

notice in the *Quebec Gazette*, of 12th December, 1816.* They decided to establish a Merchants' Exchange, in the lower part of the Neptune Inn. Amongst those present, we recognise familiar names : John Jones, George Symes, James Heath, Robert Melvin, Thomas Edward Brown, &c,

Why was the place called Neptune Inn ? For the obvious reason that a large statue of the God of the sea, bearing in one hand a formidable iron trident, stood over the main entrance in a threatening attitude.

This conspicuous land mark, was known to every British ship captain frequenting our port.

But if it meant to the wearied mariner, boundless cheer, the latest London papers, pipes, and soothing rum punch mixed by a comely and cheerful bar-maid ; to the unsophisticated Canadian peasant, attracted to the lower-town on market days, it was of evil portent.

With honest *Jean Baptiste*, more deeply read in the *Petit Catechisme*, than in heathen mythology, the dreaded God of the sea and his truculent trident, lost cast ; in his simple eyes, they symbolised the Prince of Darkness, "*Le diabol et sa fourche*" : the terrors of a hereafter.

This did not however prevent it from standing sentry, in the same exalted spot, for close on forty years, until in fact, having fallen to pieces by natural decay, it was removed about the time the *Old Neptune Inn* became the *Morning Chronicle* Office ; its *dejecta membra* are now a dead secret.

The origin of the famed statue has defied the most recondite searchers of the past. For the following, we are indebted to the retentive memory of that eminently reputed authority, the "oldest inhabitant."

QUEBEC, 5th December, 1816.

* "At a meeting of the Board of Green Cloth held at the Neptune Inn :

John Wm. Woolsey in the chair.—It was unanimously decided to establish a Merchants' Exchange in the lower part of the Neptune Inn, &c. (Then follow the resolutions.) Subscription to be two guineas per annum.

On motion of John Jones, Esq., Resolved that the following Gentlemen do form a Committee of Management :—Thomas Edward Brown, James Heath, George Symes, John W. Woolsey and Robert Melvin."