THE GREAT COMING COMET.

The following interesting details respecting the comet which is expected to make its appearance about the year 1856, are given by M. Rabinet, an eminent French astronomer, and member of the Academy of Sciences, in an article recently published in the N. Y. *Courier des Etats Unis*:

"This comet is one of the grandest of which historians make mention. Its period of revolution is about three hundred years. It was seen in the years 104, 392, 683, 975, 1264, and the last time in 1556. Astronomers agreed in predicting its return in 1848, but it failed to appear—*manque au rendezvous*, according to the expression of M. Rabinet—and continues to shine still, unseen by us. Already the observatories begin to be alarmed for the fate of their beautiful wandering star. Sir John Herschel himself had put a crape upon his telescope, when a learned calculator of Middlebourg, M. Bromme, re-assured the astronomical world of the continued existence of the venerable and magnificent comet.

"Disquieted, as all other astronomers were, by the non-arrival of the comet at the expected time, M. Bromme, aided by the preparatory labors of Mr. Hind, with a patience truly Dutch, has revised all the calculations and estimated all the actions of all planets upon the comet for the three hundred years of revolution. The result of this patient labor gives the arrival of the comet in August, 1858, with an uncertainty of two years, more or less, so that, from 1856 to 1860, we may expect the great comet which was the cause of the abdication of the Emperor Charles V. in 1556.

"It is known that, partaking of the general superstition, which interpreted the appearance of a comet as the forerunner of some fatal event, Charles V. believed that this comet addressed its menaces particularly to him, as holding the first rank among sovereigns. The great and once wise but now wearied and shattered monarch had been for some time the victim of cruel reverses. There were threatening indications in the political, if not in the physical horizon, of a still greater tempest to come. He was left to cry in despair, "Fortune abandons old men." The appearance of the blazing star seemed to him an admonition from heaven that he must cease to be sovereign, if he would avoid fatality from which one without authority might be spared. It is known that the emperor survived his abdication but a little more than two years.

"Another comet, which passed near us in 1835, and which has appeared twenty-five times since the year 13 before the Christian era, has been associated by the superstitious with many important events which have occurred near the period of the visitation.

"In 1066, William the Conqueror landed in England, at the head of a numerous army, about the time that the comet appeared, which now bears the name of Halley's comet. The circumstance was regarded by the English as a prognostic of the victory of the Normans. It infused universal terror into the minds of the people, and contributed not a little towards the submission of the country after the battle of Hastings, as it had served to discourage the soldiers of Harold before the combat. The comet is represented upon the famous tapestry of Bayeux, executed by Queen Matilda, the wife of the Conqueror.

This celebrated tapestry is still preserved in the ancient Episcopal palace at Bayeux. It represents the principal incidents, including the appearance of the comet, in the history of the conquest of England, by William, Duke of Normandy. It is supposed to have been executed by Matilda, daughter of Henry I. It consists of a linen web, 214 feet in length, and twenty inches broad; and is divided into seventy-two compartments, each having an inscription indicating its object. The figures are all executed by the needle.

"The same comet, in 1456, threw terror among the Turks under the command of Mahomet II., and into the ranks of the Christians during the terrible battle of Belgrade, in which forty thousand Musulmans perished. The comet is described by the historians of the time, as 'immense, terrible, of enormous length, carrying in its train a tail which covered two celestial signs, (sixty degrees,) and producing universal terror.' Judging from this portrait, comets have signally degenerated in our day. It will be remembered, however, that *in 1811* there appeared *a comet of great brilliancy, which inspired some superstitious* fears. Since that epoch science has noted nearly eighty comets, which, with few exceptions, were visible only by the aid of the telescope. Kepler, when asked how many comets there were in the heavens, answered, 'as many as there are fish in the sea.'

"Thanks to the progress of astronomical science, these singular stars are no longer objects of terror. The theories of Newton, Halley, and their successors, have completely destroyed the imaginary empire of comets. As respects their physical nature, it was for a long time believed that they were composed of a compact centre, surrounded by a luminous atmosphere. On this subject the opinion of M. Rabinet, who must be regarded as good authority on such questions, is as follows: 'Comets cannot exercise any material influence upon our globe; and the earth, should it traverse a comet in its entire breadth, would perceive it no more than if it should cross a cloud a hundred thousand millions of times lighter than our atmosphere, and which could no more make its way through our air than the slightest puff of an ordinary bellows could make its way through an anvil.' It would be difficult to find a comparison more re-assuring."

A RICH EAST INDIAN.—From one of Bayard Taylor's Bombay letters, we extract an interesting item:—Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy—the leading merchant in Bombay—was the son of a poor man, and commenced his career in life as a buyer and seller of empty bottles. By prudence, economy and intelligence, he rose from one success to another, till at present his fortune is estimated at three crores of rupees—$15,000,000. He has given away in charities of various kinds upwards of $2,000,000, and scarcely a day passes without recording some further evidence of his generosity. Among other works which owe their existence to him—and for which he was knighted by Queen Victoria, being the first native who ever received that distinction—are the hospital which bears his name, the causeway from Bombay Island to Salsette—called Lady Jamsetjee's Causeway—and the aqueduct for supplying the city of Poonah with water. He is now verging upon his eightieth year, and very infirm. His eldest son, Cursetjee, inherits his enterprise and boldness, and possesses a large fortune of his own making.

NINEVEH.—The excavations of Nimroud have been re-opened, and a fine bas-relief has been found. It represents Assyrian warriors hunting a lion, and is perfectly well preserved. Some heads of ivory, finely carved and gilt, have also been found. It is believed that the very chariot of Asshur has been found! The French are very dilligent in their researches, and the Turks have also begun digging in the mounds of the prophet Johah, to the great annoyance of the mere dei out Mussulmen.

The Sardinian frigate *San Giovanni*, Captain Incisa, arrived at New York on Sunday, after a passage of 44 days from Genoa, whence she sailed on the 26th of March, with eighty-four of the refugees who were compromised in the late insurrection at Milan, and articles for the World's Fair. She is the first vessel of war that has visited this country from Sardinia. The refugees were refused admission into any other country, and the Sardinian ministers with the co-operation of the Ameriban minister there, generously offered them a free passage to this country, and directed the captain of the ship to give each of them $12 to supply their immediate necessities.—Though now destitute of pecuniary means, through the act of Austria, they are said to belong to some of the best families. Their friends in N. Y. have raised considerable money, however, and are exerting themselves to advance their future prospects in the country of their adoption.—*Newark Adv.*

The fruit crop in the vicinity of Boston is said to be very promising. The cherry trees are in full blossom, with the prospect of an abundant supply of fruit, which was not the case last year. Peaches also promise well: the apple and pear trees generally look well, but the crop of the former will not probably come up to that of last year.

The Observer.

St. John, Tuesday, May 24, 1853.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTH-DAY.—This day, the 24th of May, Her Most Gracious Majesty, QUEEN VICTORIA, will complete the 34th year of her age, and (within a month,) the sixteenth of her auspicious reign. Never, in the annals of British history, has a monarch more thoroughly reigned in the hearts and affections of the subjects to the British Crown, than the beloved Sovereign who now graces the throne of these realms; never has a reign been more distinguished for its benignity and tranquillity, for the general happiness and prosperity of the people, the wonderful and numerous improvements developed in arts, sciences, manufactures, commerce, social and political influences, domestic and international relations and intercourse. The blessing of the Almighty Ruler of kings and nations has eminently rested upon the British nation and its Sovereign during the present happy reign; and we devoutly hope, that that blessing may so be continued in its fulness, as to render that great nation more and more instrumental and influential in promoting the improvement of the world at large, and the general welfare of the human race.

This day, being Her Majesty's birth-day, is observed as a Holiday at the Public Offices and Banks. At 12 o'clock, noon, the various Companies of Firemen assembled in King's Square, in uniform, with their Engines and other Apparatus, where they underwent inspection by the Chief Engineer, T. M. Smith, Esq.; after which they marched in procession to the Barrack Square, where the two beautiful new Engines recently imported from New York, were with all due ceremony presented by the Corporation of the City to the two Carleton Fire Companies, for whom they were intended. Royal Salutes were fired as usual at noon; and the City in every direction and the numerous Vessels in port are gaily decorated with flags and colours.

CONCERT.—Last evening, SIGNORA VALENTINI gave her first Concert in this City, at the Mechanics' Institute; being assisted by Miss J. Harrison in the Vocal department, and in the Instrumental by Monsieur S. Wolowski. The above talented ladies have been induced to visit St. John, through the instrumentality of the Messrs. Wolowski; and from the announcements previously made, and the reports generally circulated in the community, with respect to their professional powers and accomplishments, much was expected by our musical amateurs on their appearance. We believe we may without hesitation say, that that expectation has been fully realised; and that our citizens experienced last evening a euphonic treat of a high order. The audience was large and fashionable, and testified by repeated hearty plaudits their satisfaction and delight. Signora Valentini's voice is of very extensive register, powerful, rich, clear and melodious; her powers of sustentation are astonishing, her *sostenuto* notes being remarkably long, clear and even. Added to these qualities, were a lively, dramatic manner and expression, which much enhanced the effect of her performance. Miss Harrison's organ, though weak, is sweet and clear; and her singing is correct and tasteful; and Mons. Wolowski's performances on the Pianoforte were, as usual, skilful and brilliant. At the close of the Concert, the Signora and Miss H. gave the *National Anthem*, the effect of which was admirably assisted by the Signora's energetic gesticulation; we could only have wished that in that piece the two Sopranos could have been aided by a good Tenor and Bass. The second Concert, it will be seen by an advertisement in another column, takes place this evening; and we confidently anticipate an overflowing house.

The election of W. H. A. Keans, Esq., as Alderman; and of Mr. Joseph Mercer as Councillor for Wellington Ward, has been confirmed by the decision of the *Common Council: the objections urged by the opposing Candidates having been overruled.*

GUY'S WARD.—Mr. William King was yesterday elected Alderman of Guy's Ward, Carleton, to fill the place of James Olive, Esq., recently elected Mayor.

SEAMENS' HOME.—We learn that last evening, eighteen Seamen entered their names as Boarders to this excellent Institution. Success to the Sailors' Home, say we.

DANIEL WEBSTER.—We have received from Mr. B. O'Brien a copy of a closely printed pamphlet, of 112 pages, entitled "*The Great Orations and Senatorial Speech of Daniel Webster*," with a fine likeness of the great Statesman, published by W. M. Hayward, of Rochester, N. Y.—The Work contains Mr. Webster's celebrated "Eulogy on Adams and Jefferson," delivered in Faneuil Hall, Boston, before the public functionaries, &c. of Massachusetts, August 2d, 1826, in commemoration of those two distinguished Patriots, who both died on the previous 4th of July; his Orations on "The First Settlement of New England," delivered at Plymouth, Dec. 22d, 1820, and at the corner stone of the "Bunker Hill Monument," June 17, 1825; and his memorable "Reply to Hayne," of South Carolina, delivered in the U. S. Senate in January, 1830. Its perusal will afford abundant gratification to the admirers of preeminent oratory, and of a truly great man whose voice can no more be heard on earth.

The book is on sale at O'Brien's.

MR. WHITNEY'S ORATORY.—It seldom falls to the lot of us Colonists to either hear or see the best delineators of character, or the finished masters of oratory. The gentleman whose lectures we now notice, is one who has stood the test of the critics of both the old and new world, and as such it places the amateur critic of this obscure corner of Her Majesty's dominions in a position easier conceived than described. That one individual shall stand up on a platform for several consecutive hours, and succeed in entertaining an audience, every one of whom, has his own idea of oratory, is scarcely to be realized, a majority of whom probably have never had an opportunity of witnessing legitimate readings of the great Masters of the Drama, or the Forensic powers of the great men of the day. Mr Whitney's delineations are both varied and unique, and only to be fully understood by those who have witnessed the originals. His figure, which is a good specimen of the heavy *Saxon* cast, coupled with his voice, which is powerful, sonorous, deep-toned, flexible and harmonious, are admirably adapted to produce effect. His passionate and feeling delineations are given with truthfulness and power, drawn substantially "from life, and to the life." In short, his powers of producing effect are of no ordinary calibre, and such as would fit him (if turned in that direction) to shine a Star of the first magnitude on the boards of either Covent Garden or Drury Lane. The task of entertaining an audience, single handed, composed of all classes of society, has seldom been attempted by even the most gifted in the Histrionic art. The very celebrated and eccentric Mr. Matthews, we believe stands alone as an Artist *wholly unprofited* in this department of the drama, and to the circumstance of his having confined himself solely to the "broad grin" and humorous delineations of actual character, even his towering talents would have failed to secure for him that meed of approbation so generally awarded by the public voice. Mr. Whitney, in his personations, it must be remembered, "stands all unarmed, and stands all alone," on the scene of action; he is not aided by either *Scenery, Decorations, Dress* or *Concomitants*. Laboring then as he does under all these disadvantages, it is with the true critic rather a matter of surprise that he escapes looking ridiculous, than that he is not eminently successful—Mr. Whitney's oratorical powers are to the uninitiated what the Paintings of the OLD MASTERS were to the British people on their introduction from the Flemish and Italian Schools, and can only be brought out and seen to advantage when united with suitable adjuncts of character. We feel fully assured, that could this gentleman be induced to make *one* instead of the *many* of Shakspeare's *Heroes*, he being then seen in a more fitting position, his acting would be both appreciated and acknowledged, to the full of his deservings. Ours is not the pen to do that justice to his intrinsic merits they deserve; he must be seen by judges, to be fully understood.

Mr. Whitney has proceeded to Fredericton and will appear in that city on Friday evening.—*Com.*

An Indian, who was ordained to preach the gospel by the Baptist Home Missionary Society, in Troy, a few days since, walked six hundred miles on snow shoes, accompanied by his wife and child, in order that he might attend the Convention and receive his ordination.

Ships continue to arrive at this port in large numbers, as will be seen by our shipping list.

The steam packet *Genora* took her departure from Quebec, on the 15th inst., for Liverpool, with a full cargo of butter, flour and pork, and 20 passengers; many of them being gentlemen connected with the army, with their families. She is expected to make the passage home in 14 days.

H. M. Ship *Cumberland*, 70, bearing the Flag of Vice Admiral Sir George F. Seymour, arrived at Halifax on Sunday, 15th, from Bermuda.

Four Saw Mills at Magaguadavic, owned by Mr. Gilmour, and one belonging to Mr. Brockway, were burned down on Tuesday evening last—fire supposed to have been caused by friction.

The steam mills of Messrs. Starr & Williams, at Richmond, near Halifax, were destroyed by fire on Saturday 14th inst—Loss estimated at £1350.

The Earl of Ellesmere, and Sir Chas. Lyell and Lady, &c., representatives of Great Britain at the New York Industrial Exhibition, are to be conveyed to America in the *Leander*, 50 gun frigate, one of the most efficient men-of-war in the Royal Navy of England.

The steamship Pacific, Capt. Nye, sailed from New York for Liverpool on Saturday, with 195 passengers and $100,000 in specie.

The Steamer Asia sailed yesterday noon from New York for Liverpool, with 137 passengers, and $616,000 in specie.

The steamer Fairy Queen has proceeded from this port to Halifax, Pictou, &c., with a view to being examined as to her fitness for carrying the mails between Prince Edw. Island, Shediac and Pictou. Mr. Whitney, the owner, has gone round in her, and we trust that he may be successful in obtaining the contract for this service. For many years we were indebted to Mr. W. for his exertions in introducing steam navigation on our water, when the trade was scarcely sufficient to induce any body else to try it, and now, when it has grown to importance, we regret that he is not deriving some advantage from a business which in a great measure he created.—*Cour.*

NEW VESSELS.—A handsome new barque, called the *Manapia*, measuring 358 tons, N. M., was launched a few days ago, from the building-yard of Messrs. J. J. *and* W. Olive, at Carleton. She was built for Messrs. R. M. *and* R. Allen, of Wexford, and has been fitted out by Messrs. S. Wiggins *and* Son, of this City.—*Cour.*

Launched, on Thursday last, and towed through the Falls, on Saturday, a fine new ship called the "Eastern City," 1227 tons, N. M., built by Mr. Alexander Sime, for A. McL. Seely, Esq. For symmetry of model, and superiority of materials and workmanship, she is not inferior to any of the fine vessels lately built at this port.—*News.*

SUSPENSION BRIDGE ROAD.—The new road leading to the Suspension Bridge, will be completed and opened to travellers by the month of July. The work is being pushed forward vigorously. The road starts from the Catholic Burial Ground in Portland.—*Ib*

MONTREAL.—Montreal is all astir; the river dotted with heavy shipping, the streets filled with boxes and bales of goods; merchants filling up their stores, and country merchants flocking in to make their purchases.

Mr. Whitman is the accredited agent for New-Brunswick, to the N. Y. World's Fair.—Mr. Whitman was last week in Quebec, the bearer of an invitation to the Governor General to be present at the opening of the Exhibition.—*International Journal.*

Her Excellency the Countess of Elgin was safely delivered of a son on the morning of the 27th inst. We are happy to learn that her Ladyship and the young Bruce are both doing well.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

European Shipment from Upper Canada.—The Toronto Patriot announces that a new barque called the Cherokee, of 361 tons, is now loading at that port for Liverpool. She is the first vessel which ever loaded there for England direct, and a good deal of excitement has been caused at Toronto by the novel sight. The Cherokee will carry 3,870 barrels of flour, and is to get 6s. currency per barrel freight. When loaded, she will descend the St. Lawrence, and proceed on her voyage.

The Wandering Jew affair at Toronto still continues to agitate the public mind. It is said that Lublin has proved a swindler. Dr. Burns, at whose instance he was arrested, died suddenly, immediately after the examination and discharge of the Jew. Lublin is now at large;—we noticed his arrival at the Montreal House, Montreal, some weeks ago;—he will probably be arrested.—*Boston International Journal.*

Her Majesty Queen Victoria, upon receiving the news of the melancholy accident which resulted in the loss of President Pierce's only son, personally wrote a letter to Mr. Ingersoll, in condolence for the sad affliction the President had sustained.

A young lady of fashion in Paris, Mdlle. Virginie de T., having died recently and very suddenly, her friends decided upon a *post mortem* examination. It was found that three of her ribs had encroached upon the liver to such an extent as to produce death. The young lady perished of tight lacing.

FREDERICTON, May 20.

Last week being in St. John, and having an hour to spare, we spent it in the company of a friend in a visit to the Lunatic Asylum. Passing over one of the worst samples of road which can be imagined—one which a back woods settlement might well be ashamed of—that along the Straight Shore, we crossed for the first time, the splendid Suspension Bridge over the Falls, a structure which not only St. John but the whole Province may justly be proud of.—But a few years ago, and the waters of the tremendous chasm which it spans so majestically,

"Roll'd and foam'd and madly swept"

to the basin below, unseen by human eye save that of the savage of the woods; and unrelieved except by the wild rocks and lonely shrubs on their margin. The Indian has departed, the man of science has taken his place, and the site of the primitive wigwam is now occupied by one of the noblest specimens of Bridge Architecture on this whole continent.

The Asylum occupies a beautiful position a few rods beyond "the Falls," and is a fine Building, erected a few years ago under the Architectural superintendence of MR. STEAD, who is at present employed in perfecting the original design, by a much required extension which will probably be finished during the ensuing Autumn.

After an introduction to DR. WADDELL, the Physician and Superintendent of the Institution, whom we found to be one of the most agreeable gentlemen we ever met with, we were accompanied by him throughout the whole Establishment, which is certainly as perfect as its present limited accommodations can permit. There are 133 of those unfortunate persons at present under treatment—comprising every shade of the dreadful malady, from the slight affliction which is scarcely perceptible, and which manifests itself only in one particular, to the very lowest grade of mental prostration, where even animal life can *scarcely* claim an existence. The different sights as they pass in rapid review, are full of the most melancholy associations, but not unaccompanied by a pleasing reflection, that man's *humanity to man*, has, as far as possible alleviated the evil. Throughout the whole premises there is not a single being under physical restraint, a circumstance which it is said finds no parallel in any Insane Institution either in the United States or the Provinces; and upon the whole we left the place most favourably impressed towards the excellent Doctor and his worthy associates.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

The "Barker House," so named after its Proprietor, (S. Barker, Esq.,) was opened on Wednesday, and attracted crowds of visitors during the day. This, upon the whole, may fairly be said to be the finest house of the kind in either of the lower Provinces. The whole edifice is of Brick; the main part being 50 feet by 50, and the addition to the rear 58 feet by 30. The front entrance from Queen Street, leads up a flight of stairs, seven feet wide to the first landing, on one side of which are the Gentlemen's Parlour and offices, and on the other a large and elegant dining room, both furnished, as indeed the whole house is, with black walnut and mahogany. The second flat contains the Ladies' Parlour, and a large number of private Parlours and Bedrooms. The third flat is composed of private Parlours and Bedrooms throughout; and the fourth of Bedrooms, solely.

Every article of Plate, Cutlery, Parlour Furniture, and Bedroom upholstery, has been carefully selected of the very best description; and in the whole of the 67 rooms which compose the Hotel, we imagine there is not a single indifferent article of furniture, either for use or ornament. The wing, or addition already alluded to, contains the kitchen, pastry room, pantries, keepers' rooms, and several suits of bedrooms. The whole house is abundantly supplied with Gas and water; the latter being conveyed by pipes into the most minute parts of the premises.

Col. ROBINSON, who has special charge of the Hotel department is said to be a gentleman long and favourably known in his vocation in the United States; while a splendid Livery establishment further up the Alley, is under the management of Mr. ORMSBY, who is already become as popular as his short sojourn in this City could have made him.

We feel highly gratified to have it in our power to mark such a record of the favourable progress of the times in Fredericton; and while we safely promise the tourist or stranger all the comforts of a first class Hotel, we sincerely trust that the costs of the spirited proprietor and keepers may never approach their profits.—*Ib.*

The "Bonnie Doon" is the name of a fine dashing looking new Stern Wheel Steamer which arrived here yesterday, and *travelled* upwards to Woodstock this morning. She is said to be 127 feet long, but not wide in proportion, and would therefore indicate more than common speed. She is owned by the Messrs. Glazier.

The Commission appointed to run the Line between this Province and Canada, is to proceed immediately with that duty. Colonel Robinson who represents Great Britain, and the Hon. Amos E. Botsford on behalf of New Brunswick, have proceeded to the general rendezvous at the little Falls, Madawaska, during the week, where they will shortly be joined by Colonel Bouchette on the part of Canada.

The anniversary of the "Landing of the Loyalists" was not honored here as it should have been on Wednesday. Two flags were displayed, the one from the Orange Hall, and the other from Segee's Hotel, which latter was handsomely illuminated in the evening, but these comprised the whole visible demonstrations in the city. It is said that MAJOR BRANNEN is the only survivor of that loyal old band now in Fredericton.

In coming up the river a few days ago, the Steamer Anna Augusta was slightly injured by being run into by a woodboat. The contact was, we understand, accidental.—*Ib.*

The New York Crystal Palace is to be so far completed during this week that it will be seen in its proper proportions, and the managers still feel confident that the principal part of it will be completed by the first of June. The Journal of Commerce says:—

To-day, the American quarter of the building, which is the north-east corner, adjoining the refreshment saloon, will be given over to the hands of the Association, that the cases, tables, &c., for the display of goods may be arranged. The department for machinery, agricultural implements, &c. which is distinct from this, is not yet prepared. The roof is now nearly complete, except the dome, and the floors are in such a forward state that forty-eight hours will suffice to finish them, after the dome is up. There is comparatively little more glazing to be done. The galleries are to be faced with an ornamented railing of iron wire, painted white, with gilt rosettes, and lined with crimson cloth. The outside of the building will be bronzed, with all the prominent points touched with gold. The effect, when lighted up by the sun, will be very superb. The whole structure will be surrounded with a substantial wrought iron fence, 6½ feet in height, to be erected the present week. The space intervening between the fence and the Palace will be terraced and laid out in flower beds and grass plats.

FOR THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—On board the Hamburg ship John Hermann, from Hamburg, just arrived, are 263 packages for the New York Industrial Exhibition. Total amount of packages received up to May 17 from Foreign Ports for New York Exhibition 2,074.

Emperor Soulouque, of Hayti, has sent articles for the World's Fair at New York; among them a single piece of mahogany, weighing nearly three tons.

A Calamitous Month!—This has indeed been a month of calamity, as the Philadelphia Bulletin well remarks. Within three or four weeks there have been recorded on the pages of the public press the destruction of the steamship *Independence* in the Pacific, the *Ocean Wave* on Lake Ontario, and the *Jenny Lind* in California; the awful railroad calamities at Chicago and Norwalk, and now there is added the loss of the ship *William and Mary* at sea. By these six disasters, not less than 500 souls have been hurried into eternity, and in addition to these there have been minor accidents on railroads and steamboats, falling of buildings, which would materially swell the aggregate.

Dreadful Disaster at Sea.—Two Hundred Lives Lost.—The telegraph brings us the sad intelligence of the loss of the ship William and Mary, of Bath, Me., and bound to New Orleans from Liverpool, with a cargo of railroad iron and 208 passengers. She struck on a sunken rock, on the 3d instant, near the Great Isaacs, Bahamas, and sank, about 200 passengers (immigrants) going down in her—the captain, crew, and one or two passengers saving themselves in boats.—*Boston paper.*

The Schr. Smith Tuttle, which arrived at N. Y. on Sunday, from Florida, reports having spoken an English bark, bound from N. Orleans for Liverpool, which had on the previous day picked up 25 more of the persons wrecked on the Bahama rocks.

The Boston Advertiser says the William and Mary, wrecked near the Great Isaacs, was a ship of 512 tons burthen, built in Bowdoinham last year, and owned by John Harwood of that place. She was insured in Boston for $25,000.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The Sandwich Islands, lying in the track of trade between California, China and Australia, has become an interesting object in our diplomacy. It is designed to appoint a Commissioner of distinction and ability, to these Islands, with instructions not to refuse the offer of cession which was made to President Fillmore, if that offer should be repeated. In short the acquisition of these Islands will be one of the measures of the present Administration. Mr. Angel, of New York, has been appointed Consul to the principal port of the group.—*N. Y. Courier.*

The steamship Illinois arrived at New York last week, with the California mails to the 17th ult., $2,285,248 on freight, and 419 passengers.

FINE PICKING.—A pigeon-roost is mentioned by the Fort Smith (Ark.) Herald, as existing in that region. It commences about twenty-eight miles from Fort Smith, and extends for upwards of twenty miles on either side of the Poteum. The number of birds is beyond computation.

In Boston, three immense Catholic churches are in contemplation, besides a grand cathedral, to be erected by Bishop Fitzpatrick, after the model of the famous structure in Montreal, at a cost of some quarter of a million. The emigration of the American population to the beautiful suburban towns has given room for such an increase of foreign population, that they have now almost a numerical majority.

The Presbytery of Chilicothe, Ohio, has passed the following resolution of condemnation of spiritual rappings, and one of the Churches in that Presbytery has suspended two of its members for participating in the folly. Resolved, That the practice of Spirit Rappings, (so called, as it prevails in many parts, is, in view of this Presbytery, a revival of the old abomination of *necromancy*, so decidedly condemned in the word of God.

Mr. Tucker, the unfortunate engineer of the late accident train, who had an examination before a Justice a few days since, and was put under $5000 bonds to appear, was yesterday conveyed from Norwalk to this city, where his family resides. He still continues very feeble.—*New Haven Journal.*

NEW MODE OF TREATING LOCKJAW.—Mr. King, of the Clearspring district, was bitten on the wrist by a hog, a week or two ago.—Several days after he was taken violently ill with lockjaw. Dr. McGill, of this place, was called in, who administered chloroform, and laid the wound freely open, and applying an emollient poultice, and continuing the chloroform with opium. In five hours under this treatment the spasms were arested, Mr. King is now entirely recovered.—*Hagarstown (Md,) Herald.*

TO BE HUNG.—Thomas Neary and Patrick Fitzgerald, convicted of having murdered their wives, in New York, have been sentenced to be hung on the 17th June.

The tunnel on the line of the Dayton and Cincinnati Railway will be 10,000 feet in length, the largest work of the kind in the United States.

The Iron Railroad Bridge over the Monongahela, above Fairmont, Va., is nearly completed. This structure, it is said, is the first in size in the United States, and second only to the celebrated iron bridge over the Menai straits in Great Britain.

Out of the 529,090 emigrants who left Liverpool in 1852, 187,963 went to the United States.

SUDDEN DEATH.—A Mrs. Pack, from New-Brunswick, who came here recently to attend the funeral of a son (which took place on Sunday), fell dead almost instantly while at a religious meeting in the Baptist Vestry, in this town, on Monday evening.

A case under somewhat similar circumstances occurred recently in Bath, where a lady dropped dead while in the act of speaking at a similar meeting. Truly, "Death is everywhere," and we cannot know that at any moment we may not be the objects of its mysterious summons.—*Eastport Sentinel.*

The Government of Peru have voted a million of dollars to Simon Bolivar, for his services in gaining her independence.

Arrival of the Africa at New York.

The steamship Africa, from Liverpool, arrived at New York on the 19th inst., with 67 passengers.

ENGLAND.—Lively discussions are being had in Parliament respecting the Kossuth and Hale rocket affair. Lord Palmerston was taken to task by Bright, Cobden, Walmsley, Lord Dudley Stuart, and others, and made to confess that no evidence exists to identify Kossuth therewith. The spy surveillance on Kossuth was admitted by Lord P. but he denied that his letters had been opened.

Mr. Duffy, an Irish M. P., in a blundering speech charged the government with corrupting Irish members. His words were taken down, and he was cited to appear to answer for them before the House.

A deputation from the Peace Conference had solicited the Earl of Clarendon to insert in treaties now pending with the United States a clause to settle all future difficulties by arbitration. Earl Clarendon promised to consider the proposal.

The Board of Trade returns show a large increase in the month of April exports.

The Submarine six wire cable, 70 miles long, was successfully laid down between Dover and Ostend.

On Friday the House of Commons decided on the amendment that Ireland be excluded from the income tax. Majority against the amendment 225.

In an action brought by the owners of the packet ship Daniel Webster, against the barque Alert, to recover damages for a collision in the Irish Channel, the verdict was given in favor of the Daniel Webster.

The West India steamship Magdalene, arrived at Southampton with the South American and West India mails, and nearly 100 tons of specie, valued at three millions and a quarter of dollars.

The Captain of the steamer Hermann has refused to take on board four negroes who had intended returning to the United States from Vienna viz Bremen. They had paid their passage money but the Captain refused to carry them accross the Atlantic on the ground that the American laws forbade any negro to be conveyed by steamer from Europe to the United States.

Three vessels arrived in London on the 2d inst. from Australia, bringing gold to the value of £250,600.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe had arrived in London. She was the guest of the Duchess of Sunderland. Her entree to the British capital does not seem to have created much enthusiasm.

FRANCE.—The Legacies of Napoleon I., of two hundred millions of francs, will not be presently acted upon, owing to the great tax it would be on the Exchequer. Nothing of further general interest has been received.

The Empress Eugenie has recovered from her recent indisposition.

Oscar Lafayette, the grandson and representative of General Layfayette, has refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Emperor required as Captain of Artillery, and has in consequence been deprived of his Commission.

A sum of 80,000 francs has been voted for the immediate erection, in the centre of the Crystal Palace, in the Champs Elysees, of an immense bronze statue of Napoleon. The artist who will make it is not yet named.

ITALY.—Some further relaxations had been made in the treatment of Milan.

The Austrian force in Tuscany is to be reduced 2000 men.

RUSSIA.—The Court Martial at St. Petersburg in the case of the officers recently charged with embezzlement, resulted as follows:—General Uchakow to be dismissed from the service and imprisoned six months. Generals Abascow, Grabee and Sass, to be imprisoned three months; Admiral Kolsakow simply dismissed.

HOLLAND.—The irritation of the public mind in Holland increases against the recent papal usurpation, and the ill-feeling awakened between the protestants and Roman Catholics is so great that it is feared a conflict will occur. The more timid among the Catholics are leaving for Belgium.

TURKEY.—The affair of the Holy Shrine is reported to have been settled as Russia desired. The affair of the Greek Patriarch is now under consideration. The armaments are stopped and the fleets recalled.

PERSIA is preparing another expedition against Herat, and the British Ambassador announces that he will demand his passports if the expedition proceeds.

LATEST.—The Countess Blaska Teleky, who had been sentenced to ten years imprisonment for her share in the Hungarian revolt, has been immured for three years in the fortress of Pesth.

DR. BETTELHEIM, at Loo-Choo, "within the threshold of Japan," has prepared a copy of the four gospels in pure Japanese and Chinese, in parallel columns. He has succeeded in introducing vaccination, and is rewarded by the exclamation of the natives, "Jesus has blessed Loo-Choo."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Having been unavoidably compelled for a week or two to postpone a reply to the letters of our fair correspondents "Jessie" and "Caroline," and some others, we now beg to thank them sincerely (tho' they are unknown to us,) for the kind interest they take in the OBSERVER; and will endeavour, as far as circumstances will allow, to profit by their suggestions. At the same time we would remark, that in order to carry out, in a pleasing and acceptable manner, the improvements they so ardently recommend, much must depend upon the regular assistance of Ladies and Gentlemen of adequate literary mind and talent, in supplying the necessary contributions; which, if of sufficient merit for publication, we shall be happy to include in our columns, as extensively as our limits will permit. We trust that in so doing we may in some degree supply a literary want, and encourage a literary taste in our community, without injuriously affecting the general interests of our paper; and as a new volume of the OBSERVER will commence in July next, we would intimate that (as an experimental trial) we shall be prepared to receive contributions of a literary nature, for publication at that time, from such ladies and gentlemen as may wish to furnish articles of a moderate length.

We beg to announce that from and after the 1st of July, the price of the "Observer" will be reduced to 12s. 6d. per annum—To Clubs of ten or more the price will be only 10s. each, payable in advance. Persons subscribing for a year or more previous to the first July, will be sent gratis until that date. New Subscribers respectfully solicited.

MARRIED.

On the 18th inst., at the residence of B. Tilton, Esq., by the Rev. F. Coster, A. M., Otis Small, Esq., of this City, to Miss Emma Pheasant, of Carleton.

On the 15th inst., by the Rev. E. Clay, Mr. John Kerred to Miss Maria L. C. White both of this City.

On the 12th inst., by the Rev. William Smith, Mr. John Myles, to Miss Catherine Bailey, both of Portland.

On the 23d inst by the Rev. E. N. Harris, Mr. Israel T. Harris, of Eastport, State of Maine, to Miss Margaret Anderson, of this City.

At St Martins, on the 10th Feb., by the Rev. J. A. Smith, Mr. Isaac Cleveland, to Miss Rebecca A. Cochran.—On the 14th ult., by the same, Mr. Andrew G. Howard, to Sarah A., daughter of Mr. Isaac Bradshaw.

At St George, on Thursday the 19th inst., by the Rev. J. McGivern, Rector, Mr. Thomas Barry, Merchant, to Miss Jane Russell, both of St. George.

At Moncton, on the 5th ult., by the Rev James Newcombe, Mr. Early Kay, of Salisbury, to Miss Sarah White, of the former place.

At St. Ann's Chapel, Fredericton, on the 14th inst., by the Rev. W. Q. Ketchum, M. A., Mr. Joseph Dougherty, to Miss Lucy Ann Segee, both of that City.

DIED.

On Tuesday, after a lingering sickness, Mr. William Christie, in the 40th year of his age.

On Friday morning, 20th inst., Mr. Stephen Storey, in the 23th year of his age, leaving a disconsolate wife and three small children to mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate husband and father.

On Sunday morning, Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Mr. O. Green, aged 7 years and 8 months.

At Norton, May 8th, after three days' illness, aged 74 years, Mrs. Grace Goldie, of Springfield, K. C., a native of Scotland, much regretted by an only surviving son, and a numerous circle of friends.

At Greenwich, King's County, on the 27th ult., Mr. Abraham S. Jones, in the 26th year of his age.

At Long Reach, on the 15th inst., Louisa, wife of Mr. William Vanwart, in her 56th year.

At Wickham, on the 3d inst., Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Bulyea, wife of Mr. Coles Bulyea, in the 40th year of her age.

At Hopewell, Albert County, on the 17th inst., Mr. William Peareby, formerly of this City, aged 58 years.

At St. Andrews, on the 6th instant., after a lingering illness, Ambrose Alley, sixth son of Rev. S. D. Lee Street, in the eighth year of his age.

At Fredericton, on the 13th inst., George C., infant son of Thos S. Hicks, Esq., aged five months.

Drowned at San Francisco, April 12th, Mr. Douglas Dow, formerly of St. John, N. B.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN.

ARRIVED.

Tuesday—Ship Annie, Turner, Savannah, 16—Edward Allison, pitch pine timber.

Brig Isabella, Carroll, Providence, 4—S. Wiggins & Son; ballast.

Wednesday—Ship Wales, Lombard, Philadelphia, 6—A. McL. Seely, coals.

Schr. Ori, McMullin, New York, 3—T. McHenry, assorted cargo.

Ellen Gilmore, Sulis, Boston, 30 hours—Master, assorted cargo.

Steamer Admiral, Wood, Boston, via Portland—Geo. Thomas, passengers, &c.

Thursday—Barque Industry, Kent, Savannah—R. Rankin & Co., pitch pine timber.

Columbia, Geerken, New York, 6—Chas. Brown, ballast.

Schr. Reindeer, Swaine, Halifax—Master, oats.

Friday—Ship Speed, Grundell, Liverpool, 41—S. Wiggins & Son, general cargo.

Brig Pilgrim, Kinney, Porto Rico, 22—Jardine & Co., sugar and molasses.

Themis, Kavanagh, New York, 4—C. McLauchlan, general cargo.

Brigt. Victor, Kinney, Porto Rico, 18—Jardine & Co., and J. V. Troop, sugar, molasses, &c.

Schr. Linnet, Holder, New York, 4—Esatabrooks & Ring, assorted cargo.

Resolution, Rogers, New York, 5—Master, flour.

Saturday—Ship Golden Era, Thornick, Baltimore, 5—Cudlip & Snider, ballast.

Staffordshire, Richardson, Boston, 2—to order, ballast.

Barque Elizabeth Holderness, Pridgen, Hull, 62—Cudlip & Snider, coals.

Diana,