

## THE CENSUS.

It is rather doubtful whether, under existing circumstances, a correct census will be obtained of the several denominations in Canada. Some tenaciously refuse to return the unconverted members of their families as members of the Church to which they belong; although the preference of these parties for the Churches with which their parents are identified is by no means doubtful. Those who act thus are doubtless conscientious; yet such a course unquestionably will produce an erroneous impression as to the comparative strength of the several religious communities in the Province. In the families of Episcopalians, Roman Catholics and perhaps of some other denominations, every individual from the infant of days to the hoary-headed sire will be returned; and hence unless the same course be adopted by all the remaining denominations, a faithful comparative statement can never be obtained. If the object of the census were, merely to ascertain the numbers of church members in the several bodies respectively, this mode of return would not secure the object contemplated. Indeed had this been all the census contemplated, the requisite information would be easily obtained from the annual statistical accounts furnished by most of these communities; and the ecclesiastical columns of the census, would necessarily include none but those churches which do not publish statistical accounts annually. A moment's thought, however, must convince every intelligent man that more is intended than a statement of the number of church members—that the object is to ascertain not only those who are actually identified with the several religious bodies, but those who attend their congregations and sympathize with their sentiments and movements. The fact is, every man, except he be a sceptic or an infidel, has a preference with regard to churches—there are some communities whose peculiarities accord more nearly with his views, than those of any other; and with which, were he making selection of a church, he would unite. Now if we understand the true object of taking a denominational census, that man should be entered in the column set apart for the particular denomination he prefers. And with regard to junior members of families, we think unless they entertain predilections to the contrary, they should be returned as adherents of the church with which the parents are connected. Of course we are aware that objections have been urged against what we here recommend, (and indeed it is a much easier undertaking to object than to propose a better plan) but we are not aware of any other means whereby a true account of the comparative numerical strength of the several religious bodies in Canada can be obtained.

We direct attention to this subject because we think what never yet appeared before the Canadian or British public a correct Census, would at the present stage of our progress as a colony, render important service to the non-conformist cause, and greatly facilitate the adjustment of several great questions now pending. Parties who are scrupulously exact as to the letter should remember, that thereby they utterly subvert the spirit of the census act and damage the cause of religious equality.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBION, 11th April, 1850.

SIR:—By the last mail from Toronto, I received a copy of the *Watchman*, No. 12, containing a paragraph, headed Post Offices, wherein it is stated "That again and again have we been informed that papers cannot be obtained from the Boulton Village Post Office until they have been read." Now Sir, I am the Post Master of the Albion Office, located in the Village of Boulton; and had you been courteous enough to have written to me on the subject of any complaint, I should have felt it my duty to have given you all the information in my power; but as you did not adopt this course, but have sent forth the above scandalous article to the public, the only course now open to me, is, to say that your correspondent has imposed on you by stating a gross falsehood, and what I defy him to prove.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
S. WATFORD, P. M.

P. S.—Whether you will insert my reply in the *Watchman* I know not; but as I am a servant of the public, common justice should prompt you to do so. You have sent the poison forth, the antidote should follow.

## REMARKS.

Our readers will please excuse our inserting a communication containing, as does the above, an epithet or two of a stamp for which we do not frequently find space in the columns of the *Watchman*. It is our wish to do every man justice; and if under any circumstances a party be unjustly injured or maligned, by what we publish, we shall feel pleasure in opening our columns for the vindication of the innocent. But to the subject before us.

Does Mr W. seriously think that we have leisure to write to every Post Master whose bungling or inefficiency is reported to us. Who does he mean when he says "your correspondent?" Does he (Mr W.) suppose, that in our notice, last week, we stated all we knew about the irregularity of "the Albion Office?" If Mr W. imagines we intended to injure him, he does us a great injustice. Did we entertain such a malicious design, we might give him trouble without resorting to the columns of a newspaper. Our object was to correct an abuse of which we had received repeated complaints, not from "your correspondent" merely, but from several respectable quarters. It matters little what the cause may be, when papers being called for are not delivered immediately after the arrival of the mail. The Newspaper proprietor, in such cases, suffers; and if "a servant of the public" be made the subject of animadversion, he needs not be quite so sensitive.

## REVIEW OF NEWS.

British papers by the *Europa* contain little of the marvellous in the news department. The changes which have crowded in such rapid succession upon the attention of the world since the commencement of 1848, are gradually subsiding, and giving place to more tardy and less extreme movements. In Britain, as usual, the *Budget* gives considerable dissatisfaction to the masses. In the ecclesiastical world the principal topics attracting attention in Britain, are, the non-submission of the Bishop of Exeter to the decrees of the Privy Council, in the case of Gorham; the Bishop of Exeter; and the great aggregate meet-

ing of lay delegates from Wesleyan Methodist Circuits; a meeting consisting of upwards of 400 laymen and convened for consultation on the course to be adopted by the Methodist reformers in order to secure their rights.

In France the late elections have been decidedly favourable to the Socialist party.

The New Brunswick Legislature has probably ere this passed the Bill transferring the Colonial Post office department to the several Provinces. And it is confidently expected that the uniform rate of three pence currency per letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, will be carried into effect. Measures are also in progress in the N. B. Legislature for promoting free trade between the several British North American Colonies.

The Legislature of Prince Edwards Island has stopped the supplies, and passed a non-confidence resolution.

Dr. Strachan, Bishop of the diocese of Toronto, has gone to England, bearing a petition against the Charter of the University of Toronto, and prepared otherwise to oppose dissent and promote the interests of his own section of the Church.

The Hon. W. H. Merritt, has accepted the office of Chief Commissioner of Public Works; and Mr. Bourret of Montreal has also accepted the office of Assistant Commissioner and President of the Legislative Council.

An association styled "the County of Middlesex Teachers' association," was formed on the 6th inst., at London, C. W.

The papers from nearly every part of the Province contain accounts of the destruction of Bridges, Mill dams &c., &c., by the late freshet.

The attention of our readers is respectfully directed to Mr. Cosgrove's advertisement on our last page. The works speak for themselves; and we have no doubt the prices will be equally satisfactory.

## General Intelligence.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

## COLONIAL POSTAGE.

A bill prepared by the Hon. Attorney General for regulating the Post Office Department within this Province, is before the House. It is prepared under the authority of an act of parliament, which confers on these North American colonies, the power of regulating inland posts. The exclusive privilege of regulating all matters connected with the Post office Department in New Brunswick, heretofore exercised by the Post Master General of England, is transferred to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Every thing connected with the department is to be regulated by order in Council, subject to the general regulations agreed upon by the several North American Colonies which are as follows:—

1. A uniform rate, throughout British North America, of three pence for every letter under half an ounce, and other letters in proportion.

2. No transit postages between the provinces to be charged.

3. The present rate of two pence sterling on letters from England, for their transmission from Halifax, to any place in these colonies, to be continued.

4. The prepayment of postage to be optional.

5. Each Province to retain the amount of postages it collects.

6. The postage on English letters collected in the colonies to be paid over to the post Master General in England; the provincial rate of two pence sterling to belong to the province which collects it; if prepaid in England, this rate of two pence is to be credited to the province to which the letter is addressed.

7. All franking whatsoever, disallowed.

8. Postage stamps for prepayment to be allowed, and Colonial stamps to be engraved.

9. Newspapers, pamphlets, and magazines, to be transmitted at present rates of postage; but with power to each Legislature to order their transmission free of charge.

The bill contains all the exemptions with regard to the transmission of letters otherwise than by post, which are contained in the Imperial Acts, as also to the penalties which those acts impose for violation of the Post Office regulations. The new regulations are to go into effect on the 6th day of October next, in all the Colonies; and we are quite sure that all the Colonists will hail with delight, the abrogation of the present enormous rates of intercolonial postage, and the establishment of a responsible and uniform rate for the transmission of all letters in British North America, no matter what distance they may be carried.

The free transmission of newspapers will, no doubt, be at once directed by the Colonial Legislatures, and the people then will enjoy the benefit, not only of cheap communication with their distant friends and fellow subjects but also the blessings which will flow from the wide spread diffusion of information by means of untaxed newspapers. The advantages which will follow from this amelioration of the Post Office laws, can scarcely be prized too highly, or sufficiently appreciated.—*St. John's Courier*.

THE AT WOODSTOCK.—Two blacksmith and two wagon shops were destroyed by fire in Woodstock on Tuesday week. The furniture at Brick's Hotel was much destroyed by hasty removal, &c. Some obstinate people refused to allow water to be taken from their wells, on the occasion. It is said ducking would be too good for them; we imagine, and in some places, we know, a ducking they would have got.

## KINGSTON AND PERTH ROAD.

The inhabitants of the young town of Sydenham have set an example to the people of this city worthy of imitation, as will be observed by perusal of the account they have sent us to-day, of the proceedings of a meeting recently held for the purpose of co-operating with those few interesting gentlemen here, who have associated for the purpose of constructing a Road to the town of Perth and the fine country adjacent thereto. We often hear our townsmen lamenting the dearth of business, and the very unpromising future which seems to await us.—How can it be otherwise, if those most interested will not lend a helping hand when any feasible project is proposed, with the view of remedying the existing evil, and of averting the otherwise inevitably sad fate of this place? Who, we ask, would, of all the community, be the most benefited by the opening up of the back country, and the impetus to trade and settlement which would be imparted thereby? Will we answer for them—THE MERCHANTS!! And what have our merchants done towards raising the Stock for the Road, either by subscription, or individual, or united exertion?—Good readers, it is "more in sorrow than in anger" that we have to tell you, that, as a body, our merchants have as yet shewn themselves as little interested in the business, as if it really did not concern them! In this, as in many other adventures, the burden of organization and of breaking ground has been left to a few ever-willing professional men and others, who are expected to run all risks, and devote their time for the benefit of the world at large. To the few merchants who have nobly come forward on this occasion, the town owes a debt of gratitude. Why would not they all take the enterprise into consideration in good earnest? An exploration will shortly be made, and then we shall have something more to say on this subject.—*Kingston Argus*.

ACCIDENT ON THE LOWELL RAILROAD.—About 7 1/2 o'clock this morning, as the accommodation train for Lowell had reached Medford, the engine gave out, and while standing on the track the express train came up and ran into it, smashing to atoms one of the long passenger cars, and a baggage car. The engine of the express train was badly injured. The fireman of the express train, Mr. Brown, had an arm broken, and was obliged to have it amputated. One of the passengers had an arm broken, and the others miraculously escaped, by leaping from the cars, just in time to save their lives. No blame is attached to either of the conductors, Messrs. Loomis and Barrett. On the occurrence of the giving out of the engine, a man was dispatched back with a signal to stop the express train, but owing to the thick snow storm, it was not seen in time to check the train.—*Boston Trans. Thursday*.

MELANCHOLY CATASTROPHE.—FOUR CHILDREN BURNED.—We learn that the house of Mr. James Rouse, of the town of French Creek, in this county, was consumed by fire on Sunday the 17th inst., and that four of his children perished in the flames. We are told that the parents were attending a meeting at considerable distance from home, leaving their children, five in number, to take care of the house. An idiotic girl, it is thought, set fire to the bed clothes with a candle. The fifth was badly burned, but it is thought will recover.—*James town N. Y. Citizen, 27th*.

HORRID MURDER IN INDIANA.—Isaac Pearce, a respectable farmer, and preacher of the United Brethren denomination, living in Vigo county Ind., was cruelly murdered in bed, on the night of the 15th inst. It seems, from appearances, that a diabolical fiend entered the room, and while Mr. P. was asleep, inflicted a blow upon the temple with a hatchet or tomahawk, the blade of which entered the brain and produced death some 24 hours afterwards. The murder has produced much excitement in the vicinity, and a large number of persons are engaged in ferreting out the guilty wretch.—*Cin. Com., March 25th*.

THE BUFFALO EXPLOSION.—As the result of the investigation of the Coroner's Jury into the cause of the disaster on board the steamer Troy, the conclusion is arrived at, that the explosion was occasioned by the lack of the requisite quantity of water in the boilers, and that such lack of water eventuated from the omission of Levi L. Post, the deceased engineer of the steamer, to employ competent and attentive assistants. The master and his officers are not held responsible. The Republic of Tuesday evening says, that of the passengers, four are known to be drowned and three killed by the explosion. Of the officers and crew, six have died, making an aggregate of thirteen.

MR. GORHAM'S CASE.—The conflict which is now raging in the Church of England, arising out of the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, is, as many foresaw, only the beginning of the end. The Bishop of Exeter knows not when he is beaten. So far from giving up the contest, he is marshalling his forces in battle array, and there may be no mistake about the matter, he refuses to induct the Rev. Mr. Gorham into vicarage of Bramford Speke. In a letter addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Exeter coolly states that rather than do so he will suffer deprivation from his diocese.

THE RECORDER'S COURT.—This novel Court was opened yesterday with all due formality. Mr. Alderman Campbell presided as Recorder, supported by the Mayor and other City magistrates. The Grand Jury was charged in due form and retired, and afterwards brought in four bills of indictment for larceny, three women and one man. One of the parties pleaded guilty, and the trials of the other three came on to-day. The formation of this new tribunal will relieve the Court of Quarter Sessions of much criminal business. There was only one criminal tried at the late Sessions, one Crawford for larceny—found guilty and imprisoned for a month in jail.—*Kingston Whig*.

FIRE.—About half past four o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the rough cast buildings on the north side of King Street directly east of Dr. Case's Residence. The alarm was not given very promptly, in consequence of some disarrangement of the machine connected with the bell, but the firemen were speedily in attendance, and by working vigorously saved two of the five houses. About 12 o'clock the fire again broke forth, but was subdued without further damage. The cause of the fire is not known. The same buildings narrowly escaped a year ago, the roofs being then consumed.—The property was owned by the Hon. S. Mills. We have not heard whether there was any insurance.—*Journal and Express*.

LACHINE RAILROAD.—The Directors of this Railroad have made up their third annual report. The whole cost of the work is stated to be £108,048 10s 4d, a very large sum for a road only eight miles in length. The particulars of expenditure are given, and we see that £25,553 17s 2d, has been disbursed in land and land expenses, the latter being a very heavy item we suspect, and accounting for almost the whole of this sum, nearly one-fourth of the entire cost of the road. The liabilities of the company amount to £35,483 8s 2d, and to pay off these the Directors have issued preferential stock for £37,500 to be paid 8 per cent; in other words, have borrowed money at 8 per cent interest in perpetuity. Two thirds of their stock has been taken up. We are sorry to say that the traffic returns of the year show a decrease in the number of passengers; in 1848 the number was 101,614; in 1849, 94,972. The receipts are however, as large as in the former year, whether from higher fares or increase in the quantity of freight we are not informed.—The net profits of the year have been £5,515 17s 2d, being about 21 per cent on the cost of the road.

## REMITTANCES.

Paid to end of Vol. 1.—Messrs. S. Fisher, R. A. Clement, S. Haskett, Rev. W. Ramage, T. Cosford, W. Green, T. Barry, Miss M. A. White, G. Clayton, G. Rainford, J. Simmonson, W. Wilkins, G. DeWitt, Mrs. M. Simmerman, W. Wilson, W. Clement, J. Dymon, J. Osterhout, Rev. D. D. Rolston, J. E. Ebbes, Esq., Messrs. Hamilton & Kneeshaw.

For 6 months:—A. Bater, J. Gould, W. Courtneage, J. Tinline, P. Webster.

For 3 months:—E. & H. Lawrence.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.—Revs. T. Reed, 1; E. Williams, 1; Rev. D. D. Rolston, 2; J. G. Haskett, Esq., 3; Mr. Gayner, 3; A. Friend, 2.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Rev. W. Bothwell, J. C. Watts, T. Rump, H. Wilkinson, E. Williams, Messrs. E. & H. Lawrence, J. G. Haskett, Esq., S. Machell, Esq., J. G. Hodgins, Esq., Revs. H. O. Crofts, W. Bothwell, F. Haynes, J. G. Breakenridge, J. C. Warrar, R. Dick, Mr. S. D. Kenny.

## DIED.

At St. Thomas, the wife of Rev. D. D. Rolston, late of Belfast, Ireland, on the 2nd inst., of Typhus Fever.

## Toronto Market Prices, April 15.

Corrected weekly for the Watchman.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Flour per brl. 136 lbs.	17	6	a 21	3
Wheat per bushel, 60 lbs.	3	6	a 4	9
Barley per bushel, 48 lbs.	1	8	a 2	0
Rye per bushel, 56 lbs.	2	0	a 2	3
Oats per bushel, 34 lbs.	1	2 1/2	a 1	4
Oatmeal per bbl. 196 lbs.	16	3	a 18	9
Pease per bushel, 60 lbs.	2	0	a 3	0
Potatoes per bushel,	1	4	a 2	0
Beef per lb.	0	2 1/2	a 0	5
Beef per 100 lbs.	15	0	a 25	0
Veal per lb.	0	2 1/2	a 0	4
Pork per lb.	0	2	a 0	3 1/2
Pork per 100 lbs.	22	6	a 26	3
Bacon per cwt.	30	0	a 40	9
Hams per cwt.	40	0	a 50	0
Lamb per quarter,	3	9	a 5	0
Mutton per lb.	0	12	a 0	5
Fresh Butter per lb.	0	10	a 1	0
Porkin Butter per lb.	0	6	a 0	7 1/2
Cheese per lb.	0	3	a 0	5
Lard per lb.	0	3 1/2	a 0	4
Apples per bbl.	5	0	a 15	0
Eggs per dozen,	0	6	a 0	7 1/2
Turkeys each,	2	0	a 5	0
Geese each,	1	6	a 2	0
Duck per pair,	1	8	a 2	0
Fowls do.	1	8	a 2	6
Swan per ion,	25	0	a 35	0
Hay per ton,	45	0	a 60	0
Fire Wood,	3	3	a 15	0