The News Boys' Address, respectfully presented to the Patrons of

OBSERVER,

St. John, January 1, 1854.

I read it in your face to-day,
Though not Lavater's brightest scholar,
"What do you read?" my friends will say:
I answer— QUARTER OF A DOLLAR!

My Patrons, FIFTY-THREE has pass'd
Or roll'd, or run, or flown:
Should his successor prove our last,
To us is quite unknown.

And, FIFTY FOUR, like each New Year,
Although on Sabbath day,
Began with joy and dainty cheer,
If not wild sport and play.

Whilst many, as in former years,
Far from a mirthful mood,
Sit by deserted hearths, in tears,
In grief and solitude.

Strong ties are rent, dear friends are fled,
Alas! in cheerless gloom
They mourn, in sorrow for the dead
And wish themselves a tomb.

To others Fifty-three was fraught
With pleasure, gain and health,
While all they planted, builded, bought
Increas'd their stock of wealth.

Great numbers lost their earthly goods,
Ships, mills, house, cash and store,
By wrecks and robbers, fires and floods,
And now are sad and poor.

The total sum of human woe
Is past all calculation,
Which suff'ring mortals undergo
In one short year's rotation.

To damp a New-Year's harmless mirth,
Becomes no printer's boy,
So if one joy is left your hearth,
May you a share enjoy.

Last year was an eventful time
Around our earthly ball,
'Twould take a world of verse and rhyme
To give a tithe of all.

Fire, flood, and earthquake, plague and death,
War, murder, robbery, riot,
Have kept our "old and crazy earth"
Uneasy and unquiet.

I would not dwell on direful war
Between contending nations,
Of Chinese rebels, Turk and Czar,
'Twould gender sad sensations.

Though we sincerely wish the Turk
May perish, Nick's aggression,
Yet war is very sorry work,
Per freedom or oppression.

Why England dost not then advance
In Turkey's cause and aid her,
Unfold thy colours like bold France,
To check the proud invader.

A year, like fortune's wheel, is known
To bring its blanks and prizes:
In Portugal one leaves a throne—
In France an Empress rises.

Our neighbours, the United States,
Have our good will and wishes:
Yet they must offer better baits,
Before they catch our fishes.

Turn we to things of cheerful cast
Still fresh in recollection,
And glean some pleasure from the past
By pleasing retrospection.

The first, in bold relief, appears
"The Railway Demonstration,"
Of which the bare remembrance cheers,
Reviving admiration.

That was indeed a gladsome day,
The virgin sod was turn'd,
When all the trades in long array
With emulation burn'd.

When music's charms and beauty's smile
Diffus'd sweet pleasure round,
Where cannon roar'd for joy the while,
And echo caught the sound.

While these things charm'd all eyes and ears,
The eye of contemplation,
Saw other scenes in future years,
And thus spoke speculation.

Where LADY HEAD now lifts the spade
Light, bright, and neat, and small,
May Chests of China Tea be laid,
With Flour from Montreal.

Live Oyster cars from Shediac
May stop beside that gate:
My birth-day came too soon, alack!
Or rail-cars came too late.

A mind by meditation's aid
May see these things ideal,
Until he deems what fancy made
Quite palpable and real.

And he who doubts those future things
Must have a mind in fetters,
When steam outflies the eagle's wings,
And lightning bears our letters.

When Telegraphs run 'neath the seas,
And Alps are tunnel'd under,
Such probabilities as these
Should surely cause no wonder.

Saint John may still enlarge and spread
Far East, and North, and West:
One limit point may be Bear's Head—
The central point, Crow's Nest.

To all cold skeptics be it known,
The child now on the knee,
Should this place grow as it has grown,
May live all this to see.

Each day we see without surprise
Old crazy frames dissected,
And on their sites brick buildings rise,
At heavy cost erected.

A few old natives heave a sigh,
When some old habitation
Is level'd with the ground, and cry,
"What want of veneration."

"The Coffee House which once was stor'd
"With choicest food and wine:
"Where Master Cody serv'd the board,
"When we had met to dine.

"Is gone, like him, and seen no more;
"And on the spot instead,
"More like a palace than a store,
"A brick house lifts its head."

Each one may say when passing by
He views the elevation,
Friend Gillies built to please the eye
Of public admiration.

We soon must use our privilege,
Time points a near Election;
And what will be the test or pledge?
Free-Trade or high Protection?

Or from rumour we are led to think
Some other requisition,
Like these, "Free traffic, a strong drink"—
"Teetotal prohibition."

Let none a voter's suffrage ask
Who lacks substantial merit;
Too many make some pledge a mask
Devoid of public spirit.

We want some men of earnest zeal:
Men able, just, and true,
Who have at heart the public weal—
Prepared to say and do.

Not such as tire the House two hours
With pompous sound and diction:
That show how far the speaker's powers
Fell short of all conviction.

Nor such as nothing have to say,
But when they come to vote,
And then just utter Aye, or Nay,
As parrots speak, by rote.

We want things called by proper names—
More party setting "go-gabbling":
The Bill Contingent justly claims
"The eagle, not Bill for Scrambling."

And while our Revenue exceeds
By far all former years—
Discharge our present needs,
And pay outstanding arrears.

Let Members mind the Railway's call—
The creditors' demands:
And let the balance, great or small,
Be touched with careful hands.

My Friends, I deem it time to close
This New-Year's long address,
Before that falls to crawling prose,
Which now is little less.

So now permit the Carrier Boy
To wish you all good cheer,
Good health, prosperity, and joy,
Until he comes next year.

The First Three Months' experience of a BEARD.

[*From the Glasgow Daily Mail.*]

A hirsute and esteemed correspondent, who is a commercial traveller, favours us with the following:—

Three months ago I read an article in Household Words headed "Why Shave?" I was at the time suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism in the jaws. This complaint, the writer asserted, would be almost entirely prevented by wearing my beard. "If so," said I, "I will shave no more." This was the first time that the thought of wearing my beard had crossed my mind, and I at once came to the conclusion that to shave was absurd, and therefore resolved forthwith to abandon the razor. The question, "What will people say?" had to me no terrors, for I could see at a glance a thousand arguments by which objectors to the hairy reform could be entirely demolished, so without further thought I walked out to business on Bread.

The first day my resolution was noticed; the second it was the talk of them at the coast; the third the barbers' rise of prices was spoken of; the fourth I boldly announced my resolution. I then found, to my surprise, that almost all thinking men approved of my determination, and only regretted that they had not courage to follow my example, which they said they certainly would do when beards became a little more fashionable. Not a few shavers, whose beard had two or three days' growth thought my beard surely uncomfortable, as they felt theirs quite long enough. To these gentlemen I replied, "Your beards are in the very worst stage: in other three days that feeling of unshaven discomfort will give place to a cozey furry sensation, quite unknown to any save the few who have abandoned the razor." This is really the case. My beard felt uncomfortable for about four days, after which I felt an improvement every day: and now, in the very pleasant feeling of natural warmth over my entire face, I am reaping the reward of having in this matter returned to nature's laws. Since my beard has been three days old I have never had one touch of rheumatism in my jaws—a disease to which I was becoming subject in cold weather. In a word, I feel the beard a great improvement, and now would as soon think of shaving my head as my face.

I need hardly say, then, that I recommend the general adoption of the beard. The idea of men, especially in this cold weather, daily cutting off the natural respirator and muffler, and then, as many do, binding their mouths with cloth, seems to me so absurd that I have no patience to argue the question. To all determined shavers I would say "Shave on, and when in your folly you laugh at the man with the beard, endeavour if possible to conceal the gold clasps with which the interior of your mouths are decorated, by your foolish fashion of removing the natural protection of your teeth." I can say nothing of how the beard affects the lungs. I have to thank God for a first-rate pair, and therefore am not very sensitive as to what affects these organs, but as I move about in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and breathe all sorts of air, I feel quite assured that many of the strange compounds that so pointedly salute the nose, are none the worse of being riddled by the moustache before they pass into any man's lungs, especially those of the delicate.

The chief opponents of the beard, I have found, are very ignorant women, who are in no way loth to express their entire disgust at what they are pleased to call the abominable ill thy fashion. Women of cultivation speak in quite a different tone; they do not quite approve, yet are ready to remember that all the worthies of antiquity from Adam to John Knox, wore beards, and they do think a bearded man is more manly in appearance; but with a smile they ask, "How will you ever manage to kiss your sweetheart?" If this question is answered by a smart practical illustration, almost any of the ladies will admit that the beard is not so objectionable after all.

Although as a whole my beard has been popular, I could fill a volume with the queer things that have been said to me about it. One friend, whose cautiousness is extreme, asked me how my beard suited when I had bills to discount. To this I answered, "I never in commercial matters go beyond my depth, so I can afford to look queer if I have a mind." One old lady hoped I did not wear my beard to show that I had a contempt for the ministers of religion. She had heard that the wearing of beards was indicative of this contempt. I convinced the worthy woman that I was a regular attender of an orthodox church, and loved and respected my warm-hearted pastor. One old quaker I met thought there was not a little vanity in wearing the excrescences on the face. To the old quaker I answered, "Vanity or no vanity, I will stick to my beard as firmly as thee and thy fathers have stuck to the plain collar, and if I do so I will no doubt command even thy respect." The quaker stroked his beard and said, with a smile, "Thou hast a handsome face, and I would think it more so if thou wouldst remove the hair." I was about to reply, when a gentleman quite a stranger to me, took up my defence. We were seated at the commercial dinner table at the moment. "Friend," said the stranger, "thou art wrong, and your young friend is right. God never gave the beard to be cut off every morning; it was no doubt meant to be worn, and I think our young friend deserves the thanks of us all for being amongst the first to introduce the very desirable fashion. I for one" he added, "am resolved to follow his example." "Do so friend," said the quaker, "but I will shave yet a while." I learned that my defender on this occasion was a medical gentleman in the London Board of Health. I have pleasure in seeing as I now move about, that I am in no way singular in the beard reform. All public meetings, I observe, have now a considerable sprinkling of beards, and I have no doubt we, who are as yet quite in the minority, will soon be able to add to our present stock of arguments, one that will be more powerful than all others, and which is contained in the brief sentence, "beards are fashionable."

The Observer.

St. John, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1854.

The close of the year is the period usually chosen by mercantile men, for balancing their accounts and ascertaining their exact position and resources. They are thus enabled to realise the exact amount of gain or loss during the past year, to decide upon the prudence of their foregone operations, and to commence the business of the new year with the benefit of the experience and precise knowledge thus acquired. Still more encouraged do they find themselves, who perceive that they can begin the new year free from debt, or with ample means to meet all outstanding liabilities. As with individuals, so with communities and nations; the freer they are from pecuniary burdens, the more independent and successful will be their progress. Happy indeed, are we, then, to find that our Provincial Government has adopted this wise and prudent course of proceeding; that at the close of the year 1853, they have not only imitated the mercantile example, of examining their resources and liabilities, and balancing their accounts; but have also applied the superabundant revenues for the year *in payment of the whole balance of our public debt!* The amount of revenue collected during the past year, being far beyond what could be required to meet the ordinary appropriations and expenses, the Executive had to consider the best mode of disposing of the surplus; and well knowing that if left to the tender mercies of the Legislature, it would be squandered and frittered away in the most lavish and useless manner, they most judiciously determined to put it beyond the reach of danger, by applying it in extinguishing the Provincial debt. Accordingly, on Friday last the *whole balance* of the funded debt, (£25,000) *was paid* to the Bank of British North America; the whole amount of floating debt, borrowed from the banks, having already been paid off by deposits from the Treasury. With the exception, therefore, of the amounts due the Savings' Banks, (which cannot be paid off without a special Legislative enactment, to provide therefor,) the whole funded and floating debt of New Brunswick is now extinguished. A measure will be submitted to the Legislature, to establish a sinking fund, for redeeming the amounts held by the Province in trust for the Savings' Banks; and thus to remove that item of expense. We may congratulate ourselves therefore, that New Brunswick commences the year 1854 *free from debt*: with revenues in a state of high prosperity, and prospects of every kind of the most flourishing and cheering nature; while, at the same time, she possesses a surplus amount nearly of £30,000 which has accumulated from the prudent management of the Civil List Fund, after paying her own Civil List of £14,500 per annum; which surplus can be devoted to objects of public utility and general improvement. Surely, then we have abundant cause for gratitude to the Giver of all Good, for these indubitable evidences of provincial prosperity, and for the bountiful blessings, with which *He has favoured us*, as a people, during the past year; while at the same time we are bound to accord w[illegible] to our Executi[illegible] ment and wise m[illegible] fected such importa[illegible] operations.

On Thursday last, we were visited with a heavy gale from the North-east, accompanied by a driving snow-storm, which continued all that night and great part of Friday. Considerable snow fell also on Sunday, so that our roads and streets are covered to a great depth, and winter travelling will henceforth be excellent. Yesterday and today we have been favoured with delightful bright and bright weather; but the severe storms of last week not only prostrated the Telegraph wires in all directions, but also so blocked up all the roads with deep snow, as greatly to impede travelling, and prevent the due arrival of the mails. A number of mails being now overdue, we are in a great degree without our usual advices, and our columns are therefore unusually barren of news to-day.—The present sunny weather, however, will soon pack the roads, and render travelling easy.

☞ The Executive Council meet at Fredericton this day, (Tuesday,) when no doubt the period for calling the Legislature together will be determined; and we may expect the proclamation for that purpose to appear in to-morrow's Royal Gazette.

It appears that the Canadian papers have been premature in announcing the appointment of a successor to Sir Edmund Head, as Lieutenant Governor of this Province, as it is stated in the *New Brunswicker* "on good authority," that up to the departure of the last mail from England, no such appointment had been made, and no person whatever named as such successor.

COPPER MONEY.—We understand that arrangements have been effected in England, for forthwith supplying this Province with such quantities of Provincial Copper Coin as may be from time to time required; so that we may expect to be shortly relieved from the extreme inconvenience we have so long experienced, from the great deficiency of copper coin.

☞ Our readers are reminded that the Anniversary Meeting of the New Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society, will be held on Wednesday Evening, 5th January, in the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel. A collection will be taken up in aid of the *Chinese Million Testament Fund.* Free tickets of admission may be obtained at Mr. Tilley's Drug Store.

☞ The gale of Friday night, 23rd ult., was felt very severely at Halifax. Two schooners lying at the wharves were sunk, and several other vessels were variously damaged. A house was blown down in the City, and sundry chimneys were blown over, and fences prostrated. There were also several wrecks heard of on the coast.

Collection for the poor, were taken up in the Episcopal Churches in this City and the neighbouring Parish on Christmas Day—viz., in Trinity Church, £37 10s.; St. John's Church, £25; St. James', £18; St. Luke's, Portland, £20 10s.; and St. Paul's, £15 5s.; the two Methodist Churches in the city, £25.

The offerings at St. Malachy's, on Christmas day, amounted to over £30.

☞ The collection in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday last, for the poor, amounted to about £30.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Friday evening the Rev. Mr. Knight delivered the second lecture of the Moral Course. His subject, which was "The respect from youth to the aged; persons in authority, and superiors in general," was well and ably handled. It conveyed much salutary advice to the young with regard to their carriage towards all whom they ought to respect. It has often been remarked by strangers, that the youth of America in general are very deficient in the practice of those virtues, which become their years and inexperience. The publication of the present and similar lectures may tend much to counteract this evil, and to produce a state of society more fraught with those graces, which, in social intercourse are indispensable to comfort and real enjoyment.—[Cour.

On Monday, 9th January, William P. Dole, Esq., will lecture. His subject will be—"Poetry in America, and some American Poets."

The third lecture of the Moral Course will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Caswell, of Fredericton, on Friday 13th of January. Subject—"Aids to Self Culture."

The Times states that a young man was drowned in the Kennebecasis, near the Seven Mile House, the ice having given away when he had almost reached the shore.

☞ The duties of the St. John Grammar School will be resumed on Thursday next, 5th instant.

DESERTION.—Numerous desertions from this garrison still occur. On Tuesday week six men deserted; two others deserted in the course of the week; and on Saturday evening a sergeant, a corporal, drummer and four privates left together. All succeeded in effecting their escape. The last party left St. John at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, and are said to have gained the other side of the line on Sunday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, having proceeded by the most direct route.—*Freeman.*

Since the 1st September last, there have been exported to Europe alone, from the United States, 1,100,000 barrels Flour; 4,650,000 bushels wheat, and 650,000 bushels Corn. Of this immense business, New-York has probably more than three quarters.

The barque Lyman sailed from Boston on the 12th inst. for Calcutta, having on board as passengers Rev. J. L. Douglass, formerly pastor of the Baptist Church in Fort Ann, N. Y., and Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, of Nova Scotia, a graduate of the Newton Theological Institution, both Missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union to Burmah.

HAMILTON, Bermuda, Dec. 7.—The best news, of a local nature, which we have to chronicle today, is the almost total cessation of the Fever, which first broke out at St. George's in August last. It would be premature to announce that the dread visitation was completely at an end, since three cases within the last five days have appeared in the neighborhood of Hamilton;—but there is every ground for the belief that the disease has nearly ceased to exist within these islands.

During the south-east Gale of Thursday night, the brig Standard in this port, parted two chains, but sustained no injury; the wooden roof of Trinity Church in this town was completely blown off, and several trees were uprooted. The gale subsided on Thursday morning, and since that time the weather has been very fine. Two American vessels—a Ship and Brig—sufferers in the same gale, have put in here for repairs within the last three days.

A donation of £500 has, it is said, been made by Her-Majesty's Government towards the relief of the Fever sufferers in these Islands.

W. L. Penno, Esq., for many years first clerk of the Ordnance Department here, has received the important appointment of Ordnance Store-Keeper at these Islands, in the room of L. Y. Nash, Esq., deceased.

At Demerara, in November, the yellow fever was prevailing in its most malignant form. The plantation prospects were very good.

The Sugar crop for 1751, in Barbadoes, promised to be a bountiful one.

December 14.

Government Enquiries to the origin of the late Fever.—When we recently announced the return of Governor Elliot to these Islands at a time of sickness entirely unexampled in the history of this Colony, we remarked "it was highly probable that his Excellency was clothed with instructions, having for their object a thorough investigation as to the origin of the Malignant Fever which suddenly [illegible]eared in St. George's at the close [illegible] that anticipation. We now [illegible] authority that such instructions were placed in Capt. Elliot's hands by the Secretary of State; and that his Excellency has taken the initiatory steps towards fulfilling the wishes of the Home Government. Several Officers and Gentlemen have, we hear, been appointed by the Governor to institute a full enquiry with reference to the origin of the late Fever.—*Bermudian.*

FOUNDERING OF AN ENGLISH BRIG NEAR DEMERARA.—By the arrival of the Brigantine Lady of the Lake, Captain Hill, from Demerara, which port she left on the 28th ultimo, we learn that on the morning of the following day, the 29th, the Lady of the Lake fell in with the British Brig Bolivar, Capt. Berryman, in a sinking condition, deeply laden with rum and sugar. The Bolivar was bound to London, and had been only two days out from Demerara. Capt. Hill immediately rendered the Bolivar all the assistance in his power. The wife of the captain of the Bolivar was promptly removed to the Lady of the Lake; and Capt. Berryman being anxious to save his vessel, a part of the crew of the "Lake" was sent on board the Bolivar to assist at the pumps—the B. having at the time six feet of water in the hold. At first there appeared some probability of saving the vessel, as the quantity of water in the hold was very perceptibly diminished after the relay of hands from the "Lake." But after the lapse of a short time the water regained its former mastery, and rapidly increased (evidently from a new leak)—leaving the crew and Capt. only sufficient time to remove their clothes to the "Lake's" boat and push off; for before they had reached the latter vessel, the Bolivar suddenly went down. Capt. Hill landed the Capt. of the B. with his wife and crew at Barbadoes.

LIVERPOOL.—A glance at the lists of vessels sold and on sale at Liverpool, gives a reader a very exalted opinion of the amount of business done in that great seaport. A few months ago the prices of ships, and their frequent transference from to hand to hand, gave the lists a much more impressive aspect than they present at this moment; but the business now doing is more legitimate, and gives, probably, a fairer return of the actual value of property of this description, and of the investments making in it, by men whose business it is. The latest list issued by Messrs. Cunard, Nunn & Co., now before us, intimates the sale, chiefly or entirely at Liverpool, between the 12th and 25th of last month, of twenty vessels all sizes from 92 to 1279 tons register. The average worth of these vessels was little short of £1000, so that the amount of money passed on this one list, in eleven working days, was close upon £20,000. The largest vessel is a new St. John's built 7 years' ship, which is put down at £12 10s a ton, and indeed the number and high value of colonial built vessels is quite a feature in the sales. The list of vessels for sale, under charge of Messrs. Cunard, Munn & Co. forms a large closely printed pamphlet, and gives the particulars of size, construction, and stores of some fifty British and Colonial-built ships, a considerable proportion of them new and of large dimensions. In fact, it bears on its face evidence of being such a publication as those dealing in ship property would do well to commit to memory.—The lists of the eminent house to which we have referred may be of more interest here than formerly, Mr. John Ker, long of the old firm of Alan Ker & Co., and afterwards goods manager of the Greenock Railway, being one of its partners.—*Greenock Advertiser, Dec. 2.*

The whole number of languages spoken in the world amounts to 3,064; 587 in Europe; 933 in Asia; 276 in Africa; and 264 in America.—The inhabitants of the globe profess more than one thousand different religions. The number of men is about equal to the number of women.—The average of human life is about 33 years. One quarter part die previous to the age of 7 years, and one-half before reaching 17 years of age; and these who pass this enjoy a felicity refused to one-half the human species. To every 1,000 persons only one reaches 100 years in life; to every one hundred only 7 reach the age of 66, and not more than one in 500 live to 80 years of age.

PROGRESS OF BRITISH AMERICA.

The British Provinces and possessions in North America may one day become the seat of a great and powerful empire. Including the Hudson Bay Company's territories, the British possessions in North America cover a larger area than the whole United States. The aggregate superficies of the Provinces which, according to some authorities, are destined to be united by a Federal legislature, extends to over 218,000,000 acres, distributed as follows:

	Acres.	
Canada East,	128,659,680	
Canada West,	31,745,536	
		160,405,216
New Brunswick,		22,000,000
Nova Scotia proper,	9,534,196	
Cape Breton,	2,000,000	
		11,534,196
Newfoundland,		23,040,000
Prince Edwd. Island,		1,360,000
Total area of British North American Provinces,		218,839,415

In 1830, the Population of these Provinces was 1,375,000. At the latest dates to which the census brings down the facts, it had risen to 2,662,-694, distributed as follows:—

Provinces.	Year.	Population.
Upper Canada,	1852	952,229
Lower Canada,	1852	890,261
New Brunswick,	1851	193,800
Nova Scotia,	1851	276,117
Prince Edward's Island,	1848	62,678
Newfoundland,	1851	101,600
Hudson's Bay Territory,	1851	180,000
Labrador,	1851	5,000
		2,662,695

Taking all the Provinces together, the rate of increase has not been remarkably rapid; the population has taken some sixteen or eighteen years in which to double. Upper Canada, however, far exceeds this ratio, having more than doubled its population during the last ten years.

The exports of these Provinces have increased five-fold in less than half a century. In 1806 the value of the exports from all these colonies was only $7,237,510. In 1834 it had risen to $16,-523,510, and in 1851 to $25,720,000. This increased trade had to a great extent been done in vessels built and owned in the Provinces. At the first period, 1806, the tonnage outward, by sea, from all the Provinces was only 121,247 tons. In 1831 it had risen to 836,668 tons being an increase in 25 years of 67 per cent. In 1851, the amount was 1,583,104, being nearly twice as great as in 1831. Shipbuilding is now a large item of Colonial industry, not only for the use of the Provinces but also for sale in Europe. The progress of this business has been rapid. In 1832 the aggregate tonnage of the new ships built in these Provinces was 33,777 tons; in 1841, 104,087 tons, and 1850, 112,787 tons. Thus the tonnage of vessels built in the Provinces considerably more than tripled in eighteen years. How does this compare with the progress of ship-building in the United States? If we take the same dates we find the tonnage of the new vessels built in the United States was, in 1832, 85,962 tons; in 1841, 118,369 tons, and in 1850 272,218 tons. From these figures it will be seen that the increase in the tonnage of vessels built in these provinces has been as great as in the shipbuilding in the United States during a period of nearly twenty years.

The aggregate tonnage of the vessels owned and registered in the Provinces and employed in their trade exceeds half a million of tons. It is a fact that ought never to be forgotten that this tonnage is not exceeded by more than three nations in the world, and it is even doubtful if it be exceeded by more than two—England and the United States. In the early history of these Provinces they did not own more than one vessel each. Nor has it taken a long series of centuries to build up the present extensive mercantile marine of the British American Provinces. Still there is at least one semi-European nation—Russia—that did not commence the construction of a marine till after some of these Provinces were the owners of vessels. In 1788 Russia did not own a single vessel of any description; and she owes to the genius of Peter the Great the introduction of the art of shipbuilding as well as all the other useful arts. The progressive increase of the aggregate tonnage of the provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island is shown in the following table:—

	Tons.
1806,	71,913
1830,	176,040
1836,	274,758
1846,	399,204
1850,	446,935

The latest date to which we have returns of the tonnage entered inwards, by sea, at these several provinces is 1851, when it amounted in aggregate to 1,576,663 tons. The tonnage cleared outward in the same year was 1,583,104 tons. The commerce which this tonnage implies has sprung up in little more than three quarters of a century.—In point of tonnage British America is of course a long way behind that of the United States, which had reached 3,500,000 tons in 1850.

The above facts, brief as they are, show the great progress which British America is making in ship-building, and the tonnage of vessels owned and employed in its own trade, as well as in general commerce.

CANADA WHEAT PRODUCTION.

In reply to an article from a Canada paper, endeavouring to show the great amount of wheat exported from that country, we stated (a few weeks since) the improbability, that exports of wheat could be increased from that quarter. We have now the statistics of the Canadas before us, from which it appears, that the whole production of wheat in Canada, for 1851, was as follows:

Upper Canada	12,692,862 bushels.
Lower Canada	2,075,868 "
Total	14 768,730 "

This is but two-thirds the production of the State of Ohio. The Canadas, however, contain 1,660,-000 inhabitants, which at six bushels each, (the British allowance for consumption) will require 9,600,000 bushels, leaving a surplus of only 6,100-000 bushels. It is about as much as they do export. But it appears from *Andrews' Report on Colonial Trade* that Canada really did not export as much in that year. The export of 1851 was:

Flour	684,894 barrels,
Wheat	961,991 bushels.
Equivalent to	4,376,460 bushels.

The competition of Canada wheat is, therefore, very little. The export of the United States is ordinarily about four times that of Canada.

The production of Indian corn in Canada is almost nothing, amounting to little over 2,100,000 bushels. There is, therefore, little substitution of corn to be made for wheat. The production of potatoes and oats is large; but these do not in America enter much into the manufacture of bread. An examination of the statistics of wheat production proves, that by far the largest production is between the parallels of 40° and 50° latitude, comprehending Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the larger part of Illinois, which annually produce half the wheat raised in the United States. Though much is said of the wheat of Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Canadas—yet the whole crop, in those sections, is small compared with the production immediately south of them.—*R. R, Record.*

Portsmouth, Dec. 3.—The *Boscawen*, 72, Captain Glanville, (flag ship for the West Indies), is to have a complement of 650 men, and will be taken into dock at Chatham in a few days to be rigged and fitted for sea. The complement of Royal Marines from the Chatham division, for service in the *Boscawen*, will be one sergeant, one corporal, and 66 privates, and her entire strength of royal marines, including those of the Woolwich division, will be three sergeants, three corporals, two drummers, and 116 privates, under the command of Major Langford, of the Chatham division, and Lieuts. Delacombe and Harrington, of the Woolwich division.

Rear Admiral Fanshawe, Late Superintendent of this Dock-yard, struck his flag on board the *Neptune*, 120, on Thursday evening; and Rear Admiral M[illegible] hoisted his flag on board the same ship yesterday morning, and assumed the duties given up by the former officer on his appointment to the Command in Chief of the West India station.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL DACRES.—We have to record the death of a gallant and distinguished flag officer, Vice Admiral James Richard Dacres, who died on the 4th Dec. at his residence, Fareham, Hants. He had seen a great deal of active and trying service. He commanded the old worn-out frigate Guerriere in her action with the U. S. ship Constitution, in the war of 1812, and was captured after a highly honorable defence. His last appointment was commander in chief at the Cape of Good Hope in 1849. He was made Vice Admiral, March 29, 1848.

FALL IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—Yesterday the bakers in this metropolis and suburbs reduced the price of the 4lb. loaf a penny. Bread (second quality) which for some weeks has been selling at 9d. and 10d. per 4lb. loaf, can now be had at 8d. and 9d. respectively, and inferior bread may be purchased from 6½d. to 7½d. unweighed. Full-price bakers have reduced their price in a similar proportion. Bread which sold at 11½d. can now be had at 10d. to 10½d. The League Bakery bread is 9d. per 4lb loaf.—*London paper.*

LATEST NEWS!!

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

[*By Telegraph to the News Room.*]

The Africa arrived at New York on Friday morning, with dates to the 17th ult.

Lord Palmerston has resigned the office of Home Secretary, and Lord John Russel expected to occupy his place. Lord Lansdown is expected to resign, and Lord Palmure to succeed.

Intelligence of defeat at Sinope caused great sensation at Constantinople. The Grand Divan immediately convened all Foreign Ministers present.

It is reported that the allied fleets have been ordered to the Black Sea.

Persia has declared War against Turkey.

A battle between the Russians and the Turks was fought on the Armenian frontier, 4000 Turks killed.

Desperate fighting in Asia, Russian fortress captured, and 15,000 Russians defeated in a pitched battle.

Hostilities have been suspended on the Danube.

Flour active, 6d. dearer. Wheat 2d. to 3d. dearer. Tea, Coffee and Sugar quiet.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENTS.—On Friday last, a man named Samuel Miller, one of the workmen employed in the ship yard of Mr. McDonald, near Courtney Bay, was so injured by the falling of a plank on his head, that he expired on Sunday morning. He has left a wife and two children to mourn their loss.

On Monday, a mysterious case of sudden death occurred. An old man, named Donivan, who we believe has been accustomed to sell apples in this city, was passing along Union street, while nearly opposite the residence of the late Hon. Chief Justice Chipman, he took a basket of turnips from his shoulder, which he was carrying, and placed it on the sidewalk sat down beside it, leaning his body against the porch of one of the houses. He was passed by many who paid no attention to him, merely imagining that he was taking a rest. Some individual's attention however was more particularly attracted, who, upon nearer examination, found him entirely insensible. Medical aid was immediately called, but the man was at once pronounced *dead.* We are informed that he was about 60 years of age; and on the day of his decease had partaken of his "holiday dinner" in good health.—His death took place at about 3. p. m.—*Times.*

SUPPOSED MURDER.—Three men, named Arthur Thorpe, Wm. Collins, and James Smith, seamen belonging to the American brig *J. Cohen*, were yesterday examined at the Police Office, charged with the murder of Francis Taylor, a seaman belonging to the same vessel, during the night of Saturday last. The examination will be resumed to-day. No evidence has yet been adduced to prove their guilt. Two of the prisoners, Thorpe and Collins, admit having struck the missing man several times, but deny having killed him. Blood was found on the deck leading from the forecastle to the deck, and to the railing on the side of the ship. The body of the man has not yet been found. The prisoners were drinking in the forecastle on Saturday night. It is not supposed Smith took any part in the affray, as he was lying sick at the time.—*Ib.*

DESTRUCTION OF MCKAY'S "GREAT REPUBLIC" BY FIRE.—It was reported last evening that a private despatch had been received from New York, giving information that McKay's celebrated Great Republic (4,000 tons) was destroyed by fire in New York, together with her cargo. We publish the report as we heard it, and are not accountable for its correctness.—*News.*

☞ We regret to say that a new ship, owned by Messrs. Wm. Parks & Son, called the *Recorder*, after being launched on Monday last at Carleton, opposite the Straight Shore, by some means, the particulars of which we have not received, drifted through the Falls, and now lies in a very critical position on a rock called Blind Island.—We trust that she may yet be got off, though the chances are certainly against her.—*Ib.*

FISHERY DRAFT.—Widows and Freemen of this City entitled to a draft in the Fishery must have their names entered by the Directors this week. The books close on Saturday evening at six o'clock.

☞ The First Anniversary of the St. John Seamen's Friend Society will be celebrated at the Mechanics Institute, on Thursday, January 5th, at half-past Seven o'clock P.M. We presume, from the flourishing state of the Society, and the speakers to take a part in its exercises, that a meeting of no common interest may be expected. A collection will be taken at the close of the meeting.

A Great Blessing to the Afflicted.

☞ Dr. McLane, the inventor of the celebrated Liver Pills, used these Pills for several years in his practice before he could be induced to offer them to the public in such a manner as to make them known throughout the country. This learned physician felt the same repugnance that all high minded men of science feel in entering the lists against those unscrupulous empirics who obtrude their useless nostrums upon the public, and rely upon a system of puffing to sustain them. Convinced, however, of the real value of the Liver Pills, and influenced by the plain dictates of duty, the Doctor finally sacrificed his delicate feelings on the altar of public good. His great medicine has not disappointed the expectations of the medical practitioners, at whose instance he was induced to forego his inclinations. From every quarter do we hear the most gratifying accounts of its wonderful curative effects—the East and the West, the North and the South, are alike laden with "tidings of great joy" from the afflicted. These