colonial between Truro and Amherst, if not between Rocky Lake and Truro, will in the winter be impassable. The gorges and fills on the road must, after severe and plentiful snow storms, render it plain to any observer that this will be so. Then it is when the line through Prince Edward Island—a line so level that no storms can ever impede, beyond a day or so, travel on its road—will be most advantageous, and, propeperly connected by powerfully iron built steamers at Souris and Summerside with the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia roads, it is reasonable to believe daily communication between Halifax and St. John need not at any time be interrupted. To men who have seen difficulties far more formidable overcome elsewhere, these seem but simply a matter of means and will on the part of the respective Governments of those Provinces."

The idea of reaching Halifax by that round about route is at any rate worthy of the consideration of Mr. Aquila Walsh, who, now that he has been relieved from his arduous Parliamentary labors, may find profitable employment in examining the merits of the deficiencies of the Intercolonial.

The "Woolwich Infants."

The two newly made 35-ton guns jocularly termed the "Woolwich Infants" were accidentally sunk in Chatham Dockyard last week while an attempt was being made to transfer them from a lighter to the quay. On Saturday, an attempt made to raise them without reducing the water in the basin proved a failure. A diver had well lashed one of the guns under water, and tackle having been attached from the great iron sheer-legs, the engine was set in motion to lift the gun, but almost before it was lifted from the hold of the lighter the tackle slipped, and the "infant" settled down again on the spot it had occupied in the submerged vessel. A second attempt on Monday was more successful, and one of the "infants" was safely landed on the quay. On the following day the other was successfully hoisted up from the bottom of the dockyard. But when the "infants" had been rescued from drowning they were in some peril of being buried. The wharf of the basin is all "made ground," and when the first gun was taken from the water and placed on bank it sank, the rain having made the ground very soft. To prevent the pond erous masses disappearing large quantities of timber had to be placed under the guns. The guns will undergo a very careful inspection by the War Department to ascertain if they have sustained any damage which will render it necessary to send them back to the Woolwich Arsenal.

Education.

The *Standard* says that an important admission has been obtained from the Education Department by the honorary secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Education Society. The enormous waste of power now being exhibited in school boards mainly arises from the generally received fallacy that they have to provide school room for one-sixth of the population. Mr. J. W. Sheringham having written to the secretary of the Committee of Council on Education on the subject, the department, through Mr Sandford, says the rule has been acted upon "by the department for many years in cases where building grants have been made, and has been generally found to be not only theoretically but practically accurate. But my lords have not laid it down as a rule admitting of no exception in particular districts. They have no desire to press for school accommodation in excess of the actual requirements of the district, and any representation with respect to their decision as to the school accommodation required to be provided in any particular district will receive their careful attention."—*Pall Mall Budget.*

Edmund About.

It is stated that E. About, the celebrated French political satirist, who was recently tried for high treason against the German Government, was prosecuted, not on the ground of his being a German subject, but because the German penal code distinctly lays it down that "any foreigner who shall in a foreign country commit high treason against the German Empire may be prosecuted according to the penal laws of the German Empire." This is certainly high ground for any Government to take in its internal legislation. We could understand the prosecution of foreigners for high treason committed within the Empire, but it is somewhat startling to be told that if you should dare to express your opinion freely about some of Bismarck's doings that may not appear to you altogether justiable, you may, some fine day, as you are enjoying your summer tour "up the Rhine," find yourself in the awkward predicament of being indited for high treason. This is even worse than in the worst days of King Bomba.

The Crown Prince.

BERLIN.

Disquieting rumours have been current here on the Exchange with reference to the health of the Imperial Crown Prince. These reports are utterly unfounded. According to authentic reports the improvement in the state of his imperial highness is steady and satisfactory.

THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, JANUARY 3, 1873.

THE sand in the glass of the OLD YEAR has run down, and having been reversed is running on again, indicating the progress of another era of existence. We reiterate our wish that it may be a happy and prosperous one to one and all.

This year we doubt not many improvements will take place; let us hope it may prove so, and that the march of progress will be manifest among us.

Mining enterprise for instance, will probably absorb a very large share of attention, for on the thorough opening up of our mineral resources, depends in a great measure, the future welfare of the colony; therefor every justifiable means ought to be used to induce capitalists to invest in an undertaking so positively remunerative, and which would eventually afford our people lucrative employment, and many comforts.

THE mails via Halifax, per S. S. "Lion" to St. John's we have as yet no account of. Such irregularity as has lately existed in mail arrangements causes great inconvenience, and we are therefore glad that the contract about to be completed between the Government and Sir Hugh Allan, will put an end to this nuisance. Direct fortnightly communication with the mother country will not fail to be of great advantage to all classes, and the reputation of the Allan line for regularity being proverbial, the engagement of their steamers must meet with general approval.

As might have been expected now that cold weather is experienced, necessitating the burning of extra fuel, dirty chimneys are almost daily taking fire, causing much alarm and painful excitement. This is not right, and a pity it is that through sheer neglect of house occupiers the Fire Company should be so often called out, not to say anything of the real danger likely to arise from sparks issuing from foul vents. "Prevention is better than cure," and more particularly in a town like this, so inflammable in its structure. Would not an act enforcing a periodical sweeping of chimneys have some effect, delinquents "punishable" for non-attendance?

ON Wednesday forenoon the members of the Conception Bay British Society, in accordance with an annual custom, assembled at the Britith Hall for the purpose of attending divine service. The weather was disagreeable, nevertheless the procession was a large one. On this occasion they attended the Wesleyan Church, where a suitable address was delivered by the Rev. C. Ladner.

POSTAL rates between this and the United Kingdom are now reduced one half; viz: for letters half-ounce and under, six cents, in place of twelve cents as charged previously. This is one great boon to begin the year with, and correspondence will certainly increase on the strength of it.

AN IMPORTANT MEDICAL DISCOVERY.—It appears that an accident, as in many other discoveries, is about to rendor an important service in the cause of medicine, by which the eye will be able to locate many diseases, whose source and locality must now be determined by induction or inference rather than sight. It appears that Dr. Richardson, of London, while experimenting electricity about two years ago, was surprised to find a portion of his hand so illuminated as to become perfectly transparent. This fact, also a similar experiment by Dr. Priestley, induced Dr. Thomas Nicholson, of New Orleans, not long since, to pursue the subject till he succeeded in completely illuminatiug the whole hand. From the result of these experiments it seem that in order to illuminate the body, it would only be necessary to increase the vividness of the calcium light, and enlarge the magnifying lenses employed, so as to gain sufficient power. When all the internal organs of the human system are thus inspected by actual sight, there will be no need of diagnosing a case to discover the cause or seat of a disease. In the case of wounds or internal bruises, the surgeon can determine at once the lœgation of the bullet, or the condition of the part affected; also tumours, ulcers, or any internal malady, as easily as can a house-keeper the displacement of an article of furniture or an ink-spot upon the carpet. It can be readily perceived that this discovery may become an efficient aid to medical science, and an incalculable blessing to mankind.

LOCAL ITEMS.

—:o:—

Yesterday the steamship *Severn*, from Hamburg to Philadelphia with a cargo of railway iron, twenty seven days out, arrived in this port. She has experienced a succession of very heavy gales and has received some damage.—*Chronicle of Thursday.*

Yesterday, New Year's Day, passed off very quietly, and without disturbance of any kind that we are aware of. In the morning the British Society marched in procession from their hall to the St. Andrews Kirk, where they listened to an excellent address from the Rev. Mr. McDougall. The Society afterward marched through some of the principal streets, and paid their respects to His Excellency the Governor at Government House.

The Total Abstinence and Benefit Society, with the Juvenile Society attached to the same body, paraded the town yesterday, as is customary with them on the first day of the year. They mustered well, and their appearance was very pleasing and creditable.—*Ibid.*

By private letter from Bonavista we learn that on the 2nd December a sad accident occurred at Devil's Cove, a few miles up the shore, by which a little boy three years of age lost his life. It appears that Sarah Benger, a widow, left her dwelling for a short time, her three children remaining at home seated by the fire. A brand fell into the lap of the boy Israel Benger, and set fire to his clothing. He immediately ran out of doors, and although a little sister done all she could to extinguish the fire, her efforts were to little purpose. The little fellow was so severely burned that in a short time he died. —*Iaid.*

The steamship *Lion* arrived at Halifax on Sunday morning last, and we understand that the Government has arranged for the English mail due in Halifax about 31st, inst to come by her. The mail following will we presume, come by the Allan boat, due here the latter part of Jan. —*Ibid.*

"Commander Charles George Frederick Knowles to be Captain in Her Majesty's Fleet."

We have much pleasure in inserting the foregoing extract, respecting the promotion to the rank of Post-Captain in the Royal Navy, of the officer who commanded H. M. S. *Lapwing*, recently employed in the protection of the Fisheries on this coast. Those of our readers who are acquainted with Captain Knowles will doubtless be happy to hear of the advancement of one whose affability and anxiety to perform in a courteous manner the duties of his position made him deservedly popular in Newfoundland.

The report of his cruise during the past season contains much interesting and valuable matter, and shows that Captain Knowles has bestowed time and care on its compilation.—*Newfoundlander.*

MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.—We much regret to learn that on last Sunday night week the schooner *Magnolia*, Captain William Percy (belonging to Mr. J. N. Finlay of this town,) coal-laden from Sydney for St. Johns, was lost at Chance Bay, Fermeuse, with her Captain and four seamen—the mate, Mr. Alfred Percy, brother of the Captan being the only survivor. The vessel and cargo were a total wreck. The mate was washed ashore, and was found next morning in the neighborhood of the wreck, more dead than alive; nor was it until after the application of restoratives throughout the whole day that his consciousness at last returned. He was progressing favorably when the news of this accident was despatched. He is the son of Captain Stephen Percy of this place.—*Ibid.*

By Authority.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint Charles H. Renough, Esq., M. D., to be Coronor for the Central District, under Act 28 Vic. Cap. 4, Sec. 2.

Secretary's Office, 31st Dec., 1872.—*Gazette.*

A meeting in reference to the East African slave trade was held at the Mansion-house recently, the Lord Mayor presiding. Among those present were Lord Lawrence, Sir Bartle Frere, the Bishop of Winchester, and Mr. Stanley. Four resolutions denouncing the slave trade were passed. Mr. Stanley, after giving a description of the horrors he had witnessed, argued well for the mission of Sir Bartle Frere. but hoped England would not recompense the Sultan of Zanzibar or Muscat, of attempt in any way to compound with the criminals.

The Lords of the Admiralty have approved of a site being selected within the precincts of Greenwich Hospital for the monument to the memory of the officers and men of the Royal Navy who fell in the New Zealand war of 1863-4.

Sir. T. Erskine May is engaged upon a history of Democracy in Europe, from the earliest times to the present.

TELEGRAMS.

Latest Despatches.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.

The Ottawa "Citizen" again states that Mr. Lanigan will succeed Sir G. E. Cartier, as minister of militia, as the health of the latter will necessitate his absence in Europe, and that Mr. Howe will be made Lieut-Governor of Nova Scotia.

The Quebec Parliament was prorogued to-day.

The Collector of Inland Revenue at Ottawa has been suspended for irregularities.

The Canada Pacific railroad charter is now drafted and waiting Sir Hugh Allan's approval.

LONDON, 23.

It was reported at midnight in London that the steamer "Germany" of the Allan line was totally wrecked on Sunday. It is possible that the rumor originated in the similarity of the name born by this steamship and the Liverpool packet "Germania" lost off Gironde.

Porteen, a member of the Garde Champete has been found guilty of betraying the Mayor and another inhabitant of Lissons to the Prussians by whom they were shot, was executed today at Vincennes.

At a consistory held by the Pope today, he delivered an allocution saying that the Church was sorely persecuted and denounced the Italian and German governments.

LONDON, 24.

Allan, Bros. & Co., say that the steamer lost at the mouth of Gironde was the "Germany" of their line.

Consols 91 3-4 to 91 7-8.

NEW YORK, 24.

An extensive fire at Portland, Oregon, occurred yesterday, causing a loss of $350,000

A school house in New Jersey, was burned last evening, and many other fires are reported.

It is reported that Helena Ark was destroyed by fire on Sunday night.

A dinner was given last night at the Century Club, a number of distinguished citizens, in honour of Professor Tyndall.

A Vigilence committee here threaten to hang Simmons, the murderer of Durea. The police have removed him to a place of safety.

Barnums Menagerie and the German Episcopal Church in 14th Street, were burned this morning. Loss $500,000. The only animals saved were one camel and two elephants.

All the vessels arriving in port during the past twenty-four hours report severe weather off the coast. The weather is intensely cold in the west. Sixty locomotives are frozen up and out of water on the Toledo and Wabash railroad, Indiana.

Gold 113 3-4.

LONDON, 27.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope to Dec. 20th have been received. Heavy gales had occurred on the sea coast and several vessels are reported lost,

PARIS, 26.

President Thiers received the Japanese Ambassadors on Christmas day at the palace of the Elyses. The members of the embassy were dressed European manner, wearing the usual deplomatic uniform. The President expressed his wish for the continuance of friendly relations between France and Japan which was cordially reciprocated by the chief Ambassador.

NEW YORK, 27.

The heaviest storm of the season thus far occurred yesterday, blocking up and delaying travel in every direction.

Gold closed at 112 1-8.

NEW YORK, 27—p.m.

The snow storm which cleared up this morning has rarely been excelled in severity. Railroad travel is impeded in all directions.

Several vessels were wrecked on the coast, among them the ship "Peruvian" for Boston with a valuable cargo went ashore last night off Nantucket and became a total wreck. All hands were drowned.

The barque "Kodashalso" from the East Indies, for Boston, went ashore off Boston Bay. The captian and six men were drowned.

Other but less serious disasters are reported.

By the falling of a floor of a church at Williamsport, Pa., 14 persons were killed and nearly 50 wounded. Some fatally.

Gold 112 1-5.

Cable advices unimportant.

NEWS ITEMS.

—:o:—

A Wurtemburg gunsmith has invented for the Prussian Government a new rifle that fires 26 shots per minute a distance of 1200 yards.

A Minnesota man undertook to kill his old rooster and chopped his own wrist off, while chanticleer still survives to call him in the morning.

AN Iowa lady has invented a boiler attachment for cooking and washing. It is not an unusual thing for some kinds of attachments to get people into hot water.

THIRTY millions of dollars are spent annually in Louisiana for liquor—an average of $37 for every man, woman and child in the State.

A CHINESE tea clipper, on her way to London was lately lost, and 1,000,000 pounds of the precious drug went to the bottom of the sea.

A Pierceton, Ind., epicure ate a hearty meal the other day and then took an after dinner nap of 114 hours. He felt somewhat hungry on waking up but no other unpleasant symptoms resulted.

ONCE upon a time they were witty. At a friendly gathering at Holland House the conversation turned on love. Tom Moore compared it to a potato, because it shoots from the eyes." "Or rather," exclaimed Byron, 'because it becomes less by paring."

A New York business man stepped in at an opening as he was returning home the other day, and purchased his wife $6,400 worth of dress goods. As the cold weather is coming on this was thoughtful in him,

HERE is a good business-like epitaph: "Here lies Jane Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument was erected by her husband as a tribute to her memory, and a specimen of his work. Monuments of the same style, $250.

A YOUNG Georgia lady, whose parents shut her up to keep her away from an obnoxious lover. jumped from a second story window into the arms of her betrothed, who carried her off and married her in the teeth of her enraged papa.

THE officers of the British ship Ganges recently gave a concert at Redruth, near Falmouth and one of their number a gunnery instructor named Boynes, died on the stage, in full sight of the audience, just after singing a comic song.

SOMEBODY has recently invented a valuable trunk. It is made with an outside covering of cast iron, lined with nitro-glycerine, and when it is thrown from a railroad car or a baggage wagon this outside covering is tore to pieces and the baggage smasher is blown into very small fragments.

SOME of the Early English Bibles, as Mr. Disræli states, contain as many as six thousand errata, which were intentional, consisting of passages interpolated and meanings forged for sectarian purposes, sometimes to sanction the new creed of a half-hatched sect and sometimes with the intention to destroy all Scriptural authority by the suppression or omission of texts.

THEY have a man in Kentucky seventy-eight years of age who never had the backache or a pain, never swore an oath, never took but one chew of tobacco in his life, gets into conniption fits at the bare smell of Bourbon whisky, and "has been a farmer and bricklayer all his life." He must have commenced the farming business in the dairy line.

Paul B. du Chaillu has just returned from his explorations in Sweden and Norway, where he has been contemplating the midnight sun and the grand, natural scenery of Scandinivia, as well as studying the character and habits of the interesting people of that region. He has numerous beautiful photographs of the most remarkable objects of interest and alarge amount of matter for his book and lectures. He proposes to return to Sweden and Norway again this Winter in order to complete his studies amid the Arctic regions of those countries. This intrepid explorer of the extreme latitudes of Equatorial Africa and Scandinavia will do thoroughly whatever he undertakes.

The report of the death of Eliza Cook, the poetess, is contradicted. She lives at Wimbledon, and is in good health. The lady of the same name who is dead was a resident of Deptford, and was not an authoress.