British News.

THE NEW TRANSATLANTIC STEAM-SHIP UNITED STATES.—This vessel, the largest steamer ever built at this port, and intended for the New-York line, will be launched this day at half past 12, at the yard of Messrs. Thomas Wilson & Co., the builders, near the battery, North Shore. During the last few weeks, she has been visited by a great number of respectable persons of both sexes. The following are her dimensions:

	ft.	ins.
Length from stem to stern over all	235	0
Length of keel	215	0
Breadth, including the paddle-boxes	60	0
Breadth of the deck between the paddle-boxes	38	0
Depth of hold from the upper deck	38	6
Height between the decks respectively	7	6
Length of the principal saloon, about	70	0
Breadth of saloon, including adj'ng bed rooms	42	0

Second, or fore saloon, nearly of equal size
Capacity for stowage, beyond her coals, 800 tons.
Total admeasurement 1404 tons.

This beautiful vessel is the property of the Transatlantic Steam Company, to which the Liverpool belongs, and may be expected to take her station on the New York line, in conjunction with that vessel in the early part of the summer. The engines, which are being manufactured by Messrs. Fawcett and Preston, are in a state of great forwardness, and will be ready before the interior fittings are completed. The United States is admitted by all who have seen her, to be a beautifully modelled vessel. Her frame throughout is of the choicest British oak. Her timbers, from her keison to her bilgers, are laid close together, and interiorly caulked, so that her bottom, to that extent would be water tight, even if her planks were removed. Her garboard stroke (of eight inch plank (is bolted together through and throughout her kelson. Her flooring timbers are all cogged, or dowelled together, and further secured by strong rods of iron driven through them fore and aft. Her bottom planks are of American elm; and such is the joint thickness of these and the timbers, that they form a solid mass of the best timber of eighteen inches in thickness. Her sides are proportionally strong, and so bound together, that it would seem impossible that she could be at all shaken by any casualty at sea. Her bends are of African oak; her upper planks of English, oak and fine red pine, which last is, between wind and water, equal in durability to any other timber. Interiorly, the United States is fastened diagonally, in a very superior manner. She has three decks, including the upper or spar deck, which last, while it affords a fine level range for walking—upwards of 230 feet in length—will in tempestuous weather, shelter the main deck, on which the passenger will find in the space between the two cabins, "ample range and room enough" to enjoy air and exercise. Should the weather prove fine to-day, the attendance to witness the launch of this splendid vessel will be great.—*Liverpool Paper, March 7.*

LONDON, March 21.—The points upon which it is alleged the Government feel particularly insecure are Lord Stanley's bill (fixed for Wednesday) to amend the Registration of Electors in Ireland, and Sir James Graham's motion on the question of China, appointed for discussion on the 2d proximo. The first if successful, would so completely overthrow the O'Connell influence in Irish elections that Ministers could no longer look to stifle the voice of the Majority of British Members by the votes of "the Tail." Sir James Graham's motion promises to be more immediately serious. I am assured that it is to assume the form of a *direct censure* of the Administration of their conduct in respect of China; and should such a motion be carried, it seems difficult to imagine that, all their well known tenaciousness notwithstanding, the Ministers could remain in office. I make every allowance for the thick-and-thin propensity of Ministerial Members, but this is a subject on which some of them, who represent commercial constituencies, must vote for the interests of those who send them to Parliament. Thus you will see that Mr. Crawford, one of the Members for London, and a Whig Radical, has already given notice of a motion for Tuesday next, for the appointment of a Committee on the petition of the merchants at Canton, who surrendered their opium to the Chinese authorities, on the guarantee—since violated—of Captain Elliot, the Queen's Commissioner. Of course Mr. Crawford cannot but vote with Sir James Graham, and there must be several others in a similar position.

House of Commons, March 20.

Sir H. Vivian said that the estimates of this year somewhat exceeded those of last, but this increase had arisen from no want of economy, but from unavoidable circumstances, arising from the war in Canada, and the increase in the army. In the year 1792 the sum expended in the Ordnance department was £422,000.—The ordnance estimate of the present day was £1,822,000; deducting from which a sum of £1,350,346, which had since that day been thrown on the ordnance, left a sum of £462,000, being £40,000 only above what it was in 1792, which, considering the immense increase of our colonial possessions, was a very small excess.—The right hon. Baronet then went over the various items of the account, and stated that the whole increase was £152,556. The whole sum requisite was £1,971,042, but as there was a balance on hand to the credit of last year's account of £86,042, which was to be deducted, left a sum of £1,885,000, which was the vote required.

Mr. Hume complained of the system of separating the Ordnance department from the War Office, it was a very useless system, and increased to a great degree the expenses of the nation; the store department of the Ordnance cost no less than 38 per cent. for its management. On the whole, he thought there could be no very great reduction made on the Estimates.

Sir Hussey Vivian said that if the proposition to transfer the artillery superintendents to the War Office were to take place, it would be greatly detrimental to the efficiency of the service.

Sir Henry Hardinge would not allow the subject to pass without giving his tribute of praise to the skill, character, and competency of the senior clerks.

In this opinion Sir Hussey Vivian expressed his cordial concurrence.

£116,874 was then voted for defraying the expenses of the Ordnance Department.

£106,930. for the Engineers and Sappers.
£354,073, for the Royal Academy at Woolwich.
£370,714, for the expenses of Barrack Masters.
£437,711, for repairs and works at the Ordnance and Barracks Departments.
£180,414, for Military and Civil contingencies.
£2,088 for contingent law expenses.
£158,042 was then voted for pensions of superannuated officers.
£265,[illegible] for the Commissariat supplies.

Next to the Parliament, in compliance with established usage, though practically of much more importance, comes the Court; and I doubt not that your readers will rub their eyes—and their spectacles if they wear them—to convince themselves that they read aright the announcement of the Duke of Sussex's intended marriage with Lady Cecilia Underwood. Yet there seems no good reason for not believing the report, or that this act of tardy decency on the part of his Royal Highness is to be rewarded by an additional grant of £6000 a year—out of the public purse. The lady is an aunt of the present Earl of Arran, an Irish Peer, and was married, in 1815, to a Sir George Buggin, a City Knight, and, if report say true, much interested in the cause of *Grease*—at least as much as Tallow Merchants usually are. After Sir George's death, some sort of left handed ceremony is said to have taken place between Lady Cecilia and the Duke of Sussex. In order to get rid of the un-aristocratic name of Buggin, and perhaps in short to destroy the traces of identity, her Ladyship, in May 1831, procured the Royal license to change her name to Underwood. Since that time her position in society has been equivocal and unrecognised; she began by visiting with the Duke, at certain houses only, such as the Duke of Cleveland's, and one or two others of the same class. Latterly the circle has been gradually enlarged, and at length the lady was received at Court. She is now, it appears, to become "Royal" by consent of the Queen in Council, and, moreover, to have only two lives, except that of her present Majesty, between her and the proud eminence of being Queen Consort of England! Nobody, of course, blames Lady Cecilia for wishing to secure to herself a permanent *status* in society; particularly as history has told her, in the instance of the ill-used Lady Augusta Murray, that without the ties of law, there is no hold on the constancy of the Duke of Sussex. But what will the female aristocracy of England say to this precious arrangement?

An amusing circumstance has just taken place, which shows how resolutely—and impudently—the Whigs endeavour to have everything their own way at the Palace. A few days ago Prince Albert amused himself with strolling into the guard-house, and got into conversation with a subaltern on duty. The Prince was so much pleased with the young officer, that he asked him to dine with him that evening. Nothing remarkable happened at table, but, as soon as the party had broken up, Lord Uxbridge, the Lord Chamberlain, remonstrated in strong terms with H. R. H. on the breach of etiquette involved in asking the young stranger, who was not one of the established and exclusive set. The Prince was indignant at this interference with his freedom of action, and declared, with many asseverations, that, *Mein Got in Himmel*, he would ask any body he pleased, without requesting the permission of the Lord Chamberlain. There the matter rests for the present.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

Mr. Editor.—I am going to impart to you a very curious and most important piece of information. As I was walking a few evenings ago in the main street leading from Portland Bridge, my attention was drawn to a person of rather a singular appearance. His dress was somewhat shabby, and arranged evidently with a design to conceal his face and figure as much as possible—the collar of his cloke being drawn up very high, and a travelling cap pulled down over his eyes. He approached with a careless undecided gait, gazing about him on all sides, till at length he stopt short to look at some men at work near one of the ships now in building. At the first glance, I was struck with his resemblance to some person of my acquaintance—I could not at the moment recollect whom; but when I came close to the place where he was standing, I recovered my recollection, and instantly recognized my old friend JOHN GAPE. The recognition was mutual, but he turned his back with the view apparently, to prevent me from accosting him. I remembered having heard of his death; but was so satisfied with his identity, that I determined notwithstanding his seeming reluctance to hold any conversation with me, to address him by name. Hearing himself thus spoken to he turned round, and shook hands with me with a good deal of cordiality; and on my expressing my surprise at seeing him there, because we had been informed of his death, and all the various circumstances of his burial, he informed me that his old friends had persuaded him to leave the country, and retire to the States, and had taken a rise out of the *Colonist*, in sending to *Hooper* an account of his death and burial. Finding him by degrees throwing off his reserve, I invited him to go home with me, that we might prolong our conversation over a glass of hot toddy. I asked him how long he had been in town. He said he had only the day before come from Fredericton, having passed from the States through Houlton. His object in returning was, he said, to confront his old friends: his indignation had been so thoroughly roused by the iniquitous conduct of the individuals whom he had been the means of bringing into power, and who were indebted to him for all their influence—conduct so utterly at variance with all the high sounding pretensions of purity, patriotism, disinterestedness and honesty which he had been the organ of putting forth, and so completely ruinous to the country in which he felt so deep an interest, that he could not rest quiet in his retirement, and had come back to remonstrate with them upon their unprincipled proceedings; and if that failed to expose them. What chiefly incensed him was the so called *public prosecution*, but actually *private persecution* of the Chronicle, in face of the encouragement which had been given to him so little while ago. He told me that on his arrival at Fredericton, he went to the house of one of his old friends at the lower end of the town, and found that he had been dead for two or three years. This surprised him, he said, a good deal, not having heard of his illness. He then went to the upper end of the town, and was equally surprised to find that the house he was in search of had been burnt down. Inquiring for a friend with whom he had been very intimate, he learned that he was to be found in one of the public offices below; he accordingly went there, and upon introducing himself, his quondum friend professed to know nothing about him, declared that he had utterly forgotten all about him and wished him to retire as quickly as possible. I wish he said "all bye ganes to be bye ganes"—I am in good employment now, so indeed are almost all of us, and I do not care to be seen in your company. He went then to the lawyer with whom he used to be very friendly—he told him the same story, and threatened if he did not instantly withdraw that he would turn him out of his office. He had on his cloke at the moment, so he asked him, he said, if he had a stick concealed there, and what use he meant to make of it. The lawyer told him that was no business of his, for if he chose to provide himself with a stick for his defence, what was that to him or any body else. He told him he thought so too, and having hinted that if he found he could not defend himself, he might apply for an order to the Attorney General to prosecute for him, he left him.—JOHN GAPE then told me that every one of his Fredericton associates in former days, treated him in precisely the same cowardly ungrateful manner. He then determined to come down to St. John's and see what treatment he should meet with there. Upon inquiry he learned that one of his best friends there had also died. He then called upon the doctor and lawyer, by both of whom he had been spurned,—they had both of them received favours in a certain quarter, and wished to have nothing to say to him. One of the persons of whom they had made use had been consigned to a lunatic asylum,—others had their own reasons for disowning him—but so it was that not a soul would hold a moment's conversation with him. He then, he said, called upon Mr. Chubb, but he plainly told him, that he neither could nor would have any thing to do or say with him: that he had lately received upwards of £350 for Government printing, and a further considerable sum was still due to him: that his meddling with politics was now quite out of the question, he wished his paper to be considered more a general Commercial Advertiser than a political newspaper, and telling him he was wanted at the Newsroom, abruptly left him. After this rebuff he thought he would try in another quarter, where he had been that day. When he knocked at the door the individual he was in search of opened it himself, for indeed he does not keep a man servant, and asked him who he was and what he wanted.—Having made himself known to him, JOHN said he asked him in no very courteous terms what the devil he wanted there. I told him said John, that I wished to have a few minutes conversation with him. He instantly ordered me off, and threatened if I did not start right away, he would set the house dog at me. I told him that as for his threat I did not care a copper for it, for I knew well, that he had no house dog, and the reason why he did not keep one, then taking off my cap I made him a low bow, and applying the thumb of my right hand with the fingers extended to the tip of my nose, and giving utterance to a loud "cracker" I left him. I am very glad however, John Gape continued, that I have at last met with a person who will acknowledge me, I knew you never agree'd with our clique in politics and now that my eyes are open, I honor you for it, for a more miserable scurvy set of tinkers never was collected together. I am ashamed that I ever was leagued with such a vile beggarly crew. You can make yourself useful to me if you will.—I wish to get some Commentaries upon the late Appropriations I saw published in one of the City papers, and as the Courier has done with politics I wish you would get the Chronicle people to publish them for me. I do not know who the persons are, who are interested or concerned in the Chronicle, but perhaps if you will write and ask, they will tell you. Upon this I promised Mr. Gape, that I would request you to publish his Commentaries in your *persecuted* Journal. Good I am sure they will be: and I do not doubt of their being most amusing to the public, and most delightful to your persecutors.

Yours, &c. JOHN SMITH.

[We shall have much pleasure in publishing John Gape's Commentaries. ED. CHRON.]

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, MAY 1, 1840.

Her Majesty's Packet *Skylark*, arrived at Halifax on Sunday last, in 21 days from Falmouth with the April mail, bringing dates from London and Liverpool to the 3d, and Falmouth to the 4th ult. We have been politely favoured with the Halifax Journal of the 27th inst., from which we have selected the following important items of political information. The *tocsin* of war appears to be sounding through the European and Eastern Continents; and great preparations are being made in the Naval and Military departments of Great Britain.

THE NAVY.—The following ships of war are fitting for service, viz:—Cambridge, 78; Vanguard, 84; Rodney, 92; Magicienne, 24; Champion, 24; Pearl, 24; & Pelican, with several others, & steamers.

It is reported that the Inconstant takes out Gen. Wittingham to Madras.

THE ARMY.—An inspection of the Army Out-Pensioners was making for the purpose of forming garrison battalions.

FRANCE.—The Weather was extremely inclement in France. There was snow almost every day in Paris. Provisions continued dear, and much distress prevailed.

CANADAS.—Lord John Russell, on introducing the Canada Union Bill, remarked: The first question would be as to the declaration of the Union. He (Lord J. Russell) should propose that instructions be given to the governor-general to make proclamation of the union within six months after the passing of the bill.—His Lordship stated several reasons why the declaration of the union should not be long delayed, but that the proclamation should be made within a few months after the passing of the bill. It was proposed that the crown, or the governor acting on the part of the crown, should appoint the Legislative Councillors. Many are still in favour of the project of an Elective Council; but the report of the Governor-General states, that all agreed that if there were not an elective council, the best plan would be to leave the nomination as directed by the constitution of 1791. He had to propose, that the nomination of the council should be for life, with the power however, to resign; the only disqualification being *bankruptcy or crime*. It was not proposed to limit the number of councillors, but it was intended that they sho'd not be less than twenty. With respect to the assembly, it was proposed that the number of representatives sent by Upper and Lower Canada should be equal.—Though at present the inhabitants of the upper province are not equal to those of the lower, yet they were rapidly increasing; and the probability is, that in a few years, the inhabitants of the upper province will have increased beyond that of the lower. It was proposed, that thirty-nine representatives should be allowed to each province, and distributed with no very great alteration of the existing boundaries.

LONDON, MARCH 27.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY PERSIA AGAINST THE PORTE AND MARCH OF A PERSIAN ARMY AGAINST BAGDAD.—We perceive by our letter from Constantinople of the 4th, that another source of embarrasment in the affairs of the East has arisen, from open hostilities being commenced by the Shah of Persia against the Ottoman Porte, and by the actual march of a Persian army against Bagdad. It appears that this offensive step has been undertaken without a formal declaration of war, though it has been evident, for some time past, that a decided coolness subsisted between both courts.

MARCH 28.—Every thing led to the belief that the war in the north of Africa was about to commence with the utmost vigour. Abd-el-Kader was said to have returned to Medeah. An immediate general attack of all the French posts was in consequence expected.

MARCH 30.—The Andromache, 28, Capt. Baynes, C. B., is ordered to the Cape of Good Hope station, where Capt. Baynes will be in command during the absence of any flag officer.

It is currently reported in the city this morning, that the Russian expedition against Chiva has been totally discomfited. The substance of the report is, that the Russians were out-generalled by their wily opponents retreating before them until they drew them into an ambuscade, where they were so beset on all sides, they were compelled to abandon their artillery and commissariat, which decided the fate of the expedition. The report rests on the authority of private letters received this morning from Constantinople; and we can no further vouch for its authenticity than that it is very generally credited in the respectable mercantile circles in the city.

The speculation which has been for some time going on in Mincing lane in the article of tea seems likely to be attended with much loss to many of the individuals concerned in it.

MARCH 31.—There is no news from the north of Spain. The severity of the weather had interrupted all military operations.

THE WHALE FISHERY.—The total number from England and Scotland will be about 30 ships. Last year the total number was 41.

The Earl of Minto and the Board of Admiralty have ordered the establishment of workmen in the dock-yard at Chatham to be increased considerably—the shipwrights from 400 to 500, and other trades in proportion; and 160 men are also to be hired during the summer months, to repair the buildings, &c. in the yard, so that the men on the establishment may be wholly employed in the building and repair of ships.

Her Majesty, we understand, intends giving a series of 12 state balls at the new Palace, the first to take place immediately after Easter.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Lords of the Admiralty have directed that 800 shipwrights be forthwith entered in the Royal dockyards, in addition to the present number; and accordingly notices are posted here, requiring 200 for this yard. Increased activity is apparent in every department. Two new three-deckers will be launched about July next, namely, the St. George and Trafalgar, to mount 120 guns each; and the utmost exertions continue to be made to procure volunteers for the navy.—*Brighton Gazette.*

THE ROYAL ARTILLERY.—Orders have been received to suspend the enlistment of recruits and volunteers to this corps, the complement being made up.

The Right Hon. Gen. Sir George Hewett, Bart., G. C. B., died on Saturday at half-past three o'clock, at his residence, Freemantle Park, near Southampton, in the 91st year of his age.

APRIL 2.—Captain A'Court having inquired whether any Despatches had been received from China respecting the late naval action there.

Admiral Adam replied in the affirmative, and said they would be laid on the table.

Mr. Villers then brought forward his motion for a Committee on the corn laws.

A discussion ensued thereon that occupied the House until a quarter before one o'clock, when the House on the motion of Mr. Brotherton adjourned.

PARIS, March 30.

The Moniteur of this morning has no official part. We have received to-day the Madrid Mails of the 23d and 24th.—They bring no news from the capital.

A rumour prevails in London, and is credited in certain quarters, that ministers have come to the resolution of dissolving parliament forthwith. If this be done, it cannot have been determined upon in any hope of increasing the ministerial majority in the House of Commons. This fact in itself is calculated to throw a doubt upon the truth of the rumour; but when we call to mind that ministers are involved in innumerable perplexities, that they have been four times defeated in parliament, that other defeats and disasters await them, it should not surprise any one that they are desirous of retreating from office. The serious way in which they are embroiled in all parts of the world, the extensive warfare which must be carried on, and the taxes which must necessarily be imposed, must undoubtedly present insurmountable difficulties to an administration by whose ignorance, or indolence, or recklessness, these evils have been produced. A new parliament and a new ministry, a strong government and a fearless House of Commons, can alone save England from overwhelming ruin.

We are inclined to believe that a dissolution will take place before the lapse of a month—perhaps sooner.—*Liverpool Mail.*

MINISTERS AGAIN IN A HOBBLE.—The Ministers are in a great fright about Sir James Graham's motion on the subject of China. The most peremptory circular ever issued by a minister has been sent from the office of Lord J. Russell, demanding the attendance of every ministerial partisan in the division of the 7th of April. The cabinet is puzzled as to the best course to pursue in its present crisis. Some of the ministers propose that they should abide the result on the division, and if beaten, resign. Another section think it will be better to avoid the humiliation of defeat, and dissolve the house before the day of debate, and thus procure a little longer reign and another quarter's salary. We have not yet heard the decision of this wise and disinterested body.—*Times of Tuesday.*

The Bishop of Exeter brings forward his motion on the Canada clergy reserves this night. His lordship has given notice that he will move on Friday to take the opinion of the judges as to the legality of the bill of the Upper Canada parliament, now awaiting the Royal assent.

This is the right course to take if the bill is illegal, as every lawyer who has read it knows and says it is. The House of Lords can have no difficulty in addressing to her Majesty a prayer to withhold the Royal assent.

SLAVE TRADE.—Our readers will learn with no little surprise that the French are purchasing slaves openly on the coast of Africa for the West Indies. All attempts at trading with Africa are rendered nugatory by these open encouragements to the purchase of slaves, which, as our correspondent shows, "differs in no respect, either in principle or in effect, from the traffic we are labouring to abolish." The French and Dutch have lowered themselves by this conduct to the disgraceful level of the Portuguese. "The trade in produce," says our correspondent, "is seen to follow the traffic in slaves, it being well known that the chief part of the produce is brought by slave labour to the coast, and that the whole trade flows to that point where the produce and the slaves find a market together." We confess that we are surprised that a high-spirited people as the French should, for the sake of gain load themselves with the guilt of this odious traffic. The open purchase of men in the slave market, under the protection of vessels of war, renders nugatory all the exertions made by this country.—*Morning Chronicle.*

DREADFUL EXPLOSION.—A letter from Toulon states that the workshop for preparing Congreve Rockets, &c., in the Arsenal, had taken fire; the consequence of which was, that for several hours the most tremendous explosions and discharges of projectiles took place over the town and roadstead, and into the surrounding country. About twelve men, including an officer, are believed to have lost their lives by this accident, and from fifteen to twenty persons have been more or less injured.

The force in North America will be considerably augmented in the Spring by strong draughts sent out to all the Regiments.

A considerable increase to our Military force is said to be in contemplation. The number has been stated to us at 10,000; but it has, in all probability yet to be decided on. We have heard that neither the 11th or 15th regiments will return from Canada this summer, although the Corps destined to relieve them are already on their route. That a further increase must soon take place in the Navy is self-evident.—*United Service Gazette.*

The Duke of Wellington has determined to retire from active public life at the close of the present session. This fact, which is now pretty well known amongst his Grace's friends, has produced the deepest gloom amongst the Conservatives. You will be happy to learn that his Grace is daily improving in health, but his medical advisers have declared that he requires great and systematic relaxation.—Correspondent of *Dublin Post.*

FIRE.—About one o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the buildings owned by Mr. ROACH, in the Lower Cove, situated near the Barracks, by which three dwelling houses were entirely destroyed. The Military were immediately on the spot, and prevented the fire from reaching the surrounding buildings.

SAINT GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

This Institution celebrated their 24th Anniversary on the 23d ult. at the *St. John Hotel*, B. L. PETERS, Esquire, the President of the Society, presided on the occasion, and was ably supported by JAMES T. HANFORD, Esq., the Vice-President. Among their Public Guests was the Commandant of the Garrison, the veteran Major BROOKES and his Staff, with other Officers of the gallant 69th; Col. Campbell from Jamaica the American Vice Consul; officers of St. Andrews and St. Patrick's Societies, and numerous private guests. The Messrs. Scammell provided a sumptuous Dinner for the occasion, the wines were excellent, and every luxury in profusion: the fine Band of the 69th was present to enliven the festival, and all proceeded with great harmony and hilarity. The spacious long Room, was beautifully decorated with the Society's Paintings, Flags and other devices, and when lighted up exhibited an enchanting and splendid appearance.

The following public Toasts were given from the Chair:—

No. 1. St. George. England and the Rose.—*Rule Britannia and Old England's emblem is the Rose*
2. The Queen, God bless her.—*National Anthem.*
3. His Royal Highness Prince Albert—may his union with our beloved Sovereign be propitious to her Kingdom and herself—*My sin kind dearie.*
4. The Army and Navy. They have borne the flag of old England in triumph thro' the world, and when their Country requires will do it again—*Duke of York's March, and Hearts of Oak.*
5. His Excellency our Lieut. Governor, Sir John Harvey.—*March.*
6. The Duke of Wellington—unrivalled and invaluable—no language can express his worth—he is our friend—the friend of the British Colonies.—*See the Conquering Hero comes.*

This Toast, with its accompanying sentiment, was received and drank with the utmost enthusiasm, and was succeeded by one general burst of loud and reiterated cheering.

7. The Commandant and Garrison of St. John.—*Grenadier's March.*

To the last four toasts Major Brookes replied in a manner extremely happy—at once pithy, concise, and soldier-like; and sat down amidst repeated cheers.

8. Our Sister Provinces—in devoted loyalty and in firm attachment to our Mother Country and each other, we will always find, as we have ever found, the surest elements of happiness, prosperity and strength.—*Hurrah for the Bonnets of Blue: Canadian Boat Song.*

To this Toast, Mr. Collard, a Gentleman of the Canadian Bar, replied on behalf of Lower Canada, in language replete with eloquence and feeling; and was followed by John H. Gray, Esq., who in good style, and with some very appropriate remarks, acknowledged the compliment for Nova Scotia.

9. The Mayor and Corporation.—*Money in both Pockets.*
10. Major Brookes and the gallant 69th—true to their Colors, their Country and her cause.—*69th Quick Step.*

In prefacing this Toast, the President tendered a well merited tribute of respect to the gallant corps, calling the attention of the company to the interest its commanding officer had always taken in the Militia of the Province, his willingness on all occasions with himself and his Regiment to join in those exercises and field trainings which would tend to their better discipline and general improvement.—To both the Compliment and the Toast Major Brookes promptly replied.

11. Our respected Guest the Consul of the United States.—*Hail Columbia.*

Thomas Leavitt, Esq., the American Consul at this Port, responded to this Toast.

12. Lady Harvey and the Fair Daughters of New Brunswick. To them we yield devotion, admiration and love—They speak but to command—We hear but to obey.—*The Toast be dear Woman.*

This Toast was handsomely responded to by J. H. Gray, Esq., who in the course of his remarks, offered with much good taste, and under the influence of a happy and fertile imagination, was loudly cheered by the company.

13. The Societies of St. Andrew and Saint Patrick. We hail the presence of their Representatives at our festive board with a hearty welcome, and cherish with proud satisfaction the continual interchange of friendship and good feeling.—*Blue Bells of Scotland, and St. Patrick's Day.*

In the absence of the Vice-President of St. Andrew's, J. W. Boyd, Esq. acknowledged the compliment; and was followed by M. H. Perley, Esq. Vice President of Saint Patrick's, with a neat and appropriate speech.

14. Our Country and Constitution—We love the first—we venerate the second—As the ivy round the oak, so may they cling together, mutually supporting and supported, till Time shall be no more.—*Scots wha hae.*
15. Our absent Members, and the Sons of Saint George all over the world—*Here's a health to them that's awa.*

These several Toasts, from the Chair were received with the greatest enthusiasm, and immense cheering. The spirit of the evening was afterwards kept up by a number of volunteer toasts from several of the gentlemen present. Among others—

By Major Brookes—Colonel Peters and the Militia of New-Brunswick.

This compliment was immediately acknowledged by Colonel Peters in a happy manner.

By Mr. Collard—the Province of New-Brunswick: Prosperity to her sons.

Alfred L. Street, Esquire, replied.

By James W. Peters, Esq.—Our late President, John V. Thurgar, Esq.

Mr. Peters, in introducing this Toast, alluded to the valuable services of the late President, and of the deserved esteem in which he was held for the manner in which during many years he had discharged the various duties of those offices in the Society which he had filled.

By John V. Thurgar, Esq.,—Major Gallagher, Garrison Town Major.

To which that officer replied with much feeling.

By the Secretary—Sir Archibald Campbell, the hero of Burmah.

By Mr. W. Hammond—H. Majesty's Ministers.

By Mr. Rhodes—The Governor General of British North America.

NEW CHURCH.—On Wednesday the 15th of April, instant, the foundation stone of a Parish Church to be called Saint Patrick's Church, was laid, with appropriate religious services in this place by the Rev. Dr. THOMSON, of Saint Stephen's, assisted by the Reverend John S. THOMSON, A. B. The Rev. Doctor, who at the earnest request of the people, has for the last year or two superintended their spiritual concerns, and officiated among them as often as his other duties would permit. He gave them a lengthy address on the occasion, in which tho' he showed that the doctrines, discipline, and government of the Church were scriptural and apostolic, yet that it was a most tolerant Church, breathing good will to, and praying for all sorts and conditions of men. He urged the continuance of that charitable feeling which has hitherto so happily existed between Churchmen and Dissenters in this place: he hoped the only difference between them would be which should best advance the interest of Christianity and preserve its institutions, especially the religious reverence of the Lord's day, which some public papers were now treating as a mere municipal institution. The danger of this position he pointed out and shewed its absolute absurdity on the ground that the day was called in scripture the Lord's day; therefore if the Lord's, it is sacred, on scripture authority. It was universally allowed by all Christians in the second century as Justin Martyr expressly asserts in his second apology, and it is absurd to suppose that any temporal or municiple authorities could have instituted its observance, since all the Roman Emperors were during the first three centuries opposed to Christianity, often bitter persecutors on this subject. He was earnest in shewing the duty impressing the young mind with a regard for the Lord's day, not as a matter of *expediency* or municiple *institution*, but as the appointment of the Most High, made long before the law of Moses, and intended to continue till the people of God shall attain the everlasting rest which it typifies.

In conclusion, the Rev. Doctor appealed to the sympathies of the assembled multitude, both churchmen and other denominations, in behalf of the work that day begun, which he showed was extremely desired and much wanted by the protestant population of the place, who tho' numerous, were not in circumstances to finish the undertaken work without assistance, and they asked that assistance and co-operation from other denominations, which they had on other occasions extended to them.

After the service, the frame of the building was raised on a most beautiful site, granted by Mr. CHARLES CARSON, on the north side of the Digdeguash River. It is 42x32, with Galleries all round, and will contain a large congregation when finished.

St. Patrick's, 17th April, 1840.

IMPORTANT NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Orders have recently been despatched to all the naval stations to have every thing put in readiness for immediate service. The late movements of the British authorities respecting the Maine boundary line is the probable cause. Commodore Renshaw, of this station, has received instructions to complete the steam frigate now on the stocks with all possible despatch, and Capt. M. C. Perry, late of the Fulton, is to take command of her. Additional workmen have been employed, and she is now nearly all planked. The Independence and Fairfield, just arrived from Rio, and the Relief, are to be kept in commission. The Columbia and John Adams, shortly expected home from the East Indies, are also to be prepared for sea again immediately. The ships of war now on the stocks are to be got ready for launching, and two 74's moored off the Navy-Yard, to be prepared at short notice. The crews of those vessels just arrived are to be paid off immediately, so that they can spend their money and re-ship again. None of the officers can have leave of absence, but are to hold themselves in readiness for service. Such is the nature of the instructions lately received from Washington, and such have been sent to every Navy Yard. What do they indicate?—*N. Y. Herald.*

MILITARY.—Brigadier General Eustis, Captains Prentiss, Porter and Van Ness, of the U. States army, and one company of U. S. troops, arrived here last evening in the Bangor. The troops left this morning for Houlton.—*Bangor Courier.*

A Washington letter published in the Richmond Enquirer, intimates the probability that the Committee of Foreign Relations in the Senate will recommend nothing respecting the Maine Boundary dispute, until some communications are made directly from the British Government. In reference to the present resources of the United States, in view of a hostile termination of the present controversy, it is stated that besides 400,000 arms that have been distributed by the General Government to the respective States, there are now in the arsenals 600,000 muskets ready for use, and of heavy cannon 3,000 pieces. Supplies of balls, and of all kinds of projectiles are abundant. There is a sufficient store of materials to manufacture 5,000 pistols and swords per month. The amount of gunpowder on hand is stated at 1,200 barrels, with materials for 4000 barrels more.

Marching of Troops.—Several Companies of United States Troops passed through town yesterday to embark for the State of Maine.—*Boston Daily Advertiser, April 25.*

Doctor Woodforde, from Fredericton, N. B., passed through this city yesterday, bearer of despatches from Sir John Harvey to Mr. Fox, British Minister at Washington.—*Boston Daily Adv., April 25.*

We learn from a gentleman who arrived here this morning in the Telegraph from the United States, that recruiting for the American Army is going on briskly, and that a number of recruits were conveyed by the Telegraph from Oswego to Sacket's Harbour.—*Kingston Herald.*

We are informed by a gentleman from Niagara, that the American Government has advertised within the last 3 or 4 days, for 1000 men to repair fort Niagara.—*Toronto Com. Herald.*

IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.—*House of Commons, 26th March.*—On this Bill, by Lord Stanley, Mr. O'Connell, and Her Majesty's Ministers were defeated by 250 against 234. Majority against Ministers, 16.

From the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, March 14.

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

"This Nurse of Arts and Freedom's force
To chain, is treason against sense;
And those who use the gag's restraint,
First rob, before they stop complaint."

THE favourite toast of modern degenerate Whigs, when assembled at the dinner table with Radical allies, used to be—"The Liberty of the Press: it is like the air we breath; if we have it not, we die!" It turns out, however, that, like the Irish Romanists with their Parliamentary oath, the Liberals had a "mental reservation" in drinking this sentiment; they meant only so long as they could keep the Liberty of the Press *entirely to themselves!* The *thin-skinned* Whig-Radicals throughout the country have exhibited many striking proofs that such is the interpretation they intended should be put upon *their* toast in honour of that great and mighty en-

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