SUMMARY OF NEWS.

EARTHQUAKE AT VALPARAISO.

The British mail steam packet Bolivia, from Valparaiso and intermediate ports, arrived at Panama, brought papers to the 25th of April.

The most important news is the partial destruction of the city of Valparaiso by an earthquake, on the 3d of April, the particulars of which are thus given;—

On the second of April, at 6¼ A. M., Valparaiso was visited by one of those calamities so frequent in volcanic countries.

The severest shock ever felt since the great earthquake of the year 1822, when Valparaiso was almost totally destroyed, has created a panic not equalled by any former event. A severe trembling of the earth of fifteen seconds duration, prolonged less violent to two minutes, has in so short a time destroyed several hundred dwellings. The motion came from the South, and directed its course to the North, notwithstanding some of the northern ports of the country, as Copiapo, Coquimbo, Cobija, have only felt very slight symptoms of the shock.

The captain of a vessel from the South reports to have felt a severe commotion in the sea, forty miles of San Antonio.

The temperature during the earthquake was not and oppressive, but no alteration took place in the thermometer, which stood 62

The American frigate let go her lead immediately, and had great difficulty in hauling it in: the convulsion at the bottom of the sea having caused it to sink three feet in the sand.

The motion of the earth was observed to be of less violence in some parts than others, not a hundred yards distant; so much so, that old and decayed houses stood the shock better in some parts than newly and stronly erected edifices; and those houses in the structure of which the most timber has been employed, remained almost sound.

During the eventful 15 seconds the houses rocked to and fro as so many vessels at sea.

Above two hundred houses are unfit for habitation. More than two hundred families have been obliged to pass the first day and night in the street, partly from fear of renewed shocks, partly from the danger attending the stay in their houses.

We are happy to say not a single life has been lost, nor can we hear of a severe fracture.

The loss is generally esmtimated, including the damage done to buildings, at one million of dollars.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE.—The last Virginia contains the following account of one of the most remarkable escapes on record. It was almost miraculous

The children of Mr. George Hickan, a citizen of Scott County, were playing together in a field, and near the mouth of a fathomless sink-hole. In their gambols one of them, a boy about eight or ten years of age, pushed his little brother, about four years old, headlong over the edge and down into the deep dark pit below. It was some time after the child was missed before any certain information could be drawn from the others as to what had become of him; and it was only threats of severe punishment that finally overcome their fear, and extorted from the boy who did the deed a confession of what had happened. An effort was made immediately to ascertain the situation of the little fellow, and afford him relief if he was not beyond its power. Ropes were tired together, with a stone attached to one end, and an attempt was made to fathom the depth beneath, but more than sixty feet of rope were employed in vain—no bottom could be reached. A lighted candle was then let down, but its light gave no hopeful indication, except that the pit was free from choke damp or impure air as far down as the candle descended. Night came on, and all further efforts had to be for the time abandoned. On the next day further trials were made of the depth of the pit, but with no better sucsess. In despair the frantic parents were about to give up all hopes of recovery or of relieving their little innocent, and preparations were made to close up the mouth of the pit to prevent a like occurrence in the future, when it was suggested and agreed upon that another and a final effort should be made by letting some individual down by ropes to examine the nature of the abyss, and ascertain if there was any encouragement for further efforts to be found below.

A brother of the lost child undertook the fearful task. Cords were fastened around his waist and limbs, and one to his wrist, by which he might indicate to those above his wishes either to descend or to be drawn up. He was swung off, and slowly lowered, until having gone to the depth of about fifty feet, he looked below him, and there shone through the thick darkness two glistening eyes intently looking upward. In another moment he was standing on a shelf or angle in the shaft with the child clasped to his bosom.—He fastened the little fellow securely to his own body, and bidding him take the rope firmly in his hands, the signal was given to draw up. The child hung convulsively to the rope, and, in a few minutes they arose within view of the hundred anxious spectators who had assembled to witness the result; and when the first glimpse of the little fellow alive caught their eager gaze, screams and shouts of joy from the excited multitude filled the air, and big tears of sympthy started from the eyes of every beholder. After the first paroxysms of delight had subsided, the child was examined to see if it had sustained any injury, and extraordinary to tell, with the exception of a little bruise on the back of its head, was perfectly sound and unhurt. The only complaint it made was that it was hungry, being nearly twenty seven hours under the ground. To inquiries made of it, it replied that it saw a light, and heard it thunder. From the nature of the pit, it appeared that the little fellow had fallen a perpendicular distance of forty feet, upon a slope or bend in the shaft, and from that place had slided down twenty feet further to the spot where he was found, leaning against a sort of pillar or wall, and gazing upward. How he escaped instant destruction is beyond all account.

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA!

The steamers North America and Empire City arrived at New York on Tuesday from Chagres, bringing San Francisco dates to the 1st of May. They brought a large number of passengers, and $2 800,000 in gold dust.

Business has revived at San Francisco, but lumber is no better.

The intelligence from California is quite cheering, though nothing of special import has occurred since previous dates.

In San Francisco new buildings were going up, and every thing denoted activity and enterprise.

The only important feature of Sandwich Island news, is the amicable settlement of all difficulties with France.

Robberies have been numerous and bold in the vicinity of Monterey, and the people have called upon the Executive for protection.

There has been much snow in the mountains, and we have heard of several persons who have lost their lives by being frozen to death.

The Indians still continue their depradations in the vicinity of Los Angelos.

Since the rains, the miners have been reported as doing much better than previously. Some of the richest specimens of quartz have been brought to this city ever seen, producing more than 33 per cent. in gold.

There has been great excitement at Mokulumne Hill, in consequence of misunderstandings between the French and Americans.—At last accounts the difficulties had been settled. At one time both parties were armed, and in great force, and the prospect was that a general and bloody battle would ensue.

CANADA.—*Toronto*, May 29.—In the Legislative Assembly last night, the Governor General refused to produce the correspondence with the American Government on reciprocity of trade. The Finance Minister spoke of retaliation as the possible future policy of the government. Of all modes of retaliation, he thought the closing of the Canal against all American vessels the most likely to be effectual, and the risk would be only the loss of Canal tolls.

John Montgomery, who was tried for treason in 1827, claims $28,000 compensation for rebellion losses.

The Attorney General has stated that the government will go to Quebec after this Session.

The House has adopted an address to the Home Government against the proposed reduction of duty on foreign lumber.

On Wednesday, 6 barges laden with dressed lumber, were despatched from Montreal to the United States; two of which proceeded direct to New York, without reshipment.—This is believed to be the first attempt made for a direct communication.

EMIGRATION.—The barque "Barbara," from Londonderry, with 161 passengers has arrived, as also the "Garland," from Bearhaven, with 118 passengers, all in good health. The ship "Queen Pomare," from Liverpool, 36 days, has 13 cabin and 38 steerage passengers; five of whom, as also one of the seamen, are ill with fever of a typhoid character. All the passengers by the "Queen Pomare" were landed at Patridge Island yesterday, and the vessel remains at the Quarantine for observation and purification.—[Newbruns.

FIRES.—On Tuesday morning, the Pail Factory belonging to Mr. Thomas Miller, near the Falls, was totally destroyed.

About 12 o'clock last night, a fire broke out in a range of buildings at the Straight Shore, (near Messrs. Short & Estey's Mills,) which were entirely consumed. We regret to learn that a child of 10 years of age unfortunately perished in the flames. The inmates barely escaped with their lives, losing all their household effects. The Engine belonging to John Pollok, Esq. rendered most efficient service.

Cholera on the Western Rivers.—The St Louis Republican states that the cholera has broken out in various towns in the Interior of Indiana. At Jerseyville nine deaths had occurred in a few hours, and the excitement was so great that the circuit court, which was in session, had adjourned.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Thursday last, Mr. Daniel Murray, formerly a resident in the County of Restigouche, fell from a log while river driving, near the lower end of Sugar Island, and was drowned.—*Head Quarters.*

A Coroner's Inquest was held at Stanley, before George L. Hatheway, Esq., on view of the body of Hugh McKinney, on Friday the 30th of May, who was found drowned in the Nashwaak River. Verdict, accidental death by drowning.—Ib.

The Grist and Saw Mills of Mr. William Redstone, in Jerusalem Settlement, Queen's county, were destroyed by fire on the night of the 19th ult., together with 400 bushels of grain, a large quantity of lumber, and also a Barn, containing a mare and cow. Mr. R was not aware of his loss until the following morning. The value of property destroyed amounts to £500 or £600.—(Newbruns-wicker.

IMPORTANT NEWS.—A telegraph despatch to the News Room states, that news has been received by the steamer Asia, to the effect that the Home Government will give ample aid towards the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway.—[Newbrunswicker.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.—The annual Conference Meetings of the Wesleyan Methodists have been held in this City for the past few days, which were numerously attended. On Monday evening, two candidates were ordained for the Ministry. The services were solemn and impressive.—[Ib

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PUBLIC MEETING.

A Requisition having been on Wednesday presented to the High Sheriff of this City and County, signed by a number of Magistrates and other Gentlemen, requesting him to call a meeting of the inhabitants of this City at the Mechanics Institute, at three o'clock, for the purpose of hearing the Hon. Mr. Howe, from Nova Scotia (who, upon special request, had consented to attend such meeting for the purpose,) on the subject of the contemplated Railways through the Colonies, and the proposition contained in Mr Howe's Letter to Mr. Howe; the High Sheriff called a Public Meeting accordingly; and notwithstanding the shortness of the notice, the meeting was attended by a very large assemblage of the most respectable and influential of our Citizens, as well as by several members of the Province Government and of the Legislature.

On motion of the Hon. John Roberison, the High Sheriff Charles Johnston, Esq., was unanimously called to the Chair; and G. Blatch, Esq, was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman having introduced the Hon. Mr. Howe to the meeting, the Hon. Gentleman immediately addressed the audience in a long and highly interesting speech; and was followed by the Hon. John Robertson, R. Payne, J. H. Gray, and W. J. Ritchie, Esquire.

On motion of the Hon. John Robertson, seconded by the Hon. J. R Partelow, it was

Resolved unanimously, That whatever difference of opinion may exist, as respects the proposals which the Hon. Mr. Howe has so ably advocated, the thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby tendered to him, for the clear manner in which he has explained his views, and more particularly for the able manner in which he has advocated the claims of the North American Colonies before Her Majesty's Government.

On motion, the High Sheriff then left the Chair, and the Hon. Mr. Robertson took the same; whereupon,

On motion of Hon. J. R Partelow, seconded by the Hon. R L. Hazen it was

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the High Sheriff for his courteous and efficient conduct in the Chair.

The meeting then adjourned, *sine die.*

CHAS. JOHNSTON,
Chairman.

G. BLATCH, Sec'ry.

With reference to the charge brought against us by the Hon. Mr. Howe, in his speech at Halifax, and again in this city, of having endeavoured to prejudice him in England, by stating that he was likely to be appointed Governor of Prince Edward Island, we beg to state, that the paragraph in question was furnished to us by a particular friend and admirer of his, and who is still an ardent supporter and advocate of his Railway schemes. We supposed the writer had some authority for his statement, and now beg to apologise for having been led into the error.—[Courier.

COMMUNICATION.

[FOR THE STANDARD.]

MR. EDITOR,—I have just been looking over an editorial of the "Courier," in which he strongly condemns the positions taken by Mr Howe in his speech at Halifax; in reference to which I beg to submit the following remarks. He says in substance—"His" (Mr. Howe's) "main argument is, that it is better to get money at 3½ than at 6 per cent; but if the borrower be required to engage in an unremunerative undertaking, it would be dear to him at any rate of interest. We think the higher rate, if we were required to borrow for either of the railways" (that is, the line to Portland or to Quebec.) "the cheapest." Now, Mr. Howe did not recommend abandoning the Portland road; his argument went to show that the *same* means required for the Portland road might be so applied as to build *both* roads.

He also finds fault with Mr. Howe's estimate of seven per cent. for the funds required for the Portland road. By the lists of stock sales published in the United States, it appears, that railroad stocks do not sell at par unless the dividends approach *eight* per cent The seven per cent. bonds of railroads seldom reach above 85 or 90, and in New York the best Western railroad bonds seldom exceed 90: that is, 85 or 90 dollars in cash for a bond secured by mortgage on the road, bearing interest, semi-annually, at seven per cent. per annum. Will American capitalists sell their cash here for less than it will fetch at home—I think not.

But then he says, American capitalists will make the road, and take the risk of dividends whether it amounted to one or ten per cent., and in such case no interest would have to be paid at all. Famous logic! In the first place, capitalists will not come here with their money unless they can get as much for it as elsewhere; that is, 7 or 8 per cent—In the next place if they get the ten per cent, who pays it? Why the people of the country to be sure. Mr. Morton, in his "report," estimates the through travel at about one sixth of the whole income required to pay dividends of 7 per cent the remainder he expects to be derived from local business; and whether this be paid in the form of freights and fares, or of a tax, the *general* effect is the same—a large sum has to be sent out of the country to pay foreign stockholders or creditors. But in truth great capitalists are not men who build railroads anywhere; they lend money upon good security in the United States—at near eight per cent. but it is the people of small and middling means who push forward the railroads. This assertion, strange as it may appear to some, I will undertake to prove in a future paper, should you be able to find room for so doing One more remark: We are told, that, if the Province borrow, although at low interest to make the railroad, we shall all be ruined. I have nothing to say as to the truth or falsehood of this opinion, but it really seems a very strange kind of way of inducing parties from abroad to engage in them.

SCRUTATOR.

THE STANDARD.

ST. ANDREWS, WEDNESDAY, June 11, 1851.

St. Andrews & Quebec Railroad Company.

John Wilson, Esq., President.
Julius Thompson, Esq., Manager,
S. H. Whitlock, Esq, Secretary.
The Board of Directors meet every Thursday for the transaction of business.

Charlotte County Bank

Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.
T. B. WILSON, Esq., Solicitor.
Discount Day—TUESDAY.
Hours of Business, from 10 to 2.

☞ BILLS and NOTES for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before MONDAY otherwise they must lie over until next week.

Alms and Work House.

Commissioners—Robert Ker, C. Dimock John Lochary, D. Bradley, Henry O'Nea

Saint Stephens Bank

WM. TODD, Esq., *President.*
Discount Day—SATURDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

☞ Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before FRIDAY, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day

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ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA

The Royal mail steamship Asia arrived at New-York on Wednesday last, in 10 days and 16 hours having sailed from Liverpool on the 24th of May.

Cotton had declined 1-4d. to 1-8d. Sales of the week 40,000 bales.

Flour was 6d. lower. Trade continued to improve.

The Ministry have been fully sustained on the Papal Aggression Bill.

There has been a most dangerous flood at Vienna. With one exception, all the bridges have been carried away.

A modification of the Spanish Cabinet, according to accounts of the 15th ult., was again talked of.

Brussels dates are to the 23d ult. No ministry has as yet been formed.

FRANCE.—Paris, Friday Evening, May 23.—There is a promising feeling of confidence in the minds of the public on the question of the revision of the Constitution. The Legitimists and Democrats show a disposition to compromise, which, backed by the general feeling of the country, will probably lead to a renewal of the President's power.

The President of the French Republic attended a review on the 22d ult., in the Champ de Mars Every thing passed off quietly. The President, who was accompanied by Gen. Narvaez, was received with loud shouts of Vive Napoleon.

Hamburg accounts confirm the late statements of a joint remonstrance having been sent to the Danish Government by Austria and Prussia, on the subject of the Federal Commissions.

PORTUGAL.—Accounts from Lisbon in the Diaza da Governors of the 14th, via Madrid, state that the Queen has issued a decree, by which the dismissal of Marshal Saldanha is rendered null and void, and to be considered as never existing, and his appointments, both civil and military, have been confirmed. It also states that Count De Thomar has been informed of his dismissal from the Embassy at Madrid, to which he had been appointed. Saldanha was at Oporto, exercising full civil and military authority, but in the Queen's name.

THE FARMER'S GUIDE.—We have received No. 19 of this excellent and practical treatise on Agriculture, by Messrs Stevens & Norton, from the New-York publishers. Messrs. L. Scott & Co. In consequence of there being about 200 pages more than the work was intended to occupy, the enterprising publishers will increase the size of the remaining numbers to 96 pages, instead of 64, so as to bring the work within the original proposition of 22 numbers, *the price remaining the same*, 85. This reflects credit upon Messrs. Scott & Co. The postage on books published in numbers, will, under the new law, be considerably increased, which makes it important that orders by mail should be forwarded immediately. We again commend it to our agriculturists as a work which should be in every farmer's possession.

BRITISH MAIL STEAMERS.—A Liverpool correspondent of the New-York Herald states that a new arrangement has been entered into with the British and North American Mail Packet Company to continue the weekly trips of their packets through the year, (not excepting as hitherto the four winter months), leaving Liverpool every Saturday, and New York and Boston on each alternate Wednesday. He states in addition, that it is reported that the same line of steamers will run twice a week during the summer and autumn months, beginning with next Spring, sailing from Liverpool on Thursdays and Saturdays, and from New York or Boston on Mondays and Wednesdays.

THE HON. MR. HOWE.—This distinguished gentleman arrived here on Tuesday morning. A requisition was presented to the High Sheriff of this County, signed by a number of the Magistrates and principal Inhabitants, requesting him to call a Public Meeting at the Court House at 12 o'clock, the same day, for the purpose of hearing the Hon. Mr. Howe, (who had consented to attend the Meeting,) on the subject of the contemplated Railroad between Halifax and Quebec. Although the notice was very short, a respectable assemblage attended the Meeting, which was graced by the presence of a number of ladies.

The High Sheriff having been requested to take the chair—in a brief and chaste speech explained the objects of the Meeting, and introduced the Hon. Gentleman. The Hon. Mr. Howe immediately addressed the audience in a lengthy and highly interesting speech of an hour and a quarter, of which we took notes, and will endeavour to give a synopsis in our next. The High Sheriff then, on behalf of the inhabitants, thanked the Hon. Gentleman for his lucid, eloquent, and interesting address.

Lachlan Donaldson, Esq in an appropriate speech introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by John Wilson, Esq, and carried unanimously:—

Resolved,—That the inhabitants of St. Andrews have listened with great pleasure, to the eloquent address just delivered by the Hon. Joseph Howe, and sincerely hope he may, by his ability, determination, and perseverance, be able to effect such a combined effort among these Colonies in respect to Railroads, as will result in their general prosperity, their more intimate intercourse with each other, and their happiness.

The Hon. Mr. Howe left here this morning in the steamer for Portland, on his way to Canada, to attend a meeting of Delegates from the Provincial Governments, which will commence at Toronto on the 14th inst. to take into consideration matters of interest to these Colonies, among which is the construction of Railways.

THE STEAMER CREOLE,—accompanied by a Band, and pleasure party on board from St. John and Eastport, arrived here on Monday last at 3 o'clock, and in a few minutes proceeded on her way to Calais. Owing to unpleasant wet weather, the party was not so numerous as would otherwise have enjoyed the trip. The Creole returned from Calais on Tuesday morning with the party considerably increased, and lay at the Market wharf for a short time, by which means the inhabitants had an opportunity of inspecting her accommodations, which are generally admitted to be elegant; the cabins are commodious and airy, and adapted for the comfort and convenience of passengers; the state-rooms are furnished in a style not surpassed this side of Boston. The Captain, Deering, is an agreeable and gentlemanly man, and is no doubt a general favorite. We understand the Creole made the run from St. John to Eastport in 3 hours and three quarters; from Eastport to St. Andrews in 50 minutes, and from Calais to St. Andrews within an hour—fast enough in all conscience. The Creole left here at eleven o'clock, with her numbers considerably augmented by several of our inhabitants. We bespeak for this steamer a fair share of patronage; she is safe, speedy, clean, and well adapted for a seaboat. We understand that the Creole will make several pleasure excursions during the summer.

Mail Contract.

TENDERS will be received at the POST OFFICE, St. Andrews, until SATURDAY, the 21st instant, from such persons as may be desirous of entering into a Contract for the running of a good PACKET between SAINT ANDREWS and GRAND MANAN, calling at WEST ISLES and CAMPO BELLO, once a week during eight months of the year, and once a fortnight during the other four months of December, January, February, and March.

Tenders will at the same time be received for the running of a PACKET between Saint Andrews and Campo Bello, calling at West Isles, *once a week throughout the year.*

Vessels tendering for the above services will be subject to the approval of an officer of the Post Office Department, and the Deputy Postmaster General does not bind himself to accept the lowest Tender.

The Mails to be conveyed on such days, and at such hours, as may be from time to time appointed by the Deputy Postmaster General.

Each Tender must be accompanied with the names of two responsible persons to become bound with the party tendering for the due and faithful performance of the service.

N. B.—It is to be distinctly understood that persons tendering for the above service will have no claim whatever upon the Legislature for any, the smallest remuneration, over and above the amount named in the Tender.

J. HOWE, *D. P. M. G*

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
St. John, N. B., June 3, 1851.

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