The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, DECEMBER 18, 1849.

The Express with the English Mail of the 1st instant, per steam ship *Hibernia*, arrived in this City early yesterday morning.—The next mail was to leave Liverpool on Saturday last, the 15th inst.

There was no new feature in mercantile affairs since the previous mail.

The Produce markets have been steady, but there was an absence of activity at the several public sales held during the week.

The Cotton market has been dull during the week, and holders have reduced their prices fully one-eighth of a penny per lb. The sales of the week were 19,000 bales.

The Grain trade is dull, and holders are willing to accept reduced prices for most of the leading articles. American Flour sells in Liverpool at 23s. to 24s. per barrel for the best Western Canal. Indian Corn is in fair request, at 29s. to 29s. 6d., for white, and 26s. 9d. to 27s. for yellow.

The Iron market has been active, and heavy sales both of Pig and Bar Iron have been effected.

LIVERPOOL MONTHLY TIMBER REPORT.—The arrivals from British America have been considerable, amounting to 55 vessels, 36,957 tons against 35 vessels, 23,230 tons in same month last year.—The aggregate import since 1st February, shows 206,118 tons, against 176,897 tons to the same period last year. Many cargoes have been sold from the quay, but still very many are being yarded for importers' account, the great bulk of these latter being from Quebec. St. John Pine, although it has suffered a decline from the highest point of fully 1d per foot, has (with very few exceptions,) passed from the importers to the timber merchants, as also hive Spruce Deals; these latter, however, at improving prices at every sale. The country demand has been well sustained, the lower rates of carriage inland being still maintained—we wish we could hope that they would be continued, for a reaction from the rates lately current, cannot fail to have a very prejudicial effect on this market.

Pine Timber.—Of St. John, one cargo, 18½ inches was sold at 18½d; one 18½ inches, at 17½d; one 18½ inches, at 17½d, yarded; and one of 20 inches, at 19d, less half yarding expense, and one of 18½ inches, at 16½d per foot.

Spars.—Some St. John Spruce have been sold at 11d per foot.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Fir Planks and Boards.—Spruce Deals have improved in value, and St. John cargoes have been sold at £7 to £7 17s. 6d. per standard; one cargo not arrived is reported to have been sold at £8 per standard.

Railway Sleepers are still very unsaleable, and confined to retail sales from the timber merchants.

Lathwood.—St. John and Halifax have been sold with cargo at 20s. to 25s. per fathom.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.—We have been favoured with copies of a correspondence which has passed between Mr. John Lockett, the Chairman of the Shipowners' Association, of this town, and the Board of Trade on the subject of the Navigation-laws, which are about to expire. Mr. Lockett applied to the Board to know what foreign countries had agreed to reciprocate with this country, and to place British ships in their ports on an equally favourable footing with foreign ships in British ports, and whether a notification of the same would be published by the Government. Sir Denis Le Marchant replies by stating that, before the act of the last session passed, the Government had not made proposals to the greater number of states, but that, as regards the important maritime countries of Germany, Prussia, Hanover, the Hanse Towns, and other northern powers, also Denmark, Russia, Austria, the Italian States, Greece, and the Ottoman Empire, the treatment of British would be nearly the same as that of national vessels. The states of Central and Southern America were also included in the same category. With regard to France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, and the United States of America, it was thought necessary to adopt a different course, and to take such steps as appeared best calculated to obtain from the Governments of those countries a free admission of British shipping into their ports.

Sir Denis then proceeds to observe that Sweden and the United States had reciprocated maritime freedom with this country, and that any new arrangements before the 1st of January would be published for the information of the country.

This is a very gratifying announcement, for it will be seen that the principal maritime powers in the world have already abandoned their restrictive policy, and agreed to follow in our wake. Belgium and Holland cannot, on the score of self-interest, afford to remain long behind; while with respect to France, Spain, and Portugal, their shipping transactions with England are too minute to affect the working of a principle which will do more to promote the extension of commerce than any scheme that has yet been devised.

SPECIE.—The sum of $2,000,000, chiefly in gold, has arrived in London, from the Pacific side of South America, in H. M. frigate Constance. Gold continues to come in from various quarters, and the Bank store consequently increases. Money is very easy, and firm securities inquired for at low rates.

NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS.—We have heard from good authority, that Lord Palmerston is determined to allow of no American interference in Nicaragua affairs, and that, at all events, British interests shall not be menaced either on the West India side or the Pacific side of Nicaragua. His lordship, we are informed, has acted most promptly in the matter, and that, in order to forward despatches to the Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific on the subject, the West India packet was detained for some hours at Southampton on Saturday last. Rear-Admiral Hornby, it is said, is ordered up with his squadron to cruise in the neighbourhood of Panama, and to be within call of the British Charge d'Affairs at Nicaragua.—*United Service Gazette.*

The great question of Colonial management continues to be discussed by the leading organs of opinion, from time to time, in a spirit accordant with the peculiar views entertained by each. The London *Times*, whose policy is most erratic, and cannot be calculated upon for any specific time, is sometimes disposed to make very short work of the Colonies, namely, to turn them adrift, and let them shift for themselves, but has now become the advocate of responsible government in the Colonies.

The Bank of England held in its vaults, November 22d, £16,037,690, and something like £2,000,000 more was expected to arrive before the end of the year. This matter attracted much attention in the money circles, and the bank has reduced its stated loans to 2½ per cent., which was likely to reduce the price in Lombard street to 2 per cent per annum.

The Rev. Dr. Scoresby delivered a speech at the Whitby Institute, in which he states very confidently his hopes for the safety of Sir John Franklin, grounding them upon the considerations that it was not likely that little band of 140 scientific and hardy men should not have made their way, had there been a catastrophe, within the range of some fishing stations; and that had the vessels been destroyed in the interior ices the very bodies of ice would afford platforms for escape, and because supposing no catastrophe, they might, just as easily as Sir J. Ross, remain sealed up and unheard of for a like period and yet be safe.

The Rt. Hon. Fox Maule, has been appointed to a seat in the Cabinet.

There were dense fogs in London on Saturday and Sunday 25th, and several accidents occurred on the Thames and in the streets.

The late Dr. Crowther, of Wakefield, has left nearly the whole of his property, amounting to about £40,000, to be applied, after the decease of his wife and niece, in building an infirmary at Wakefield.

The *Morning Herald* states that orders have been sent out to Vice-Admiral Sir W. Parker, Bart., G. C. B., to retire from the Dardanelles with the fleet under his command, and to proceed to Malta.

The Hall of Commerce, London, has been sold for £44,000. For the site alone, a few years since, £35,000 was paid.

The Right Hon. Mr. Macaulay, by an unanimous vote of the students, has been re-elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University.

The Cork Constitution says:—"The Corporation of Liverpool have completed a compromise with the Woods and Forests by consenting to pay to their credit a sum of £100,000 for land they took in from the river there."

A boy, aged seven years, was the other day playing with a cut glass bead, which unfortunately he put into his mouth, and accidentally swallowed. It entered the windpipe, and he died almost instantly.

A common pigeon was shot, a few days ago, in the woods of Cullen, and in its crop were found no fewer than one thousand and six grains of corn, and a quantity of beans and pease.

The Kildare Hotel, No. 4, Tighe street, Dublin was destroyed by fire on the morning of Saturday last, the proprietor, Mr. Hill, having had a narrow escape for his life.

THE WHOLESALE STATIONERY HOUSE OF MR. GEORGE MAGNAY has been compelled to suspend payment. It is said, however, that the circumstance has arisen from temporary causes, and that on investigation Mr Magnay's accounts and business management were found so satisfactory as to induce the creditors to grant a year's extension, under the conviction that in that time a payment may be realized of 20s. in the pound.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.—There were 111 public acts passed in the late session, all of which, with the exception of one, are in operation. The exception relates to the repeal of the navigation-laws, which will come into force on the 1st of January next.—*Manchester Examiner.*

MR. HUDSON'S FORTUNES.—*Herapath's Journal* of Saturday says, "Mr Hudson has sold his Londesborough estate, his Octon Grange estate, bought for £70,000, and his Hutton Cranswick estate, comprising altogether about 16,000 acres of land in the East Riding of Yorkshire, to Lord Albert Denison, late Conyngham, the heir or executor of the late Mr. Denison. He retains now only his Baldersley estate, which cost about £125,000, on which he has expended some £20,000, and Newby Park, which cost £20,000. He has made a small profit on the estates sold, and wants about £200,000, for the two left. Some will be glad to hear this, as they will expect Mr. Hudson to act liberally, and repay some of the sufferers by him a part of their losses."

A scheme has been organized in Liverpool to constitute a company for the promotion of trade with Africa; the capital to amount to £100,000 in 2000 shares.

The passengers by the steam-ship Canada, on her late voyage from New York, brought home nearly £1,000,000 in gold. One passenger from California brought £30,000.

MR BECKWITH, late Secretary to the Leeds Infirmary, has been sentenced to seven years' transportation, for embezzling upwards of £1000 from the funds of that institution.

Considerable alarm has prevailed during the week, in consequence of the increasing unsatisfactory state of the relations between Austria and Prussia. At present the exact truth of the position has not yet transpired; but, mixed up as it will be with the grand question of German unity, it is replete with danger. Whilst this is going on in the heart of Germany, Austria is threatened by the Piedmontese with a fresh outbreak, the Parliament at Turin showing the most hostile feelings against their late conquerors, and being but too well disposed again to try their fortunes by an appeal to arms.

The Pope finding that his friends in Paris are no longer in the ascendant, has become alarmed, and refuses to return to Rome. General Baraguay d'Hilliers has assumed his functions in lieu of General Rostolan, but the policy of the French has not advanced one step towards the solution of this Roman difficulty.

From Constantinople the news only confirms the previous pacific course of event. Nothing further has transpired respecting the whereabouts of the Polish and Hungarian fugitives. The Russian ambassador, M. Titoff, has once more been admitted to an interview with the Grand Vizier, and diplomatic relations may thus be presumed to be renewed between Russia and the Porte.

Chevalier Dillon, an Englishman, who discovered the remains of La Perouse some years ago, and who was appointed French Consul at the Sandwich Islands, has contrived to involve the French in some conflict with the natives; but as there appears to be no deliberate intention on the part of the French Government to commit hostilities, and permanently to occupy the country, we need not anticipate any unpleasant consequences.

THE ENGLISH FLEET AND THE TURKS.—We find the following in a letter from the English fleet in the Mediterranean:—

"Sir William Parker, with the captains of his fleet, called upon the Pasha of the Dardanelles yesterday, and Sir William (whose repugnance to tobacco smoking, and to allow any one in his ship or squadron to do so either is so well known, and so rigidly enforced in the former case) actually took three whiffs of the Pasha's pipe, and then requested the Consul to explain to his Highness that if he took another he would drop down dead.

"The Admiral proceeds in a day or two to Constantinople, and on his return the squadron will leave the Dardanelles for (it is reported) Salamis Bay.

"On Sunday an order arrived from Constantinople to allow the officers of the squadron to visit the castles, which was very soon taken advantage of. The huge cannon still remain, but instead of being fixtures they are on sides, and can be trained a few inches, one way or the other. The marble shot weighs 900 lb., and the charge of powder required is 68lb.—Two or three young midshipmen got in at the muzzle with ease and stowed themselves away up to the breech! The castles appear to have no defence on the land side. The gun is shown you which disabled the Windsor Castle in 1807. The gaping embrazures would be much exposed to grape and musketry.

"A Turkish steamer, having 3000 troops on board and with an admiral's flag at her main, passed on her way to the island of Scio. Salutes were given and returned by the flags.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, Dr. Dow entertained a large and respectable audience with a very interesting lecture on *Anatomy*, which he illustrated with a fine skeleton of the human frame, &c. He will continue the subject on Monday evening next.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Professor Johnston will on next Friday evening, deliver a lecture at the Mechanics' Institute, on which occasion the Professor will, we understand, give an outline of his report on the Agricultural capabilities of this Province. A lecture on so interesting a subject, from so scientific a man, cannot fail to be highly instructive and valuable.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—A discovery has been made of the means used to break the Telegraph wires. On Saturday last the communication was stopped, in the same way that it has happened for the last three weeks, and on minutely examining the wire, it was found that a break had been made at the Hon. R. L. Hazen's garden, Union Street, where the hook is attached to a tree, and a piece of cord joined in, to support the wire. It being supposed that the perpetrator of this act would return to put the wire in order again, as soon as the Mail had arrived, so that the cause of stoppage might not be discovered, Mr. James Stockford, the High Constable, was employed to watch. On Sunday night, about 12 o'clock, he saw a man climb into the tree, and, on bringing him down, found him to be a young man named James Anderson, lately in the employment of the proprietor of the *Newbrunswicker.*—Anderson was brought up before the Police Magistrate yesterday, and committed for trial for felony.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.—No Speaker of the House of Representatives had been elected on the 13th inst., after balloting for 9 or 10 days, and consequently the President's Message had not been transmitted to Congress. A disgraceful scene had occurred in the House of Representatives, growing out of the Slavery question; in the course of which Mr. Duer, of New-York, accused Mr. Meade, of Virginnia, of being a disunionist. Meade pronounced it false, whereupon Duer called him a liar. Mr. Toombs said that the South would no longer be disturbed by the North. He was for disunion rather than the present state of things should be continued. And in this state the House adjourned.

At a meeting of the Common Council on Wednesday last, a Report from the Fire Department Committee being read, leave was given to procure *snow runners* for the Engines, and to repair the Engine House in Germain street.—A report was received from the Chief Engineer respecting the condition of the Hose.

ANNIVERSARY SOIREE.—The congregation worshipping in St. Stephen's Hall, met there on Wednesday evening, with a number of their friends, to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival amongst them of their esteemed pastor, the Rev. Mr. THOMSON. The arrangements made by the Committee of Management, for the entertainment of the large company assembled on the auspicious occasion were excellent, and seemed to afford the highest satisfaction to all present—as "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" went on without interruption until the separation of the company at a late hour. The chair was ably sustained by DR. PATTERSON, who, in his introductory remarks, alluded to that as being the second of what he hoped might be a series of meetings held in that Hall towards hastening on, not only a union among the people of God in general, but a union among the broken and scattered ranks of Presbyterianism in this Province in particular. It was encouraging to find the chord thus touched by the chairman, taken up by the Rev. Mr. Thomson and some of the subsequent speakers. We are convinced, from the spirit that prevailed on Wednesday evening in St. Stephen's Hall, that the day is at hand when the Presbyterian Church of New-Brunswick will present a strong and noble front to the whole world.—The first step has now been taken towards this, and in the right direction. We understand that all the Protestant Ministers of the City were specially invited to be present on the occasion. Letters of apology were received from the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Rector of Portland, the Rev. Mr. Donald, Minister of St. Andrew's Church, and the Rev. Mr. Wiggins, Curate of St. John. On the platform we saw the Rev. Messrs. John Thomson; R. Irvine, of St. John Presbyterian Church; J. Irvine, of Carleton; S. Robinson, and J. D. Casewell, of the Baptist Church; S. Busby, Wesleyan Methodist; J. R. Lawson, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; and Alexander Campbell, Esq., Barrister, St. John, and Dr. Waddell, Carleton, &c.—*Courier.*

THE PORTLAND EPISCOPAL SABBATH-SCHOOL underwent a very satisfactory examination on Wednesday last, by the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Rector of the Parish. The attendance, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, was unusually large, and as far as we could judge, the School appears to be in a very flourishing and efficient state. After the examination the children were regaled with a plentiful supply of fruit, cakes, and other delicacies, provided by the teachers and others for the occasion. A number of visitors also attended, who seemed highly gratified with the proceedings.—*Ib.*

Mr. James Robertson, Manager of the Water Company, has been appointed by the Common Council one of the Fire Wards of the City.—*N. Br.*

Dr. Webster has been found guilty of the murder of Dr. Parkman, by the Coroner's jury, at Boston.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT OF THE ENGLISH STEAMERS.—The change of departure of the English steamers from weekly to semi-monthly commenced with the sailing of the Hibernia from Liverpool, Dec. 1. The steamers from America will be weekly till the 26th instant, and then semi-monthly till the 1st of May next.

[From the Royal Gazette, Dec. 12.]

A Committee of the Medical Profession in Saint John waited upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the 11th December instant, and presented the following Address of the Committee, and Resolutions adopted at a Meeting of the Faculty, on the 6th inst:

To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the undersigned, in behalf of a General Meeting of the Medical Gentlemen of Saint John, convened in that City on the sixth instant, beg leave most respectfully to submit to Your Excellency, that the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, in their recent appointment of a Physician to that Institution, have evinced an entire disregard to the rights of the Medical Profession of this Province, and have thrown an unmerited imputation and reflection upon the character and professional qualification of its members, among whom are to be found many gentlemen whose character, standing, professional qualifications and experience, fully qualify them to perform the duties of the office, and whose residence within the Province gives them a claim paramount to that of a stranger. They, therefore, humbly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to order a new Commission to be formed for the governance of that Institution.

ROBERT BAYARD, M. D., &c.
Dec. 11, 1849. WM. LIVINGSTONE, C. M.

Resolutions passed at a Meeting of the Medical Profession in St. John, Dec. 6, 1849.

1st—Moved by Dr. HARDING, seconded by Dr TRAVERS—

Resolved, That there are many Medical Gentlemen practising in various parts of the Province of New Brunswick, who, after regular course of study, have obtained satisfactory testimonials of Professional acquirements and qualifications from established Schools of Medicine and Surgery.

2d—Moved by Dr. RUDDOCK, seconded by Dr. LIVINGSTONE—

Resolved, That the Lunatic Asylum of this Province was built and is sustained by Funds obtained from the Public Revenue, towards which every Practitioner of Medicine in New Brunswick, as a tax-payer, has paid his proportion, and is therefore entitled to fair consideration in the disposal of Public Offices connected with his profession.

3d—Moved by Dr. TRAVERS, seconded by Dr. MILLER—

Resolved, That the Medical Gentlemen throughout New Brunswick have been subjected to unmerited reflection by the recent proceedings of the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, in their appointment of a Gentleman from another Province as Physician to that Establishment; and this Meeting thus publicly records its protest and just indignation.

4th—Moved by Dr. SAMUEL BAYARD, seconded by Dr. WETMORE—

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, as at present constituted, four of the Gentlemen being Members of the Legal Profession, and the others Gentlemen of different pursuits, without any Member of the Medical Faculty associated with them, are thereby unqualified to superintend the affairs of a Medical Institution, and that the above Commission is therefore viewed by this Meeting as an indignity offered to the Physicians and Surgeons of this Province possessing the confidence of the public.

5th—Moved by Dr. LIVINGSTONE, seconded by Dr. HUNTER PETERS—

Resolved, That the conduct of the Commissioners throughout the proceedings of the appointment, manifests an undue Executive influence in the exercise of patronage.

6th—Moved by Dr. FITCH, seconded by Dr. SHARPE—

Resolved, That a Committee consisting of Drs. LIVINGSTONE and BAYARD, be appointed and requested to proceed immediately to Fredericton, to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and present the foregoing Resolutions; and to draft and present an Address to His Excellency, praying him to issue a new Commission framed more in accordance with the equal rights of all departments of society, and thereby better calculated to ensure the success and extend the usefulness of the Institution.

ROBERT BAYARD, M. D., &c.
WM. LIVINGSTONE, C. M.
December 11, 1849.

To these Resolutions and Address His Excellency returned the following answer:—

I have perused and shall attentively consider the Resolutions and Address presented by Dr. Bayard and Dr. Livingstone.

I cannot admit that the present Commission is incompetent to superintend the affairs of the Lunatic Asylum, simply because it contains no Medical man among its members.—Were it expected that the Commission should regulate the diet and medical treatment of the patient, there would have been great force in the objection.—Had the Legislature conceived any such qualification to be necessary for one or more Members of the Commission, it is presumed they would have prescribed it in the Act.

With regard to the undue Executive influence which the Memorialists conceive they can trace in the proceedings of the Commission, I do not admit its existence, and I should very much deprecate anything of the sort.

Nor can I acquiesce in the view, that to select a Member of the Medical Profession from the adjoining Province, is an insult to the Medical Practitioners of this Colony. A very few weeks have elapsed since a federal Union of the British North American Colonies was publicly discussed at Saint John; among its advocates was at least one Member of the Profession. I cannot, under any circumstances, look upon a Subject of the British Crown in Nova Scotia in the light of a Foreigner. I have some reason to think, moreover, that the place in question was offered without success to one or more Medical men resident in this Province.

I cannot hold out to the Memorialists any hope of superseding the present Commission on the grounds put forward by them.

An attempt was made some time since to form a Commission which would have contained none but residents at St. John, and of which no individual belonging to the Executive Government was a Member. Many of the Gentlemen then named declined to act, and to this fact, and this alone, the present Commission, constituted as it is, owes its origin. I need not point out to the Memorialists, that the Provincial Act 12 Victoria, c. 29. s. 5. vests the whole power of appointing and dismissing the Officers of the Asylum in the Commissioners.

To supersede the Commission, merely because they have exercised the powers legally vested in them, without any allegation that the person is unfit or incompetent, would be in reality open to the charge of bringing "undue Executive influence" to bear on the management of the Asylum.

Government House, 11th Dec., 1849.

THE HUNGARIANS.—A family of Magyars, passengers by the Hermann, which called in here on Wednesday, 21 days from Southampton, to coal, excited a good deal of attention by their singular habits and foreign appearance, as they were seen walking about town in company with Dr. Hoffman, who was able to converse with them in German—we presume.

The old gentleman wore a spruce red feather in his hat, and entirely put to flight all our City Nobs with their dainty moustachios. His was a substantial beard of some fifty years growth to all appearance, descending quite down to his breast, giving him a most venerable appearance. His wife, a staid matron with a weather beaten countenance, looked the personification of a companion to the Brave Kossuth. The other members of the family looked nothing remarkable. We have heard that this Exile now on his way to Republican America to plant a Colony there, was one of the brave men by whose counsels the Citadel of Comorn was so stoutly defended, and who at length capitulated only on terms which protected their honours, and guaranteed them their fortunes. We could scarcely repress a desire to bid this northern stranger welcome to the West. A hearty welcome to the land of the free!—*Halifax Recorder, Saturday last.*

THE PANORAMA.—The Halifax Novascotia states that Mr. Cassidy, after a very extensive patronage in that city of his splendid picture of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, is to leave by the next steamer for Newfoundland. Thousands of all ages, sexes, and conditions, have (adds the Novascotian) been delighted visiters at his really beautiful exhibition. Mr. Cassidy is a native of Halifax.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The St. John's papers mention the arrival of large quantities of Agricultural produce from Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, and congratulate themselves on being able to lay in a cheap supply for the ensuing winter.——It has been estimated that the sum of £71,000 is annually lost on the products of the Fishery, by a currupt system of banking; and the merits of the system pursued by the Banks in St. Johns, is being discussed by the newspapers.——The debt of Newfoundland is now upwards of £100,000.——Considerable numbers of vessels were arriving from the continent of Europe, and altogether the fish trade is pretty brisk.—The Fisheries of Newfoundland, it is estimated, produce annually 800,000 quintals of Codfish, 4000 tuns of Cod Oil, 6500 tuns of Seal Oil, and 500,000 Seal Skins.

FROM JAMAICA.—Kingston papers to 1st Dec. have been received at New-York. The weather was favourable for the agriculturalist, and a good crop was expected for the ensuing year. A smart shock of Earthquake was felt at Kingston on Sunday night, 25th ult. at ten minutes to 8 o'clock. The undulations were east to south west, and its duration of several seconds. The shock having occured during divine service in the Methodist and other chapels in the city, the suddenness with which it came caused great consternation among the congregations.

The question of a reciprocal trade with the U. States, such as Canada desires, has given rise to agitation in Jamaica.—*Halifax Recorder.*

CANADA.—The closing of the commercial year 1849 has been more suspicious than its commencement. A better business has been done than was anticipated, and though prices have been low, they have been well sustained, and fewer losses incurred from ruinous contracts. The Banks have done a surer, though a smaller business, and Bank Stocks are beginning to look up again. The truth is, bad as the times are, they might be worse.

It must force a conviction to every bosom, that we Canadians live too fast; that we expend more money than we earn; and consequently, that our complaints against the times ought with greater justice be laid against ourselves. Let us compare ourselves with persons in the same station of life at home, whether in England, Ireland or Scotland. We live better, we dress better, our habitations are better furnished, and we indulge in more personal comforts, and in greater luxuries. There is not so much wealth in Canada as at home, because we have no really rich people; but among the middle classes, that is, among nearly the whole population of Western Canada, at least there is a much greater appearance of wealth than circumstances would warrant.

Is there not some analogy between the first and second of those paragraphs—between cause and effect?—*British Whig.*

LAKE SIMCOE.—It is with no small degree of pleasure we became acquainted a day or two ago with improvements which are already commenced, or are about to take place, north of us. The past season, for the farmers, has been a most abundant one. The crops were heavy, and with few exceptions, most excellent. Many fine farms have changed hands, in which operation the new comer, with his shining sovereigns, has almost in every instance supplanted the sturdy pioneer, and enabled him to push farther into the intricacies of the bush, and with the assistance of his "boys" (who now think father might give each of them a farm for himself) commences anew to "chop" and "clear" on a scale commensurate with their present importance as possessors of £200 to £300. The fine macadamised road from Toronto to the Landing, bids fair to convert it into what Governor Simcoe originally intended it for, viz.: Yonge Street, for already it is a village nearly 18 miles in length. The extreme end of it between St. Alban's and the Holland river, is now being planked and drained. A new fast boat is said to be under contract, to be ready by the spring—in which the Mining Companies have a large interest.

Flour, and almost everything a farmer can send to market, now travels north from the margin of the lake, and good markets have during the summer abundantly repaid the country farmer who pushed forward his "notions" to the region of "ready money." More stages, more coaches, more omnibi, will be required for the next season, to transport the increased numbers which this new and favourite route is likely to attract. With the "new boat," and the comfortable old "Beaver," pleasure parties may have opportunities of running round the lake twice a-day—and a more delightful summer excursion cannot well be thought of. Capreol's Rail Road is alone wanting to bring Sault Ste. Marie within a pleasant distance of the Seat of Government in Canada.

In the above, has a too favourable picture been drawn? Let those who think so—who have any doubts as to the rapidity, the great rapidity with which various parts of the country are rising into importance and prosperity, and its vrious resources becoming developed, compare Yonge street now with what Yonge Street was, say ten years ago. We will mention but one fact; and we call attention to it as a matter too intimately connected with our foreign export trade, not to be one of great consequence: since the completion of Yonge Street road to the Holland Landing, that is, within three years, there have been erected in the Oak Ridges, or in their neighbourhood, 5 steam saw-mills—all apparently doing a prosperous business.

This summer, too, some one or two knowing speculators went round the country bordering on Lake Simcoe, and having bought all the eggs, butter, cheese, and such like small notions they could obtain, conveyed them by means of the steamer "Gore," from Sturgeon Bay to the Mines; and having there made their market return enriched by the speculation to the amount of about $3000.

Truly we are of opinion that British Canadian enterprise is quite sufficient to carry us through far greater difficulties than any we have yet encountered—that we are men enough to help ourselves—and do not require Yankee assistance to better our condition. We would avoid the clog of Annexation.—*Toronto Patriot.*

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—*Highly Important from Honduras.*—Intelligence from Central America of a very important character have been received.

The British Agent had seized Tigar Island, in Honduras. This is the same Island that was ceded to the United States by the government of Honduras. Our Consul ordered the British agent to evacuate immediately, or take the consequences of a refusal.

The British had also seized all other islands of Honduras, and taken possession of the entire coast of San Salvador.

The States were aiming to resist these aggressions, and serious trouble is apprehended.

It is supposed the government at Washington will take immediate steps to maintain the dignity of the nation in that quarter.

The Brazilian, from St. Andrews, for California, was spoken, all well, on the 28th Oct., lat. 10 20 N., lon. 30 20 W., by the Express, packet, at Falmouth.

BEEF.—There is an ox in Cambridge which now weighs 3700 pounds, and it is thought by good judges that in less than three months time he will weigh nearly if not quite 5000. His owner, Justin Marcy, Esq., states that the animal never has been stall-fed, and that he intended to *fatten* him during the present winter. He was raised in Stanstead, Canada, by Lewis E. Rose, Esq., and measures eleven feet from the nose to the rump, six feet in height, and nine feet six inches in girth, and is but seven years old.—*Boston Daily Adv.*

Two distinguished Hungarian patriots arrived in this city, yesterday, by the steamship Europa, and have taken lodgings at the Tremont House. One of these distinguished gentlemen is Col. J. Pragay, the other Major Fornet. The former was colonel under Gen. Klapka, at the siege of Comorn, where he rendered efficient service. He was present in thirty-eight battles, and brings with him the highest testimonials from his countrymen of his high standing at home, his valor, and his worth. The latter, Major Fornet, was, until the revolution, a private citizen, engaged in civil pursuits. Educated, however, at the military school, when his country required his services, he entered the army, and soon rose to the honorable post of major of the corps of civil engineers. As soon as their arrival was known, they were waited on by a committee, in behalf of the resident Hungarians, to welcome them among them.—*Boston Bee.*

In the week concluded last Saturday, the value of the exports from Boston to the British Provinces was $12,378 45c. in domestic products, and $4,501 57c. in foreign products. The value of the imports in the same period into that port from these Provinces was but $2,263. A rather large balance in favour of Boston.

The planters throughout the South now generally admit the cotton crop to have turned out much better than was expected sometime since, the late continued warm weather having resulted greatly to its benefit.

Advices have been received from Texas to Nov. 12th, stating that the cotton crop throughout the State was shorter than was even expected, and the news from every quarter continued unfavourable.

The Steamer Gore, with 100 men of the Rifle Brigade, bound to the scene of the late Indian disturbances, in the Mining Districts, is supposed to have been lost on Lake Superior, during a recent gale.—*Boston paper.*

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS.—John Bromfield, Esq., one of the most respected citizens of Boston, died in that city last week. He was formerly a leading merchant, engaged in the Canton trade. A few years since he made a munificent donation of $25,000 to the Boston Atheneum, the income of which was to be annually appropriated to the purchase of books. Mr. Bromfield has since left in his will the following very liberal and judicious donations—$40,600 to the Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Asylum, for free beds; $10,000 to the Blind Asylum; $10,000 to the Eye and Ear Infirmary; $10,000 to the Farm School; $10,000 to the Female Asylum; $10,000 to the Seamen's Aid Society; $10,000 to the Boston Dispensary; $10,000 to the town of Newburyport, for charitable uses. Total, (including the $25,000 to the Atheneum)—$135,000. Besides the above, Mr. Bromfield leaves over $100,000 to his relatives and friends.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD.—This road has been put under contract from Chagres river to Panama, twenty-one miles. The contractors are Messrs. Totten and Trautwine, whose proposals were the most favorable, and who possess the great recommendation of having been employed for the last four or five years in the territories of New Grenada, in constructing a canal ninety miles long, to connect two branches of the Magdalena river.—They accomplished this work with native labor, with which they propose to build the Panama road. Wm. H. Slidell, Esq., will be the principal engineer.—[Boston Bee.

NO INTERCOURSE WITH AUSTRIA.—Petitions are now circulating through the city designed to induce Congress to suspend diplomatic intercourse with Austria "by reason of its tyranny, its barbarous punishments, its sanguinary atrocities and judicial murders in Hungary, Austria and Italy.—*N. Y. Express.*

THE COTTON CROP.—The total crop of the United States in 1849, the present year, is estimated in an article in Hunt's Merchant's Magazine at 2,729,000 bales, 333,000 more than in 1848. The crop for 1850 estimated to amount to 2,250,000 bales. The consumption of cotton in the U. States, in 1848, put down at 510,000 bales; of Great Britain at 1,600,000, and France, of United States cotton, at 400,000 bales.

OMNIBUSES.—There are three hundred and fifty-four omnibuses in Broadway, which pay to the treasury of the city the sum of $7,000 per year, while the hackney coaches and carts pay a license of $7,265—the former holding most of the street.

The Rev. Peter Rogers, one of Washington's Life Guards in the war of Independence, died in Illinois recently, at the age of 99 years. He was the last of that faithful band.

Out of 1446 children in Indianapolis, Indiana, there are but 176 who do not attend in some Sabbath School. What other City can show a result equally favourable?

CINCINNATI, Dec. 7.—Pugh & Co. and Stagg & Co's Pork establishments were reduced to ashes in one hour. They were the two largest in the city. Pugh's house was full of provisions, including 3000 dressed hogs, and in Stagg & Sharp's a large stock of hams were burnt.

ARRIVAL OF THE CRESCENT CITY.—*One Month later from California.*—The steomer Crescent City arrived at New York at 11 o'clock on Friday morning, from Chagres, via Kingston, Jamaica.

The steamer California arrived at Panama on the 23d November, bringing two hundred and fifty-eight passengers, and more than one million of dollars' value in gold; of the passengers, the Crescent City brought one hundred and sixty, and gold to the amount of one million of dollars, including that belonging to the passengers.

The California was to leave Panama on the 2d December for California. She arrived at Panama on the 22d of November, having left San Francisco on the 2d. At Mazatlan she received $72,000 and at San Blas $42,000—all destined for England.

We observe that among the passengers are several from the Sandwich Islands, including the Hon. G. P. Judd, his Hawaiian Majesty's Plenipotentiary, accompanied by Master Liholiho, the heir presumptive, and his brother Kamehameha. They will proceed immediately to Washington, and thence in a few days to England. It is said that the object of Dr. Judd's visit to the United States and Europe has reference to the late outrages of the French at the Sandwich Islands.

The passengers crossing the Isthmus continued very numerous. Thirteen hundred, it is said, left Chagres in two days, for Panama.

Passengers sufficient to fill the next two steamers, besides several large sailing vessels, were awaiting passage on the departure of the California from San Francisco.

The British steamer Avon, from Nicaragua, arrived at Chagres on the 26th November, and sailed on the 28th for Carthagena.

It is reported that the cholera is carrying off from twelve to fifteen persons daily at Mazatlan.

The Californian of the 1st of November, publishes Gen. Riley's proclamation in English and Spanish, for the observance of the 29th day of that month as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

The prospectus for a religious paper, to be called "The Watchman," is published in the San Francisco papers. It is at first to be published monthly, and the issue increase in frequency as circumstances warrant; price twenty-five cents per number of eight quarto pages, or one sheet.

The steamers Unicorn and Senator have arrived at San Francisco. The Senator is to run on the Sacramento River.

All the vessels from the United States drawing less than seven feet of water, and schooner rigged, are employed on the rivers or on the coast.—Steamer McKim has been sold, dismantled and running to Sacramento city as a packet. She was purchased for $65,000; cost at New-Orleans, when ready for sea, $8,000.

The British frigate Inconstant, (36) has paid a second visit to San Francisco, and returned to Valparaiso. Two men attempted to desert from the Inconstant, one was shot, being killed instantly; the other was taken.

The first snow of the season fell on the Sierra Nevada mountains, October 13th. It was eight inches deep.

The speculation in town lots has not in the least abated. Sacramento city, with its 7000 inhabitants, and San Jose, newly made the capital, are next in demand after San Francisco property. Stockton is not far behind; while the towns of Sutterville, Vernon and Fremont, in the Sacramento Valley, and Towalume and San Joaquin cities to the south, are rapidly springing into importance. Benicia improves slowly, but will never be a rival to San Francisco, and New-York-on-the-Pacific looks quite lonely with its three houses and mosquito burdened air.

As to the results of the operations for gold, and the prospects of the diggers, the accounts as usual are contradictory. Yet the large number of homeward bound emigrants, by all the late conveyances, seems to establish the fact that experience has greatly cooled the ardor of very many enthusiastic adventurers.

Provisions of all kinds have risen enormously within a week, and the market is quite destitute already of flour and pork, the two great staples for the miners.

The Alta California of the 1st of November says that the health of the mining community was never better than at that time. The sickly season had passed, and the heat of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys greatly abated. Winter quarters were spoken of, and a mountain home will be the choice of nearly all now engaged in mining.

The digging operations will continue for a month longer, when the workmen will go into winter quarters. The rainy season will commence in two or three weeks.

Heavy rains had occurred at San Francisco, destroyed goods left in exposed situations, to the amount of $100,000. Considerable sickness was occasioned thereby.

The town of San Francisco contains about 30,000 inhabitants.

Several lumber mills have been erected in California, and are commencing to send lumber into market. The Oregonians have mostly left the mines and are turning their attention to lumber.

There are many persons, finding their stay here protracted beyond their first expectations, have gone to work at their different trades.

PLACER INTELLIGENCE.—*Sherlock's Diggings, Mariposa, Sept. 27.*—This, Mr. Editor, is unquestionably the place for "big chunks," but let me instruct you concerning these diggings. They were discovered two or three months since by a man named Sherlock, who, with a company of seventy Mexicans, worked these deposits on shares. The work varies with us, as well as elsewhere. In 8 days, three men took out 57 pounds of pure gold. And last week twa men took out in two days 29 pounds from a spot near my camp.—Sherlock has gone into the mountains, no one knows where, and we have elected a new Alcalde, who, the day of his installation into office, issued an order for all Mexicans to decamp, which they did forthwith.—We all intend to winter here, as we can easily make comfortable quarters. This place is distant 11 miles from Fremont's discovery, and is much the richest of the two deposits. Many large pieces have been recently found here, averaging from