The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 1, 1850.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY falling on Tuesday, and in order to give the hands connected with the office the customary holiday, we have taken the liberty of deferring the publication of the Observer till Wednesday morning, in which we respectfully solicit the indulgence of our readers.

We wish our patrons and friends a happy New Year,—and hope they may enjoy health, happiness and prosperity throughout its course.

The Weather to-day is splendid for the opening of the New Year—the sun clear and bright, air sharp and bracing, sleighing excellent—and the legges are enjoying themselves right merrily, in various ways. A large portion, however, are engaged either in calling on, or receiving the usual calls of friends, and in reciprocating congratulations and good wishes at this joyous season.

☞ The Anniversary Meeting of the BIBLE SOCIETY will be held on Friday evening next, 4th January, at the Mechanics' Institute, at half-past six o'clock, as advertised in another column. A number of highly interesting speeches, by talented gentlemen, may be expected.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—There will be no lecture this week.—On Monday evening next, the 7th January, the Rev. Mr. Wishart will lecture on "Invention."

☞ Notice has been received by the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws at this Port, from the Honorable Commissioners of Customs, directing him not to clear vessels between 1st. Sept. and 1st May, with Timber, Deals, or any other cargo on deck, whether covered with hatches or not.—Notice has also been received that no deduction from the measurement of the vessel will be made for accommodation for *Men, Galley, Windlass Fittings*, or *Boats' Berths*, if put upon the main deck.

Custom House, St. John, N. B., 31st Dec., 1849.

The fine new ship *Tippoo Sath*, of 1020 tons, owned by Mr. James Smith, which sailed on Friday afternoon 21st Dec. for Liverpool, encountered the gale of the 22d in the mouth of the Bay, and was struck by a heavy sea, which threw her on her beam ends, in which situation she remained for some time, but finally righted, and returned to port Tuesday night last, with ten feet water in her hold. She has since been pumped out, and grounded to ascertain the extent of damage, which, however, is not supposed to be material.—Colonel Ormond and family, and Mr. Jas T. Smith, son of the owner, were passengers in the *Tippoo Sath*.

N. B. The *Tippoo Sath* is again afloat, all right, and ready for sea.

The gale of the 22d ult, is stated to have been the most severe experienced at Halifax for the last ten years. Several vessel's were injured at the wharves, and some damage done on the land.

The barque Sarah, of Yarmouth, rescued the passengers, 330 in number, and crew of the American ship Caleb Grimshaw, *burnt* at sea, 20th November. The Sarah put into Fayal, and would proceed with them to New-York.—One report says that 100 were lost.

By Telegraph.—Freights at New-Orleans, 28th Dec. in Br. ships, 13-32d. for cotton, 9d. for corn.

The steamship *Empire City* arrived at New-York on Tuesday last, from Chagres, with dates from California to the 16th Nov.—Lumber was reported scarce at San Francisco, advancing. She brought 250 passengers, and $500,000 in gold dust. Carpenters wages were $16 a-day at San Francisco. Gold continued as plentiful as ever.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.—Thursday being St. John's Day, the *Brethren in this City joined in* partaking of a substantial Supper at the Saint John Hotel. About fifty were present, with a number of highly respectable guests, who did much honour to the ancient Institution. An excellent supper was provided, and Peter's Band enlivened the company with some excellent music.

In Carleton, the Brethren of the Union Lodge had a capital supper provided for them by brother Coram. They enjoyed themselves in friendly intercourse during the evening and separated in "harmony," much pleased with the entertainment furnished them.—*Chronicle*.

FREDERICTON.—The Masonic Fraternity of Solomon's Lodge in this City, gave a splendid Ball last night at the Albion Hotel. The room which we visited yesterday, was most tastefully adorned with green festoons and emblems of the order, and several fine transparencies, executed by Mr. Grant, of the Crown Land Office, and Mr. James McGrigor Allan, did much credit not only to the Artists, but to the occasion for which they were designed. Apart from the *emblems* already alluded to, all the decorations indicated the British feelings which originated their introduction. Victorias, Crown, Lions, and Roses, were intermingled with the mystic symbols of Masonry; and we have been informed that the Festive and Musical character of the entertainment was admirably sustained. The Room was crowded, and the party at last accounts doubtless wondering that at the special season of the year, the nights are so short.—[Fredericton Reporter, Dec. 28.

SUICIDE.—A private of the 1st Royal Regiment, named Merrigan, committed suicide on Thursday morning at the Barracks, about one o'clock, by blowing his brains out with a musket. It seems that he had been confined to the Barracks, by orders, for a week, and not being able to get out on Christmas day to join the company of a *particular friend*, he took it so to heart that it prey'd upon his mind until it resulted in temporary aberration, which led to the awful cata-trophe. He had always borne an unblemished character.—*Mess.*

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Thursday night, we are informed, Thomas McCallum lost his life in the neighbourhood of Musquash by the capsizing of his sled on the ice, while having some moveables to his house, near McGowan's.—The wife of the deceased was on the sled at the time, and got off without injury; but being unable, alone, to relieve her husband, ran back about half a mile for assistance, upon the arrival of which he was found dead.—[Charlotte Gaz.

FIRE.—We are sorry to state that the dwelling house owned and occupied by Mrs. Sutton, situate in Nelson, was totally destroyed by fire, on the evening of Thursday last, together with the greater part of the furniture, clothes, &c. of the family.—[Miramichi Gleaner.

THE NAVY.—H. M. steam surveying vessel *Columbia*, Commander Shortland, is at present laid up for the winter at this Dockyard. She is alongside the jetty, housed over a la Parry, and her officers and men are as comfortable in their winter quarters, as "Hearts of Oak" could possibly wish to be.—*Nova Scotian*.

The gale of Saturday 22d ult. was violent on Long Island Sound during a great part of the day, with a mixture of rain and snow. At New York it began in the morning with a heavy rain from the north-east, and changed to a gale from the south-west, and subsequently to the north-west. The tides were unusually high, and many of the piers were flooded. A new brick house was blown down in Hamilton avenue, and also a new brick house in Brooklyn, and some other damage was done in both cities.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Cass offered a resolution to inquire into the expediency of suspending diplomatic relations with Austria.

U. S. CONGRESS.—The Whigs are sorely mortified at the result of the choice of a Speaker. They admit that Mr. Cobb is an able, upright gentleman, but dislike him chiefly on account of his being an anti-protectionist.

A few days ago a violent debate was raised and kept up the whole day, in the Senate, on a resolution to admit Father Mathew, as a mark of esteem and courtesy, to the floor of the Senate. One objection on the ground that Father Mathew had expressed himself hostile to Slavery, and had never retracted; but another followed who thought Father Mathew had done great mischief by taking ground against having a liberty. And at last, the question was settled for awhile by postponing the consideration of it.—*Halifax Paper*.

ENGLISH MAIL.

The English Mail of the 15th Dec., per steamship *Cambria*, in 12½ days to Halifax, was received in this City on Sunday evening. The Cambria brought out 80 passengers, one for Halifax.

The most important news is the demise of the Queen Dowager, who expired on the 2d instant. By Queen Adelaide's death, an annual pension of £100,000 will cease. She gave instructions relative to her funeral, which were remarkable for humility and simplicity.

Three Bank Indiamen have lately been lost. The aggregate amount is £50,000.

Money is very abundant. The bullion in the Bank of England exceeds sixteen and a half millions, sterling. Specie continues to arrive, particularly gold, in large quantities. The Share Market has worn a declining aspect since our last.

GOLD.—It is said that the Directors of the Bank of England, alarmed at the prospect of large importations of gold from abroad, have resolved to apply to Parliament in the coming session for a repeal of the Act which renders it obligatory on them to buy all the gold which may be offered to them at £3, 17s. 10½d. per ounce.

COMMERCIAL.—Commercial affairs continue in a quiet, but steady position.—Our Cotton market, with a more general demand, and a decreased desire to sell on the part of holders, exhibited an advancing tendency upon its opening this week. Buyers consequently found a more limited choice, and were compelled to pay an advance of *one eighth of a penny* per lb. on American upon the quotations of Friday last. Since the arrival, however, of the "America," on Wednesday, with continued favourable accounts for buyers, the market, notwithstanding the favourable advices from Manchester, has again paused. Holders have shown more disposition to realise, and, as the purchases of the trade are individually on a small scale, the advance of Monday is barely maintained. The quotations for the middle and lower qualities of America are, however, generally raised 1-8d per lb, whilst the better qualities, although rather dearer, remain as last week. No change in other kinds. The week's sales are 32,630 bales.

FLOUR MARKET.—In the Grain trade there has been little activity, but holders are, for the most part, firm. At Liverpool the best Western Canal Flour is now quoted at 23s. to 24s.; New Orleans and Ohio, 24s. to 26s. Indian Corn realises 14s. to 14s. 6d. for white and yellow.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.—Two cargoes of Yellow Pine, 17 to 18½ inches, at 17½d. and 16½d.; one cargo, 19½ inch, at 18d. per foot, with a considerable allowance off; Birch, 13d per foot; Deals, with cargo, £5 to £6; Spruce Deals, £7 2s. 6d. to £8. per standard; Lathwood, 38s. per fathom.

The Express in advance of the Overland Mail from India arrived on the 7th. Dates from Bombay to the 3d Nov., and from Calcutta to the 25th October. The whole of India was peaceable. All the Sikh chiefs implicated with Shere Singh have been captured.

DEATH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DOWAGER.—The public will learn with regret that Queen Adelaide—whose piety and benevolence have endeared her to all classes of the community, from the day of her arrival in this country—expired on Sunday morning, Dec. 24, at seven minutes to two o'clock, surrounded by a number of her relatives, her chaplains, and personal friends.

A London *Gazette Extraordinary* was published, containing the melancholy announcement in the following terms:—

"WHITEHALL, Dec. 2, 1849.—This morning, at seven minutes before two o'clock, her Majesty the Queen Dowager departed this life at Stanmore Priory, to the great grief of her Majesty and of all the Royal Family, after a painful and protracted illness, which she bore with exemplary fortitude and resignation.

"The loss of this most excellent Princess will be deeply mourned by all classes of her Majesty's subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection."

The Queen and Prince Albert paid their last visit to the Dowager Queen on the 23d ult., before leaving for Osborne, and during last week her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent twice visited the illustrious Queen. During the last week the bulletins issued by her Majesty's physicians denoted that little, if any, hope remained of her prolonged existence, and on Friday, her condition excited the greatest alarm. On the forenoon of that day a distressing change took place, and the immediate relations of her Majesty were hastily summoned to her chamber. Her Majesty, however, rallied, and on the following morning (Saturday) was apparently more cheerful. At seven o'clock in the evening, another serious change took place, which denoted beyond any doubt the approach of death. After this her Majesty never rallied, went off in a calm slumber, and, after a feeble cough, which occasioned the bursting of one of the vessels of the lungs, her Majesty expired at precisely seven minutes before two o'clock.

The great bell of St. Paul's, as is customary on the demise of a member of the Royal Family, tolled soon after the news was received in the City.

A deep gloom was cast over the village of Stanmore on Sunday from the mournful death of her Majesty, whose liberal charities to the poor of that district, as well as her natural unostentatious deportment to her less elevated fellow creatures, had rendered her deeply beloved by all classes of the inhabitants.

The deceased Queen Dowager, Adelaide Louisa Theresa Caroline Amelia, was the eldest daughter of George Frederick Charles, the late reigning Duke of Saxe Meiningen, and the Princess Louisa Eleanor, daughter of Christian Albert, Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg. She was born on the 13th of August, 1792, and was married to the Duke of Clarence, (afterwards William IV.,) in London, on the 13th of July, 1818. On the 26th June, 1830, she became Queen of England; and on the 20th of June, 1837, Queen Adelaide became a widow.—The Queen Dowager and issue two daughters—the Princess Charlotte Augusta Louisa, born and died 27th March, 1819, and the Princess Elizabeth Georgiana Adelaide, born 20th December, 1820, and died March 4th, 1821.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER.—Monday, in consequence of the lamented demise of her late Majesty the Queen Dowager, most of the shops throughout every portion of the metropolis were partially closed, particularly in the City, where the closing was general, in compliance with the notice issued by the Lord Mayor, informing the citizens of the melancholy event. In the royal parishes of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, the royal standard was hoisted half-staff high, and in all the parishes both in town and its environs the bells of the church-es were tolled during the morning and evening. The ships and other vessels on the river also exhibited their ensigns and flags of different nations half mast high, as a mark of respect to the deceased illustrious lady.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S FUNERAL.—The funeral of the deceased lady took place on Thursday the 13th. Three mourning co-ches, a hearse, nearly free from ornament, and a guard of honour to escort and clear the way for it, left the priory at an early hour.—Leaving Uxbridge at a tolerable pace, the funeral passed with increased speed through Upton to Slough, having been joined by several vehicles in the rear of the escort on its way.—Shortly before 12 the procession reached Slough, where it was met by the Queen's carriages, containing the Duke of Norfolk, and various members of Queen Victoria's household. Many carriages joined the procession as it proceeded, but these were stopped at Windsor bridge by the police.

About five minutes before one o'clock the carriages having entered the Castle of Henry VIII's Gate, drew up at St. George's Chapel. The ten sailors, who, by the desire of the deceased lady, were to bear the coffin, were dressed in their dark blue jackets and trousers, white shirts with light blue collars, and black neckerchiefs. About half-past 12, the Duke of Wellington and the Marquis of Lansdowne made their appearance in the choir; each of them went to the stall belonging to him as Knight of the Garter, and took his seat under his banner.

A little later the Duke of Norfolk, Hereditary Earl Marshal, and the Marquis of Abercorn, Groom of the Stole to Prince Albert, also took their seats in the stalls. Lord J. Russell, who had previously come into the choir, having no special seat, entered into conversation with the Marquis of Lansdowne, and both of them retired for a while to Cardinal Wolsey's Chapel, which had been fitted up as a reception-room, and was well warmed. The Duke of Wellington sat still in his place, apparently in deep meditation. The funeral service was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Queen Adelaide's coffin was placed by the side of her royal husband, William IV., both of them resting on a long stone platform, about 18 inches high and 5 or 6 feet broad, erected on the middle of the floor of the vault.

The first coffin is of the finest Spanish Mahogany highly polished, lined and wadded with the richest white satin. There are three other coffins, including the leaden one.

Orders have been issued for a Court and general mourning for Her late Majesty the Queen Dowager.

Abandonment of Canada as a British Colony.—Frequent and prolonged have been the meetings of the Cabinet during the last ten days, and various the summons as the weighty affairs of state which have so pertentously occupied their attention. We have, however, reasons for boldly announcing that the question of abandoning Canada as a British Colony has been the most absorbing topic, and we learn, from authority in which we are apt to place firm reliance, that it has been all but determined to give up Canada as a dependency to the English Crown.—*United Service Gazette.*

REPEAL OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.—We are very sorry to hear that several of the ship owners of Brixham have ordered their vessels home to be laid up, in consequence of the present depressed state of the shipping interest, and there being so many for, on vessels waiting in the different English ports for the results which January, 1850, will produce to the detriment of British shipping. In this town it must be severely felt, as it will be the means of depriving many of the means of employment, who must, with their families, fall back on parochial aid for a scanty subsistence.—*Bristol Journal.*

THE NICARAGUAN CONTROVERSY.—We have already entered at considerable length upon the views taken by the British Government, or rather by Lord Palmerston, with reference to the rights of the state of Nicaragua and the independence of the Mosquito coast. But though Lord Palmerston has expressed his opinion on the subject with great decision and has distinctly intimated that "Her Majesty's Government must support and maintain the right of the King of Mosquito to the port of St. John," we have not yet arrived at the same clear and peremptory conviction on the subject as the Foreign Minister, and we shall be glad to learn by what additional evidence, and by what reasoning he intends to support the position to which he has pledged the honor of the Government of this country. Lord Palmerston has often exhibited to the world a predilection for inaccurate statements and untenable arguments, but we are not disposed to accept his decision on a point of this importance without fuller consideration; for the interest he may suppose us to have in the river of San Juan de Nicaragua is immeasurably surpassed by the interest of remaining at peace with the United States, by leading our capitalists and encouragement to the project of the canal. On this Nicaraguan question, Lord Palmerston is bound to produce far more cogent evidence than he has yet adduced for the necessity and justice of his interference; and whatever reliance he may place on the qualities of honour and assurance, those are weapons in which it is not easy to surpass such antagonists as the politicians of the United States, when they find it their interest to rouse the passions or prejudices of their democratic constituents. We foresee, therefore, that the tone in which Sir Henry Bulwer will enter upon his duties and his negotiations in Washington, will not be the same in which Mr. Chatfield addressed the Nicaraguan Government; and after having advanced with extravagant eagerness certain untenable positions which rest, at most, on debateable authority, Lord Palmerston will probably reconsider the question. It would be to the last degree absurd and disgraceful if the injudicious proceedings of a few wrong-headed individuals could hatch a serious quarrel out of a matter in which the interests of England and the United States, and of all the world are pleasingly the same. If the canal of Nicaragua can be established so much the better for all mankind. It will be opened, the complete and perpetual neutrality of [illegible] and for the purpose he line of communication ought to be in the hands not of a great belligerent Power, but of a small state whose independence and prosperity should be inseparably united to the freedom of this communication as guaranteed and respected by all Powers. The subject is one which admits of no just settlement but by a reasonable [illegible] the creditable to the [illegible]

The Anniversary of the Scottish Hospital, held on Friday week—St. Andrew's Day—was distinguished by the presence of Mr. Abbott Lawrence, the American Minister. Admiral Sir Charles Napier presided, and proposed Mr. Lawrence's health in terms of international compliment. Mr. Lawrence replied with much warmth of feeling towards this country—the country which contains the ashes of his ancestral kith and kin. Sir Charles Napier, in proposing the health of a railway, and a great canal across the Isthmus of Panama, Mr. Lawrence made this declaration:—"I beg to say that the United States ask for no exclusive privileges in either of those schemes. We will ask this country to subscribe with ourselves for these great improvements. We will ask Great Britain to join with us in guaranteeing a neutrality of these great highways. We ask no exclusive privileges, and we don't mean to grant any. These territories should be open to all the world. So far as the United States are concerned they should be dedicated to the benefit of mankind all over the world."—*London paper.*

GOLD AND THE PUBLIC FUNDS.—It is rumoured in well informed circles, that negotiations are now pending between the Government and the Bank of England for the reduction of the standard value of gold from £3 17s. 10d. to £3 12s. per ounce.—This important monetary regulation will, it is also said, be immediately followed by a reduction of interest on Bank Annuities.—*The Reporter for Dec.*

THE NAVY.—The Investigator and Encounter, Sir James Ross' Discovery Ships, have been paid off at Woolwich. We notice that the Officers of the Royal Artillery, at that Arsenal, entertained those of the Discovery Ships at dinner. And it is described as having been a most interesting feature in the evening's entertainment, that when the health of the Arctic voyagers was drank, their gallant entertainers rose, and accompanied by the celebrated Band of the Royal Artillery, chaunted with thrilling effect: "Ye Mariners of England who guard our native shores." It is understood that these vessels will be recommissioned in the ensuing spring—again to prosecute their researches in the frozen regions, and that no efforts will be spared to discover, if possible, Sir John Franklin and his missing companions. Indeed, it is highly probable that all the Maritime States of Europe and America will simultaneously fit out expeditions for this most praiseworthy object.

THE FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The Arctic officers have just been summoned to the Admiralty to offer their joint advice as to the course which it seems most proper to pursue under the present condition of things with reference to the fate of Sir John Franklin. Great stress is laid on the fact, that no trace of a wreck, or of any misfortune to the expedition, is found on any part of the path which they must have passed. For ourselves we think this argument tells both ways. We rejoice to know, however, that the search after the missing adventurers is to be renewed. The Enterprise and Investigator are to be immediately re-equipped and despatched at once to the Sandwich Islands—there to await further orders. From this it will be seen that the route by Behring's Straits is to be explored, and the westward coasts of Banks' and Perry's Islands will, we presume, be carefully examined.—*Athenæum.*

Sir Edward Belcher is about to be despatched in search of Sir John Franklin. He is to search to the westward of the region examined by Sir James Ross.

Sir Charles Napier is of opinion that Sir John Franklin is lost, and condemns the idea of seeking a north west passage.

NEW HOSPITAL AT GREENOCK.—The legatees of the late Sir Gabriel Wood have handed over to trustees the magnificent sum of £38,000 3 per cent. consols, to carry out the wish of the deceased gentleman, for the erection and endowment of an hospital in this town for the residence and maintenance of old and decayed shipmasters belonging to Greenock, his native place, and neighbouring ports. A beautiful site on the farm of Dunns, in the vicinity of Boyone Hill, has been selected for the edifice, which will be a very imposing building, costing £10,000, the design of Mr. Macintosh of London. Lady Wood, a legatee and trustee, is at present in North America; but we believe measures are in progress to allow the erection to be commenced early in spring.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

BAPTIST NOEL AND HIS NEW CONGREGATION.—On Friday evening the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel officiated in London for the first time at the "founding" since his connexion with the Baptist Church, in John's Chapel, Bedford Row, of which he is now the recognised pastor. Mr. Evans, the late minister, having been given up by his medical attendants as past all recovery. Upon this occasion the number baptized or immersed was seven, viz., six females and one male, all of whom were members of his congregation when a minister of the Church of England. This number, however, is merely a portion of those who have left Bedford Chapel to join him in his new state; some seventy or eighty have seceded from the church to become Baptists and members of John's Chapel.—Mr. Evans has since died.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The Eurydice corvette, which arrived at [illegible]mouth on Friday evening, has brought accounts from the Cape of Good Hope to the 12th of Oct. In consequence of the determination of the colonists to resist the reception of the convicts brought out in the Neptune, all the shops continued closed against supplying either the army or navy, and in order to meet the emergency the governor was compelled to seize bullocks while engaged drawing waggons, and to employ forced measures to secure other provisions. A stipulated price was paid for the captured cattle, which were then grazed on land belonging to the Government, and from the insufficient supply the forces on shore and at sea were so far furnished. The Neptune continued at the Cape; her surgeon having died, Mr. Thomas Gibson, surgeon of the Eurydice, had taken medical charge of the convicts. Although no violence had occurred previous to the departure of the Eurydice, the ferment was at its height. The colonists had declared that they would not supply the naval service with anything whilst the Neptune was in the bay.—The governor had replied that he had made every concession in his power, and would not submit to threats.—The governor was acting with his executive council, and had forwarded a letter of explanation and temperate remonstrance to the association. There were ample supplies for the naval service in the store at Cape Town.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The resistance offered by the English, Dutch, and Hottentot population of the Cape of Good Hope to the Home Government has been successful. The convicts, chiefly Irishmen, convicted of trivial offences during the late famine, or for being engaged in the insurrectionary movement, and who had obtained tickets of leave for their previous good conduct at Bermuda, are now to be sent to Australia.

RAILWAY COMPANIES WINDING UP.—Fifty-seven railway companies are now winding up before the Masters in Chancery. The number of other undertakings winding up is 39, comprising five mines, four banks, four insurance, five steam, two iron, and ten miscellaneous companies.

CHINESE IRON.—The vessel Mencius, arrived at the port of Liverpool, from Hong Kong, has brought 2990 pigs of iron as a portion of her cargo, consigned to a firm of eminence. This is a very interesting importation from the Chinese empire.

The proprietor of one of the Manchester mills, now a baronet, and who has recently put machinery into the mill which cost £70,000, was formerly a working man, earning his thirty shillings a week.

A bequest of £10,000 for the erection of a Working Man's Hall, in the metropolis, has just been made by a Mr Jenkins. The building is to be for the free use of working men of all denominations, under the control of twelve directors.

MR JAMES RICHARDSON, THE AFRICAN TRAVELLER, is about to set out for the interior of Africa, under the auspices of her Majesty's Government. It is said that it will be part of his object to induce the chiefs and authorities of the Sahara and Soudan to enter into relations of commerce and amity with this country, and to abandon the internal slave trade. He will be accompanied by two Prussian *savans*, who have it in charge to draw up a scientific report for the British Government.

Lord Chief Justice Denman, it is said, will retire shortly from the Bench, owing to ill health, and that [illegible] Lord Chief Baron Pollock will succeed him. Lord Grey, in such case, to be Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

A Commission of Lunacy has lately returned that Augustus Frederic Earl of Albermarle, Viscount Bury and Baron Ashford, is and has been of unsound mind since 23d July last, and incapable of managing himself or his affairs.

We have to record the death of Mr. Brunell, the celebrated Civil Engineer who constructed the Thames Tunnel, and whose name will live to all posterity.

A correspondent of the *Sun* states that Ebenezer Elliott, the "Corn Law Rhymer," died on the 1st inst., at his residence, Argill Hall, near Barnsley.

The Duke of Portland, in addition to his numerous acts of kindness to his tenantry on the extensive ducal estates, has, at his recent audit, made a considerable reduction in the rents of his tenants in consideration of the low price and general depression of all descriptions of agricultural produce.

The Austro-Russian difficulties appear to be vanquishing, and the diplomacy of those powers wear a more pacific appearance.

GALVANIC ACTION.—The Admiralty have issued orders to all the dockyards, that in future iron vessels alongside or in proximity to vessels that are coppered shall be removed, in consequence of the galvanic action likely to arise.

SHIP BUILDING.—To build a single 120 gun ship requires the timber of 75 acres and of a century's growth; to build a frigate it would take nearly half as much; and for the construction of even one of those revenue vessels which are seen off every sea port, there are needed no fewer than 180 oak trees, each of which must have been growing ever since the battle of Culloden.—*English paper.*

The new French plenipotentiary at Rome, General Bareguy d'Hilliers, seems bent on bringing the affairs of the Pope to a termination one way or other. He is said to have expressed himself to the effect, soon after his arrival at Rome, that if the Pope would not return to his capital, he would take the reins of government into his own hands.

HANDSOME MARRIAGE PRESENT.—On the marriage last week of the second daughter of Baron Anselm von Rothschild, of Frankfort, with Baron Willy von Rothschild, of Naples, the sum of one million of florins (£83,000) is said to have been presented to the youthful pair by Baron Amschel von Rothschild, the head of the great Frankfort firm.—The ceremony was performed under a strict observance of the old Jewish ritual, baron Willy being a devoted Hebrew.—*Morning Chronicle.*

JENNY LIND.—This peerless singer is at present staying at Hamburgh, where, by the request of the Directors of the City Theatre, she took a part in the performance of Haydn's Creation. Although the ordinary prices of admission were doubled on that occasion, the house was crowded to excess, and no less than 500 people had to be accommodated with places on the stage. The King of Prussia has sent an autograph letter to Jenny Lind, inviting her to come to Berlin in order to sing at a private concert, to be given at the palace, in honour of the Queen's name-day.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE.—The Vienna journals announce the death of Prince Hohenlohe, who was rendered so famous some years since by the miracles he was alleged to have performed. The deceased was Bishop of Sardica and Grand Provost of Grosswardein, and died in his fifty-fifth year.

IRISH COAL.—Coal of a very superior quality is now being raised from pits adjacent to the Arigna Mine, Roscommon. This fact affords another proof of the mineral riches which lie dormant in this neglected island, which so abundantly possesses within itself all the elements of national prosperity.—*Evening Packet.*

For many years between 2600 and 3000 pigs were, on an average, imported from Ireland to Bristol weekly. For a long period, judging from the official lists, hardly a single pig has been taken to Bristol! Free trade is annihilating the provision or staple trade of Ireland.

The late storm at Belfast has destroyed all traces of the Pavilion which was erected when her Majesty first visited the northern metropolis of Ireland.

By an explosion in the flax-spinning factory of Messrs. Thompson, of Belfast, four persons were killed, and ten other persons were grievously injured.

A document is now circulating, at the instance of the Earl of Glengall and other peers, in the shape of a petition to the Queen, praying for protection to the agricultural interests of Ireland.

IN ORANGE circles it is stated that early in the session (which it is said will commence in the latter end of January), a motion will be submitted in the House of Lords for a select committee to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the affray at Dolly's Brae, the dismissal of Lord Roden, and the 'Orange armament.' Meantime all possible exertion is made to swell the list of signatures to what is termed 'the National Address to Lord Roden.' It is boasted that this document has been signed by 30 peers, a considerable number of members of the House of Commons, nearly 450 deputy-lieutenants and magistrates, and a numerous body of clergymen and other persons.

FRANCE.—The anniversary of the election of the President of the French Republic has passed over in profound tranquility, and with much apparent satisfaction to the people. There was a grand banquet and ball in the evening at the Hotel de Ville. Every foreign country was represented there by its official authorities.

In Paris all remains quiet, and the President seems to be strengthening his hold upon the sympathies of the French Nation. The Prefect of the Seine had given a splendid Banquet to the President, which was followed by a great Ball, to which 6,000 persons were invited. The subject of the national observance of Sunday had occupied the attention of the Assembly, and met a favourable reception.

LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.—The *Corsaire* has the following:—"The following incident is related *apropos* of the reception of the President of the Republic on Thursday night:—At the moment when M. Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte was waltzing with Lady Stanley, he was informed that Count Mole, whom he had not seen for some time, had just entered. The President excused himself for a moment to his partner, and interrupted the waltz to shake hands with M. Mole. M. de Montalembert enjoyed a similar honour."

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S POLICY.—It has been stated in Paris that Louis Philippe has warmly eulogised Louis Napoleon's policy. "This last touch," says *La Liberte*, "was wanting for the full glory of the President."

M. GUIZOT is once more in Paris, and has appeared at a diplomatic reception.

M. George Washington de Lafayette, son of the celebrated General of the same name, and godson of Washington, died last week at his chateau at Lagrange, near Paris.

The French army in Algiers have, it seems, been guilty of more butchery of the miserable Arabs. A whole garrison were murdered, without even a cry for quarters, defending the City of Zaatcha, and the heads of the Chief Officers were impaled before the French Camp.

RUSSIA AND THE "PORTE."—A sinister report has been revived this week that Russia insists on the removal of Bem and the other renegades from the frontier, on their being excluded from active service, and to be kept and guarded as state prisoners. The Porte pleads that they have embraced the Mahomedan faith, and that the Sultan has exclusive jurisdiction over them. Count Titoff further demands that Kossuth and the Polish refugees shall not only be removed, but "expelled," and this to be declared officially. The Turkish minister deems these demands inadmissible; the notes which have passed have been sent to St. Petersburgh, and once more there appears to be an interruption in the diplomatic relations between the Porte and Russia.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The House of Representatives having chosen a Speaker on the 22d ult., the President transmitted his Message to Congress on Monday the 24th. The following abstract of the document was telegraphed to the Boston papers:

"The President congratulates the country that we are at peace with all nations, that we have been greatly blessed by Providence, and that the scourge, cholera, has been staid. Our relations with Great Britain are of a friendly character.—The recent alteration in the navigation laws by Great Britain, and reciprocated in by us, are likely to prove materially advantageous. A slight interruption in the diplomatic relations with France have been terminated. Our minister had been received in that country, and one had been appointed to this government. The suppression of the expedition against Cuba is slightly alluded to.—The President studiously avoided interference during the conflict between Austria and Hungary. He stood prepared in case of success on the part of the Hungarians to welcome them among the family of nations.—He invested an agent with power to recognise their independence should circumstances justify it.

Our claims upon Portugal have been pressed with renewed vigor. During the late revolution at Rome our charge had been unable to present his letters of credence. The President recommends the cultivation of friendly relations with Mexico, and the faithful observance of treaties.—He recommends close relations of friendship with South American states bordering on the Pacific. A convention had been negociated with Brazil providing for the settlement of American claims. Calls attention to existing laws concerning the African slave trade, with a view to its more effectual faithful execution.

The President recommends a revision of the existing tariff on a basis which shall augment the revenue, and does not doubt the right of Congress to encourage domestic industry; he thinks specific duties best adapted to prevent fraud; recommends duties high enough to protect home industry. The duties high enough to protect home industry. The applications of California for admission into the Union, should receive the favourable consideration of congress. A coast survey has been ordered for California and Oregon, to fix upon proper locations for light houses.

A contract having been made with Nicaragua by a company composed of Americans, for the purpose of a ship canal, the President has directed negotiations for the purpose of forming a treaty with Nicaragua pledging both governments to protect those who shall engage in the work.—Nicaragua had invited other nations to enter into the same treaty stipulations. He thinks the canal may be made the bond of peace; thinks the Isthmus and Tehuantepec routes worthy of consideration, and though Mexico did not concede the right to us, yet he will not renew the proposition to purchase it, as it ought to be open to all.

The President calls attention to the position of the Sandwich Islands and desires that they may maintain their independence, and that other nations should concur, and cannot be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power.

The receipts into the treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th June, forty-eight millions; Treasury notes funded ten millions, making fifty-seven millions; expenditures forty-six millions. Says the treasurer's report will probably show a deficiency in July next of five millions, and first of July 1851 of ten millions, making an aggregate of sixteen millions caused by the extraordinary expenses of the Mexican War. Recommends authority be given to borrow the necessary amount to meet deficiency.

He recommends a branch mint in California; recommends a commission for examining land titles there; also recommends a geological survey.—Recommends an increase of the military force; speaks well of the navy; is favorable to a reduction of postage, except by sea steamers.

The President indulges in general reflections, and above all recommends love of Union in every American heart. Says that dissolution would be the worst of all calamities; its preservation the surest means of prosperity and happiness.—Whatever dangers may threaten it he shall stand by it and maintain it in its integrity to the full extent of the obligations imposed and the power conferred upon him by the constitution.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.—The sugar refinery of Woolsey & Co. on Front street, in New York, between Clinton and Montgomery streets, was destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. It was a large brick building of seven stories. The walls of the building, one by one, fell in causing great alarm to the by-standers. The books of the concern in the safe were rescued.

About $4000 worth of sugar was saved. The loss on the sugar is $200,000—on the machinery $300,000—on the buildings, $50,000—total, estimated, $600,000, only a small portion of which was insured, as the company had lately let a policy of $250,000 on the property run out. Nearly five hundred hands are thrown out of employment by this calamity.

SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—We learn that a letter has been received in this city from Lady Jane Franklin, in which she asks advice and information from the party to whom it is addressed, as to the expediency of her coming over, with a view to the arrangement of an expedition, at her own expense, for the renewal next Spring, of the search for her lost husband. She meditates the purchase and equipment of two small vessels, with which she hopes a more successful result may be obtained than that which has so cruelly disappointed her, under the command of Sir James Ross.—*N. Y. Commercial Adv.*

NAVY YARD AT SAN FRANCISCO.—The Secretary of the Navy designs, it is said an entire equipment for a Navy Yard at San Francisco—frames and other materials for houses, workshops, &c., steam engines, lathes, turning machines, and other machinery for carrying on extensive business.

LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS.—The forty-fourth anniversary of the New-England Society, in commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620, was celebrated at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on the 21st Dec. The house was filled with a large audience, of the New England stamp. The orator of the evening, Rev. Dr. Horace Bushnell, delivered an eloquent address.

DEATH OF WM. MILLER, THE PROPHET.—Mr. Miller, of New Hampton, N. Y., somewhat celebrated for his views respecting the nearness of the advent, died at his house on Thursday, the 20th Dec., in his 68th year.

ARRIVAL OF SIR HENRY BULWER.—Her Majesty's Steamer *Hecate*, with the newly appointed British minister, and Lady Bulwer, and suite, arrived at the Navy Yard at Washington on the 21st ult. via Bermuda.

The character and position of the lately arrived Minister from Great Britain, will be understood from the following memoranda, extracted from the British Peerage of 1849: Right Honorable Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, Privy Councillor, K. C. B., born in 1801; married in 1848, Honorable Georgiana Charlotte Mary, youngest daughter of first Lord Cowley, and niece of the Duke of Wellington: entered the Diplomatic service in 1820; was attached successively to the courts of Berlin, Vienna, and the Hague till 1830; sent to Brussels on a second mission of observation at the revolution in Belgium in 1830; elected member of Parliament for Wilton in the same year; for Coventry from 1831 and 1832; for Marylebone from 1834 till 1847; was Secretary of Legation and Charge d'Affaires at Brussels, in 1835 and 1836; Secretary of Embassy to Constantinople in 1837, where he concluded the commercial treaty of that year; appointed Secretary of Embassy at St. Petersburgh towards the close of 1838, but did not proceed thither, having been appointed Secretary of Embassy at Paris in 1839. In the absence of the Ambassador was thrice gazetted Minister at the court of the Tuileries, including portions of the years 1839 and 1840; was also employed during his residence in Paris in various commissions, commercial, Greek, Portendic, &c. Was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Madrid in 1843, and negotiated the peace between Spain and Morocco in 1844; was dismissed by the Spanish Minister in 1846.—*New-York Express.*

WASHINGTON, December 25.

Reception of the British Minister.—Sir Henry Bulwer was presented to the President by the Secretary of State on the 24th inst., as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain. The Minister in delivering his credentials made the following remarks.—

SIR—I need not say, that it gives me the sincere gratification to be the bearer of the credentials which I have just had the honor of placing in your hands.

I come to a country, Sir, which, from my infancy, I do not feel that I come as a foreigner to a foreign land; our nations speak the same language; spring from the same race, and seem especially entrusted by Providence, with the same glorious