

provement for the future. Mr. Outram Junr. is expected to lecture on Wesleyan evening next in continuation of the same subject. The latter gentleman intimated his intention of sending to the London Exhibition some Iolene to be manufactured from our native kelp.

Fire.

Between two and three o'clock on Wednesday morning last a fire broke out in the kitchen of the officer's Mess, North Barracks, which consumed all the Barrack-buildings, excepting the Pavilion, and extended to the houses on the opposite side of the street, and, with the exception of three or four buildings, reduced to ashes the entire block between Buckingham and Jacob Streets, (the former forming the South boundary, the latter the north), and Barrack and Albemarle Streets, (the former forming the West boundary, the latter the East). The destruction of property is greater, it is said, than has ever been previously caused at one time by fire in the City. But the flames would in all probability have extended their ravages much further, perhaps to the destruction of the greater part of the City, had not a merciful Providence caused a lulling of the wind which was previously blowing fresh, and a timely fall of snow, which prevented the sparks and burning cinders, which were carried by the wind in showers, from igniting the roofs of other buildings. The loss of property is supposed to be between Fifteen and Twenty Thousand pounds; we are happy to add there was no loss of life nor serious accident. Great praise is due to the fire-companies and military for their unwearied exertions on the melancholy occasion. His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, and His Worship the Mayor were at the scene of conflagration at an early hour. The Officers of the Regt. have taken up quarters at the Halifax Hotel; part of the soldiers have moved to the Pavilion, and others into the Citadel.

The *Lascar*, who was apprehended for the murder of Mr. Sinclair, Mate of the Brig *Rival*, in September last, was arraigned before the Supreme Court during its present sittings. The trial terminated on Thursday last. The Jury brought in a verdict of "guilty," accompanied with a recommendation to the mercy of the Court.

The *Chronicle* states he has learnt that parties are engaged in making the necessary preliminaries for getting the foundations for the new Barracks at Fort Needham; and that property in the vicinity has risen in value.

We refer our readers to our 6th Page for extracts from the U. S. President's Message.

Letters have been received from the Hon. Provincial Secretary, but nothing definite has yet been arranged. The English Press is calling attention to the subject of the Railway.

The Office of the Newfoundland Colonial Treasurer in the New Colonial Building was lately broken open, and all the money abstracted.

Hon. James Morris is said to be the favourite candidate of the majority of the Canadian Cabinet for the office of Post Master General of Canada.

The *Charleston Sentinel* speaks of a new kind of *Whetstone* having been found at Moose Mountain, N. B., which is superior to anything of the kind now imported. Specimens have been sent to the U. States and elsewhere on trial.

The work on the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad is rapidly progressing under the superintendence of A. L. Light, Esq., the Engineer of the road.

Mr. James Agnew, of St. John, N. B., Watch Maker, mysteriously disappeared some days ago, whilst at Newport on his return from Boston in the steamer *Admiral*. Fears are entertained of his having met his death by foul play.

The Brig *Volsia*, of Baltimore, was recently captured in the port of Victoria, by the British war steamer *Katler*, on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave trade. She was condemned at St. Helena. Her captain laid his case before Commodore Gregory, the Commander of the *Am-Squadron*, but received no satisfaction.

Two vessels, with a large number of slaves on board, have been lately captured by Brazilian Steamers of war.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, HALIFAX, 7TH DEC. 1850.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, has been pleased to appoint, to be Members of the Board of Commissioners of Schools for the County of Cape Breton,—William Ousley, Esquire, vice Edmund M. Dodd, Esquire, resigned; and Hugh Munro, Esquire, vice Thomas D. Archibald, Esquire, resigned.—*Royal Gazette*.

Cardinal Wiseman and the Prayer for the Queen.

We make the following extract from a letter to the *Daily News*—

"Among the Catholics it is universally known that, for a period of years which extends far beyond the recollection of the present generation, it has been the custom, especially in the southern district of England, to recite in the mass a collect or prayer for the safety and prosperity of the Sovereign and Royal Family of this kingdom.

This prayer was, I believe, originally introduced by Dr. Richard Challoner, Vicar Apostolic in London, and was approved and adopted by all and each of his successors in the London vicariate until the unhappy accession of Dr. Wiseman to the government of that district."

The letter here details Dr. Wiseman's repeated attempts to get this prayer suppressed, and the successful opposition of Dr. Griffiths to the design, until the period of his death; when the following action was taken by Dr. Wiseman—

"Assembling the clergy in the Chapel of St. Patrick, near Soho-square, he descended on the impropriety of allowing the name of an heretical Prince to appear in the mass; assured his auditors that the Holy Father had expressed his strong dislike of the custom which had hitherto prevailed; and then, omitting of course all allusion to the fact that he had himself suggested whatever notions the Pope entertained on the subject, and that the Pope, on being better informed, had actually cancelled the order formerly sent to Dr. Griffiths, went on to signify to them his desire that henceforth the prayer in question should be entirely omitted. This desire, he added, he had not declared in any public form; the matter was not adapted for the public eye. He had, therefore, mentioned it to them in this private manner, and he expected that they would attend to it. It has been attended to, though with painful unwillingness; and your readers may ascertain the fact for themselves at any mass in any chapel in London."

The appointment of Dr. Wiseman to the Roman Catholic primacy of England has given prominence to the preceding anecdote, and excited a good deal of bad feeling against this prelate.

Letter of Lord Beaumont.

Lord Beaumont, one of the most distinguished Roman Catholic Peers, has addressed a letter to Lord Zetland, on the subject of the late insult offered to his country by the Court of Rome. After stating that he felt neither surprise nor regret at the course taken by nearly all the resident Yorkshire Peers, in calling a county meeting, he proceeds—

"The Pope by his ill-advised measures, has placed the Roman Catholics in this country in a position where they must either break with Rome, or violate their allegiance to the Constitution of these realms: they must either consider the Papal bull as null and void, or assert the right of a foreign Prince to create by his sovereign authority English titles and to erect English bishoprics."

"It is impossible to act up to the spirit of the British Constitution, and at the same time to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Pope in local matters. Such is the dilemma in which the lately published Bull places the English Roman Catholic. . . . The Church of Rome admits of no moderate party among the laity; moderation in respect to her ordinances is lukewarmness, and the lukewarm she invariably spues out of her mouth. You must be with her against all opponents, or you are not of her; and, therefore, when Rome adopts a measure such as the present, it places the laity in the awkward dilemma I have alluded to. Believing, therefore, that the late bold and clearly expressed edict of the Court of Rome cannot be received or accepted by English Roman Catholics, without a violation of their duties as citizens, I need not add that I consider the line of conduct now adopted by Lord John Russell as that of a true friend of the British Constitution."

New Remedy for Short-Sightedness.

Dr. Turnbull is the inventor of a new remedy for short-sightedness, an imperfect condition of vision which is one of the "class diseases" of civilized society. We have all of us probably noticed that short-sighted people very often partially close their eyelids, in order to make distant objects more clearly perceptible. The doctor, in making this observation, began to reflect on the physiology of the case; and as the iris, in such instances, is more or less unusually dilated, it occurred to him that any medicinal agent that would act upon the iris so as to cause it to contract, would correct the defect. He also naturally enough reflected, that as the cause of short-sightedness depends on the convexity of the cornea, as well as on the convexity of the lens, the effect of contracting the iris would be to extend the axis of vision, thereby diminishing apparently the convexity of the cornea; the effect of which must be to make the rays of light pass in a direct line through an approaching plane, and thus bring distant objects within its range. The truth of this theory was established by the result. The doctor found that the tincture of ginger and the tincture of pepper, made of a certain strength, and rubbed over the forehead according to his directions, produced contraction of the iris; and after this has been applied, and the plan of treatment he describes persevered in, short-sighted persons have completely overcome the imperfection, and been enabled to lay permanently aside their concave glasses. The value of this discovery is greatly enhanced by its simplicity, and it certainly deserves a fair trial by the profession.

Trouble in a Romish College.

The Romish College at Bardstown, Kentucky, contained quite a number of Protestant Students,

whose parents had been duped by the pretence that there was to be no interference with their religion. One of the rules required kneeling and standing at the elevation of the host. This had not been enforced in relation to the Protestants. An attempt was made to enforce it, and the Protestants in a body rebelled and left the College. The President published his version of the affair, and the Students published an answer. Previous to their leaving the College, the Students sent a Committee to the President to secure a repeal of the law. He quoted the rule and said "There it is, it is all that you may ever expect from me." They retired, and at once some twenty Students left the College. Soon as they left, the law was repealed, and a request was sent to them to return and they would not.—*Puritan Recorder*.

Protestant Church in Rome.

The London correspondent of the *Philadelphia North American* writes that the American Protestant Church in the Via del Pontifici at Rome, is now open, and divine service is regularly performed by the Rev. Mr. Hastings, who was sent from the United States on this mission. It is said that, chiefly through the influence of Mr. Cass, the Papal Government granted the concession. The pupils of the Propaganda College have presented a rare and elegant volume to Mr. Cass containing the Lord's Prayer in upwards of fifty languages.

Conversions at Geneva.

Merle d'Aubigne in a letter, which recently appeared in the *Evangelical Christendom*, writes as follows: "Amongst us, we do not hear of conversions from Protestantism to Catholicism, unless it be about once in four or five years; but we have, on the contrary, frequent conversions from Catholicism to Evangelical Christianity. Some time past, we were receiving at the Lord's supper as many as ten Roman Catholics each month."

Summary of News.

BY THE R. M. STEAMER.

The R. M. Steamer *America* arrived at this port early on Wednesday morning last. We give our usual summary of news.

Great Britain.

Willmer says there is nothing peculiar to report in the British Markets. Cotton is lower; Corn steady; Provisions quiet; Colonial produce not active. The Money market had improved. Trade was steady in the provinces, although the markets were still affected by the unsettled state of affairs in Germany. Freights continued dull—the only improvement being to New York.

THE ANTI-PAPAL MOVEMENT proceeds apace. A great outburst of indignation against the Pope's assumed aggression has occurred at Guildhall, London. Scotland has for the time being forgotten the differences of the rival kirks in anathematizing the Pope and his policy. Resolutions, denouncing him as the man of sin, have been passed in the General Assembly at Edinburgh with acclamation.

A London paper asserts that the Attorney General is preparing a bill to make penal the holding of English titles by the Catholic clergy;—another declares his belief that the new Catholic Bishop of Birmingham is the last that will be appointed. A great meeting of dissenters has been held in Liverpool—the proceedings strictly private; and another intended to be held at Birkenhead was prevented in consequence of a riot, which resulted in several persons being seriously injured. Meanwhile the feeling against the Catholic is, if possible, increasing, and it is thought the Ministry could pass any coercive measure to lessen the power of Dr. Wiseman and the Pope. The crystal palace is to be enlarged to the extent of 45,000 superficial feet, to make room for extra exhibitions.

It is said that 10,000 persons have already booked themselves at New York to visit the cosmopolitan *expose* of 1851.

It has been announced officially that her Majesty receives with very great satisfaction all addresses presented to her against the late bull of the Pope.

The *Leeds Intelligencer* states that the Hon. John Stapleton, brother of Lord Beaumont, has left the Church of Rome.

Sir John Herschel will succeed Mr. Sheil as Master of the Mint. This appointment will no longer be held by a Member of Parliament, and the salary will be reduced to £1,500.—*Times*.

Friday night's *Gazette* notices that the Queen has been pleased to appoint Alfred Tennyson, Esq., to be Poet Laureate in Ordinary to Her Majesty, in the room of William Wordsworth, Esq., deceased.

We understand that at the private meeting of the Commission on Wednesday, it was unanimously resolved to propose Dr. Duff as Moderator of next General Assembly of the Free Church.

The Bishop of London has appointed a committee to consider what measures should be tak-

en to provide foreigners and other strangers with the means of attending Divine worship during the period of the approaching Exhibition.

TRANSATLANTIC PACKET STATION.—The leading interests of Galway are actively exerting themselves to secure the packet station for their port. On Friday Mr. O'Flaherty, M. P., and other gentlemen left Galway for London, as a deputation for the Harbour Board, to watch over the interests of Galway. The *Galway Mercury* says:—"We have been informed that at their meeting in Dublin, on Tuesday last, the Midland Great Western Railway Company came to the resolution of erecting a magnificent hotel, in connection with the terminus of the railway here, at a cost of £10,000."

Foreign.

PARIS, THURSDAY EVENING.—It is stated that General de la Hitte, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has received despatches from Berlin, which state that on the 5th inst., at eleven o'clock, a. m., the Austrian ambassador at Berlin presented the ultimatum of his Government to the Cabinet at Berlin. By this document the immediate evacuation of Hesse Cassel is demanded, and only forty-eight hours is allowed for the evacuation of the Duchy. The Prussian Council of Ministers soon met, the King presiding in person, and at once decided on rejecting the ultimatum. The Austrian Ambassador was preparing to quit Berlin on the 26th. The opinion here is that hostilities have commenced.

Advices from Berlin of the 26th, however, state that these rumours are without foundation. M. de Prokesch Osten has communicated from his Government relative to the mode in which the Austrian Cabinet and Federal Assembly require that Prussia should adhere more or less strictly to the Hessian military passage convention.—Austria and the Elector do not object to passage, constant and perpetual, of any number of troops which Prussia may think fit to march backwards or forwards; but they object to the permanent occupation of any portion of the territory, whether on or off the march route, and above all to any of such portions being converted into military positions. If Prussia insists always, on the plea of geographical convenience and military considerations, to set the convention at defiance, and above all, to occupy Cassel so as to prevent the return of the Sovereign unless he submits to return under Prussian protection, and unaccompanied by the troops of the allies whom he has called to his aid—then it is to be feared that which is a mere rumour at present, may in eight or ten days, be converted into a fact, and M. de Prokesch may be instructed to ask for his passports. Up to the present moment it is impossible to venture upon speculation as to the result of the debate upon the address.

The Federal army in Hesse is suffering from the want of provisions. Their commander, Prince Taxis, has informed the Prussian commander that the Federal troops will be compelled to advance. The reply of General Groben has been that the troops under his command would not fall back under any circumstances.

M. de Drouyn de Lhuys arrived in Paris from London, for the purpose of explaining to the Government the views of Lord Palmerston on the German question. The English Government, it appears, wishes to come to an understanding with France, that both countries should observe the strictest neutrality and also to prevent an intervention on the part of Russia.

Berlin letters are of the 25th inst. Despatches had arrived from St. Petersburg, and a Cabinet Council had been held in consequence. Russia supports the Austrian claims, strengthened by this support, the Cabinet of Vienna presses for an immediate decision on its demands respecting Holstein and Hesse.

The Bohemian army musters now from 200,000 to 300,000 men.

Another Austrian division has advanced from the Vorarlberg into Bavaria, and proceeded to Burgau and Gunzburg.

Prussian troops occupied Wiesbaden and other parts of the Duchy of Nassau.

From Rome we hear that the Propaganda pretend to treat lightly the commotion in England upon the late Papal aggression. They affect to regard it as a mere question of etiquette; but we shall be surprised if they do not view it in a different light shortly, when a little pressure is applied to his Holiness to make him retrace his steps.

We have had a false rumour of the assassination of the Sultan of Constantinople by poison.—There appears to have been an alarming conspiracy of the old retrograde party, which was discovered in time, and many arrests have been made. Kosuth is still in durance, and is reported to be suffering from typhoid fever.

The King of Sardinia opened his Parliament at Turin, on the 23d inst., and was enthusiastically received. His speech was highly satisfactory, especially that portion which declared his intention to maintain the laws necessary for the new political and legal organization of the country, in spite of the Pope, whose meddling in the temporal affairs of foreign countries seems likely to involve his Holiness in serious difficulties. There is very little news from Spain and Portugal.