ing such a bill without amendment; and unless they did so, the whole labour which had been incurred would be fruitless.

In considering how this difficulty may be surmounted, it has occurred to me that the best course which could be adopted would be for the different Legislatures to pass Acts recognizing the principle of consolidating their Custom House Establishments, but which, instead of entering into detail as to the arrangements to be for that purpose adopted, should give, by anticipation, the force of law to such arrangements as might be agreed upon by persons empowered to act for them in that behalf.

I purposely avoid expressing any opinion as to the manner in which the persons empowered to represent and act for the different Provinces should be appointed—whether they should be Committees from the two branches of the several Legislatures, or Commissioners named in the Acts which would require to be passed, since these are questions upon which, if the suggestions I have made should be entertained by the Legislatures, they are more able to form a judgment than myself; but I think it right to point out that in whatever manner they may be appointed the representatives of the several Provinces should meet together at Montreal, where their deliberations could be conducted with the benefit of Your Lordship's advice and assistance, and that it would be indispensable to provide in the Acts from which they would derive their authority, that no arrangements to which they might agree should come into force without the previous confirmation of Her Majesty in Council.

In what manner this important subject should be brought under the consideration of the different Provincial Legislatures, and how it would be expedient to submit to them the question of delegating to some central authority a portion of their constitutional powers, I must leave it to Your Lordship's judgment to determine upon the spot. I may, however, remark that should such an authority be created, its functions need not be confined to the single subject to which I have already referred. There are two other subjects at this moment requiring attention, and with regard to which the co-operation with each other of the different Provinces is highly desirable. Of these the first is that relating to the service of the Post Office in the North American Provinces.

From the various despatches and other documents enumerated in the margin, your Lordship will learn how extreme and in fact insuperable is the difficulty of placing the affairs of the Post Office in the British portion of that continent, on any secure and convenient footing without the aid of some central body competent to arbitrate between the various Provinces, and to establish regulations extending over, and throughout them all. I especially refer to the Report of the Postmaster General to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, dated the 18th of August last, and to the letter which on the 10th of September last communicated to this Department the views of their Lordships on that report.

You will thence perceive how willing Her Majesty's Government are to abdicate the powers of the Post-Master General in British North America in favour of any competent local authority, to be legally constituted for the purpose. But Your Lordship will also perceive that the creation of any such authority by the separate act of any one Province, or by separate and unconnected acts of the several Provinces, is virtually impossible. We have no solicitude to retain any control over the details and management of this service, but the reverse. A body of the kind I have already described, representing and acting for all the Provinces, might make an arrangement for the future, which would relieve the Post-Master General of this inappropriate function. Without such aid I do not see how he could be exempted from the duty, to which from inevitable and insuperable causes his Department must always be unequal.

The other subjects to which I have referred as requiring the co-operation of the different Provinces, is that of the formation of a great line of Railway communication from the Seat of the Government of Canada to the Atlantic.

The execution of such a work would, I am persuaded, be of the greatest advantage to the whole of British America; but the difficulties to be surmounted in so vast an undertaking are of no ordinary kind, and are only likely, I think, to be overcome by the united and energetic exertions of all the Provinces. Should the delegation of authority by the different Legislatures to some central body representing them all, be assented to, I shoud think it highly desirable that advantage should be taken of this to arrange the mode in which the Provinces should co-operate with each other, and with Her Majesty's Government, in promoting the construction of the proposed Railway.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

The Right Honorable,
The Earl of Elgin, &c. &c. &c.

DOWNING STREET, 25th June, 1847.

MY LORD,—The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have apprized me that their Lordships have authorized the Post Master General to cause the sum of £5,189 3s. 5d., the amount accrued from Surplus Postage in Canada during the period of two years, to the 5th July last, to be paid over to the Receiver General of the Province, in order that it may be applied to the public Service of the Colony in such manner as shall be directed by the local Legislature. I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

The Right Honorable, the Earl of
Elgin and Kincardine, &c. &c. &c.

British News.

EXPLOSION OF A GUN-COTTON MILL.—We announced yesterday an accident which took place on Wednesday, at the powder mills of Mr. Hall, at Feversham. Accounts received since confirm the apprehensions then entertained of its disastrous consequences both to life and property. Those parts of the manufactory in which the gun cotton was manufactured are in ruins, scarcely a single brick or stone remaining in its original position. The laborers succeeded in extricating ten dead bodies from the ruins, and many other persons were in a most lamentable and suffering state, with but little chance of their surviving the injuries they had received. Several others were extricated, so much mutilated, that they could not be identified; while portions of bodies were found in all directions, scattered in the fields and adjoining grounds. Up to seven in the evening it was ascertained that from eighteen to twenty men, women, and children had fallen a sacrifice. It appears that Mr. Hall had recently added to his long-established business of powder manufacturer that of preparing gun cotton, and had appropriated two buildings at the western end of his extensive works for that purpose; in these the explosion took place, one after another in immediate succession, the first which blew up appearing to be that in which this newly invented inflammable substance was deposited in its complete or perfect state. The ruins fell principally in a northwest direction, tearing up several trees, and burning and rasing to the earth a field of wheat to a considerable distance, where might be found stones, bricks, and pieces of metal, which had formed the various machinery, as also remnants of wearing apparel, which had been worn by the sufferers, and in several instances, portions of the limbs of the victims were found in the fields and adjacent meadows. A correspondent of the Kent Herald, from which we glean most of the above particulars, states that among those killed is Mr. H. Toppins, a practical chemist, from London.—[London News.

The extraordinary effect of the explosion on the buildings in the neighbourhood, and on the corn fields in the vicinity, cannot possibly be realised except by an eye witness. The roofs of all the buildings within about a quarter of a mile of the explosion are completely stripped of their tiles, and the walls are much shaken. Even in the town of Feversham, fully a mile distant from the scene of disaster, windows were broken, and the houses otherwise damaged in some instances. On the opposite side of the stream which forms the northern boundary of the Marsh works is a field of wheat of one extent. The explosion has completely blasted this over a space of about two acres, and the ears, drooping and discoloured, present a scene of desolation in perfect character with the adjoining ruins. The willow trees which skirt the banks of the stream referred to, and, indeed, all the trees within about fifty yards of the buildings, No. 3 and 4, are torn up by the roots and scattered about in all directions. Those more distant are less seriously injured, but the foliage of all within a very large circle is wholly destroyed. Another remarkable instance of its power was shown in the forcible ejection from a deep well of two massive pumps, the leaden pipes of which, nearly twenty feet long, were drawn up and thrown to a very considerable distance.

The explosion was heard at an enormous distance from Feversham. At Deal and Maidstone, and even at some places more than thirty miles from the scene of the accident, parties are described to have heard it distinctly.

It may be interesting to state that the strength of gun-cotton is just six times that of gunpowder; in other words, ten drachms of the cotton are equal to two ounces of the powder.

PORTSMOUTH, July 4.—The Vestal, 26, Captain Charles Talbot, arrived this morning from the China and East India station, whereon she has been employed the last three years and a half, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker and Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane. She left Hong Kong on the 4th of March, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 27th of April, and left on the 5th of May, bringing the latest news from that colony; passed St. Helena on the 23rd of May, but did not communicate, neither did she call at Ascension. She has brought mails from the Cape and squadron employed on that station. The Vestal has experienced a very long succession of fine weather, has never had double-reefed topsails but twice, and did not take in her royals for 5000 miles. She went up to Spithead under royals and flying jib this morning in most gallant style, and shortened sail and furled sails smartly. The ship appeared to us to be in admirable order, the effects of excellent discipline and system were everywhere visible. She saluted the Commander-in-Chief with 17 guns. Mr. King, late Master Commanding the store-ship Minden at Hong Kong, has come home passenger in the Vestal.

ENGLISH CULTIVATION IN FRANCE.—The Journal des Debats publishes the following letter, dated Cannes, the 29th ult:—

"Lord Brougham and Mr. Leader have reaped a magnificent crop of wheat on their property in our neighborhood. Mr. William Thompson, the celebrated land steward of Mr Leader, and one of the most distinguished agriculturists in Great Britain, has shown what our land can produce under skilful management. Lord Brougham's gardens are beautiful beyond description, and the example of those illustrious colonists will be of advantage to our farmers, who will be instructed in the best mode of cultivation. Mr. Wolsin, whose magnificent constructions would be sufficient to ornament a capital, has not remained in the rear of his neighbors. His property is magnificently cultivated, and the produce he has already obtained far surpasses that which we were accustomed to regard as the *ne plus ultra* in wheat and olives. The kitchen gardens of these three gentlemen are extraordinary for their precocity. The English gardeners have performed wonders under the influence of our climate. For these reasons numerous visiters hasten to bestow on these artists the tribute of their praise and admiration. It is proposed to have large hunting parties in the course of the next autumn. The English sporting world is to be transferred to Cannes. The Marquis of Clanricarde, the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Duke of Devonshire have each visited Lord Brougham. The latter has erected at the gate of his park, on the sea shore, a *basso relievo*, sculptured by Benedetto Marcello, a young sculptor from Florence, whose talent has become renowned throughout Italy, and promises to be a worthy successor to Thorwalsden and Canova. The *basso relievo*, which represents the arms of the noble lord, is a subject of admiration to every amateur. Lord Brougham is expected at Cannes on the 15th of November. Preparations are being made to receive the English colony—it promises this year to be as numerous as brilliant.

Emigration to Canada.—The Archbishop of Quebec, M. Signay, has addressed a letter to the Roman Catholic prelates of Ireland, which corroborates the deplorable accounts of the sufferings and privations of poor Irish emigrants received from other quarters. He says a large number of vessels have already arrived (9th of June), overloaded with misery, and which are compelled to perform quarantine at Grosse Isle, about 30 miles below Quebec. More than 2,000 patients, of whom scarcely more than one-half could find shelter, were detained at the station in the first week of June, the others being left on board, "spreading contagion among the healthy passengers on board, and exhibiting the heart-rending spectacle of a mortality three times greater than what prevailed ashore. Notwithstanding the zeal and anxiety of the provincial government, more than one thousand have perished—precursors of thousands of others who will rejoin them if the stream of emigration continues to flow from Ireland with the same abundance." Many of the more fortunate emigrants who escape from the quarantine ground in good health are struck down with the prevailing diseases in Quebec or Montreal, and overcrowd the hospitals and temporary erections. In conclusion, his grace strongly urges the Irish prelates to dissuade their diocesans "from emigrating in such numbers to Canada, where they will but too often meet with either a premature death, or a fate as deplorable as the heart-rending condition under which they groan in their unhappy country." By such means, he adds, "you will open their eyes to their true interests, and prevent them from being the victims of speculation, and falling into irretrievable errors, and irreparable calamities." Emigration for the present year having almost ceased, the advice comes in an unproductive season; but the solemn teaching of so competent an authority should not be lost on the future.—*London Daily News.*

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—Never within the memory of man did the country present a more luxuriant and promising appearance. All the crops look well, and notwithstanding the cold in the early part of the summer, there can be little doubt but we shall have an early general harvest.—Some few instances of blight in the potato have appeared in this neighborhood, but the crop (of earlies) so far, is on the whole abundant, and we repeat that disease of this exotic root has every year, more or less, been experienced. The wheats are fine, heavy, and approaching to filling. Oats are splendid—in some parts already assuming the autumnal hue. All other articles are proportionately healthy and vigorous. The hay has been nearly all got in, in prime order—a capital crop, both in weight and quality.—We had some very sultry weather for three or four days last week, after which thunder and heavy rains might have been expected; but, luckily, only a feeding shower or two fell, giving new vigor to growing crops, and but for a few hours suspending the labors of the haymakers. A few more sunny and breezy days like yesterday will see all the dried grass safely stacked. Potatoes and all domestic garden stuffs are becoming every day cheaper in our markets.—[Liverpool Standard, July 20.

Death of the Author of "The Retrospect."—The Rev. R. Marks, who is well known in the religious world as the author of "The Retrospect," giving an account of his early life in the Navy, and conversion, "Danger and Duty," &c., and who was long the Episcopalian minister of Missender, Bucks, died on the 23d May, aged sixty-eight. His funeral was attended by an immense concourse of his late parishioners, all as mourners, the pall being borne by fourteen clergymen of the Established Church. Mr. Marks was much beloved as a pious minister of the gospel; in the cause of missions his zeal was unsurpassed. The readers of his books cannot fail to be impressed with the conviction of his having been an amiable and interesting man.—One of his last productions was a volume of sermons fitted for seamen.

The French government has awarded a gold medal to Mr. James Peter, master and owner of the brig Mercury, of Arbroath, for assistance tendered to the crew of the French brig La Jeune Elise, of Granville.

The Relief of Irish Distress. The official estimate just laid before parliament by the royal command gives £600,000 as the further sum that will be required from the National Treasury, in order to defray the expenses which will probably be incurred for the relief of distress in Ireland, during the year ending March 31, of rates by the Relief Commissioners, under the act of the present session, and £100,000 for other purposes.

The amiable Sisters of Charity, in the Westport Convent, are every morning engaged giving breakfast to the children of the poor. We regret to add that while engaged in this work of charity, four of the ladies, including the mother abbess, caught the fever, which proved fatal to one of them. Yet the other Sisters of Mercy, no way daunted by the fate of the nuns who were seized by the contagion, are continuing to perform every morning the heavenly office of feeding the hungry and the helpless.

Irish Industry.—The Dublin exhibition of native manufactures contains a great variety of products which exhibit the mechanical skill of the Irish artizan in a very favourable light. They chiefly consist of Limerick laces, exquisitely designed and wrought, tapestry from the once famous Liberty, tabourets and tabinets of remarkable beauty, woollen fabrics, gold and silver plate, jewellery, bijouterie, in Irish oak, and light fancy articles of all descriptions. The exhibition, according to the opinion of competent judges, is superior in the number and excellence of the articles to all previous exhibitions, and reflects great credit on Irish industry.

Emigration from the Port of Londonderry.—The emigration from this port to the United States and British America has been greater during the present season than in any previous year. We subjoin a return, for which we are indebted to Lieut. Ramsay, R. N., government emigration agent here, showing the number of emigrants during the quarter ended the 30th June:—For United States, 30 ships, 3727 passengers; for Canada, 10 ships, 3155 passengers; for New Brunswick, 9 ships, 2497 passengers. Total emigrants during the quarter, 9379; total same quarter last year, 4510; increase for 1847, 4869.—*Derry Sentinel.*

The marine glue, for caulking ships, is found to be an effectual substitute for pitch, especially under the influence of a strong sun. A saving, too, of £20,000 a-year is anticipated from its use.

The vessel Dart, arrived in the river from Newfoundland, has brought, in addition to a cargo of oil and other merchandise, the large number of 18,194 seal skins; and another vessel, the Cynthia, arrived from the same place, besides a cargo of oil, 17,000 of the same kind of skins. These extensive importations of the skin of the seal from the British North American province mentioned amply illustrate the abundance of the creature in that district.

On Wednesday the statue of the youthful and amiable Edward VI., the founder of St. Thomas's Hospital, was placed on a marble pedestal in the centre of the great quadrangle of the hospital, fronting Wellington street.

MISS MARTINEAU.—This popular writer has returned to England, having concluded her travels in Egypt and Syria. She has already commenced a series of papers on the Holy Land in the *People's Journal.*

ANOTHER PLANET.—It is said that M. Hencke, of Driessen, has discovered another planet. The star is one of the ninth magnitude, and lies nearly midway between Zeta and Gamma Ophiuchi; it has an hourly motion of about 2 seconds of time in right assension, and of about 10 seconds in declination.

It is with extreme regret that we have to announce that the old and highly respected firm of Messrs. Clatons, Wilson, and Co., Bankers, of this town, have, through the pressure of the times, been under the necessity of suspending payment.—*Preston Pilot.*

We have to announce another mercantile failure.—Messrs. Robert Mutrie & Co., of London and Glasgow, whose debts and liabilities are estimated at £90,000, and assets £70,000, but it is thought the latter are considerably exaggerated.—*Manchester Examiner.*

Notice to the "Smith" Family.—A correspondent of the *Cheltenham Examiner* suggests that all the Smiths in the kingdom, estimated at a million, should subscribe one penny each to a testimonial to the distinguished Sir Harry of their name.

The London and Northwestern Railway Company employs 6,481 servants, exclusive of 2,000 plate layers; and during nineteen years 55,000,000 passengers have been safely conveyed. The Wolverton accident was the first great calamity that had occurred.

The editor of the London *Art Union Journal*, says he has recently seen a block of ice two feet long and nearly two inches thick, produced from pure spring water, in twenty minutes, by a patent process.

At present, in Great Britain, there is one in 1585 of the population deaf and dumb, and one in 1000 blind.

The following is an extract from a Correspondent's letter, dated 1st of May, Cape Coast Castle;—"Captain Winniett, the governor, has returned from a visit to King Dahomy, having succeeded in entering into treaties far beyond his expectation. King Dahomy has written a letter to Her Majesty the Queen of England, and intends sending her presents, thereby showing his amicable intention in his negotiations with this country. King Dahomy's household troops consist of 10,000 women magnificently equipped, and many in armour. Captain Winniett was received by upwards of 20,000 troops, and Dr. Ridgway, who accompanied Captain Winniett on his visit, kept a comprehensive journal which he has sent to England for publication.—*United Service Journal.*

The Pope has altered the manner of reckoning time at Rome, where the people used the Italian mode of counting 24 hours, from half an hour before sunset, and has ordered the public clock to be adapted to the common European reckoning.

The *Paris Presse* announces that the Emperor of Russia had determined to construct forthwith a vast line of railroads to connect the three capitals of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Warsaw.

The *Times* states that the cardinals had presented to the Pope a list of one hundred names of persons whom they recommended to be banished from the Roman States. This his Holiness refused, and the fact having been notified to the people the commotion, which was assuming an alarming character, was tranquilised, and it is hoped that the reforms promised by his Holiness will have the effect of satisfying all parties. It is added that the brother of his Holiness is to be appointed to the command of the National Guard about to be organised.

PARIS, July 17.—The Court of Peers pronounced its judgment in the case of M. M. Teste, Cubieres, and Parmentier on Saturday. The three prisoners were convicted of corruption, and sentenced. M. Teste to restore the 95,000f. he had received from General Cubieres, which were to be confiscated for the benefit of the hospitals, to three years' imprisonment, to deprivation of his civil rights, and to a fine of 94,000f; M. Cubieres to deprivation of his civil rights and 10,000f. fine; and M. Parmentier to deprivation of civil rights and 10,000f. fine, and all the costs.

WAREHOUSING COMMISSIONERS FOR EUROPE.—The Secretary of the Treasury, determined to spare no pains nor expense to perfect the warehousing system in the United States, has resolved to send a commission to England to make a thorough examination into the whole theory and practice of the system, as now in operation there, with a view to adopt any improvements that may be suggested. To this end, Mr. Walker has appointed D. P. Barhydt, Esq., the Register of the U. S. Bonded Warehouse at this port, and associated with him C. C. Walden, Esq., one of the most experienced and prominent clerks of the Custom House. These gentlemen are eminently qualified to make a thorough examination of the English system of warehousing, and we doubt not they will meet with all that attention and courtesy which they and their mission are entitled to. They are instructed to report at Washington by the 20th Oct., next, and we have no doubt the result of their examination will be a new impetus to the business of warehousing in the United States.—*New York Herald.*

The Observer.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1847.

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTIONS.—The following information relative to the Elections in the sister Province, is principally obtained from the Halifax Recorder of Saturday.

HALIFAX.—We cannot assume (says the Recorder) to state positively the numbers of the majority of the liberal candidates, but it has been computed that McNab is returned by 230, and Doyle 120 over Uniacke and Grassie, for the Township; and though there are some places to be heard from, we are satisfied Howe and Mott will beat Gray and Lawson, for the County, upwards of 500 at least.

ANNAPOLIS.—The three conservatives are returned for this County, viz:—the Attorney General, by 350 over Chipman; Thorne, by a majority of 200; and Whitman, by 125, over their opponents.

HANTS COUNTY.—Smith and Wilkins have been defeated in Hants by Card and McDougall; Fraser is again returned for Windsor, and Dimock for Newport. Sangster has beaten Elkanah Young for Falmouth.

KINGS COUNTY.—Brown has beaten Harris in Horton; Beckwith is again in for Cornwallis; Hall and Moore have carried the county of Kings against S. Chipman and Borden.

COLCHESTER COUNTY.—From the Eastward we hear that Creelman is elected in place of Ross for Colchester; Wier in place of McLean for Londonderry; Crowe again in for Onslow, and Fleming for Truro.

CAPE BRETON.—James B. Uniacke, Esq., was elected by a show of hands for the County of Cape Breton, on the nomination day.—W. H. Munro, Esq., demanded a Poll and will contest the township against Dodd, quite sanguine of success.

CUMBERLAND.—The Conservatives have carried the three seats.

PICTOU.—G. R. Young and Robinson, both Liberals, have been elected by a majority of 95; and Blackadar, a Conservative, by 35; showing a gain of one for the Liberals in this County.

YARMOUTH.—Huntington and Killam have been returned for the County, by large majorities.—Ryder, conservative, has been returned for Argyle.

DIGBY.—We learn that Borneauf is elected for the County.—Budd for the Township; and Comeau for Clare.

The official returns from all the Counties will probably be received in the course of the week.—Both parties speak confidently of success.

The last Fredericton *Royal Gazette* contains a proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, offering a reward of £100 to whomsoever shall give such information as will lead to the conviction of the person or persons guilty of the murder of David Campbell, in St. John, on the night of the 25th July last.

DEPUTATION FROM THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The Rev. Mr. Fowler, of Ratho, and the Rev. Mr. Mackintosh, of Aberdeen, two of the Deputation, arrived in this City on Saturday evening last, from Fredericton. The Rev. Mr. Fowler officiated in St. Andrews Church on Sunday evening; and last evening the same Rev. gentleman again preached in that Church, and afterwards communicated some interesting information regarding the object of the Mission to the Colonies, the prosperous state of the Church in Scotland, &c. The Rev. Mr. Stevenson, of Dalry, the other member of the Deputation, preached in Fredericton on Sunday, and arrived in this City last evening, in company with the Rev. Mr. Brooke.—We learn that the Rev. Gentlemen purpose leaving the city this evening, in the steamer Admiral for Boston, on their route to Canada, to visit the numerous Churches in that extensive Province.

☞ Some remarks from a correspondent on the interesting visit of these Rev. Gentlemen, and the important information imparted by them, was received at too late an hour for insertion to-day.

On Tuesday last the Circuit Court of Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery, for the City and County of Saint John, commenced its sittings—His Honor Judge Parker presiding. His Honor intimated to the Grand Jury, that hitherto, it had been the custom in this County for the Sheriff to place at the top of the Grand Jury list the name of the juror whom he considered the most competent to discharge the duties of Foreman, but that the present Sheriff had mentioned to him that it was his intention to adopt a different practice: that he would arrange the names of the jurors alphabetically, leaving it to the discretion of the Court to select the Foreman.

Ezekiel Barlow, Esq., was accordingly selected Foreman by the Court, and the Jury having been sworn, His Honor delivered a somewhat lengthy charge to the Grand Jury, in which he made several important suggestions for the preservation of good order and health in the City.

His Honor commenced by saying that he regretted that the indisposition with which he had been afflicted had prevented him from attending to his official duties for some time past; that he had returned to the performance of these duties so soon as his improved health permitted him, and hoped now to be able to discharge them satisfactorily. He was sorry to find that the Sheriff's calendar contained a number of cases of crime, some of which were of an aggravated nature; one of them charged three persons with the wilful murder of a man named White.

His Honor having called the attention of the Jury to the law connected with each case, alluded to the disturbances which have lately occurred in this City and County, no notice of which appeared on the Calendar, as there was no sufficient information, he was informed, to justify the arrest of any persons. Much had been said of the tendency of certain associations to produce and foster discord and ill will, and lead to breaches of the peace. He should refrain from expressing any opinion as to the legality or illegality of any particular Societies, as other opportunities would probably arise for the more careful consideration of this question. He would remark, however, that what was not strictly illegal might be very inexpedient, and he for one had always regretted the formation and encouragement of distinctive national associations, except for benevolent purposes, to which, until of late years, he believed they had been confined in this Province. Experience had shewn that they were calculated to give offence,—to lead to opposition, or hostile Societies—and to be made instrumental in producing, or affording at least, pretext for resorting to acts of violence to individuals, and disturbances of the public peace. They had been justified on the plea of mutual protection, but, as His Honor thought, improperly, as they tended to weaken rather than strengthen the due execution of the law. If we were reduced to a state of nature, such a banding together would be necessary and proper; but in a state of civilized society, especially under the English Constitution and English Law, this could not, or ought not to be the case. It was important, however, that no defect in our institutions should be permitted to continue which might give colour to such a notion. His Honor then remarked on the great benefits which had resulted in England from the establishment of a Police force in the Metropolis, and very generally throughout the country, not only as a preventive and protecting force, but, as he had himself observed, most useful in securing necessary evidence or prosecution in criminal courts. He thought such a force would be highly advantageous, if not essential in this City and its vicinity, especially in the prospect we had of a large immigration, carried on more extensively than ever, from the peculiar and distressing circumstances of parts of the Mother Country, and more particularly from the recent enactments for the support of the poor in Ireland, which would induce proprietors there to urge the removal of large masses from the country. No doubt we ought to do all in our power to relieve the Mother Country of its redundant population, and promote the settlement of our large unoccupied territory; but this could only be done gradually and carefully. To introduce large numbers of people without due preparation, would lead to the greatest evils to themselves, and be deeply injurious to the present population. He believed no large system of emigration would be undertaken by Government, without full inquiry and notice; but it was the acts of individuals and public bodies seeking to relieve themselves from an oppressive burden that we ought to watch and guard against. Objections had been urged against the introduction of the police system into this City, in consequence of its expense; but His Honor considered that every person who regarded his own safety and that of his family and property, would be ready to contribute to the support of an establishment, which has now become so necessary. It is not, said His Honor, as many have supposed, essential to the existence of the system, that any new Police Magistrate should be appointed, for it can be placed under the management of the Magistrates generally, or such number of them as might be named for that purpose.

His Honor then said he was requested by His Worship the Mayor to draw their attention to the very important provision of the Act of Assembly, 7 Victoria, c. 22, as regarded the health of the community—hoping by this public notice, land owners and letters of houses would be induced at once to attend to its requirements, and prevent an enforcement of the penalties to which they were liable. The Act provided not only for summary proceedings before Magistrates, but also made the offence a misdemeanour, for which they might be indicted and punished in this Court.

His Honor, in conclusion, stated that the Attorney General had arrived in town with the intention of conducting the criminal business before the Court, but having since heard of the death of his eldest son, the Common Clerk of this City, which occurred last month in Edinburgh, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, that duty would be undertaken by the Solicitor General.

His Honor remarked, that he felt called upon to say, that, in the death of this gentleman, the public had lost a most useful and faithful public officer—one whose zeal, ability, and untiring industry were devoted to the arduous and laborious duties of his office, with an ardour and impartiality deserving of the highest commendation, and which won for him the respect of the members of the Corporation and the confidence of the citizens generally, to whose interests he devoted his time and talents.

In addition to the criminal business before the Court, sixty civil causes have been entered for trial.

The trial for the murder in Carleton is appointed for Wednesday.—*Courier.*

At a Common Council holden at the Mayor's Office on the 3d day of August, A. D. 1847—

Resolved, unanimously, That this Board deeply lament the irreparable loss the City and County have sustained in the death of JAMES PETERS, Junior, Esquire, the late Common Clerk and Clerk of the Peace, the arduous duties of both which offices he had so long discharged with such great credit to himself, and such universal satisfaction to the Common Council, the Sessions, and the community at large.

Extract from the Minutes.

J. R. PARTELOW, *Mayor.*

THE LATE COMMON CLERK OF SAINT JOHN.—The melancholy intelligence of the decease of James Peters, junior, Esquire, who filled the offices of Common Clerk, Clerk of the Peace, &c., of this City and County for many years, and who left this city on the 27th February last for England, on account of ill health, was received by the second July mail, on the 2d instant, to the very general regret of our citizens. Mr. Peters was universally admitted to be one of the best Public Officers in the Province. His duties, though very arduous, he ever discharged faithfully, and to the entire satisfaction of all with whom he had to do. We sincerely sympathise with his relatives in their deep affliction. To them his loss must be very severe.

THE NEW COMMON CLERK.—We have much pleasure in stating that at a meeting of the Common Council on Tuesday last, James William Boyd, Esquire, Barrister at Law, was chosen, by a vote of nine to three, to succeed to the offices vacant by the death of the late Mr. Peters. This appointment is only temporary, but it will doubtless be confirmed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, as Mr. Boyd is every way qualified to discharge the important duties of the offices to the satisfaction of the public.—Mr. B. has been for many years Secretary to the Governor and Trustees of the Madras School in New Brunswick, and was a long time (until his resignation,) Solicitor and Notary to the Bank of New Brunswick.

It is not unworthy of remark that all our contemporaries in this city (in number no fewer than nine,) have expressed themselves approvingly of the selection of the Common Council. We learn that there were eight applicants for the offices.

Title of Offices.—Common Clerk of the City of Saint John, Clerk of the Peace and of the Sessions of the Peace and Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and Keeper of the Memorandums, Rolls, Records, Minuments and other Writings of the City of Saint John and the City and County of Saint John respectively.

The Rev. Dr. Burns left this city on Tuesday last, to resume his ministerial labours at Toronto. Previous to his taking leave, the friends of the Free Church in this city presented him with the following Address, which, with the Dr's. very affectionate reply, have been handed to us for insertion.

City of St. John, New-Brunswick,
2d August, 1847.

Reverend and Dear Sir,—

We cannot allow your interesting visit to this City to terminate without expressing our heartfelt thankfulness and gratitude for your able services and advocacy of Holy and Bible principles, which we have every reason to believe have been blessed of God to the edification and enlightenment of many souls in this place and neighbourhood; and our trust and prayer is, that the nucleus of a Church in fellowship with the Free Church of Scotland, which is now being determinted under your fostering care and advice, may from a little one become a thousand, and from a small one become a nation; and that God may bless and shield you in your journeyings for the promotion of his kingdom and carry you safe to the bosom of your family and flock, and reward you at last with many souls as a crown of joy and rejoicing when He cometh to make up his jewels.

DR. BURNS'S REPLY.

St. John, N. B., 3d March, 1847.

Dear Friends,—

The City of St. John is associated in my mind with the recollections of thirty years. The Head of the Church assigned it as the station of the earlier labours of a near relation; and the fruits of his fourteen years' ministry have not, I trust, been lost to you. I have come among you with the same end in view: to help in lifting the standard of Evangelical Truth in connexion with a pure and scriptural Presbyterianism. For this the beloved Church of our Fathers has long struggled, and now it hath pleased God that without the walls of an Establishment, and frowned upon by the men of power in the State, she shall still carry on the contest with a mightier efficiency than heretofore. To my Brother and to me it will be a source of intense gratification that here a branch of Scotland's Church, "Free," is about to be planted; and our wish and prayers are that you and your children and your children's children may repose under it and "eat the pleasant fruit."

To me, personally, the visits to this City have been sources of great satisfaction; and I return you my hearty thanks for this affectionate address, and for all other tokens of your kindness. My best regards and wishes will long linger with you and your families, and when far removed from you by distance, the romantic position of your abodes, and the rocky pinnacles of your City, and the magnificent beauties of your river will rise to my view, associated with ardent anticipations of your future prosperity, and mingled with earnest aspirations for your everlasting welfare.

ROBERT BURNS.

ORDINATION OF THE REV. R. F. BURNS, AT KINGSTON, C. W.—On Thursday, July 1st, Mr. Robert Ferrier Burns, Preacher of the Gospel, son of the Rev. Dr. Burns, of Toronto, and nephew of Dr. Burns formerly of this City, was solemnly ordained to the Pastoral charge of the Free Church Congregation in City Buildings, Kingston, C. W. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Wm. Hamilton, formerly of Belfast, now of Picton, C. W. Mr. Greig, lately ordained over the congregation at Belleisle, gave an able exposition and defence of Presbyterian and Free Church principles. Mr. Gordon, of Gananoque, presided at the ordination and gave a most appropriate address to pastor and people, alluding very happily to some of the more interesting particulars and especially to the youth of his dear brother. Mr. Gordon also introduced his young friend on the Sabbath following; and Mr. Burns preached his opening sermon on the evening of that day; choosing for his text Heb. xiii. 8. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day and forever." It was very powerful; suited to the occasion; and also admitting of a touching allusion to the removal of the great Prince in Israel, of whom it is enough to say "His Master's work was done, and he hath now entered into rest and joy. He was immortal till his work was finished."

We understand that Mr. Burns is just twenty years of age, and that the congregation at Kingston had waited for him twelve months. With rare accomplishments he enters on a large sphere of usefulness in the *queen-city* capital of Canada. May many such young men be gifted by the mother Church to these Colonies!—[Communicated.

WESLEYAN INTELLIGENCE.—The United Conference of Ministers in the Districts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, held in Sackville Academy, have just terminated their proceedings. The Rev. Matthew Ritchie presided, in the room of Dr. Alder, who arrived in Halifax, from Boston, on his way to England, on Saturday, the 17th ult.; but was unable to proceed on his voyage, and now remains in Halifax dangerously ill.

The two districts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have been partitioned into four, Prince Edward's Island being constituted the head of one of them.

The Rev. Mr. DeWolfe is appointed for Charlotte Town, for the current year, assisted by Mr. McCaughy, from the New Brunswick District.

Stations of the Wesleyan Ministers, for this year, in St. John District:—

St. John, South—Henry Daniel, Ingham Sutcliffe. St. John, North—Sampson Busby. Carleton, &c.—Robert Cooney, (one to be sent). Fredericton—Richard Knight. Nashwaak—John Allison. Sheffield—William Smith. Mill-Town—James G. Hennigar. St. Stephen's and St. David's—Arthur McNutt. St. Andrew's—Michael Pickles. Sackville—George Miller. Point-de-Bute—William Smithson. Pediquodiac—Robert A. Chesley. Hopewell—(One to be sent). Sussex Vale—William Allen. Woodstock and Andover—Joseph F. Bent. John Prince. Wesleyan Academy, Mount Allison—Humphrey Pickard, A.M. Principal; Albert Desbrisay, Chaplain. Richard Knight, Chairman of the District.—[P. Tel.

GALE.—On Friday last we were visited by a very severe gale of wind, from South East to South, which caused several vessels lying at the Quarantine ground to drag their anchors. The new ship *Infanta*, ready for sea, slipping her cables, ran into the harbour and grounded on the beach at Navy Island. She was got off on Saturday morning, without having sustained any material damage.

The Brig *Magnes*, passenger vessel, from Galway, was driven ashore on the south side of Partridge Island, and became a total wreck. The passengers had been previously landed on the Island.—We learn from the *New Brunswicker* that "all the crew, with the exception of an apprentice who was too sick to move, were saved, by being drawn ashore in a basket, which was swung over a hawser, made fast to the vessel and the shore, and by means of a rope hauled to and from the vessel. Much praise is due to Messrs. Alexander and John Reed for their persevering exertions in saving the lives of those on board. The latter ventured out on the hawser and rescued one of the men who attempted to reach the shore without the means of the basket, but who narrowly escaped being drowned."

Heavy rain fell almost incessantly in this section of the Province, during the forty-eight hours from noon on Saturday till about noon yesterday. Fears are entertained that the crops on the low lands will be materially injured by it.—To-day the weather is fine and warm.

GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting, on Tuesday last, of the newly-elected Directors of this Company, John Duncan, Esquire, was unanimously chosen President of the Board.

On Saturday last, Thomas Daniel, Esq., late Merchant of this City, left for England, after a residence amongst us of nearly fourteen years, during which time he has been highly successful in business, in the prosecution of which he was much respected for his honorable, upright course. In him our poor have lost a benefactor, bountiful as his means were ample, and to him are the young men engaged in business here under a heavy debt of obligation for the interest he has taken in their welfare by his exertions in doing away with the late hours' system, as well as the desire he has at all times manifested for their mental improvement. His labours on behalf of our Mechanics' Institute, Sailors' Home, and other Institutions of a Benevolent, Literary, and Commercial character, will be long remembered by a large portion of our citizens, by whom he was highly respected.—*Courier.*

At the *Tenth* Annual Meeting of the *St. John Sacred Music Society*, held on Wednesday evening, 4th August, at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Office-Bearers—viz.:

John Boyd, Esquire, M. D., *President;*
Mr. George H. Lawrence, *Vice-President;*
Charles J. Melick, Esquire, *Treasurer;*
George A. Garrison, Esquire, *Secretary;*
Mr. Samuel Steven, *Conductor;*
Mr. E. B. A. G. Blakslee, *Librarian;*

Messrs. Thomas Hallaway, L. H. Waterhouse, James L. Woodworth, James Gerow, jr., Thomas G. Barr, *Music Committee.*

Her Majesty's Steamer *Hermes*, having on board His Excellency Sir John and Lady Harvey, arrived at Halifax on Monday, 2d inst., from St. John.

NEW VESSELS.—On Tuesday last was towed into this harbour by the *Saxe Gotha*, from Black River, a fine and substantial built vessel named the *Ion*, of about 320 tons burthen, built by Mr. Smith, of that place, for R. D. Wilmot, Esq. of this city.—*New Bruns.*

On Monday, the steamer *Maid of Erin* towed into this harbour a fine ship of over 900 tons, called the *Digby*. This vessel was built for James Kirk, Esq., and was launched from the ship-yard of Edward J. Budd, Esq., of Digby. She is a fine specimen of naval architecture, not only in appearance, but in materials and workmanship, in all of which she is equal to the best vessels belonging to the port. She is to be commanded by Capt.