From the London Times.

TIME'S CHANGES.

The lapse of time is scarcely less perceptible than the changes which accompany its rapid flight. It is only by looking backward to some fixed point that we can realize our progress; and from retrospection alone can we obtain the elements for calculating the probabilities of the future. Thirty years of peace, enabling us to concentrate our energies on home affairs, and of those thirty years a majority adding rapidly to our means of giving efficiency to our energies, have worked, sometimes noisily, but more often silently, greater changes in the actual state of the nation, than the boldest astrologer would have dared to predict in 1815. We need scarcely allude to the change of the currency, the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, Roman Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Act, the New Poor law, the Abolition of Slavery, the Ecclesiastical Commission, the Income-tax, or the Maynooth grant. These will occur at once to every one. It is scarcely necessary either to refer to such (in some respects) minor pieces of legislation, as the alteration of the Game Laws, the Charity Commission, the general abolition of capital punishments, the Banking and Joint Stock Companies Acts, the Church Building Acts, the alteration of the Corn Laws, the prohibition of women's labour in mines, the Dissenters' Marriage and Registration Acts, the abolition of imprisonment for debt, or the new tariff, to prove that we are engaged, as a nation, in something very like a remodelling of our national and social condition. Legislation has but endeavoured to keep pace with other changes, and as they proceed, many pages of the statute book will be scarcely more than a record of what the nation has already done for itself. Fusees or Matches, which 20 years ago were sold at 9d. a box, as philosophical toys, and have now driven away the tinder-box even from the backwoods of North America, to the electric telegraph, which has all but literally annihilated time and space—in all our doings, in every circumstance affecting us, we can trace the finger of change; and as regards our material condition, it is impossible to deny that on the whole the progress is one of improvement. A dozen years since, Dr. Dionysius Lardner proved, upon oath, by mathematical calculations, to a committee of the House of Lords, that it was an absolute impossibility that a steamer could ever cross the Atlantic; the impossibility is now a matter of weekly occurrence. Ten years ago we paid eighteen pence for the postage of a letter in an envelope carried 80 miles; it is now carried 400 miles for one penny. Fifteen years ago, railway locomotives accomplished 20 miles an hour; they can now do 75. We can go to China and back in less time than, 20 years since, it occupied to get to Calcutta.—Who is now daring enough to assert that we are more than on the verge of our changes?—Thirty years since we spent scores of millions of pounds sterling in a single year to bring the war to a successful termination; we are now proposing to spend about a couple of years' war expenditure in completing our system of railways. It must be completed, for the nation wills it. Who dares to say that by the time the Long Annuities expire we shall not have "Consolidated £4 per centum per annum railway annuities?" Fifteen years ago railways were treated as mere private speculations; but the Government has already commenced the foundation for laying hands on them for the national benefit. Five years ago we had mere railway *shares*; we now have railway *stock*. Joe Willett's advice to his son, "Do you leave the moon alone, and the moon will leave you alone," might have been useful to railway directors could they have left Parliament alone; but as they could not, they may find that there is a tide in their affairs singularly dependent for its flux and reflux on the lower if not lesser orb of our legislative system.

As railways are becoming consolidated, so is railway stock. What sage of the money-market can foretell what may not be done 15 years hence with railway consols? The shares in the great Trunk lines are dealt in for investment. For the present they seem to be treated as almost too good for speculation. What are we to do when the £3 per cents. are reduced to £2 10s.? Look at the bill for improving the health of towns, and note its "enunciation of the principle" (as the Parliamentary phrase is,) that the social wants of all classes, but more especially of the poorer, require great interference with many old interests. But beyond all these matters look at the educational condition of the people. For good or for evil, which ever it be, a most important change has there come over us. Who now brings out a first edition in quarto? Of what are "people's editions" the evidence? From art unions and illustrated newspapers, to re-publications in weekly numbers or monthly parts of Shakspeare and Froissart, we have every where proofs of an extension of taste and reading. That the taste is imperfect and the reading for mere amusement are, perhaps, more than probable; and that neither will produce any valuable results may be granted; but there they are, facts, and as such valuable. Even the reviews and magazines, trashy and superficial, mere trunk-maker's stock as most of them are, now enlist the pens of those, who in the last century, would have devoted themselves to the production of octavos, as their grandsires did to the composition of folios. * * * *

In Ireland, the passions of its people are sedulously cultivated by Mr. O'Connell, and in Great Britain the principle of expediency is embodied and exhibited in action in Sir Robert Peel.—Under such leaders with the examples set by them, with the encouragement they give by precept and practice, who will be bold enough to say that the social and moral condition of the nation, stimulated by the feverish excitement under which it labours, and suffering at the same time from a plethora of wealth in its upper extremities, and the atrophy of poverty in its lower, may not, by one of those accidents to which the body politic is at all times liable, be suddenly brought into a state of the most imminent peril?

(From the Iron Times, Nov. 18.)

We have the pleasure of directing the attention of our readers to some extracts in an adjoining column, from a very interesting pamphlet on the Halifax and Quebec Railway, and containing copies of the memorial, correspondence, reports, and notices that have appeared in connection with the subject.

This railway, as it is the greatest in length, is also the most important of all the undertakings of the kind which have hitherto engaged the attention of the British public. Other lines are important from the commercial facilities which they afford; but this contemplates great political results. It will be the means of blending into one all our colonial interests in British America, peopling the whole frontier territory along the United States, consolidating British power in the western hemisphere, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and opening up an exhaustless field for British population, capital and enterprise for ages to come.

These magnificent results, to which we have merely time and space to advert, are very powerfully brought out in the pamphlet upon which we are commenting; and the views there embodied, as well as the sense which is universally entertained of the value of this project by the press, as well as the people of British North America, leads us to reflect with satisfaction, that the *Iron Times* was the first Journal in England which contained any notice of this most national enterprise.

Our first observations appeared about the end of July last, and were widely copied into the British American papers; and, together with the memorials and other correspondence of the promoters, tended to originate the deep and wide-spread feeling of interest in the colonies, and conspired to the large and influential public meetings which have since taken place at Halifax, St. John, Fredericton, and other places in the Canadian provinces.

Whilst these matters have been engaging the most cordial attention of the moneyed mercantile portion of the British American community, the promoters of this great work have not left any means untried to unite in the enterprise the influence of the Home Government, and that portion of the leading mercantile circle in London and the provinces which is more immediately connected with the Canadian trade; and the progress made in this respect, entitles us to believe, that when the prospectus of the Company is announced, it will appear under auspices of sufficient weight, intelligence, and character, to ensure its complete success.

The provisional committee already exceeds seventy in number, of whom nearly one-half are either members of the legislative councils of the provinces or members of the provincial houses of assembly, whilst the other half embraces the nucleus of a highly influential committee in England.

We understand that the last Canadian Mail took out the draft heads of a bill for the incorporation of the company by the respective legislatures of Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Canada; and that the formal announcement of the company will not take place until the acts have been obtained, or at least until they have been brought before the legislative chambers. But, apart from these considerations, the recent depression in the state of railway speculation is sufficient in itself to render the final organization of the Company a matter of no immediate moment. We are aware that a very large accession of City strength will be obtained whenever it is considered desirable to put the shares in the market. The leading commercial influences at our great western seaports of Glasgow, Liverpool, and Bristol, will also be united in furtherance of the project.

Opening of Lincoln's Inn Hall.—The new Hall of Lincoln's Inn was opened by the Queen on Thursday. The day was fine, and a considerable crowd collected to witness the arrival of the Royal cortege, which took place at half-past one o'clock. Her Majesty and Prince Albert did not come in state, though accompanied by a numerous suite in several carriages, and escorted by a party of Life Guards. A band of the Coldstream Guards was in attendance, and the National Anthem greeted the Royal approach. The Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor, Sir James Graham, and many of the Ministers, were present; but Sir Robert Peel was kept away by indisposition. On alighting, the Queen was conducted to a retiring room, and thence to the Library; where, her Majesty sitting on a chair of state, the benchers, with a deputation of the barristers and students, presented their address.

The Queen delivered this reply—

"I receive with cordial satisfaction this dutiful address.

"My beloved Consort and I have attended with pleasure your invitation: for I recognize the services rendered to the Crown at various periods of our history by distinguished members of this society; and I gladly testify my respect for the profession of the Law, by which I am aided in administering justice, and in maintaining the prerogatives of the Crown and the rights of my people.

"I congratulate you on the completion of this noble edifice: it is worthy of the memory of your predecessors, and of the station which you occupy in connexion with the bar of England.

"I sincerely hope that learning long may flourish, and that virtue and talent may rise to eminence within these walls."

The Recent Elopement.—There is every probability that the irritation and unpleasant feeling which this unexpected occurrence at first occasioned, will speedily pass away, and be terminated by a general reconciliation. The Earl of Jersey, the father of the young lady, has called on Mr. Ibbetson, the father of the bridegroom, at the residence of the latter, in the Regent's-park. The Noble Master of the Horse was accompanied by his son, Captain Villiers, and his language was highly creditable to his sense and good feeling, and of the most conciliatory nature. He announced his readiness to receive the newly married couple into the bosom of his family; and added, that should it, as he supposed, be thought expedient that the marriage ceremony should be solemnized according to the rites of the Church of England, he and the other members and connections of his family would be ready to attend at St. George's, Hanover-square, for that purpose. It is said that the female head of the house of Villiers has not hitherto shown so much placability; but there is no doubt that the example of her lord will have its due weight with the countess, and the cloud that at first lowered over this union will be speedily and satisfactorily dispersed.—*The Britannia.*

This morning, the lady Adela Ibbetson was re-married at St. George's, Hanover-square, with Captain Ibbetson, in pursuance of a special license obtained from the Faculty office.

Captain Ibbetson and lady Adela Ibbetson (late Villiers) have arrived in Dublin from Scotland. The gallant Captain's leave of absence from his Regiment (the 11th Hussars) expired on Friday.

The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia.—*Plymouth*, Nov. 15.—This morning at daylight the Russian line-of-battle ship Ingermanland, 74 guns, Captain Moffit, bearing the flag of Admiral Lutke, and having on board his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine, entered Plymouth Sound, and brought up inside the Breakwater, near Her Majesty's ship Queen, 110, Captain Sir B. Walker. The Ingermanland was accompanied by the Russian corvette Vaarshafsky, 30 guns, Captain Glassenap.

The Royal visiter, who is the second son of the Emperor, assumes only the honours of a lieutenant in the Imperial navy, in which rank he is now serving on board the Ingermanland. In consequence of his being thus incog., a Royal salute was not given on his arrival, but Admiral Lutke's flag was honoured by firing the usual number of 17 guns.

Rise and Progress of Railroads.—The first railroad was made at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the year 1680, and was used for conveying coals. This railroad was made by laying down large flat stones for the wheels of the waggons to pass along—a mere tram. This railroad was in use perhaps half a century, when wooden sleepers and wooden rails were introduced. Iron rails were first used at the Colbrooke Dale works in 1767. About 15 years afterwards a railroad with iron rails was made at Sheffield. The Wandsworth and Crydon railroad, made about 40 years ago, was the first which was sanctioned by parliament. Darlington railroad, formed in 1821, was the first which adopted the steam engine; till then horses were used upon all railroads. About this time cast iron rails were exchanged for wrought iron; being lighter and less liable to break. Passengers were first conveyed by railroad transit upon the Liverpool and Manchester line in 1826.

Scotland.—The Scottish Guardian states, that improbable as the fact may appear, Glasgow University is about to be converted into a railway-station! The closing remark of our contemporary in the subjoined extract is indisputable—

"The fact we have reason to believe to be, that the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monklands Junction Railway Company, in order to become possessed of the property belonging to the College, have offered to erect and complete suitable buildings, at an expense variously estimated at £70,000 to £100,000. The Company has, for this purpose, we believe, actually purchased Woodlands, consisting of 22 acres of land, delightfully situated on the crown of the height on which Woodside and Claremont Terraces are built, and extending thence down to the beautiful banks of the Kelvin. This property has cost nearly £29,000, and is subject to a feu-duty of £190 per annum. An architect has been instructed to prepare a plan for the proposed College, to be submitted to the University authorities for their approbation. Doubtless, an offer so advantageous in every point of view will be accepted. The University is at present situated in one of the worst districts of the city; and the one to which it is proposed to be removed is certainly most choice both for situation and salubrity."

A gentleman of Bristol has offered to contribute the munificent sum of £5000 towards the erection of a more commodious building than the present Bristol General Hospital, provided the like amount could be raised for that purpose, and a further sum of £5000 as an endowment for the future support of the hospital.

Miss Christiana Weller.—This charming and accomplished young lady was married, on Tuesday week, at Barnes Church, to T. J. Thompson, Esq., of Gloucester-road, Hyde-park, London. A large party of ladies and gentlemen, including "the inimitable Boz," graced the ceremony with their presence. The bride and bridegroom left town the same day for Tonbridge Wells, *en route* for Italy, where they intend to pass the winter.

The Empress of Russia.—The *Constitutionnel* states, that the Empress of Russia, who is travelling under the name of Zamenski, in order to avoid the *ennui* of etiquette, had been to the opera of the Scala, and also to a ball given in that establishment. The Italians speak in rapturous terms of the extreme beauty of the Grand Duchess Olga. They describe her as the most elegant princess of Europe; "and it appears," observes the above journal, "that this enthusiasm is not exaggerated."

Boston, Nov. 27.—Flour by Rail Road.—There was received in this city from Albany, by the Western and Worcester rail roads, in the week ending the 15th inst., 13,174 barrels flour. In the week ending on Saturday last, the quantity received was 13,426 barrels, and on the three first days of the present week, 10,845 barrels, making in two and a half weeks 37,445. In the last three days the freight trains have contained an average of more than 1000 barrels a train, in addition to large quantities of other freight.

The Freight at the Western Railroad.—It is really a sight to visit the Rail-road depot at Greenbush. The amount of business doing there can be expressed by no other word but "tremendous." The floors of the immense merchandise houses are piled up with flour, hides, beef, pork, salt, stoves, lumber, cotton, and in truth every thing that is bought and sold in this country.

When the road was opened, the accommodations were supposed to be ample for years to come. Only three years have elapsed, and they are already so crowded for room, that an additional building has been erected this fall.

We are informed by the freight-superintendent, Mr. Barnes, that the freight-train goes out every morning, for Boston, comprising some 60 cars, with *four* to *seven* engines. Thus daily relieving the merchandize houses of 500 tons of freight. Yet even now the pressure is such that they have raised their rates to 33 cents a barrel on flour, and have more than they can carry.

The receipts for freight alone at the Greenbush depot, are $2000 a day.—*Albany Argus.*

THE OBSERVER.

St. John, Tuesday, December 16, 1845.

Nothing of an important nature has been received from Washington, since the delivery of the President's Message to Congress. New York and Boston papers furnish a variety of remarks and opinions on the Oregon question, a few of which are subjoined.

The Boston Daily Advertiser of the 11th instant, contains the following:—

The Oregon Question.—The Washington Union of Saturday evening, gives a direct denial to the surmise of the National Intelligencer, founded on an article which appeared in the Baltimore Constitution, that it has been proposed by our government to transfer the negotiation on the Oregon question to London, to be there conducted by Mr. McLane. The Union, after quoting the inference of the Intelligencer from the language of the Constitution, says,

"No such instructions have been transmitted to London—no such proposition made—no intention entertained of transferring the negotiation to London—no expectation, no idea is formed here of renewing at London the proposition of our government which has been declined at Washington; and therefore all the ingenious speculations of the National Intelligencer fall to the ground."

There is still an impression on the public mind, that the Administration has something in reserve, on which it relies as an assurance, against the hazards of a war with Great Britain. How the confident anticipation of a pacific termination of the Oregon controversy can be entertained, consistently with a claim which is now put forth to "the whole of Oregon or none," seconded by the whole Democracy of the country, is an enigma which no one seems prepared to solve.

Such an assurance may perhaps be founded, on an anticipated renewal of the proposition, which was made in January last by Great Britain, and refused by President Tyler, of the submission of the question to an arbitration. It is remarkable that Mr. Polk made no allusion to this offer, and its rejection, in his message. Is it not supposable that the design of this omission, might be to hold himself uncommitted on this proposition, until a favorable opportunity of acceding to it? If so it may account for the confidence which is entertained of a peaceable adjustment of the controversy."

The same paper of the preceding day, says—

"On the 25th of January, 1845, Mr. Pakenham informed Mr. Calhoun, that he was now authorised to make an offer of arbitration, leaving the choice of articles to after consideration. We were surprised in not finding any mention of such an offer in the President's Message, as the fact of such an offer was asserted in a London paper, in a manner which left little doubt that the information was derived from an official source. Mr. Calhoun on the 31st, replied that he had laid the offer before the President, and that he could not accede to the proposal."

The Washington Correspondent of the N. York Express, under date of Dec. 7th, says:—"The Oregon question assumes a grave importance in the private discussions which have taken place since the meeting of Congress. That the House of Representatives will execute the orders of the Executive, there can be no doubt, after the scenes that have transpired within the few days past. There is good ground of hope that the Senate will act independently of the Executive; but, thus early in the session, it is not easy to conjecture what may be the action of that body.—It seems to be well conceded that all negotiations upon this subject are at an end, and that the Executive now expects Congress to execute our claim to "the whole of Oregon."

The following is from the N. York Albion:

The President's Message.—Our worst fears, and even more, are realized in this Message, for no progress whatever has been made towards a settlement of the dispute by negotiation, for negotiations have long since been broken off and discontinued; and the United States have not only withdrawn all their former offers for a settlement, but insist upon the whole of the territory to 54 degrees. The President, moreover, recommends that the twelve months' notice be given for putting an end to the joint occupancy, that Congress proceed to enact laws for the Americans in Oregon, and to establish a line of forts from the frontier settlements of the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. The prospect, then, of an amicable arrangement of this question is more remote than ever; and, if the President be sustained by Congress, England has no alternative but war, or a surrender of all her rights in that important part of her territory. It is true that negotiations may be opened again, but with what prospect of success, if such be the temper of the United States government and Congress combined? Besides, Mr. Polk proceeds upon the principle, that the whole and entire territory is *bona fide* American; and if Congress should adopt the same view, there is an end to all profitable negotiations.

The President makes no allusion to any offer on the part of Great Britain to refer the matter to a third and friendly power for arbitration. We were under the impression that such an overture had been made and rejected by the American government; but as his excellency does not mention the fact, we hope that that resource is still open as a means by which this dispute may be terminated. For, after all we have read, and notwithstanding the unsatisfactory state of things at Washington, we cannot be persuaded that a war can grow out of such materials. If then the proposal of an arbitration has not been lately made, we hope her Majesty's government will lose no time in making it."

We have not seen any evidence to give probability to the rumour, that Mr. Pakenham is to be recalled, and another minister appointed, to resume the negotiation by disavowing Mr. P's last communication. On the contrary the N. Y. Journal of Commerce of the 8th inst. says:—

"A letter was received in this city last week from Mr. Pankenham, stating in substance, that *he was not then advised of having been recalled or superseded.*"

The Sacred Music Society intend giving another of their delightful Concerts To-morrow, (Wednesday) Evening, and we perceive by the Programme that the performance will be closed with the Grand Hallelujah Chorus, from Handel's Oratorio of the "Messiah." We therefore give the following extract from Hogarth's Musical History relative thereto, and would suggest that the custom alluded to of standing during its performance, might be observed with good effect in this Province as in England.

"The following anecdotes respecting the first performance of the *Messiah* are given in the last edition of the *Biographia Dramatica*, on the authority of the Earl of Kinnoul, who died in the year 1787. From the first of them we discover the origin of the custom of the audience standing up during the performance of the Hallelujah Chorus.

"When this piece was first performed the audience were exceedingly struck and affected by the music in general; but when the chorus struck up "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth," they were so transported that they all, with the King, who happened to be present, started up and remained standing till the chorus was ended: and hence it became the fashion in England for the audience to stand while that part of the music is performing." This fashion is still invariably observed.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Friday evening, in compliance with an urgent request of the Directors of the Institute, the Rev. Mr. Wishart repeated his Lecture on the "*Peculiarities of Science.*" The audience was very large and highly respectable, and all appeared to be much pleased and entertained with the matter and manner of the Lecture.

Last evening, Mr. G. N. Smith delivered an interesting and instructive Lecture on "*The Tides.*"

The Rev. Mr. Spurden, of Fredericton, will Lecture on Monday and Tuesday evening next, on the "*Steam Engine.*"

Philosophical Entertainments.—The first of a course of scientific Lectures was given at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening last. The Exhibition, by the oxy-hydrogen Microscope, gave presage of a rich treat in store for our citizens, during the present winter.

The second illustrated Lecture of the course will be given this evening, to be succeeded by the display of Dissolving Views, &c.—The Lectures at these entertainments are delivered by Mr. Blatch, and the Illustrative apparatus is managed by Mr. Sharp.

Snow.—Sufficient snow fell last night to make tolerable Sleighing, and this morning the jingling of sleigh bells are heard in every direction. This is the first sleighing for the season.

Launched at the Bend of Petitcodiac, on the 14th ult. a fine Ship called the "*Lara*," 725 tons, owned by Stephen Binney, Esq., of Halifax.—And at the same place on the 18th, another fine ship of 500 tons, called the "*Macdonald*," owned by Mr. Alexander Wright.—Both these vessels are entirely composed of Larch, and are allowed by competent judges to be in every respect first class ships.

Quebec Sufferers.—The total amount received by the General Committee of Relief, to the 1st December, for the sufferers by the late Fires, was £66,462 13s. 3d.—Payments made to sufferers by the Committee, to that date, £50,580 1s. 2d.—Remaining in hand for distribution, £15,882 12s. 2d.

The Quebec Committee of Relief have received from the Rev. Antoine Gagnon, cure at Shediac, New Brunswick, seven boxes of clothing, of the most useful description, with £4 10s. 3d. in cash.

At New-York, 8th inst. Genesee Flour could be bought at $6 50; $6 to $6 25 offered, but opinion was quite unsettled. 5000 bushels Corn, Northern and Southern, for export, sold at 83 to 84 cents.

General Scott on War.—The following are the sentiments of the American General Scott, which, to use the language of a contemporary, "*are worthy of especial consideration at this time*":—

"If war be the natural state of savage tribes," says Gen. Scott, "peace is the first want of every civilised community. War, no doubt, is under any circumstances, a great calamity; yet submission to outrage would often be a greater calamity. Of the two parties to any war, one at least must be in the wrong—not unfrequently both. An error in such an issue is, on the part of chief magistrates, ministers of state, and legislators, having a voice in the question, a crime of infinite magnitude. The murder of an individual is, in guilt, comparatively but a drop of blood."

"Hence the highest moral obligation to treat national differences with justness and fairness; to see that the cause of war is not only just but sufficient; to be sure that we do not covet our neighbor's land, "nor anything that is his;" that we are ready to give as to demand explanation, apology, indemnity. In short, we should especially remember, "all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." This divine precept is of universal obligation. It is as applicable to rulers in their transactions with other nations, as to private individuals in their daily intercourse with each other. Power is entrusted to the former to do good, and to avoid evil. Such, clearly, is the revealed will of God."

We learn that the Surveying Schr. Beaver, which has been surveying for some time past in the Digby Basin, was run ashore during the gale of Wednesday last, on Quaco beach; she had previously carried away her jib, and was making water very fast. When ran on shore she had four feet water in her hold. The Charts, Surveying Instruments, &c., were all saved. It is expected that the vessel will be got off.—*New-Bruns.*

Seizure.—On Sunday night the officers of Her Majesty's Revenue seized a large Whale Boat and five hundred gallons of Spirits.—*Courier.*

Fire.—A serious fire broke out on the Farm of Mr. John McAlpine, (late of this city,) at Sussex Vale, on Tuesday morning last, by which his dwelling house, the whole of his winter provisions (including 7 barrels of pork,) furniture, &c. were consumed, the family barely escaping with their lives. —*Herald.*

It will be seen by the annexed paragraph, which we copy from the Liverpool Standard of the 18th ult. that Robert Rankin, Esquire, has been elected a Dock Committee-man at Liverpool, by a large majority over other candidates. Mr. Rankin is one of the largest ship-owners not only in Liverpool, but in the world. His selection for the important trust with which he is now invested, will be highly gratifying to the commercial community of Saint John, among whom he secured the highest esteem during a residence of many years.—*Courier.*

Election of a Dock Committee-Man.—On Wednesday, the election of a member of the Dock Committee, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the return of Mr. Eyre Evans to the Council, took place. The Mayor presided. Mr. Rankin was proposed by Mr. Alderman Horsfall, and seconded by Mr. C. S. Middleton. Mr. Alderman Griffith proposed Mr. James Ritson, and Mr. Whitehead seconded him. Mr. Benn was proposed by Mr. Eyre Evans, and seconded by Mr. Bolton. At the close of the voting the numbers were as follow:—For Mr. Rankin, 322; for Mr. Benn, 118; and for Mr. Ritson, 17.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The General Meeting of the Saint John County Agricultural and Horticultural Society, which was adjourned from 27th November last, on account of the weather, took place at the St. John Hotel last Tuesday morning. There was a respectable attendance of town and country members. The report of the Directors, shewing the proceedings of last year, was read and duly received; also, the Treasurer's account, with the respective necessary vouchers. The account of sales of imported seeds was also handed in by Mr. Jardine,—shewing the value of seeds now on hand to be £10 2s.;—the importation, including cost and charges, amounted to £95 4s. 6d. The Teasurer's account shewed amount received in the year from balance of last year, subscriptions, and Legislative grant, to be £162 12s. 2d. Expended in Premiums, purchase of seeds, Agricultural publications, and incidental expenses, to be £127 11s. 6d.—leaving a balance in his hands of £35 0s. 8d. wherewith to commence the operations of the new year. Mr. N. Creighton handed in an interesting statement of the actual state of the Farms and Crops in his neighbourhood, at the time of examination, which was held under the 10th section of the Society's regulations.

The late President of the Society, J. Gillies, Esq. having intimated his desire to retire from the Presidency, the election of office-bearers was proceeded with, when the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen:—James Peters, junr. Esq. President; R. Keltie, Esq. and R. Jardine, Vice-Presidents; John Gillies, G. C. Carman, James Dunn, Peter Dewar, Geo. G. Gilbert, Thomas Trafton, Nugent Creighton, John Longmaid, John Harris, Thomas Allan, James Ingledew, Charles Drury, R. D. Wilmot, Committee; John Duncan, Esq. Treasurer; M. H. Perley, Esq. Cor. Sec'y.; H. J. Chubb, Rec. Sec'y.

On motion of R. F. Hazen, Esq. the President left the Chair, and R. Keltie, Esq. was called thereto; and on like motion, seconded by Mr. J. Ingledew, the thanks of the Society were unanimously voted to John Gillies, Esq. for his unwearied exertions in forwarding the interests of the Society, since he held the Presidency.

At the close of the meeting the usual subscription list was opened, and the sum of £14 collected and handed over to the Treasurer.

At a meeting of the General Committee for relief of the sufferers by Fire at Quebec, held at the Commercial Bank Building, Saint John, 10th December, 1845—Present: The Hon John Robertson, Chairman, and L. Donaldson, J. M. Robinson, Jacob Allan, Edward L. Jarvis, G. C. Littlehale, A. Smithers, Thomas Gilchrist, Wm. H. Scovil, John Duncan, William Parks, Wm. O. Smith, W. H. Street, F. A. Wiggins, Edward Allison, William Jack, and R. L. Harzen, Esquire:—

The Chairman having read several published reports of proceedings of the Committee in Quebec for the relief of the sufferers by fire, and having stated that the Sub-Committee appointed at the meeting of the General Committee on the third of September last, in consequence of the mode in which the funds appeared to be distributed in Quebec, and from other circumstances, did not feel themselves authorised to remit the monies collected, without first ascertaining the opinion of the General Committee upon the subject,—

On motion of William Jack, Esquire, it was *unanimously Resolved*, that this Committee approve of the proceedings of the Sub-Committee, in withholding the funds collected until the opinion of the General Committee could be ascertained.

And on motion of William H. Street, Esquire, Whereas the sum now in the hands of the Committee has been collected by subscription, for the purpose of rescuing a multitude of persons in the City of Quebec, who had been sunk into poverty by the late calamitous fires in that City, from the horrors of destitution and probable disease; and the same appearing to this Committee to be no longer required for that purpose;—*Resolved unanimously*, that the several sums subscribed be returned to such of the subscribers as may choose to receive the same, and that the sums collected at the several places of worship be paid over to their respective Clergymen, and that the Sub-Committee take such measures as they may think proper to carry this resolution into effect.

JOHN ROBERTSON, *Chairman.*

W. Jack, *Acting Sec'y.*

Fredericton, December 11.

Fire.—On Saturday morning last, about two o'clock, a fire broke out in the house occupied by Mr. Riley, Carleton Street, and so far had the flames progressed before they were discovered that it was found necessary to rescue the family by taking them out of their bed-room windows, in the second story, in their night-dresses! The door was then broken open, and the goods in the lower flat were principally saved, but those upstairs were lost, as no one could venture there on account of the fire and smoke. The Engines were soon on the spot, and a line was formed by the people to the river, but although they did their best, they were unable to half supply one engine. It was evident from the first discovery that the block (consisting of three dwellings, viz: Mr. Riley's, a house owned and occupied by Mr. Slean, Baker, and an old house occupied by a colored family) could not be saved; and every energy was therefore directed to save two barns in the rear, which, had they caught, would doubtless have communicated the fire to other buildings. Fortunately the walls and roofs of buildings were covered with a sort of sleet, frozen on them, and to this Providential occurrence, the judicious exercise of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of both civilians and military, may be attributed the arrest of the flames. Mr. Slean, we understand, saved his goods, and his house was either wholly or partially insured.—*Loyalist.*

On Wednesday evening a public meeting was convened in the County Court House, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning the Legislature in favour of erecting the City of Fredericton into "a Free Port, and a Free Warehousing Port." Several Resolutions were put and carried on this subject; and the draft of a petition adopted, which now remains for the signatures of the inhabitants....[Fred. Reporter.

Accident to the Courier.—We are extremely sorry to state that the Courier (Kelly) on his journey hitherwards, with the Southern mails, met with a severe accident when crossing the Richibucto river on Wednesday last. His horse broke through the ice, and was lost, together with the harness, pung buffalo robes, &c. With much difficulty he succeeded in saving the mail, but in his exertions so to do, both his hands were severely frost-bitten.—*Miramichi Gleaner, Dec. 13.*

The Season.—If "old Winter" was tardy in making his appearance, he has made amends by commencing his reign in right good earnest. The weather during the whole of the week has been excessively cold and boisterous. The river has been fast bound in icy fetters for some days, and horses and sleighs are travelling on it in all directions. Thursday was as cold a day, we think, as we ever experienced in the country. Sufficient snow fell on Tuesday night to make good sleighing.—*Ib.*

The brig Charles Grey, Capt. Outerbridge, arrived at New Orleans on the 13th ult from Montego Bay, Jamaica, and the crew, being all blacks to a man, were at once placed in the calaboose, until the vessel should be ready for sea again.

Canada.—The following Address was left by the Governor General, to be published after his departure:—

Monklands, Montreal, Nov. 25.

The Governor General cannot take leave of Canada, in the sudden manner which the state of his health renders necessary, without conveying to the inhabitants of the province his fervent wishes for their prosperity and happiness. He does not quit his post in pursuit of a cure for a complaint which is supposed to be incurable, nor for the preservation of a life which could not be better disposed of than in the service of Her Majesty, and in the exercise of honest indeavours to promote the welfare of this splendid province; but solely, because the increasing ravages of his disorder deprive him of the power of performing the duties of his office with the requisite efficiency. Under these circumstances, her Majesty having most graciously signified her acceptance of his resignation, he is under the necessity of proceeding to a Port of Embarkation, without delay, lest the approaching severity of the season should render his removal unsafe in the present state of his health.

Whether the remaining term of his existence be brief or protracted, he can never cease to regard with extreme interest the progress of affairs in this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

In retiring from his station, he has the satisfaction of believing that the Prosperity of the Province is rapidly rewarding the Industry and Enterprise of its Inhabitants; and that political dissensions and animosities have in a great degree subsided. He trusts that these Blessings will continue and increase.

In repeating the anxious desire which he will ever retain for the welfare of Canada, he cannot refrain from expressing his grateful sense of the cordial support which he has received from the Loyalty and public spirit of its inhabitants, during the period of his administration of the Government.

METCALFE.

Quebec, December 3.

We had a very imperfect idea of what has been done by the people of England for the relief of the sufferers by the great fires at Quebec, till we visited, yesterday, the apartments in the House of Assembly buildings occupied by the Relief Committee. We had read indeed of liberal contributions in money in the principal places of the United Kingdom, of the charitable collections in the established Churches in England on the Queen's letter; but a correct estimate of the quantity and quality of the effects collected and sent out, can only be formed by viewing them. It would seem, at first sight, that there is enough of clothing and bedding for all the inhabitants of Quebec; and we are told that there are still about two hundred bales in the stores.

The whole of the relief afforded is the produce of the industry of the people of the United Kingdom, and it is in addition to hundreds of thousand pounds from the same source which is spent annually in Canada for Military purposes, all of which contributes eventually to the support of the working classes in the country.

We are sorry that some misunderstandings and symptoms of jealousy and pitiful distinctions are said to have shewn themselves in respect to the distribution of the charitable donations of our fellow subjects on the other side of the Atlantic, and particularly that motives inconsistent with the object and feelings of the donors should have been publicly imputed in the newspapers to some of the gentlemen who sacrifice their time and labour in the distribution. There is one consolation, however, that whatever may be said of us, it cannot diminish the merits of the people of England, who so zealously came forward on a real case of distress, certified by the most respectable authorities, for the relief of the sufferers, and we are persuaded that nothing can in any degree diminish that generous and charitable feeling which at all times has distinguished the people of England on extraordinary cases of distress.—*Neilson's Gazette.*

The potato disease attracts great attention in England. Dr. Buckland, in the course of a speech delivered at a meeting of learned and influential men, stated that he had recently eaten at the table of Lord Ashburton potatoes which had been diseased, and they were so eaten at the table of his Lordship for the purpose of showing to the domestics that when properly attended to there was no danger. If the potatoes infected were first of all steeped for twelve hours in cold water, the water then changed, and they were then peeled and steeped for another twelve hours before being boiled (which they ought to be in two new waters) they would be found to be perfectly wholesome and nutritious.—When steeped or macerated as described, they were perfectly innocuous to man or beast.—*Montreal Herald.*

Ordination of a Missionary.—On Thursday last, the Southern Reformed Presbytery met at Rathfriland, to ordain, as a missionary to the British North American Colonies, Mr. James Reid Lawson. The services were commenced in the Reformed Presbyterian meeting house, by the Rev. John Wright Graham expounding a portion of psalmody. The Rev. Hutcheson M'Fadden, the Moderator of Synod, then preached a most suitable and impressive sermon from 2 Timothy, iv. 5—first and last clause. After the delivery of the discourse, which was listened to with profound attention by a very numerous audience, the remaining services were conducted in the adjoining burying-ground, a tent and platform having been previously erected for the purpose. The Rev. T. Carlile, in a very perspicuous and conclusive manner, explained and defended Presbyterian ordination. The Rev. T. Houston, as secretary of the missionary board, gave a brief account of the missions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and a narrative of the circumstances that had led to the designation of the present missionary. The Rev. Mr. Graham then proposed the usual formula, and ordained the candidate, by solemn prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, to the office of the sacred ministry, and as a missionary to the British North American colonies. Mr. Houston then delivered a solemn and affectionate charge to the youthful missionary, and concluded the services by prayer and praise. The weather was favorable; and the audience, which was large and most attentive, appeared to take the deepest interest in the whole proceedings. In a few days Mr. Lawson will sail to the colonies, carrying with him the cordial esteem and earnest good wishes of a large number of attached friends, and cheered by the fervent prayers of many who are concerned in the prosperity of the missions of the Church. He is the fourth missionary that the Covenanting Church in this country has sent out to these colonies.—*Banner of Ulster, Oct. 24.*

Mr. Lawson arrived at St. John about six weeks ago.

MARRIED.

On Saturday, 6th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Mr. John Craig, to Miss Caroline Pickels.—On Sunday evening, by the same, Mr. Charles Douglas Alley, to Mrs. Eliza Hazlewood, (widow,)—all of the Parish of Portland.

On the 11th inst. by the Rev. Samuel Robinson, Mr. James Pamp, of Annapolis, to Miss Jane Ralph, of St. John.

On Monday morning, by the Rev. Enoch Wood, Mr. Thomas Chambers, to Mrs. Mary McFarland, both of this City.

DIED.

On Friday morning, the 12th instant, after a few days' illness, Jane, the beloved wife of Mr. James Magee, formerly of Enniskillen, Ireland, in the 60th year of her age—leaving a large family to mourn their irreparable loss.

On Friday morning, after a short illness, Henry, only son of Mrs. Johnston, widow of the late Mr. James Johnston, aged 14 years.

At Greenwich, King's County, on the 2d instant, aged 29 years, Jemima, wife of Mr. John Price, and daughter of the Hon. William M'Leod, leaving a disconsolate husband and five children to lament their loss.

At Kingsclear, County of York, on the 28th ult. Isabella, third daughter of the Honorable Thomas Carleton Lee, in the 13th year of her age.

At the Parish of Canning, Queen's County, on Sunday, 7th December, Mr. John Robertson, in the 74th year of his age. Mr. R. was a native of Balnagard, in Perthshire, North Britain. He became a resident of this Province in May, 1801, and for 42 years had been an exemplary and devoted member of the Wesleyan Church. At a time when Ministerial labourers were infrequent in the locality where his lot was cast, he exerted his talent, and displayed the ardency of his piety, in conducting the services held among his neighbours for religious worship, by which the sanctity of the Sabbath was maintained, the Word of God reverenced, and a beneficial influence exerted upon the youthful mind. His love for Christian Ministers and people was str