyond its present speed, we shall be indebted to him and those whom he employed for that result.

As a step in the progress of civilization, the steam press can only be compared to the original discovery of printing itself. Had it not been for that timely invention, literature and information must have been restricted in their growth, and still more in their extent, by the labour, expense, and delay incident to the multiplication of copies; and that at a time when the human mind was preparing for its mightiest efforts. When one copy of even a small book was the work of many days, it is evident that the mass of mankind must be strangers to all novelty in literature. Forty years since the world had come again to exactly the same sort of stand-still. If the pressmen of the daily journals had continued their labors till one day's "form" was replaced by the next, they could only have supplied the wants of a certain limited class.—Steam gave wings to the press, enlarging its powers to the scale of the world. It has enabled the metropolitan press to issue an adequate supply for all England, even before the inhabitants of the metropolis itself have assembled at the breakfast table. By this potent aid we printed and circulated fifty thousand copies of our paper, containing Sir Robert Peel's celebrated speech announcing the repeal of the Corn Laws, in the course of the following morning.

His devotion to the cause which by day and by night engrossed his interest and his powers, and never allowed him the needful repose, probably cost Mr. Walter not only his ease and his comfort, but his health and his life. He early perceived the dangerous character of the symptoms, which made their first appearance rather more than a twelvemonth since. He was aware that his only chance was repose of body and mind: but private affairs of a peculiarly harrassing and distressing character debarred him from that needful repose, and even entailed a serious increase of anxious occupation. In the extreme discomfort of his complaint, and the physical disability for business it occasioned, and not less in his comparative freedom during so many months from acute pain and mental prostration, he thankfully and warmly recognized a providential opportunity for amending, as far as might be, the omissions of a life, and accepted it as some intimation that a merciful Deity regarded with favor the object to which his last, and longest, and ripest energies had been devoted.

Early in the progress of the complaint, which was a cancer in the face, Mr. Walter, for the sake of medical attendance, took up his abode at his residence in Printing-house-square, where, after many months of suffering, he expired yesterday at a quarter before 2 o'clock A. M.

CHINA.—The latest accounts from China confirm our apprehensions, that no additional security of hold is attained for our position by the mere coercion of the provincials on the extreme frontier. Our merchant population, indiscreet, overbearing, and unintelligible to the native population, has exacted a further grant of land; the inhabitants gravely, naturally, and justly, demur to giving it up. They appeal to the wisdom and equity of the British. They do not understand our purpose in exacting it, nor the political necessity under which the local rulers act in conceding it. It is impossible that they can do otherwise than think their own case sound and just. Such disputes cannot be settled with the Chinese Lord-Lieutenant at Canton; and a further attack on the city, which seemed imminent, could have no effect but to destroy the confidence of the inhabitants in our good faith and in the capacity of their own Royal Commissioner, and to perpetuate that discord which may yet embroil us with European powers on Chinese ground.—*London Spectator.*

On the 13th of July last, in the village called Glen, on the estate of the Earl of Cork, ejectments were executed by the sub-sheriff of Cork, aided by the military and police force, on forty-eight tenants. Their houses or cabins were thrown down, and the forty-eight families, numbering about 400 human beings, were turned out upon the high road. Of these more than *one hundred were suffering from fever.* They were obliged to take refuge in the neighboring churchyard of Ballysally, and the ejected families slept for four consecutive nights, huddled together among the grass covered graves.

The estates of the Duke of Sutherland in the north of Scotland are said to comprise upwards of 700,000 acres; and in one direction His Grace can ride for fifty miles through land exclusively his own property.

A train of railway carriages left Edinburgh, a few days since, conveying 1900 passengers.—The object was to procure a cheap pleasure trip to and from the capital.

The railway calls for the month of July amount to £1,926,545, which is the largest monthly payment of this year, except that of January, which was £5,565,961.

Louis Philippe's new yacht, the Comte d'Eu, during a trial excursion on the 3rd inst., burst her boilers. Nine men were killed, and thirteen sent to the hospital with little hopes of recovery, two of whom have since died.

From the New-York Express.

THE CELESTIALS IN COURT.—*Court of Special Sessions, Sept. 3.*—Before Recorder Scott and two Aldermen.—Assoy, Ayong, Leonee, Atoe, Atto, Finding and Cowtin, part of the crew of the Chinese Junk, were tried for an assault and battery on Edward Revett, mate of the same.

Mr. R. testified that as he was about leaving the vessel they fell upon him, tore the clothes off his back, rolled him down upon the stones, and would have made minced meat of him if the Police had not interfered.

The Chinese were then asked what they had to say, when they gave through an interpreter the following statement.

From the testimony of the first witness it appeared that the captain, while in Canton, signified that he wished a number of the Celestials to accompany him on a trading voyage to the island of Java; that the accused and companions were induced to enter upon a contract with the captain of the Keying to go with him, and were to receive as compensation $8 per month; and that in case they should wish to remain at the island, they were to have the privilege of so doing: on the contrary, if they were satisfied with their commander and the vessel, they were to re-embark for some other port, provided the voyage would not exceed a period of eight months from the time of leaving Canton. After being out some days a Malay boat came near the junk to supply such provisions as might be wanted. This circumstance satisfied the Celestials that they were near the Island of Java.

The vessel, however, never touched there: in consequence of which the Celestials at once concluded that they had been deceived, and commenced feeling discontented. With the free use of rope they were punished into obedience, and on the arrival of the junk at the island of St. Helena, a Mandarin was brought on board by the captain, and he told them that unless they proceeded quietly on the voyage, they would all be shot. The conduct of the captain was very severe towards them; and one of the number, in hopes of making his escape ashore, or preferring death to his situation, jumped overboard, but was rescued, and again placed on board. The original contract in Chinese character, was then produced, and translated by S. Wells Williams, Esq.

It was read by Mr. Williams, as follows:

"This is to be a true testimony about going on foreign seas. This man is from Chow Chow. There is now an English country's captain, who has set up a voyage in a vessel called the Keying This is to request men to go on a foreign ocean from Hong Kong. The limit of the voyage is eight months, at $8 per month.

"That when they get to the end of the voyage—and if they wish they can return home—and the Captain shall provide them with a good ship—and pay all expenses—as they can't give security, they form themselves into a brethren 25 in all. They are not to run away or steal anything from the vessel. The contract is understood in the shop Meekin, and is clearly and fully understood by the Captain, and he take this to be our contract. Dated on the 26th of the year of the Emperor of Tonquan, (August, 1846, of our year."

Tan Lak, sworn.—The crew came to the captain to get their wages, and to get the Captain to send them home; that they seldom saw the Captain, and they were anxious to press the matter; that the Captain went out and they followed him, when the mate took a club and struck one of them; that the mate pulled off his coat himself, and the men did not tear it off at all; that the mate commenced the assault; that no clothes were torn at all; there was a general row; the agreement was to go to the Island of Java, but they did not touch at Java, but came to this country; while passing the Island of Java they saw a Malay boat, and then they knew that they were at the Island, and when they saw the Junk going by, they were in great trouble; they did not understand English, and day and night they were beaten with a rope; that when they got to the Island of St. Helena some people came on board, when the Captain said if they did not come to this country he would shoot them, at the same time pointing guns at them; that the conduct of the Captain was so severe that one of the crew jumped overboard, but it being a calm he was saved; that the captain, in order to induce them to come to this country, said he would send them back to China.

Charles A. Kellet sworn.—Is Captain of the Junk; the men came to me and wished me to pay them their wages; I have not the contract with me; I offered to pay them their wages, but wanted a receipt; they then commenced making a noise; I was going out with the mate when he was caught hold of, and one of the men bit him; the Police came and took them off.

The testimony was here closed, and the Court after consultation, found the accused severally, Not Guilty; whereupon they left the Court, evidently much pleased with American justice.

Owing to the difficulty between the Captain of the Junk and the Chinese crew, it is probable that the latter will leave the country on their return home in the course of a few days, under the auspices of several benevolent individuals who have taken a deep interest in their behalf.

WESTERN TRADE.—Should the new bill which has recently passed the Canadian Parliament, receive the sanction of the crown, and the St. Lawrence be open for the export of grain from the United States, the West will be greatly benefitted. The Detroit *Free Press* in remarking upon this subject, says:—"This will bring to us a new set of customers from Quebec, Montreal, and all the river cities. Soon, Michigan will have eight avenues to market: from Dunkirk to New York by way of the Erie railroad, the Erie canal, from Buffalo; the railroads from same point; the Welland canal to Oswego; the Ogdensburgh road to Boston; the Montreal and Boston road; the Montreal and Portland road, and the river St. Lawrence. Within five years, all these routes will become competitors for our business."

IMMIGRANTS.—The N. Y. Journal of Commerce says, that the number of passengers who have arrived at that port in the last eight months, is 116,981; a greater number by 1751, than in the whole of 1846. In the remaining four months of the present year, the number will be increased to an aggregate of about 150,000. "If we add 100,000 for arrivals at other ports and through the British dominions, we shall not be far from the truth, making the total of immigration into the United States from foreign countries during the year 1847, *a quarter of a million.*"—A large number of the emigrants come with money and proceed immediately to the West, to settle on land.

APPLICATION OF THE IMMIGRANT LAW.—The commissioners of immigration in New York appear to be in earnest in exercising the powers granted to them. The captain of the British ship Princess Alice has been compelled to pay the mitigated penalty of $500, and costs and fees $271 44, for landing some thirty passengers whose names were not on the list of those for whom commutations were paid. The commissioners have had several similar cases before them, but heretofore the offenders have escaped, having offered good excuses. The commissioners are determined to carry out the law to a letter.—[N. Y. True Sun.

A DISCOVERY.—Our readers may remember that some time ago the Mayor received from the Hon. Michael Stanton, Lord Mayor of Dublin, a letter of thanks from the Corporation of that city, for the gift of $5000 made by this city to the suffering poor of Ireland, which letter was published in the city papers. Yesterday morning a respectable lady, a tenant of the Mayor's, called upon him to see the letter and compare the signature with that of one she had received some two years since from her brother in Dublin. Each was a fac simile of the other, and the lady had the satisfaction of knowing that her brother, from whom she had heard but once in *twenty-eight years*, had risen to the high and honorable station of Lord Mayor of Dublin.—*N. York Courier.*

It is said to be the intention of our government at once to rescind the order by which the British steamer has hitherto been allowed to enter the port of Vera Cruz. Improper persons and articles have been conveyed into that port under the protection of the British government's pretended neutrality.—[Boston Post.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 7.

FROM THE ARMY.—By the schooner Mississippi, at New Orleans, 29th ult., we have despatches from Vera Cruz to the 21st of August.

News had reached Vera Cruz by a gentleman from Ayotla, who came by way of Araseiba, that the vanguard of Scott's army had arrived at Ayotla, twenty miles from the capital, on the 13th, to which date not a hostile gun had been fired.

It was rumored at Vera Cruz that Scott had met the enemy, and repulsed them after a sharp engagement. The loss on our side is said to have been 800. The Mexican loss was unimportant.

Another letter writer to the Picayune asserts that there is no truth in the rumor, and he is confident that the advance reached Ayotla on the 13th, without loss.

Both correspondents and the Vera Cruz paper believed Mexico in our possession on the 20th, but they had no positive information.

The Jalapa Bulletin has advices from Puebla to the 10th, announcing the departure of the last division of the army, numbering 4000 men, on that day.

Reinforcements for Major Lally had gone forward, under command of Capt. Wells's and Pales's infantry, and Major Childs's lancers. They returned to Vera Cruz on the 17th, having proceeded as far as the National Bridge.

Wells's command were compelled to fight their way to the National Bridge, and made an attempt to pass it, but found all the heights occupied by guerillas, who opened a heavy fire, killing nearly all our mules and horses, and forcing the whole party to retire without their waggons, except one with the officers' baggage. Almost every thing was left in the possession of the enemy. Our loss was 5 or 6 killed, 2 or 3 wounded, and several died subsequently from fatigue.

A detachment of twelve dragoons, accompanied by Surgeon Cooper, previously despatched by Wells to the Bridge, if possible to present a report to Lally, has not been heard from, and it is supposed that the whole party fell into the hands of the Mexicans.

Major Lally is reported to have had a sharp skirmish with the guerillas at Cerro Giordo, and expected another at Lepeira heights.

No news had reached Vera Cruz from Besancon's company, which had left on a scout at the time the news was received there, that Major Lally wanted reinforcements. It was supposed by some that this company fell in with the train at the National Bridge and continued on. By others, it is conjectured that they have been cut off by the Mexicans.

ADVICE OF A VOLUNTEER.—One of the Massachusetts Volunteers who has "been at the wars," closes an account of his experience with the following feeling advice:

"If a man ever asks you to enlist, knock him down with a club."—[Salem Register.

From the Montreal Transcript, Aug. 28.

The subject of emigration, and the sickness which the great influx of destitute and diseased emigrants from the mother country has caused, is almost the only one of general interest, and we are sorry to say that although the disease which has created so much alarm throughout the country, is confined in a great degree to emigrants, and to those having connexion with them either as religious and medical attendants, or nurses, or to those who have incautiously or for the sake of gain admitted them to their dwellings—still with these it has suffered but little diminution.

Too strong language can scarcely be found to express the sentiments of the people of this country towards those persons at home, who have had the superintendence of the emigrants committed to their charge, or toward those, however exalted they may be, who have thus ruthlessly forced upon the shores of Canada thousands of their fellow creatures, only fit for the hospitals in the mother country, whence they have been shipped away to America, as a band of outcasts, none caring, or at least seeming to care, for their comfort or even their lives, or the lives of those among whom they have been sent, with the seeds of pestilence among them, scattering disease and death wherever they have planted their footsteps; for it is not alone the quarantine station where they at first landed, or the cities of Montreal and Quebec which have suffered from this influx of disease and wretchedness, but in Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and other cities and towns, aye, into every village of the upper province, they are carrying with them typhus fever wherever they go, so much so, that we learn from the Upper Canada papers, that the country people will not admit them into their houses. What they are to do as the winter approaches, God only knows. Thousands of poor destitute wretches must, after having escaped the horrors of our hospitals, perish by a death yet more horrible—starvation, and the extreme cold of a Canadian winter, which, two or three months at the very furthest, will bring upon them. One of our cotemporaries has suggested the building of a great number of shanties on some public road in a fertile country, and paying for the cultivation of some few acres of land, which would enable these poor wretches to exist. Something must be done, and that speedily. In other columns of our paper will be seen the daily reports from all parts of the country respecting these miserable and deluded beings, who, listening to the deceitful tales of unprincipled and interested agents, have come across the Atlantic to perish uncared for, and unknown, in that land so often dreamed of in their native Ireland, as the Elysium, where, when once landed, they were to feel no more the pinchings of cold or the pains of hunger, which drove them sorrowing, yet hoping, from their native soil. Thousands of them will feel cold and hunger no more—they have found rest in the grave. It is to be earnestly hoped, as we have before said, that the attention of the imperial government will be turned to this subject, and that Canada may be spared for the future such scenes as have been witnessed on her shores this summer.

The alteration of the commercial policy of the mother country appears to have already had the effect of making the people of Canada look around them, and endeavour to devise means to work out the natural resources of the country. The construction of roads throughout the Province, a thing very much needed in some parts, is already occupying more general attention, and it is to be hoped will be carried out. When the country is opened by these means, it will induce people to settle along the various routes, and to devote their thoughts to agriculture—incalculable benefits must follow. We hope the question will be urged upon the district councils, to be prosecuted with vigor, and at once. Canada is blessed with a fine climate, a fertile soil, and great natural resources. It enjoys, besides, all the advantages of the British constitution, and only fails in rapidly increasing prosperity, by the want of energy and enterprise. We do not use the means in our power—we allow the agricultural interest to be neglected and the consequences are manifest.

Business is somewhat dull, but, perhaps, upon the whole, not more than is usual at this season of the year, especially when in consequence of exaggerated accounts of sickness among the citizens of Montreal, the usual summer visitors have avoided us. We are happy to say, however, that the alarm falsely raised, is over, and a great number of travellers from the States are now at our hotels and daily arriving in the steamers. The sudden fall in the price of breadstuffs has created a sort of panic among some of our merchants who had speculated largely in these articles, but no serious loss is, we believe, likely to occur, but what they are well able to meet.

The crops throughout Canada, with but very few exceptions, promise well; all fears of anything like a failure are now over.

TORONTO, Sept. 3, 1847.—*Lamentable Occurrence.*—In the course of last night a man was seen on the premises of Mr. Harper, builder of this city, where he had been watched by employees of Mr. Harper, for two or three nights previously. Such watch had been placed in consequence of Mr. Harper having received letters threatening to burn his house and premises. On his being discovered, he was challenged, and no answer being given, one of the watchmen shot him down, when matches and combustible materials were found on his person. He proved to be one Somerset, a brother in-law of Harper. The inquiry takes place this morning.—[Tel. Cor. Buffalo Com. Adv.

The Suspension Bridge, projected over the Niagara river, just below the Falls, seems certain of success. At Hamilton on the 17th ult. 5000 shares of the stock, at £25 per share, sold in three hours; as fast, indeed, as the money could be counted, and the receipts filled.

Canadian Canals.—Up to the 10th of August last, 1018 vessels had passed the Cornwall canal on the St. Lawrence, most of which had to be towed up the river du Platt and Gallops, in the present unfinished state of the canals on the St. Lawrence. The enlargement of the Lachine canal to the capacity of the other magnificent works on the St. Lawrence, will be completed in a few days, when the whole line of navigation will be open from Lake Erie to the Ocean, for vessels drawing 9 feet of water.—*Oswego Times.*

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, SEPTEMBER 11, 1847.

ST. ANDREWS AND QUEBEC RAILWAY COMPANY.—A meeting of the Directors of this Company took place at St. Andrews on Tuesday last, to receive the Report of Capt. J. J. Robinson, R. N., one of the delegates to London, who returned from England in the steamer Guadalquiver. Capt. Robinson's report was most satisfactory, and a vote of thanks was passed to him, and our fellow citizen, M. H. Perley, Esquire, the other delegate, for their zealous exertions while in London, which have been attended with such extraordinary success. The shares for disposal in England have all been applied for, and a large proportion of them have been paid upon at Messrs. Glyn & Co., the Company's bankers, who allow 4½ per cent. interest on the deposits thus made. A certain proportion of the shares are in the hands of the London Directors, who have offered to pay them up, on receiving an assurance that the sum of £50,000 has been subscribed in this Province, and a deposit of ten per cent. paid thereon. This assurance went to England by the last mail, in the shape of a Bank receipt for £5,000, as the required deposit on £50,000 of stock, actually subscribed.

The Company have engaged the services of Mr. Lawrie, an engineer from Scotland, who has had some experience in railways in Massachusetts. Mr. Lawrie, with two assistant Engineers, will be in St. Andrews this day, and will commence operations to-morrow, by staking out the ground for the railway terminus at that place. The line for the railway, formerly surveyed, will be traced out to Woodstock; and ten miles or more of the line from St. Andrews, will be laid out with precision, and put under contract this season.

The necessary surveys and examinations, it is supposed, will occupy a few weeks; but about the middle of October, the Company will be prepared to break ground formally, which it is intended shall be done with due ceremony.

We congratulate the Province generally, on the actual commencement of a Railway within its limits, under the most favourable auspices; and we look upon it as the dawn of a new and a brighter era for New Brunswick.

POST OFFICE FRAUD.—Reports have been in general circulation in this City since Saturday last, that the Postmaster at Dalhousie, in this Province, has been guilty of the serious crime of opening money letters in bags passing through his office, and abstracting the contents, amounting to several hundred pounds! The discovery is stated to have been first made in Canada. We learn that he has gone to the United States by way of Holton. A warrant for his arrest was issued on Saturday evening, and High Constable Stockford, with the Post Office Surveyor from Canada, immediately started in pursuit of the delinquent. He will most probably be overtaken and brought back.

THE LATE MURDER.—In our last paper we gave the principal particulars of the shocking and unprovoked murder of the late Mr. James Briggs, Jr. and the wounding of his brother, in Portland, on the night of Monday the 6th instant. We take the following remarks on the inquest and funeral from the *Courier.* No further discoveries have yet been made regarding the perpetrators of this inhuman crime:—

"On Tuesday morning, the Hon. Chas. Simonds, and Robt. Payne, and James Gallagher, Esquires, three of the resident Magistrates of the Parish, proceeded to hold an Inquest, (in the absence of the Coroner, who is in the United States, to recruit his strength after his recent severe illness.) His Worship the Mayor also visited the residence of the afflicted family, and took with him J. H. Gray, Esq., Barrister at Law, to assist in taking evidence, in the absence of the Clerk of the Peace, whose duties at the Court of Sessions prevented his attendance. A number of witnesses have been examined, but the investigations have not yet been closed. A person has been arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the murder.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, being in the City, issued a Proclamation on Tuesday, offering a reward of £250 for the conviction of the murderer, and the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, having met on that day, also caused a reward of £100 to be offered.

On Thursday the funeral took place, and notwithstanding that the rain poured down almost constantly, and the streets and roads were very muddy, his friends had the mournful satisfaction of knowing that the largest funeral procession that has ever been seen in this City, paid the last sad tribute to his memory. The members of several of the Total Abstinence Societies in this City and Portland headed the procession, and wore white crape on their arms. The deceased having been a teacher in the Sabbath School and one of the choir in St. Luke's Church, his remains were taken into that sacred edifice, where the funeral service was read and appropriate anthems sung, and the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Harrison, preached a short discourse suited to the melancholy occasion. The procession afterwards proceeded to the New Burial Ground, passing through the Market Square and some of the principal streets in the City; the stores along the route were closed, and business for the time suspended. The deceased completed his 21st year in March last.

The ball has been extracted from the arm of his brother, and we understand he is doing well."

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the St. John Total Abstinence Society, held on the 13th inst., Mr. N. S. Demill in the chair, it was

Resolved, That this Committee very deeply sympathise with the afflicted relatives of the late Mr. JAMES BRIGGS, Jr., in the distressing event, which has so painfully and suddenly bereaved them of a dutiful and affectionate son and brother. This Committee are sensible that there is a sacredness in such sorrow which ought, perhaps, to preclude interference, yet, they hope that an expression of their tenderest condolence may tend to assuage their grief; and as it is especially true, that "Earth has no sorrow which Heaven cannot heal," they devoutly pray that the balm of Divine consolation may be so vouchsafed as to cause this sad event to be sanctified to their present and eternal welfare.

Resolutions of condolence were also passed by other Temperance Societies in this City and Portland, of which the deceased was a worthy member.

We respond most fully to the sentiments contained in the following notice (from the New Brunswicker of this morning) of the death, after a brief illness of about a week, of our worthy townsman, Mr. T. L. NICHOLSON, whose final removal from among us to the "house appointed for all living," will long be regretted by the public generally:—

"We regret to have to announce to-day the death of THOMAS L. NICHOLSON, Esquire, one of our most active and enterprising Citizens. Few men possessed better qualities of head and heart than Mr. Nicholson. Kind and affable in his deportment, generous in his actions, and philanthrophic in all his motives, his name will be long cherished by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance, while his demise has left a blank in the community which will not soon be filled up."

☞ The Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Gunners of the Saint John Division of the New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery, will assemble on King's Square, To-morrow, (Wednesday) for the purpose of attending the funeral of their late highly esteemed and much lamented Commanding Officer, Major NICHOLSON.

There were 36 deaths at the Emigrant Hospital, (near the Alms House) in the week ending 10th instant—admitted during the week, 70; discharged 11—remaining in hospital at the above date, 556.

We regret to learn that Dr. Paddock, who has recently been in official attendance at the above institution, has caught the fever, and is now very ill.—Dr. Wetmore has been engaged to attend upon the Hospital at present.

INQUEST.—An Inquest was held at Union Point Mills, in the Parish of Lancaster, yesterday, before H. Porter and W. O. Smith, Esqrs., Justices, (in the absence of the Coroner,) on view of the body of Patrick Sheehan, who was drowned on Friday night last, by falling into the mill pond, while in a state of intoxication. Verdict accordingly.

Thomas Nisbet, Esq. has been re-elected President of the Mechanics' Whale Fishing Company, and Alexander Robertson, Esq. re-appointed Secretary.

The number of emigrants who arrived at Toronto this year up to the 19th ult., was 25,500.

We learn that Thomas S. Baldwin, Esq., Surgeon, of Shippegan, has caught the fever, while attending to the sick emigrants at that place.

EXPORTS.—The exports from St. John to the United Kingdom, from the 1st of January to the 1st of September, 1847, amounted to 57,603 tons Pine Timber, 4311 tons Birch ditto; 1262 tons Spruce ditto; 62,365,769 feet Deals; 5,525,339 feet and 272 tons Railway Sleepers; and 639,753 feet of Boards and Scantling.

During the month of August, 77 vessels cleared from this port for the United Kingdom—of which 17 cleared for London, 11 for Liverpool, 11 for Cork, 5 for Hull, 3 for Dublin, 3 for Kingstown, 3 for L'Derry, 3 for Ulverstone, 2 for Drogheda, 2 for Newport, 2 for Gloucester, 2 for Greenock, and one each for Glasgow, Wicklow, Dundalk, Sligo, Ayr, Bristol, Chester, New Ross, Shoreham, Yarmouth, Grimsby, and Maryport,—all loaded with square timber, deals, railway sleepers, and other wood goods.

NEW VESSELS.—Fifty-four new vessels, amounting to 21,507 tons, have been registered at the port of St. John, from the 1st of January to the 1st September, 1847.

The Deputation from the Established Church of Scotland arrived in Montreal on the 29th ult. and were waited upon and welcomed by the members of the Lay Association of that city. They were to visit Quebec the following week.

A stone was thrown at the window of the shop occupied by Garrett & Skillen, Prince Wm. Street, on Friday night last, and a pane of glass which cost £2 10s. sig. maliciously broken.

It is stated that the extensive and old established house of Prime, Ward & Co., of New York, has suspended payment.

FISHING.—Upwards of eighty vessels have gone to the Bay Chaleur from Gloucester, (Mass.) this year, on fishing voyages, which is a larger fleet than usual.

In consequence of the large number of Pauper Emigrants who have been landed in this City the present season, and the destitution numbers of them are now suffering under, the attention of several humane individuals, and among them the Members of the St. Patrick's Society, has been directed to the best means of affording them temporary relief during the approaching winter.

It is thought by many that the establishment of a *Soup Kitchen*, on a large scale, would be the most efficient and cheapest mode of affording the necessary relief; but to carry out this object, it is estimated that the expense would not be less than £100 per month, and this would require five hundred subscribers at one shilling per week, or ten hundred at five shillings per month; consequently, a general and combined effort would require to be made by the community. One good that would result from this plan is, that it would put a stop to the great annoyance of street begging, as the subscribers would receive tickets to distribute to the destitute; and a great amount of human suffering might be alleviated at a small expense of time and money.

Unless some measure of relief is devised during the approaching winter, scenes of suffering must take place, fearful even to think of. We throw out these hints in order that public attention may be directed to the subject; and are pleased to find that the matter has been taken in hand by the St. Patrick's Society.—[Courier.

Thomas Smith, who was indicted during the present sitting of the Court of General Quarter Sessions, for an assault committed last week upon Mr. James Stockford, High Constable, in the execution of his duty, was this day put upon his trial and found Guilty; and the Court sentenced him to be imprisoned for one month in the Common Gaol and to pay a fine of Five Pounds to the Queen; and to stand committed until the fine be paid.—*Ib.*

We understand that Mr. Gough visited the Provincial Penitentiary yesterday afternoon, (Sunday) and delivered a very appropriate and impressive Lecture on Temperance before all the unfortunate creatures confined in that establishment, numbering about 70 persons—male and female. They were all, we are informed, very attentive, and appeared deeply interested during the Lecture, many of them very much affected.

Mr. Gough's engagement in this City will expire on Tuesday next.—*Temperance Telegraph.*

The trials of the late rioters in Woodstock are now in progress, Judge Parker presiding. We learn that Judge Street is also there, we suppose in the capacity of adviser. It is further stated that the Village is in a state of great excitement, that many of the inhabitants carry arms, and that persons are rapidly flocking in from remote sections of the Country. We have been informed, that the Judge in charging the Grand Jury, kept quite clear of allusions to religious animosities, treating the subjects implicated, as *rioters* in the general sense and meaning of the term.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

The Maduxnakik Mills, owned by Mr. George Bull and others at Woodstock, were burnt down, on the night of Monday last. The fire is said to be the work of some wicked incendiary.—*Ib.*

During the early part of Wednesday evening, as Mr. Wm. Gibson, of Woodstock, in company with another young man, was quietly walking along Queen Street in this City, he was most violently and brutally assaulted by two or three men, with no other design than that of doing mischief. An investigation of the circumstances has been held in the presence of Mr. Justice Hartt, and a warrant issued for the apprehension of one of the party.—*Ib.*

NOVEL CIRCUMSTANCE.—As the ferry scow was crossing the river yesterday afternoon, with several passengers from Bathurst, a fine Salmon sprang out of the water into the lap of a female sitting therein. It struggled desperately to escape, but its efforts were unavailing.—*Miramichi Gleaner.*

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.—On Wednesday morning, at an early hour, both battalions of the 20th Regiment (comprising 1100 men) whose exemplary conduct during their brief sojourn in this garrison, has produced deep regret at their early removal, embarked on board H. M. Ship Belleisle, which immediately afterwards sailed for Quebec. The vacancy caused by this removal will be filled up by the 46th Regt., formerly quartered here, and the 82d, with which the Belleisle will return to this port.—*Halifax Guardian.*

The crops in the interior promise well—Considerable injury has been sustained by the late heavy rains, and some Wheat and Rye have suffered from the weevil. Potatoes, Corn, Oats and Buckwheat, are however abundant.

Our correspondent at Annapolis writes us that the Potato Rot has yet done but little damage in that part of the country.—*Halifax Post.*

The Bridgetown Bazaar took place on the 1st of September, and was attended by over a thousand people from all parts of the country. The proceeds amounted to the handsome sum of £160, which is to be applied to the repair and ornamenting of St. James's Church, Bridgetown.—*Ib.*

Electric Telegraph from Halifax to Quebec.—We were called upon this week for a subscription of Stock, for the purpose of laying the Electric Telegraph from Halifax to Quebec. The Company at Quebec have made arrangements to lay it from that City up to the boundary