

THE GREAT FLOOD AT ALBANY.—There are no records of a flood which has proved so destructive, or has covered so large a portion of the city. The *Evening Journal* makes the following estimate of the losses which have been sustained in that vicinity:—

"It is impossible, as yet, to reach any of the warehouses upon the dock or pier except in boats, and consequently but few of those 'drowned out' are able to form any idea of the extent of the losses they have sustained. We estimated the losses here and in the adjacent places at a million of dollars. Upon inquiring of some of the leading business firms, we find many are of the belief that the losses sustained in our city will exceed that of the disastrous fire of August 17, 1848, though we are of the opinion that it will fall short of that amount."

The annual meeting of the Montreal Mining Company took place on Wednesday last, when an encouraging Report for the past year was submitted by the Directors. From this document, we learn that the paid up capital of the Company has been increased by £5,650 during the year; that a reduction from 4s to 2s per acre on Lake Superior locations, has been obtained from Government, together with an abandonment of interest; so that a liability of £21,582 has been cancelled by a payment of £5,187, and an extensive mineral territory secured to the Company, which would otherwise have been forfeited with all previous payments thereon. All the details of the Company's operations appear satisfactory, showing that it is gradually profiting by experience in the prosecution of its great enterprise. The net profit on the operations of the past year has been £1,391, which has diminished, to the same extent, its liabilities; and it is evident that the manager of the mines has confidence in their profitable character, from the fact that he has offered to take, in lieu of his salary of £500, one third of the net profits on mining operations for the current year, to which propositions the Directors have acceded. Altogether, we hope this laudable enterprise is at last upon a safe and profitable footing.—*[Witness.]*

YOUNG LADIES SHOULD NOT SMOKE IN BED.—A young lady of rank, the Countess N., very nearly lost her life two or three weeks ago in the house of her father, the Governor of Moscow, by a very singular accident. It is stated in *La Patrie* that the Countess had been indulging, as usual in the habit of smoking, and at the same time reading in bed. The double narcotic very soon set her asleep. She awoke presently in terror to find her bed on fire, the linen of which ignited by the end of her cigarette. She jumped out of bed, fortunately without being burnt, and rushed to the door. It had been bolted, and in her fright she could not open it. She then broke the window, and called aloud for help. The sentinel on duty at the gate below instantly gave the alarm; the lady's chamber door was forced open, and the fire was extinguished. She was not hurt, but only frightened.

DESERVES A SHAKING.—The editor of the *Green Bay Advocate* is reputed to be fond of "fast horses," and in his last paper he gives the particulars of the performances of one he now owns.—He says the critter recently threw him into a snow bank, scattered a blanket here, and a whip there—and here again another robe,—our wife, and several other articles of little value.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION—TWELVE THOUSAND BALES COTTON BURNED—LOSS OVER HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS.—Yesterday afternoon, at about half past three o'clock, the bell sounded the alarm of fire, and shortly smoke and flames were found to proceed from the Montgomery warehouse, which was closely packed with cotton, and fanned by a sharp north wind, the fire spread with very great rapidity, defying all the efforts of our firemen to arrest it. Nor did it pause with the destruction of this warehouse and its contents, the Hunt warehouse, next South, soon felt its power, and like its predecessor was wrapt in flames; and then the Planters warehouse fell a victim to the raging element, which paused not in the work of destruction until the entire square, with its nearly one million of property was consumed. The greatest attention and constant effort were required to stay the fire even here, and more than once warehouses on the Northwest and South, though separated from the burning square by streets, were caught or seriously threatened.

This is the most serious disaster of the sort that has fallen upon our city for years, and it will be seriously felt not only here but in the interior, though the cotton destroyed was doubtless chiefly insured.

The quantity of cotton consumed is variously estimated, but from the most reliable data we can obtain, we believe the following a fair statement:

Montg. Warehouse capacity	... 6,505
Hunt's " "	... 8,000
Planters' " "	... 3,000

17,505.

It is believed that these warehouses were all well filled, and that no more than four or five hundred bales were saved from them all—so that 12,000 bales is a very moderate estimate of the loss. This, at \$61.25 per bale—about the present value of cotton—would amount to some \$725,000 loss—besides the value of the warehouses themselves, which, however, is comparatively inconsiderable. The Montgomery and Hunt's warehouses were attached to the Shippers' Press, owned by Messrs. Cluis & Magee—the other belonged to the Planter's Press. The amount of insurance on the property we are unable to ascertain.

The following letter has been addressed by the Minister of Agriculture to the heads of Municipalities. Of its importance it is unnecessary for us to say one word:—

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE & STATISTICS,
TORONTO, January, 1857.

Sir,—As there is some indication that in the course of next Spring, there will be a larger immigration from Europe to Canada than has been for some years, and as it is desirable that the emigrant, on arriving, should be provided with employment as quick as possible, I shall feel obliged by your adopting such means as you may find most convenient to ascertain what number of Farm and Domestic Servant—Men and Women, Boys and Girls—and further what number and class of Mechanics would be likely to find employment within your Municipality; and reporting to this Department, as soon as possible, the result of your inquiries.

Complaints have been made, from various parts of the country, of the scarcity of Laborers, &c., and the want can probably be supplied next season, by the combined action of this department and the authorities in the different localities.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
P. M. VANCOUVER,
Minister of Agriculture.

ETON AND TOBACCO SMOKING.—The following is from the second volume of "Reliquie Hearniana," page 447:—"Jan. 21, 1720. I have been told that in the last great plague at London, none that kept tobacconists' shops had the plague. It is certain that smoking is looked upon as a most excellent preservative, inasmuch that even children were obliged to smoke. And I remember that I heard Tom Rogers, who was a yeoman beadle, say that when he was that year, when the plague raged, a school-boy at Eton, all the boys of that school were obliged to smoke in the school every morning, and that he was never whipped so much in his life as he was one morning for not smoking."

ADULTERATED BRANDY.—A correspondent of the *London Times* calls attention to the extent to which raw spirits distilled from grain in England are mixed with brandy in France and re-shipped here as the produce of that country.—The quantity of British spirits exported to France in 1855 was 3,068,766 gallons, at a value of £660,750, which would give an average price of 4s 3d per gallon. In the same year the quantity of brandy imported from France was 1,861,390 gallons, the value being £911,305, or about 9s 9d per gallon. It is pointed out that after allowing 1s 3d per gallon for expenses in freight, re-distillation with water, &c., a profit is thus obtained of 100 per cent.

A French soldier, named Amedee Desire C—, of the 66th regiment of the line, killed his corporal, Antoine Fessart, in the barracks at Irvy, a few days ago. He had been repeatedly punished by the corporal for various acts of dishonesty and insubordination, and, having vowed to revenge himself, went into a room where the corporal was lying down and shot him dead.

THE FRENCH EMPIRE AND ITS RIVALS.—The Imperialist and Fusionist circles of Paris are occupied just now with very different but to each of them very interesting statements. In the former it is confidently asserted that His Holiness the Pope has at last consented to crown the Emperor at Rheims in the month of May, and has given the sanction of the church to the new order of things in France. In the latter a contract of marriage is announced between the Comte de Paris and the daughter of the Duchess Regent of Parma, who is the only sister of the Duc de Bordeaux. By this alliance the fusion will, it is hoped, be complete, and the conflicting pretensions of the Houses of Bourbon and Orleans be reconciled. At present, however, the youthful princess and future bride is only in her 8 year.

TERRIBLE RIOT IN NEW JERSEY.—New York papers received late last evening, give details of a riot in New Jersey, between two factions of Irish laborers, the "Gorkonians" and the "Far-downers." The local papers speak of a number having been killed and wounded on both sides, but the information so far obtained seems to be hardly reliable. It is certain, however, that the interference of a large body of military became necessary before the outbreak could be quelled.

CORRECTION COMMITTEE IN CONGRESS.—This Committee has made startling developments. It appears that upwards of twenty newspapers had agreed together not to vote for any grant of money or lands to any object unless they were paid for it. Many members of Congress have been made rich by bribes of this kind, and newspaper editors and correspondents have had a share.

DESPATCH.—The British brig *Swordfish* sailed from Cardenas for Portland, Feb'y 1. On the 12th day of the month, a portion of her cargo, consisting of sugars, was landed in Montreal.—In six days from the time she left Cardenas she was off Portland Lights, where she was obliged to lay to for thirty hours on account of the fog. Her cargo was on account of Joseph Tiffin, Esq.

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