

Telegraphic News.

Montreal Feb. 21.
The last rail of the Canada Southern Railway was laid yesterday. It is the first rail of any length laid throughout with steel; it extends between Niagara and Detroit Rivers.

The Hon. Messrs. DeBoucherville, President of the Council, and Braubien, Commissioner of Crown Lands, have definitively retired from the Quebec Cabinet, and been replaced by the Hon. J. J. Ross, and Dr. Fortin, respectively.

London, Feb. 20.
Bullion in the Bank of England increased £278,000 during the past week. The amount of bullion gone out, Bank on balance today is £10,000. Consols unchanged. Bonds 67 3/4, Erie 5 1/2.

The annual race between the Oxford and Cambridge boat crews is fixed for the 29th March at 3 in the afternoon.

Paris, Feb. 20.
The Republicans had a grand celebration at Saragossa on the 15th inst., the city having been practically delivered into the hands of the people. The monarchical members of the city government resigned, and their places were filled by Republicans, who were immediately installed. All political prisoners were released. The officers of the Artillery resigned and surrendered their batteries to the republicans. The red flag was displayed from the Governor's residence and at other places. In the evening all the public buildings were illuminated.

New York, Feb. 21.
Heavy rain in New York. Thick snow storm accompanied by a strong gale at Boston.

The noon weather report says, during the rest of Friday, the low barometer on the Middle Atlantic Coast will make northwesterly to Cape Cod; that over Lake Ontario will move down the St. Lawrence Valley. North-east winds, with rain and snow will prevail over New England.

New Anesthetic Ethers.

The medical profession will be interested in the recent discovery of two anesthetic ethers by scientific gentlemen of London. The one, a methylene ether, has just been brought out and introduced to the members of the medical profession Dr. Richardson (of St. Andrews), F.R.S., London, well known for his scientific researches. This ether consists of the compound radical ethyl combined with its chloride of methylene. Its boiling point is 84 deg. F. It is lighter than chloroform, those who have experimented with it say it is easier expelled from the system, and does not leave any injurious effects after it. Already in many cases in dental and ophthalmic surgery with success.

The other new ether is of a very peculiar character, and its discoverer is a young but rising chemist—Dr. G. Archibald. It is lighter than any known ether, and there are over two thousand in existence. Its specific gravity is 680, or little over half that of water, and its boiling point is 73 deg. F. The lightest lighter ether known ether, prepared from wood spirit or naphtha, has a specific gravity of 720. The "light ether," as it is called, consists of four atoms of carbon, ten atoms of hydrogen, and one atom of oxygen. Its vapor density, as compared with hydrogen, the standard of unity, is 36. It is, as may be conjectured, an exceedingly light, volatile liquid, and from its inflammable nature, special care is required in its manufacture. The temperature of the human body is sufficient to make it boil violently, and this is easily tested by placing a small quantity on the hand. The effect, as experienced is far from pleasant, as local insensibility is instantaneously produced. The ether is applied outwardly, and an authority in anæsthetics in London, who has tried it, has pronounced highly in its favour. For local anæsthesia it is thought this new ether will be exceedingly useful.—[Scotsman.]

Spiritualism & Humbug.

Before the discussion on spiritualism, says the "Pall Mall Gazette," is confined to the obscurity it deserves, it is worth recording that a very fair chance of proving their assertions was offered to the spiritualists some years ago. In 1855 a number of eminent mediums and clairvoyants were in Dublin, and practiced their arts before all classes with great success. Even Archbishop Whately condescended to minutely examine what was submitted for his consideration, and vainly attempted to find some platform firm enough to bear an argument. Sir Philip Crampton admitted that he was unable to explain the phenomena which his friends assured him they had witnessed, but he possessed a taste to prove the truth of the assertions of the clairvoyants and others, who maintained then, as they maintain still, that they can see where ordinary mortal eyes cannot. Sir Philip Crampton enclosed a bank-note in several envelopes so as to be quite invisible, and presented it to give it to any person who would tell him the number. The only stipulation he made was that all experiments on his envelope were to be carried on in his presence. Several attempts were made, and it need scarcely be said they failed. It was then rumored that the parcel contained no bank note. Sir Philip Crampton thereupon opened it in the presence of witnesses, and exhibited a fifty-pound note, which he restored to his pocket.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT TO TWO PRINCESSES.

—A letter from Vienna says:—"A very serious accident has just happened to two ladies of one of the first families in Austria. The Princesses Sarah and Auerperg, nee Countess Szapary, widow of General Prince Alexander, brother of Prince Adolphus Auerperg, president of the Cis-Leithian Ministry, lives at Preburg with her family. A few days ago her highness and her daughter, the Princess Anna, 20 years of age, were preparing to go to a ball, when the latter let an ornament fall. The femme de-chambre placed a light on the floor to look for it, and the young lady unfortunately turning round without noticing the act, placed her dress in contact with the flame, and set fire to it. The mother rushed forward to assist, but her gown also ignited, and both ladies were speedily enveloped in flames. The injuries of the elder one are extremely grave, her neck and arms being deeply burned, while the wounds of the young princess are comparatively slight. However, her state, although less alarming than that of her mother, is still such as to cause anxiety."

IRELAND TO BE INVADIED!—Some of our Irish contemporaries are holding out the hope to their readers that the Emerald Isle will be peacefully invaded in the course of the coming autumn. The "Freeman's Journal" enthusiastically anticipates "a warlike drama rehearsed upon our shores in the shape of an invasion and defence of Ireland." The meaning of this is that it has been suggested to the War Office to despatch an expedition of 45,000 men, fully equipped for a campaign, from Plymouth, to effect a landing on the Irish coast, where they would be opposed by an army of twenty thousand strong. It is further proposed that the invaders should be allowed to choose their own point of disembarkation, and that the defending force should be left to find out and oppose it as best they might. The autumn manoeuvres would be transferred to Ireland with a vengeance if this scheme were carried into effect.

SAINT ANDREWS, FEB. 20, 1878.
ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.
The "Moscow Gazette," a Russian Government journal, expresses the sentiments of the Russians who take an interest in politics, upon the English protectorate of Afghanistan, in the following language:—"We confess that in our opinion England derives very questionable advantage from her protectorate over Afghanistan. Still we see that it is expedient to subject the Ameer of Cabul to her dictates even more completely than is the case now, would she listen to any remonstrance on our part? And what reply would Russia have received had she ventured to protest against the annexation of the Punjab and the reduction of Candahar? In all probability the English would have laughed us to scorn had we taken any such step without the fixed resolve to go to war in case our demand were rejected; or they would have armed against us had they known us to be bent upon bringing matters to a crisis. And could Russia act differently were she placed in the like dilemma? Could Russia enter into any obligations binding her to remain stationary at any given point on her Asiatic frontiers? Standing upon our rights we confess we are comparatively indifferent to what the English may say or think of our doings. The extension of our influence in Turkistan is, after all, the most natural thing in the world. If our efforts have been lately crowned with success, we have worked long and patiently to bring about this result. We are now reaping the fruit of previous toil, and to renounce this reward of our labor merely to please foreign politicians would be conceding a little too much to extraneous influences. We will reap what we have sown, and to compass this we shall be guided by what has been the ruling principle of English politics in India—the determination to get back two roubles in return for every one invested."

THE HON. EDWARD WILKES.—We heard a few weeks ago, of a probable change in the Liberal Government, and waited to see what the Government papers would say upon the subject, concluding with the words, well—hurra for "the Press." It is needless to say the reference was to Mr. Wilkes. We were aware from conversations, that sooner or later he would be offered the office of a member of the Executive Council, and that in becoming such, he would make no sacrifice of political principles, for although on a few minor points he did not agree with the Government, still in the main he was with them; and as a sincere and able advocate of the School Law, as a loyal citizen he waived these little differences, and lent his support to their School Law, Immigration and Better Terms policy. There can be no impropriety in his joining the Government, he does not do so from pecuniary considerations, as some of those who unkindly comment on his elevation have done, within a few years. We congratulate our contemporary on his being a Member of the Government, and trust that he may be as useful to his constituents at the Council Board, as he has heretofore proved himself at the more exalted post of Minister-in-Chief of the "Daily News."

For the people have no truer, more disinterested or vigilant representative, than a fearless, honest, and able journalist, who defends their interests and denounces their wrongs. If it were not for the press, corruption of the worst description would show itself in high official places, the people's money would be squandered, offices would be multiplied and extravagance indulged in. A journalist who has spent years in writing up a country, advocating and defending its interests as much as the people's representative as a legislator, and doubly so, when he is both a member of the Government and legislative representative, by the popular voice. Mr. Wilkes has won the position he holds, and can afford to pass over the ungenerous remarks of those who cry "sour grapes."

SHALL FOX.—James Arvin was reported last week to the Board of Health. His house has been "isolated" and he is under care of the Health Officer.

Great Public Works.
The "Canadian," the reputed organ of Hon. Mr. Langevin, Minister of Public Works for the Dominion, gives the following statement of the expenditures for our public works:—

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Canadian Pacific RR. | \$50,000,000 |
| Intercolonial RR. | 8,000,000 |
| Northern Colonization RR. | 3,000,000 |
| North Shore RR. | 3,000,000 |
| Ontario & Quebec RR. | 3,000,000 |
| Levis & Kennebec RR. | 2,000,000 |
| St. John & Chamby RR. | 1,000,000 |
| Welland Canal. | 4,000,000 |
| Rooms at Carleton. | 500,000 |
| Grenville Canal. | 400,000 |
| Montreal Post Office. | 200,000 |
| Quebec Court House. | 100,000 |
| Total. | \$105,200,000 |

Such vast expenditures must make the Dominion a lively country for the next ten years. It will be particularly attractive to emigrants who are able and willing to work for their bread. Of course there are many works not included in the above list that will be begun and completed in a few years. The progress of such works will lead to increased activity among our miners, manufacturers, farmers, merchants—all ranks and classes. It is the era of industry and enterprise in the Dominion.

TRIP TRAINS.—The violent storm of Saturday and Sunday, blocked up the railways east and west. The train due here on Saturday evening did not arrive, but Saturday's mail was received via St. Stephen on Monday night about 11 o'clock. We trust that the Superintendent will direct a Snow plough to be left at the terminus at St. Andrews in future, as the want of one has been the cause on some occasions of the line remaining blocked up longer than it would have been.

Two trains arrived last night about 11 o'clock, bringing the mails of Monday and Tuesday. The employees deserve much credit for their successful efforts in forcing their way through the heavy drifts without the aid of a snow plough. The line is now open.

MINISTRIAL CHANGES.—A notice received here from Ottawa confirms the announcement we previously made: The Hon. S. L. Tilley, is Finance Minister, vice Sir F. Hincks resigned. Hon. Dr. Tupper, is Minister of Customs, in the room of Mr. Tilley. This places Mr. Tilley next to Sir John A. Macdonald in the Government. His numerous friends in Charlotte County congratulate him on his appointment.

We sympathize with Mr. Anglin, of the "Freeman," on the loss of his two daughters on Saturday last by death. Maggie, aged 1 year and 3 months, and Mary Ellen, aged 3 years and 10 months, from whooping cough. Truly it was a severe bereavement.

The Steamship "Prussian," of the Allan line, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool on the 17th inst., making the passage in less than nine days. Our young townsman, Mr. Simson, from Messrs. Odell & Turner's establishment was passenger in this steamer.

The St. Andrews "Amateur Bands" Assemblies were brought to a close on last Monday night. The Hall was well filled, the Supper was excellent, and every one was pleased. The entertainment was a complete success, so reports one who was present.

The Hon. B. R. Stevenson and family left here on Monday by train for Fredericton. The Legislative Session will be opened tomorrow, Tuesday.

The Schooner "Charity," Capt. King, has plied regularly once a week between St. Andrews, St. Stephen and St. John during the winter season, with a punctuality equal to a steam vessel. This speaks volumes for the Captain, and has secured to him the bulk of the freight.

SAD.—J. W. Roberts, Esq., C.E., of the Intercolonial Railway, was married on the 14th inst., to Miss Caroline Barberie, third daughter of A. Barberie, Esq., and on the 16th died from consumption, from which he had been suffering.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, or as the St. John papers style it, "the new disease," is by no means a disease of recent date, as it has frequently occurred in Europe at least two hundred years ago. Within the last quarter of a century it has occurred in New York, Pennsylvania and other parts of the United States. It invariably prevails as an epidemic, and between the years 1807 and 1816 was known in New England as the "spotted fever." As the name implies it is an inflammation of the brain and spinal canal, accompanied by a low and typhoid state of the system, tonic contractions of the muscles is a prominent symptom producing appearances analogous to lock jaw. The prevalence of this disease as an epidemic implies the existence of a special cause. With respect to its source and production, we have no positive knowledge. It attacks persons of all conditions and at all periods of life; in a large portion of cases those between twenty and thirty seem to be most liable to its attacks. Few epidemics are so destructive to human life, the proportion of deaths averaging 60 per cent. All who have observed the disease agree that it is not propagated by contagion or infection. Medical authorities are divided in their opinions as to the treatment of this truly appalling disease, so rapid in its course, so fatal in its result. Probably its prevention would embrace the usual sanitary measures relating to individuals and to public health. Practices would dictate whenever practicable, removal from the sphere of the epidemic influence.

BOILER EXPLOSION.—A steam boiler in Murphy & Co's Brush Factory, St. John, exploded on Monday night, killing the acting engineer, Peter Borden, injuring two boys and mortally wounding the fireman, Thomas Murphy. The stock of Messrs. Murphy, and Robinson & Ralston's boot and shoe store were damaged.

THE SUPREME COURT has granted a new trial in the "Smith vs. Lord" case of alleged loss of freight on board steamer "City of St. John," on the ground of improper admission of evidence and verdict against evidence.

Also has granted a new trial in "Jackson vs. McLellan."

The Montreal "Witness" has been libelled in the sum of \$20,000 for saying that Mr. McGibbon "with mistaken generosity, furnished unlimited champagne to the Snow Shoe Club, who entertained the Governor General with a torch light procession to Mr. McGibbon's residence, behind the mountain." The jury will have considerable difficulty in exactly deciding what part of the sentence quoted is libellous.

Contempt of Court in England.

On the 29th of January last the first of two very remarkable cases was enacted in the Court of Queen's Bench at London. The occasion was the arraignment of two members of Parliament on a charge of contempt of court. There were two Judges upon the bench—the Lord Chief Justice of England, and three puisne or associate Justices. The accused parties were Mr. Whalley, M.P., and Mr. Guilford Onslow, M.P., both members of the House of Commons. Their offence consisted in making improper speeches at public meetings recently held in London, with the object of raising money for the defence of the claimant against the charge of perjury growing out of his testimony in the suit by which he sought to recover the Tichborne estates. In these addresses they proclaimed him the victim of a gigantic conspiracy on that trial, to which they implied that the adverse witnesses, the Attorney-General, and the Court itself, were parties. The result was that both gentlemen were unanimously adjudged guilty of a gross and aggravated contempt of court. They were each sentenced to pay a fine of £100 to the Queen. Of course the fines were at once paid, and the honorable gentlemen were allowed to depart. The decision pronounced by Mr. Justice Blackburn on this occasion is a landmark statement of the object for which courts interfere in cases of this sort. The word "contempt," in its legal significance, is not confined to personal affronts or insults to judicial officers while acting as such, but extends to attempts to interfere with the course of public justice, where it is sought to influence the conduct or result of a trial, or to prejudice the determination of a question pending in the courts by appeals to public feeling. All such attempts amount to contempt of court. "The power of summary commitment for contempt," said Lord Cottenham, "is given to courts to secure the due administration of justice."

Education in Maine.
The Report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools for 1872, contains interesting statistics. The education of the youth of the State costs \$1,400,000, this includes colleges and private schools. The current expenses of the public schools in 1872 was \$1,123,375. In round numbers each pupil at the public schools costs \$12.00. Were the attendance of scholars as large as it should be the Superintendent says the weekly tuition would be 23 cents for each pupil, less than one half the cost of private tuition. He adds: "It will be seen, therefore, that in the matter of expense the public school system of education is a measure of economy, without taking into consideration the opportunities which the system affords to every child of acquiring the rudiments of a good English education."

During the year 1874-1875 was expended in constructing new school houses. The whole number of school houses in the state is reported to be 3,863, of which number 2,279 or less than two thirds are represented to be in good condition. Not a very good showing for Maine.

The Superintendent argues strongly in favor of his ideas of more efficient and systematic supervision, higher wages for teachers in order to keep a better class in the state, the abolition of the district system, compulsory education, free high schools and uniformity of text books.

A SINGULAR MARRIAGE.—The marriage of his Highness the Sheikh of Gaszin with an English Christian lady, Miss King, took place at Tangier on the 17th instant. The bride rode to the British Consulate on an Arab horse covered with a scarlet saddle and cloth embroidered with gold, and was preceded by the bridegroom. The marriage was merely a civil ceremony, and was performed by Sir John Darnley Hay, the bridegroom was escorted by a guard of Moorish soldiers. His Highness has now four wives. Miss King by her marriage to a Mahomedan forfeits all protection of the English law.

—Miss Julia A. Smith, principal of Public School No. 45, of New York, when the school was found to be on fire, had the 1600 children marshalled as usual for dismissal and marched on to the playing of the piano. In seven minutes the building was cleared and nobody hurt, and the firemen were already at work on the roof.

CONCLUDING LECTURE.—Last evening, Mr. Silb, Master of the Grammar School, delivered the tenth and concluding lecture of the course on "Curiosity." The room was well filled, and the lecturer handled the subject in a pleasing and instructive manner. Some of his hits were very good, and may have the effect of curbing that inordinate and impertinent curiosity so frequently indulged in by those characters so severely rebuked by St. Paul. At the close Dr. Ketchum made some appropriate remarks, observing that the course just completed would have been creditable to any community in the Province. We congratulate the Committee on their successful efforts to obtain a course of lectures, and that the amusement and instruction afforded, was highly gratifying—even if the pecuniary success was not as large as it should have been. We respectfully suggest that the Committee be re-appointed for next season's course; a more efficient one cannot be obtained.

London, Feb. 23.
The appeal of Edwin James for readmission to the English Bar has been refused. The Imperial Parliament of Germany is convoked for the 10th March.

The City of Madrid is tranquil. A grand republic mass meeting will be called to-morrow.

New York, Feb. 24.
Weather extremely cold. President Grant has called an extra session of the Senate to assemble on the 4th of March.

The President also in a special message, urges the immediate action of Congress upon the fishery clause of the Treaty of Washington.

Gold 114 1/2.

OPPOSITION STRAIGHT.—The Eastport "Scraper" says that Capt. Enos Field has been in that vicinity soliciting stock in an opposition steamer to run between Portland, Eastport and St. John. He proposes to put on the route a first class steamer of fifteen hundred tons or upwards. He has been successful and hopes to be able to commence operations in the spring.

ARREST OF A DESERTER.—A fellow named Killeworth, who deserted from the 8th Regiment at Halifax some two years ago, and who says he has "since lived near St. John, N.B.," was arrested in Halifax the other night by a look out party.—[Globe.]

A STRANGE MEDICAL CASE.—Dr. Baxter yesterday morning died from the ear of a man named Gr. from a small pox he about the size of an Arctian bean, which had been blown into his ear by a blast in the year 1853. It never troubled him to any extent.—[Id.]

SUMMARY.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—By advices from Dr. Kirk, British Consul, dated Zanzibar, 30th November, we learn that, according to letters from Ujanyembe, Dr. Livingstone had requested supplies brought by the men sent up by Mr. Stanley, and that he started on the 18th of August on his proposed south-western journey round the south end of Lake Tanganyika, and the north-west to the sources of the Luabala. No letters have been received from Dr. Livingstone himself.

AGRICULTURAL LABEL SUIT.—The Royal Agricultural Society of England was lately sued for a report, which it caused to be published, as stating that cattle had been poisoned by feeding them with adulterated linseed cake. The trial proved beyond question, that the cattle died from eating the cake, but the defendants claimed that they were not poisoned, and so escaped with nominal damages. The effect of the trial was to improve the quality of linseed cake throughout the United Kingdom.

DEATH OF AN AMERICAN MISER.—In London. We are told of the death of an American named Roberts in London, leaving a fortune of \$300,000. When his father at him up in the second hand clothing business, in which he made his money, he was advised by the father "never to let his expenses exceed \$6.00 per week." He adhered to the advice, and one of his last struggles was an attempt in his seventy second year to live on a diet of three chestnuts. It was a failure, and he went to join his revered ancestor in a place where the weekly expenses are still less.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A correspondent sends us the following particulars of a fatal accident which occurred on Tuesday at Brockway Settlement, York county. During the afternoon of that day an old man named Mich. Dowds came to his death very suddenly, having fallen from the hay-mow to the floor in his own barn.

Mr. Dowds was a native of Ireland, was 65 years of age, and had resided on the Blueberry Plains, at Brockway for some twenty years. He was much respected in the neighborhood, and was in very comfortable circumstances. He lost his wife about six months ago, and leaves a son and three daughters to mourn their loss.—[Daily News.]

DIED.

On the 18th instant, after a short illness, Matilda, wife of the late Captain George P. McHart, aged 76, leaving one son, and a large circle of friends to lament their loss.

At Bay Side, on the 23d inst., after a short illness, Anne, widow of the late Mr. John McFarlane, aged 77, leaving a family and many friends to lament the loss of an affectionate mother and kind friend.

At Calais, on the 23d inst., Wyndham, youngest child of N. T. Greathead, Esq., aged 4 months.

At Boston, on the 13th inst., of consumption, Agnes J., aged 21 years, wife of Mr. W. Sullivan, and third daughter of the late Mr. Henry Scott, of St. Stephen. The deceased was a sister of Mrs. James Bradley, of this place.