NEWS ITEMS

The Duke of Sutherland has presented a milch cow, and allowed sufficient pastureland for its keeping, to every small tradesman on his Trentham estates.

The Andrews brothers have refused $20,000 for the dory Nautilus in which they crossed the sea, believing that they can make more money by exhibiting it.

It is rumored that Mr. Brydges is not unlikely to assume control of the Provincial railway system from Quebec to Ottawa, and that Mr. Spicer, of the Grand Trunk, may be placed at the head of the Intercolonial Railway.

Professor Thomas Taylor, of the U. S. Agricultural Bureau, reports that a tablespoonful of turpentine added to a pail of water will disinfect a cesspool instantly, and in the sick chamber will prove a powerful auxiliary against germs and bad odors.

A telegram from Hong Kong states that Mr. Pope Hennessy, the Governor of the colony, has received from Mr. Belilios, a director of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the sum of £1,000 for the erection of a statue to the Earl of Beaconsfield at Hong Kong.

Henry Slade, the trickster, whose pretended spiritualistic performances were exposed in London, causing his flight to escape imprisonment, is having better luck thus far in Germany. The Leipsic professors have become deeply interested in him, and one of them, Zollner, has written a book about him.

Sir Garnet Wolseley, in reply to a memorial addressed to him by the Church of England Temperance Society on the subject of temperance in Cyprus, expresses his clear recognition of the evils that intemperance engenders, and the warm interest that he takes in all measures calculated to encourage sobriety.

Fighting has been renewed in Transvaal. A British detachment, 560 strong, was compelled to retreat before an overwhelming force of Kaffirs, who subsequently made a night attack on the English, but were repulsed with heavy loss. The Colonial Government is making active military preparations.

During the absence of the Queen in Scotland several of the principal State rooms at Windsor Castle are being renovated, in anticipation of the approaching marriage of the Duke of Connaught, which will take place, according to the most recent arrangements, about the middle of February.

The traffic across the two Thames bridges, which were recently thrown open, has already more than doubled. On Waterloo Bridge the foot passengers increased from 94,635 in one week to 194,023. The former toll of one halfpenny must thus have done much to divert the traffic out of its natural channels.

The Island of Giglio, between Leghorn and Civitta Vocchia, was lately put up at auction for the total sum of 23,000 francs, being an average of 92 francs for each property. There were about 300 proprietors of the 300 vinyards, 24 houses, and 62 fields. A vineyard was put up at 15 francs, and a house at 37 francs, 20 centimes.

A good report at last comes from Cyprus. Its author is Sir Garnet Wolseley, and it tells us that the climate has become extremely pleasant and the health of the troops satisfactory. He visited the camps of the 42d Highlanders and of the 71st Regiment, and he has found the men in capital spirits and well fed.

Charles Gilbert has been in the Constantinople State prison thirteen years on a life sentence for murder. The truth now comes out that he was only guilty of a knowledge of the crime, his father being the actual murderer. The son would not speak out until after the death of the father. It is believed that, as he has been punished enough for his complicity, he will be pardoned.

There has been one honest man living in the world, and his death should not be unrecorded. "Old Jasper, the hunchback," kept an apple-stand on Victoria-square, Montreal. Thursday evening before last he felt his end approaching, and so squared off all his debts—not a cent remaining due. Having satisfied all, he had just $2 left, and died happy with this amount on his table.

At a large meeting presided over by the Bishop of Sodor and Man, and attended by most of the leading citizens of Sheffield, it has just been resolved to form a sort of Association or League for the purpose of discouraging as much as possible the idle pomp, and worse than idle extravagance with which funerals are at present conducted, and of introducing a simple, plainer, and, we may add, a more decorous practice.

The Rev. E. W. Sewell, of Quebec, in 1868, rented his Chapel of "The Holy Trinity" to the War Department for ten years, for service in connection with the troops at that port. The Rev. gentleman also acted as Chaplain until the withdrawal of the troops in 1874. The war office have now generously ordered the continuance of the Chaplain's salary to Rev. Mr. Sewell, viz., £300 sterling per annum for life.

We are beginning, says the *Echo*, to reap the fruits of Mr. Stanley's high-handed treatment of the natives in Central Africa. A Continental paper publishes a letter from Zanzibar giving an account of a Belgian expedition, which had penetrated some distance into the interior, but which, owing to some disagreement with the natives, engaged in a conflict, and had to seek safety by flight. It was not so with Livingstone's expeditions.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh University Council on the 25th ult., Professor Blackie presented a report of the Celtic Chair Committee, which stated that only £300 was wanting towards the sum of £13,000 required for the endowment of a Celtic chair in the University. The committee was reappointed to arrange the constitution of the chair, so that a Professor might be appointed to enter on his duties by November next year.

The Duke of Norfolk in his zeal for his faith will not accept any Protestant farmer as a tenant, and even has gone so far as to erect a wall to shut from the parish church the chancel in which his ancestors lay. His Grace possesses this power because he is the lay rector. The vicar of the parish has, however, knocked a hole in the wall to get light. It is said that the question may come before the law courts.

The crews of the five fishing boats who saved lives from the wreck of the Grosser Kurfurst have just received from the German Government money rewards as under, the amounts having been regulated by the number of men each boat rescued:—The Mily, £100; Susannah, £80; the Camelia, £60: the John and Hannah, £40; the Five Brothers, £10. The officers and men of the German navy propose erecting a monument in the cemetery to their lost comrades.

The whaler *Arctic* arrived at Dundas, the 25th ult., from Davis' Straits. Captain Adams states that he never in all his experience saw the ice so thickly packed. He was unable to reach Melville Bay, the most productive of the fishing grounds. Several times he was so completely beset by ice that it was only by sawing and blasting that he was able to extricate his ship. This year's season has been a very unproductive one, the few whales which were seen being extremely wild and difficult to approach.

The Count of Bismarck Bohlen, cousin of Prince Bismarck, committed suicide lately in Venice. He seemed determined that his work should be through, as ten razor cuts were found upon his limbs, two upon his arms, and two upon his throat. Covered with blood, and leaving a trail upon the floor, he dragged himself to his bed, and, after lying down, shot himself in the head. His age was 46. A disease with which he was afflicted caused him great suffering, and it is thought that he killed himself in a frenzy of pain.

BANK ACCOMMODATION IN "TIGHT" TIMES.—The *Statist* adverts to the sudden restriction of accommodation by banks to people who have been accustomed to depend upon them. "The tendency of such restrictions is clearly to make mischief and to produce an unfavorable reaction on the banks themselves. It is quite right that rates should be high and that the persons borrowing and the securities they offer should be severely tested, but respectable business people with undoubted security to offer ought not to have the doors of the institutions where they have dealt, suddenly shut in their faces so that they cannot borrow at any price. Should any misfortune occure as the result of this unwise policy the banks in question will have themselves to blame.

THE BRITISH FLFET BEFORE CONSTANTINOPLE.

On the occasion of the departure of the British fleet for the new anchorage at Artaki Bay, as it sailed on the first day of Bairam, one of the two great Turkish holidays of the year, the Admiral probably considered that it would be wanting in courtesy to leave the neighborhood without firing a salute, and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan never having seen the fleet near at hand, thought to afford him the opportunity for doing so by appearing with his ships off the Golden Horn. It was arranged that the ships on leaving the anchorage should proceed first towards Seraglio Point, and then steaming up the Bosphorus as far as Leander's Tower, there alter "course in succession," and pass out again into the Marmora. Punctually at half-past six the *Alexandra* was "away," and proceeding slowly so as to allow the other vessels to take up their stations, "a line ahead" was soon formed, with the *Alexandra* leading, the *Research* next astern, and behind her the *Agincourt* and *Invincible*. The *Condor* and *Helicon* both preceeded the fleet, the first to the first to take up a berth off Tophaneh as the senior officer in the Bosphorus, and the other to land despatches; the remaining small craft, *Cygnet*, accompanying the ironclads, stationed on the port beam of the line, as repeating ship for the signals. The course first steered upon leaving the islands took the squadron over to Coom Capu, a suburb of Constantinople, outside Seraglio Point. Within a few hundred yards of the shore, the signal was made to "alter course in succession," the *Research* being directed to stand on until clear of the line, and then to make the best of her way down the Marmora, until picked up again by the squadron. The Commander-in-Chief thus wisely avoided the risk of a collision, of which there might have been danger in manœuvring in the strong current of the Bosphorus with a dummy in point of speed such as the *Research* is in company with a long ship like the *Agincourt*. The *Research* might have been placed, it is true, at the end of the line; but this would have given a very straggling appearance to it, on account of her dropping astern as soon asshe began to stems the current. The three large iron-clads steamed on steadily past Seraglio Point, until they were well within the view of all who cared to see at Constantinople or its surburbs, and no doubt there was much misgiving in some minds as to our intentions. Near Leander's Tower, the lighthouse standing on a rock, a short distance from the shore at Scutaria, with the Golden Horn well open, and Dolmabagtche Palace at no great distance in full view, the *Alexandra*, altering course sixteen points to starboard, performing a graceful curve, and stood down again for the Marmora, firing a Royal salute as she passed Seragliao Point at the enterance to the Bosphorous. The *Agincourt* and *Invincible* followed the motions of the "flag" in all but firing the salute, and as they swept rapidly round and passed out of Constantinople's celebrated channel, the Turks had the opportunity of seeing how these large vessels can be handled when constant practice has given confidence to those in command and a complete knowledge of the vessel's behaviour in all circumstances. The flagship and her consort soon overhauled the *Research* and little *Cygnet*, and, re-forming, the whole squadron proceeded for Artaki Bay. Little is known of this new anchorage of the fleet beyond the fact of its affording tolerably good holding ground and partial shelter against all winds but those between south-west and north-west. The anchorage is at the head of a gulf, not like that of Samio, with its upper part almost a lake, by the closing in of the land on either side, but one of no great length, and with a wide open mouth, ready for the reception of the heavy sea sent rolling in by the western gales, which during the winter months alternate with strong north-easterly winds along this shore.

A STRANGE FREAK OF NATURE IN A MINNESOTA FAMILY.—A member of a family now residing in Minneapolis, but formerly of St. Joseph, Michigan, is authority for the following interesting leaf from the household history: The family consists of a father, mother and eight children, all of small stature with the exception hereafter noticed. This exception was a son, in his earlier years considered the smallest of the eight. Up to his fourteenth year he was of ordinary size, but then a change occured which may serve as a problem for the scientists. It then became his duty to ride several miles from home one summer afternoon, using a common buckboard for transportation. He was overtaken by a violent thunder storm, which proved a serious affair during its continuance, and extraordinary its ultimate consequences as developed in the person of the youthful traveler. Trees lining the roadway were struck and splintered, and on at least threedifferent occasions, the discharges of electricity were close enough to stun the boy, and nearly bewildered him by their fiery glimmer.

Soon after this experience he was taken sick, apparently with neuralgia in the head, and prior to his recovery he lost the use of one eye—doubtless from his recent proximity to the powerful electric current.

Now comes the seemingly incredible, but positively true, portion of the story. He then began to grow and expand, but his herculean bulk could not be readily detected on account of his remarkably symmetrical proportions. In less than four years after his wrestling with loose electricity and neuralgia he became the "big man" of St. Joseph, and before reaching his twenty-first birthday, he weighed 385 pounds, measured six feet seven and one-half inches in height, wore the largest kind of clothing, and skipped around in No. 13 boots. All clothing was necessarily made to order and of extra material, and he is now greatly troubled in finding hats or gloves and mittens large enough. An ordinary or slightly undersized man travelling with him, has frequently passed over the railroads at half-fare—the conductors making their mistake from the great difference in the size of the travelers. He is still growing, but mostly in strength and solidity—mostly in the first mentioned characteristic.

His family have always attributed his surprising growth and immense proportions to the shocks of electricity sustained during the thunder-storm, and considering the fact that all other members of the family are small people, his career of unlimited expansion may be pronounced extraordinary and a genuine freak of nature. One of his brothers is employed at the Minneapolis counting room of the *Pioneer Press*, and vouches for the strict accuracy of the statements herein made.

THE NEW APOSTOLIC DELEGATE.—The Montreal *Star* says:—The New Apostolic Delegate, the Most Rev. Dr. Gilooly, is fifty-nine years of age. He was born at Roscommon, May 14th, 1819. Like most of the Irish youths of his day, he was educated abroad. Catholic Emancipation did not pass until 1829, and until then a great number of Irishmen were educated on the Continent. He went to the Irish Seminary in Paris, and in 1844 joined the Lazarist Order of missionaries. He was not ordained until 1867, and he is thus in Holy Orders thirty-one years. He held the position of Superior of the College of St. Vincent de Paul, Cork, for some time. When the Bishop of Elphin was failing, in 1850, he was chosen as the Coadjutor to Bishop Brown, and when the Bishop died, ten years afterwards, Dr. Gillooy succeeded to the See. His Excellency has done much good for the advancement of education and art in his diocese. He has founded a diocesan college, a seminary, a normal school, a school of art and industry, while many parish churches and the splendid cathedral at Sligo, bear testimony to his energy. Dr. Gillooly is very popular in Ireland. He is a thorough Irish prelate, and we are sure that he will win the confidence and esteem of all classes and creeds of the people in Canada

Prince Bismarck has been followed by shoals of threatening letters to Warzin, Kesington, Gastein, and the Wilhelm Strasse Whithersoever his steps have been bent, in quest of health, those productions have dogged him regularly. Nor are the Chancelor's nerves what they formerly were. Since Kullman attempted his life at Kissington his old scorn of risk and his indifference to menace diminished. When in Berlin he confines hrmself almost absolutely to his house and garden, which are carefully watched at all times by policeman in plain clothes if compelled by his official duties to visit the Palace he drives thither and back in a close carriage, with the windows up, sitting well back, so as to be invisible to passers by. Varzin is as carefully guarded and as difficult to penetrate as Mecca itself; and at Lauenburg his park has just been surrounded by a high wall shutting it completely in from the public gaze.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

MR. EDITOR,—A few weeks since there appeared in the columns of the *Star* of this city a communication from some particular friend of mine, stating that I had been compelled to hand in my resignation as Professor of Classics in the University of New Brunswick. Last week there came out in the same paper an editorial in which a similar statement was made in plain and unmistakable language. Being old-fashioned enough to think, even in this progressive age, that one's professional reputation does count for something, and should not be lightly plundered from one, even though it be to aid the venture of the *Star* management, I beg leave to insert in your columns the letter, in hope that it may perhaps set at rest the kindly pens and tongues which have so busied themselves with my resignation:—

UNIVERSITY, F'ton,
Nov. 8th, 1878.

PROF. FOSTER:

DEAR SIR,—I have learned with astonishment that an utterly unfounded rumor has been circulated to the effect that you were compelled to resign the Chair of Classics and History in this University. On the contrary, for reasons affecting only yourself and future prospects, you first signified to me your intention of resigning; and when you did so I was so taken by surprise that I begged you to reconsider the matter for a few days, in hopes that you might change your mind. As you still persisted in your resolution, I was ultimately constrained to give a provisional acceptance of your resignation.

I am, dear sir,
Yours very truly,
W. BRYDONE JACK.

I have waited several days before taking this method of meeting the slander, in hope that some of the directors of the *Star*, who have hitherto been looked upon as my warm personal friends, and whom I did not credit with the capacity of giving the weight of their silent testimony to so harmful a lie, would come forward and disown it. The only thing that has appeared from them is a letter from one of the number which in reality approved of all that the editor had written. I leave the case for the present in the hands of a just and discerning public who I think can rightly estimate this malicious attempt to smirch the reputation of one who has honestly striven to do right by all men.

Yours truly,
G. E. FOSTER.

F'ton, Nov. 13, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 16, 1878.

THE SITUATION ABROAD.

A period of quiet has succeeded a state of uneasiness and apprehension of war. Nothing is said in the cable despatches of the forward advance of British troops into Afghanistan which it was announced on apparent good authority would take place early in November. This delay is putting in motion the army of invasion, may be taken as an indication that calmer counsels are prevailing with the Imperial Government. If they have decided to put off warlike operations until spring there is room to hope that something may occur in the interval to make war unnecessary. Sheere Ali is not so confident in the good intentions of Russia, not so sure of the aid of the independent wild hill tribes or so secure of the stability of his throne that he can afford decisively to repel any advances towards reconciliation from the Imperial Government. And in England there is a very strong opinion held by high authorities on Indian affairs, as to the unjustice and impolicy of making war upon Afghanistan, in order under cover of resenting the insult by Sheere Ali in refusing to allow the British mission to enter his territory, to rectify the northwest boundary of the Indian Empire. English papers receive numerous letters from old Indian officers, and officers who have served on the frontiers who know the country, and they are all adverse to extending the frontier to the mountain ranges of Afghanistan. Lord Lawrence believes that the present North-west frontier is or could be made impregnable against invasion while it would be dangerous to extend it into a wild and sterile country which is occupied and surrounded by fierce tribes whose occupation is war and who would be sure to resent the invasion of their fastnesses.

In the East the aspect of affairs is more hopeful than it has been lately. The feeling of confidence that the peace will be maintained is stronger. The speech made by Earl Beaconsfield at the Mansion House on Lord Mayor's Day, 9th inst., and the announcement by the Foreign office the day after that a note has been received giving assurance of the Czars desire to carry out faithfully the Treaty of Berlin, have tended to tranquillise the public mind. Earl Beaconsfield denied most emphatically, that any of the signatory powers desired to receede from the Treaty of Berlin, and expressed his confidence that its provisions would be carried out and that it would bring about the result for which the British Government had striven—peace. He was not apprehensive of an invasion of India by Russia, as long as Asia Minor and the valley of the Euphrates were in the hands of a strong power, or even of a weak power when backed by a strong alliance, as was Turkey by the Anglo Turkish convention. How long the tranquil feeling following authoritative assurances, that all is going, and will go right in the East, will endure it were difficult to say.

With regard to the United States; the attitude that Secretary Evarts, and the American press have taken on the Fishery Award, does not seem to discompose or surprise, very much, the English press, which may surely be assumed to be the exponent of public opinion on this question. They seem to think the Mr. Evarts' despatches were written and published, in the nick of time, in American papers for election effect, and by a show of patriotism and of, that so much admired "cuteness"—to rouse a feelling in favor of the Republican Party.

The last despatch of Secretary Evart (published in Washington last Monday), but bearing date of Feb. 24th, is a terribly long, wearisome and labored document. The drift of his argument is that the Fishery Award is not only excessive, but it ought not to have been made. The privileges which American fishermen enjoy under section XVIII of the Washington Treaty are more than conterbalanced by the advantages the Canadians derive from sections XIX and XXI. On a close compatation of the value of the mackerel fishing within the three miles limit (the only part of the privilege granted by section XVIII to be taken into consideration), he makes out that the free market in the United States for their fish that the Canadians possess, is of greater money value to them than the mackerel fishing is to the Americans. It would be more advantageous for the United States, to recede from the Washin'on Treaty at once, than to pay an excess price for fishing privileges which are not so great as the privileges the Canadians enjoy under it. Mr. Evarts is of the opinion that even without taking into account that the amount is excessive, the $5,500,000 ought not to be paid, as the Commission were not unanimous in making the award, and he would fain persuade Lord Salisbury to take that view of it and refuse to receive the money. If his Lordship takes that course, then the way will be opened for a more complete and satisfactory arrangement of the fisheries question.

There is little doubt but that Lord Salisbury will uphold the decision of the majority of the Commission, and that the United States will pay the award, under protest.

The following despatch, dated New York, 11th, purposes to give the English view of the dispute:—

Special Washington dispatches say Salisbury's dispatch in response to Evarts on fishery matters covers the whole question. Salisbury argues that the award made by the Halifax Commission cannot be complicated with any other subject whatever, and that questions that may arise touching local regulations or rights and privileges of the respective parties under the treaty of Washington, can be equitably settled by the high contracting parties, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the treaty itself. The award of the commission he holds to be final and binding, and it was so intended by the authority under which the commission was created. No provision was made for reviewing or correcting the decision of the commission, and to admit such a principle would be to declare in advance the absolute failure of all attempts to arbitrate between disputants. If any parties possessing rights under the treaty have been made to suffer damage or loss may form a proper subject for discussion and arbitration under the treaty, but grievances of this kind should not be permitted to affect the general question as to the value of the fishing privileges, passed upon by a commission selected in pursuance of the treaty stipulations. After a thorough examination of all the facts, Salisbury intimates that the Government of Great Britain will consider the question the interference with American fishermen as an independent proposition, but, at the same time, declines to consider that or any other question as affecting the award made by the commission.

Unusual care is observed to guard the contents of Salisbury's dispatch, and the action of the Cabinet thereon, but the above outline from a trustworthy source is believed to be a brief epitome of the position assumed in Salisbury's reply. It cannot be ascertained definitely whether any action was taken on this question by the Cabinet, but all indications now point to the payment of the money at London Nov. 23.

RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

Several gentlemen interested in the proposed Central and Miramichi Valley Railways met together in this city this week. They held meetings in the Office of Agriculture on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, at which they entered into a full discussion of their present position with regard to these contemplated lines. Their object in discussing these matters was to endeavor to reconcile their respective interests where they might clash, and to find out a middle way on which they could agree to join their forces, and accomplish the work on which they are all bent. The necessity of direct communication between Miramichi and York—between Chatham and Newcastle and Fredericton, instead of a long detour by way of St. John was, we believe, insisted on and generally conceded. The meetings were only preliminary, and those who took part in them separated on the understanding of, at an early day, coming together again to arrive at some definite decision and plan of operations. As we understand the matter, the directories of the proposed Central and Miramichi Valley will, in all probability, amalgamate their interests and join in one line, chosing a route which will give the people of Miramichi direct communication with the centre of the Province.

The more railways there are in a country, the more clearly is seen the necessity of having them. In the last quarter of a century, especially within the last twelve years, several important lines have been built, but the railway system of New Brunswick is not yet complete. There are railways runing north and south along the gulf shore, and up the up-river countries, and across the southern part of the Province, but the centre of it is still to be traversed by the iron rails. Chatham and Newcastle, are still too far distant from Fredericton, the people of "the happy valley" and of Northumberland, from those of York, Carleton and Sunbury.

ELECTION IN YORK.

Messrs. Blair and Thompson found the seats last Thursday which they precipitatedly left in August. If they had held on it would have come all right. Dr. Dow having made a false step in protesting from very questionable motives, went from bad to worse in offering opposition to the re-election of Messrs. Blair and Thompson. He has met with a fall which has much damaged his political reputation, Now that the election is over, and the speeches have answered their purpose it is not worth while to refer to last Saturday's proceedings. The returns from the polling places heard from give—

Blair	1,489
Thompson	1,346
Dow	244
Hanson	29

UPON THE SEA.—At midnight on Wednesday the Marquis and Princess Louise accompanied by the Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold and suits left St. Pancras station London, for Liverpool. After arriving on Thursday morning the Marquis and Royal party proceeded from their hotel to the Liverpool Town Hall, with military escort, through streets lined with detachments of volunteers, and crowded with people who cheered heartily. Addresses from the City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce were presented, to which the coming Governor General made reply. The Royal party afterwards presented themselves in the balcony overlooking the Exchange and were greeted with unbounded enthusiasm; they then proceeded to the landing stage and embarked in the tender for the "Sarmatian." After leave taking, with warm wishes we may be sure, for a speedy and prosperous voyage, the Princes returned to shore and the ship proceeded to sea.

When the "Sarmatian" arrives on this side, and when outside the harbor the fleet, will fire a royal salute, and forming in double line led by the "Black Prince," and "Bellerephon" will escort it up the harbor and anchor. The "Sarmatian will anchor off the Dockyard. When the time of landing arrives the Marquis and the Princess and suite will embark under a royal salute on board the Admiral's barge; the barge followed by a procession of ship, boats will pass down between the double line of men o' war, and round to the landing place at the Dockyard where the authorities will be in waiting to receive the viceregal pair. The ships in the harbor and Dockyards will show boundless bunting; the public buildings, telegraph offices, railway stations churches, chapel's the principal hotels, the club will be decorated, several arches will be erected. In short the people of Halifax are preparing to give the Marquis and his Royal Consort a right noble welcome.

Not a few of the Turkish officers taken prisoners during the late war have accepted service in the armies of their conquerors. The terms offered them were liberal and they felt no scruple about accepting them. Most of them are to be sent to the Caucasus. Nothing, however, could induce the Turkish privates to follow the example of their chiefs. The inferiority of the Turkish officer to the Turkish private soldier in soldierly qualities has always been insisted upon.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A terrible accident occurred on the New Brunswick Railway on Thursday night last.

Accidents very much more dreadful have happened abroad, and they may have been read here with the subdued feelings which events occurring at a distance rouse, but the emotions excited by Thursday night's accident strike home the harrowing character of such catastrophes.

The 2.30 p. m. train, consisting of a locomotive, a passenger car, four box cars and a baggage car, which carried about twenty persons, reached Peel, a station six miles below Florenceville, at 7.30 p. m. While the train was going at a moderate rate of speed, it appears from general testimony that a bundle of bags was thrown out from the door of the baggage car upon the track, which in some way got entangled with the wheels causing them to slip from the rails. The train was crossing a bridge, and for about two hundred feet the cars were dragged along on the sleepers, which were broken by the heavy weight. On reaching the embankment the passenger car, dragging with it the baggage car, toppled over, and turning upside down three or four times righted itself near the water's edge, some fifty feet from the top. The engine and box cars remained on the track.

Of the fifteen passengers, Mr. T. W. Whitehead alone succeeded in jumping clear of the car ere it tumbled over the bank, and he escaped with a slight bruise. Several received injuries from the violent and rapid overturn of the cars. Scarce had the passenger car righted itself by the water's edge, when it was seen enveloped in flames. Persons from Peel station rushed to rescue the passengers from their frightful situation. The greater number got out without severe injury. But the flames caught four victims. Mr. Harmon of Peel, vainly attempted, (driven back by the fierce heat), to draw Mr. Perry, of Presque Isle, through one of the windows of the burning car, who seemingly paralized with terror, resisted being rescued, and was left to his fate. A woman, Mrs. John Leslie, of Grand Falls, maddened with terror, appeared to be facinated, for she broke from those who had hold of her, and rushed back into the flames. Mr. Hacker, of Fort Fairfield, was not seen by any one after the accident. All three, along with a boy, C. Beattie, a Fredericton newsboy, perished.

On news of the accident a special train, on board of which were Mr. Hoben, Dr. Atherton and others started at 1 A. M., for the scene.

The bodies of those who perished in the flames were burned and charred beyond recognitio. The passenger car was totally destroyed, the baggage car, wrecked not burned.

A coroner's inquest was held and a verdict returned as follows:—

We the undersigned jurymen called to view the remains of the persons who lost their lives in the railway accident near Peel Station, on the 14th November, inst., after viewing the remains and hearing the evidence pertaining to the accident, submit the following verdict:—

That four or more persons, names unknown, supposed to be Isaac Hacker, Nathan Perry and Charles Beattie, and an unknown woman, came to their death from being precipitated over an embankment near Peel Station, on the evening of the 14th instant, and by the fire which subsequently consumed the car. We are also of opinion that the accident was caused by a bundle of bags thrown from the baggage car, by the baggage master, Robert M. Dow, as appears in evidence, and which, after striking the ground, bounded back upon the track and under the trucks of the baggage or passanger car.

Signed,
G. W. MELVILLE, *Foreman.*
W. N. CAMPBELL,
CHARLES M. BOYD,
S. HARMON,
GIDEON LOYD,
R. S. HUNTER,
THOS. R. BOYD.

Mr. Hacker was a large lumber merchant a man much advanced in years. Mr. N. Perry was the principal merchant of Presque Isle. Mrs. John Lesley was 65 years of age 30 years ago her husband carried on a bakery in this city. The boy Beattie was well known in Fredericton. This loss of life is most deplorable.

Mr. Yerxa, the conductor, received severe injuries, as did Mr. C. Phillips, of Bath. Mr. Dow, the baggage master, was badly hurt, the other passengers escaped serious consequences.

St. John papers report three additional deaths, in doing so we understand that they a are in error, only the four mentioned have occurred. By latest accounts the injured were doing well.

THE YORK COUNTY TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

A large and influential temperance gathering took place yesterday in the rooms of the Fredericton Reform Club. It assembled in response to the circular invitation issued by the central committee of Fredericton. Over sixty gentlemen from different parts of the County were present, and all seemed imbued with an earnest and conquering spirit. The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock, and then made permanent by the appointment of the following officers:—

SHRIFF TEMPLE, *President;*
PROFESSOR FOSTER, *Secretary;*
HENRY CHESTNUT, *Treasurer.*

Central Committee:—Thos. Temple, Prof. Foster, Henry Chestnut, P. McPeake, A. A. Sterling, John Pickard, M. P., G. N. Ristteen, Laverett Estabrooks, Charles E. Hill, S. J. Parsons, James K. Pinder, H. U. Clark, G. W. Merithew, Rev. J. E. Read, Alfred Rowley, Justice Farley, A. A. Nason, Andrew Coburn.

Those gentlemen, one from each Parish are to act as temporary chairman, each in his own parish, and convene the working committees. Committees were appointed on Printing, Literature and on County organization. The report of this last committee, recommended, that the representatives from each parish be a working committee, with power to add to its numbers, and organize for the parish canvass; that each committee should determine the meetings to be held in the parish and make arrangements for them; that all volunteer speakers and canvassers should report to Secretary of Central Committee so that aid shall be given to any districts needing it, and that at the close of each meeting in any district organization shall be made for the active work of the campaign. The names of over twenty-five persons were given in as volunteers for the public meetings. The canvass is to be commenced immediately and will be conducted thoroughly, and all seem confident of as good a result for the County as was obtained in the city.

Now let all minor differences be laid aside and the one great end kept steadily in view; the de-legalization of the liquor traffic in old York. That such will be the case no one could doubt who looked in upon the earnest faces of the noble band of men gathered in yesterday's convention.—*Com.*

It is understood that a project of raising a permanent military force in Canada has been favorably regarded in England, and that offers of assistance in the way of furnishing staff and superior regimental officers were made to Sir Selby Smythe during his recent visit. In view of the commercial depression and heavy deficit, the Government will not at present entertain the project.

NEW ENTERPRISE.

A nursery is about to be started in Fredericton. Some may jump to the conclusion that there is nothing new about that. Nurseries there are, will be, and have been since the earth has been peopled. But the nursery they mean is not the ndrsery we mean, which is, one for rearing infant trees—apple and pear trees to put it more distinctly. In the beginning of this month, Mr. John Mackey, of this city (actuated by the laudable desire to revive and improve the culture of the apple, and to supply the home markets with that wholesome household fruit, entered into partnership with Mr. Thos. Rodgers, of Beebee Plain, Stanstead Quebec, "in the art of trade of nurserymen." Mr. Mackey will furnish sufficient land for the nursery ground on the farm about one mile above Fredericton, and Mr. Rogers will next May set out 20,000 "pippins or root grafts," and undertake to keep them pruned. The young trees will be sold; planted on many an old worn out orchard, they will yield beautiful crops In connection with the nursery Mr. Mackey will have an extensive orchard, and be able to supply householders who may use imported apples, with quite as fine fruit as can be purchased in Nova Scotia or elsewhere. We did not see why the enterprise should not be successful. We wish it success.

We have just received the *American Exporter* for November. It is a journal full of interesting information for merchants, manufacturers, politicians and journalists. Its mission appears to be to herald the inroads that American manufacturers are making in all the markets of the world. Its drift and tone may be gathered from the following sentences:—"England is the greatest nation the world has ever known. To meet her and conquer her in honorable rivalry, belongs and belongs alone to America, that is our mission. The fight for the commercial world in the near future will be between the United States and Great Britain. We enter the contest fully appreciating and respecting the greatness and strength of our rivsl, but we enter it full of faith of our capacity to overtop opposition. England has possession of the world's markets. It will take good fighting to dislodge her, but we can eventually accomplish it.

It contains a communication on the commerce of Canada and the United States, and Montreal, in which it is said, that it is a misnomer to call American exports to Canada and vice versa, "foreign trade." The writer whoever he is, and if a Canadian, evidently "an American at heart, writes to the editor. It is to be hoped that generous negociation on your side, which will be profitable to you as it will be beneficial to us, will hasten the day when custom houses and officials will no longer mark the line which separates us, but that our sea-port custom houses and yours will protect *our home* commerce against the real foreign commerce of Europe." A steady decline bearing full evidence of permanency has incurred in the imports of Great Britain into Canada from the year 1873 to the year 1877, and as steady an increase in the imports of the United States. Other materiel interests draw Canada to the Union so the *Exporter's* correspondent thinks. "Would you woo us, come unto us, would you slight us, stay away.?

Nations are but aggregations of individuals. You are a mighty nation, we are a smaller part of the family, poorer perhaps, but just as proud. The weaker cannot sue the stronger without a loss of respect, the stronger can concieliate, and therefors draw up the weaker without being misunderstood, therefore, ye American 'prince merchants' come to Canada as to a country which is your own, come to Montreal, whose ways and whose citizens are your own." This is pretty cool. The writer makes no account of the feelings of loyalty and patriotism in the people of Csnada which still outweigh regard for their materiel interests. We would not advise any American merchant princes to go swaggering about Montreal or Ottawa as if the country or city were their own when the Marquis and the Princess arrive in the Dominion. And, speak of winning Canada by conciliation, after reading Evarts' despatches and the applause with which they were received by the United States press, after all the haggling about the that award, and all the bluster about the Fisheries.!

The stealing of the body of the late A. T. Stewart, the millionaire, from the family vault in old Saint Mark's Church was the latest sensation in New York, it is yet a nine days wonder. Some parties unknown have it appears, long contemplated the sacrilegious robbery. Two years ago Mrs. Stewart received a letter in which threats were made of robbing her late husband's grave, if she did not pay down a large sum of money. An unsuccessful attempt to break into the vault seems to have been soon after made. Previous to the perpetration of the grave outrage, Mrs. Stewart received a similar threatening letter. A reward of $25,000 has been offered for the apprehension of the robbers. Various clues have been followed up, only to prove misleading. An unsuccessful search was made for the body in Jersey city. Some suppose that the body has been carried off to Havana, others that it is concealed in one of Mark Church vaults, or sunk in East or North river, but nobody as yet save the parties who stole it know where it is to be found.

GREEN'S PICTORIAL ALMANAC.—G. G. Green of Woodbury, New Jersey, U. S., manufacturer of the well known "German Syrup and August Flower," has issued a pictorial almanac for 1878-79, handsome as it is correct. It contains an amount of useful information, interleaved with telling notices of the efficacy of the well advertised medicinal compounds. Mr. Green has built the handsomest house in the State, and the pictorial part of the almanac is taken up with a number of views of his new residence grounds, and factory. No bettter proof of the popularity of his medicines could be given than that residence, with its spacious and well laid out grounds and avenues, and artificial lakes, for it testifies to their enormous sale.

HOME AGAIN.—A large circle of friends will be glad to learn that H. J. Robinson, Esq. and lady have returned to Fredericton to pass the winter months, after a visit to Europe of some two years. They appear in excellent health and we wish them a very pleasant visit.

LOOKING AHEAD.—Some enthusastic parties in New York are thinking of holding a World's Fair in that city, in 1889, which year is the centennial anniversary of Washington assuming the government. A meeting of delegates from all the States is to take place next April. Verily, this is taking time by "the fire lock" and shooting ahead.

READINGS.—Mr. Wm. E. Eastly, an elocutionist, we beleive, of good repute across the border, writes from Calais to friends in this city that he intends to give a series of readings in the City Hall, commencing probably on the 15th inst. The date of his coming will be advertised in time.

CRITICAL TIMES AHEAD.

There are minds which take a gloomy pleasure in dwelling on the dark side of things, which feel a fierce satisfaction in dark forebodings, and which revel in sepeculations of coming woe and disaster. Such people never go to bed with satisfaction unless they have supped full of horrors. At the present time they find plenty highly spiced food in the press to stay for a time their craving appetite for what Burns (in describing the dreadful objects which Tam O'Shanter glowering in at the Witches' dance "in Auld Alloa's haunted Kirk," saw) call "the horrible and awfu."

Take the following astronomical speculation by an eminent authority for an instance:

We are approaching one of the most pestilential periods of earth's history. Since the commencement of the Christian era, the perihelia of the four great planets of the solar system, Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn and Neptune have not been coincident. But this is about to occur; and there will be 'lively times for the doctors.' The theory is that when one or more of the large planets is nearest to the sun, the temperature and condition of our atmosphere are so disturbed as to cause injurious vicissitudes, terrible rains, prolonged drouths, etc., resulting in destruction of crops, and pestilence among human beings and domestic animals.

The death rate during the period of the perihelion (that point in the oribit of the planet which is to the sun) is also said to be greatly increased. The great epidemics which have devasted the earth during the past twenty centuries are all said to have occurred at these coincidences. In the sixth and sixteenth centuries three of these planets were in perihelion, and these periods were characterized by the development of the most pestilential era that the christian world has ever known.

Now, however, for the first time in forty centuries, the perihelion of the four great planets—Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune—will be coincident. If the coincidence of two planets produce such marked results; is the coincidence of three of them—as has happened twice in 2,000 years—has left an indelible impress of devastation upon the human race, what dire consequences may not be apprehended when all four of these collosial bodies unite to bring to bear upon this poor little earth their malignani influences?

The premonitory symptoms of the coming casaclysms it is claimed have already made themselves felt in the great and unaccountable fires, like those at Chicago, Boston, St. Johns, etc., and in the terrible tornadoes and floods of rain which have swept over portions of the earth during the past few years; in the upheavals of the bottom of the sea, and in the disappearance of its islands; in the terrible drought and consequent famine which has slain millions in India and China during the past year, etc.

The celebrated "Mother Shipton prophecy," which will be remembered by many says "the world will come to an end in 1881." The prediction was no doubt based on astrologic investigations, and the remarkable position which it was foreseen the planets would assume in that year.

There is at all events enough in these things to engage attention, and no hurt can come from the thoughtful consideration of the purport of the "signs of the times."

COURT ETIQUETTE.

The coming of