British News.

The Queen.—In the afternoon I visited the royal gardens and terrace, where I found a goodly assemblage of people, from various parts of the kingdom, anxious to catch a glimpse of royalty. In a short time the Queen Victoria appeared in the midst of her faithful subjects accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, the King and Queen of Belgium, my Lord Melbourne, and a long list of noble lords and gentle dames, forming the court of the virgin monarch. They passed through the crowd to the Slopes (a beautifully arrayed plantation on the eastern side of Windsor Castle), and shortly afterwards returned, to the gratification of hundreds who had visited the place to see the Sovereign. As the royal party ascended the steps from the orangery into the gardens they passed the place at which I stood. Victoria hung on the arm of her uncle. The moment I saw her I observed to a friend "no painter has yet succeeded in giving us a likeness of the Queen." And such is really the case. She is low in stature, with a slight stoop in the shoulders, but womanly in appearance. With large dark blue expressive eyes, she has a fair and healthy countenance, and very agreeable, though not handsome features. Her face is more oval than it is represented in any of the portraits, and her countenance is not childish, as some of them would make us believe it to be. The ruddiness of her face appeared to us that of a young lady who had passed a month at the sea-side and paid much attention to her ablutions. She was dressed with remarkable plainness; a light green *chalis* silk shawl and white silk bonnet. She passed through the long line of living faces evidently flattered by the curiosity excited by her appearance, and chatted pleasantly with her royal uncle. She subsequently walked on the pentagon terrace, immediately under the royal apartments, in view of the visitors to the gardens, but free from their interruption. It is about three hundred yards in length, and guarded at each end by a sentinel. On this beautiful promenade her Majesty paced about for nearly an hour her companions being, first, King Leopold, and next the Premier. The gay and sprightly manner in which the Queen walked seemed to put the pedestrian powers of Lord Melbourne to the test; with the aid of a stick he contrived to hobble along; but I fancied that I saw in her Majesty a sportive desire to play off a practical quiz on his lordship's disagreeable associate the gout. Her style of walk is not the creeping, lifeless ambulation that distinguishes many young ladies who affect to shine among the *haut ton*; she dashes off at a quick, buoyant pace, and maintains her movement with a peripatetic animation that would highly please my Lord Brougham, impelled onward by a vigorous spirit and something, as I imagined, like an hoydenish nature. Whenever the Queen arrived at either end of the terrace the sentinel presented arms, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court formed opposite lines through which her Majesty passed. In this ceremony the Queen appeared to me to assume a theatrical air, approaching to the ridiculous. In the midst of a jocund laugh she would suddenly present an air of intended dignity, compressing her pretty lips, looking mysteriously towards the ground, and injuring her sweet countenance by knitting her brows. The following day I had an opportunity of seeing her Majesty on horseback. She sat well on the steed, but the stoop to which I have referred was more perceptable in her riding habit than in her more primitive dress. She bowed gracefully, in acknowledgment of the homage offered to her by the spectators, and seemed proud of the distinction to which she had arrived. Her face shone with good nature, and her eyes beamed with affectionate respect to all around. King Leopold, who accompanied her, looked aged and care-worn: his graceful Queen is a beautiful horsewoman, and wore her beaver and feather with remarkable elegance.—*A Visit to Windsor.*

Steam Fuel.—Experiments have been tried in mixing pitch with coal for steam navigation, and it is said to have answered most effectually.—*Literay Gazette.*

Machine for the Cure of Apoplexy, suggested by Mr. Lewis Gompertz.—Provide a plank with a perpendicular axle at one end, place the axle in a socket, so that the plank can turn round horrizontally, like a turnpike gate; then let the patient lie on the plank, with his head near the axle, and let this plank be caused to revolve swiftly, so that the blood in the patient's head may, by means of centrifugal force, be forced towards his extremities —*Mechanics Journal.*

A company of coal-owners in England (says the *Debats*) have recently entered upon an immense speculation. They are about to despatch forty vessels laden with this fuel, for supplying Paris and the numerous manufactories in its environs. They are expected to enter the Seine in the course of next month. The duties upon this coal, before it can be brought into consumption, are estimated at 1,250,000 francs, of which about 700,000 will be for the custom, and the remainder for the the Octroia duties on coming into Paris.

Messrs. Curling and Young, of Limehouse builders of the British Queen, have begun a steam ship of 2000 tons, being 100 more than the British Queen. She is not so long as that vessel, but much wider. —*Mining Journal.*

In consequence of the failure of the harvest in Sweden the Government of that country issued a Royal Proclamation on the 10th inst. prohibiting the distilling of spirits from corn for the next two months. There had been some fresh riots at Stockholm, and the King's journey to Norway had been put off.

A few days ago a lady was caught shooting near Laon, France, in company with her husband and two other sportsmen, who were furnished with licenses; but as she was not provided with this authorisation she was condemned to pay a fine of 30fr and forfeit her fowling piece, or redeem it by paying the additional sum of 50fr.

Accounts from Spain relate an act of savage cruelty committed by the populace of Valencia upon the officers of a party of Carlist prisoners, who were in their possession. In a revolt of the inhabitants of the city, the Captain General, Mendez Vigo, was shot through the breast, and died in four minutes. The authorities retired for safety to the citadel, the national guard were under arms, and a new junta was formed. Fourteen officers, of the Carlist prisoners were shot, and thereupon tranquillity was restored.

Attack on a Police party.—Inhuman Murder of a Policeman in the County Carlow.—A most inhuman murder, was committed on Thursday night last, at a place called "Skaugh" in the Barony of St. Mullins, county Carlow. Serjeant Little, and two policemen named Walsh and Galvin, were proceeding towards their station at Glynn, after attending the Petty Sessions at Borris. The night being wet and stormy, they stopped at a public house near Clasganny, to take some refreshment. They made not more than a few minutes' delay, when they again resumed their route, although the storm continued with unabated vigour. They had not proceeded far, when they were overtaken by several men, some of whom had been in the public-house, and who commenced an indiscriminate attack on the party. The policemen, having nothing but their side-arms, were unable to defend themselves with success, and in a short time two of the party were overpowered. Galvin, after being left for dead, was thrown over a precipice into a wood, while his comrade, Walsh, was mangled in a most shocking manner. His skull was fractured in several places, and his body was otherwise so savagely mutilated, as to render it difficult to recognise him. This unfortunate man lived until the evening following, when death put a period to his sufferings. Galvin is in such a state as to render ultimate recovery hopeless. The escape of the constable was almost miraculous; but, favoured by the darkness of the night, and while the villains were engaged in mangling the bodies of his two comrades, he ran to a public-house on the road-side, where he obtained protection. The spot was admirably adapted for the perpetration of a murder. It was about half way on the road that runs through Clasganny wood, which hangs over the Barrow; and as there are no houses but at both extremities of the wood, the murderers selected this spot as one most likely to favour their designs during the storm. It is much to be regretted, first, that the party had entered a public-house at all; and, secondly, deeply to be deplored that they acted so incautiously as to travel without their carbines. An inquest was held on Friday on the body of Walsh, when a verdict of wilful murder was found by the jury against several persons, whose names it is at present unnecessary to mention. Two men named Kavanagh were apprehended shortly after the committal of the deed, fully identified by Constable Little as the principals, and they were committed to the county gaol by Charles H. Tuckey, Esq., R. M.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

Private accounts from Constantinople of the 10th inst. state that the British and Ottoman squadrons still continued together at Vourla, where the Princess Charlotte and Pembroke were undergoing some repairs rendered necessary by their running foul of each other in a gale. It was said that Lord Ponsonby had, in consequence of immense preparations in progress at Odessa and its neighbourhood, directed Admiral Stopford to keep close to the Dardanelles, in order to watch the movements of the Russians. The Schah of Persia had appointed an ambassador, who was to proceed on a special mission to England.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 22th ult. states that the report of the arrest of the parish-priest of St. Ursula, subsequently to a sermon delivered by him on the 27th, had occasioned some rioting in that city. The dean of the chapter being denounced as the author of the arrest, the people congregated in large numbers before his house, which they entered by the windows, and broke and burned the furniture it contained. A detachment of troops put an end to the devastation, and apprehended several of the rioters, among whom were two or three young men belonging to respectable families of Cologne. The people then dispersed into several bands, and traversed the principal streets, crying, "Vivat the Archbishop" "Vivat the parish priest of St. Ursula" "Death to the Protestants!!! The dean effected his escape through the botanic garden, which is contiguous to his dwelling.

The *Gazette de France* states that a number of persons had been killed and wounded by the military.

MEXICAN BLOCKADE.

On Tuesday a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Cotesworth, Marshall, Ellwand, and Powles, London; Messrs. Watson, Tayleure, and Campbell, Liverpool; Messrs. Black and Longworthy, Manchester; Messrs. Ferguson, Graham, Henderson, and M'Dougal, Glasgow; and Messrs. Curell and Fenton, Belfast, had a conference at the Foreign-office with Lord Palmerston on the subject of the French blockade of Mexico.

The deputation, referring to the memorial presented by the London committee in August last, stated that all the evils then complained of as resulting to British interests from the blockade remained in full and increasing force, and must continue to do so while the blockade should last. They felt, therefore, most desirous to learn from his lordship whether the British government had been able successfully to exert any influence with that of France towards the removal of this interruption to British trade. The deputation stated that this interruption to the pursuits of the commercial and manufacturing interests connected with Mexico was the more severely felt, because the trade could not but perceive that the conduct of France was distinguished by remarkable severity in continuing the blockade after the offer of the Mexican government to leave all matters in difference between it and France to the arbitration of an independant power; and further, that the conduct of France towards Great Britain in thus seriously cutting off, at a moment's notice, an important branch of her trade, was not such as might have been expected from a state with which we were on the most friendly terms.

Lord Palmerston assured the meeting that the government felt all the importance of the question, and a deep sense of the interests at stake in it; that it was perfectly true that the Mexican government had offered to refer the matters in difference to the arbitration of the British government, and that the French government had declined the offer; that the British government had, notwithstanding, been using its best endeavours to get the dispute brought into a train of settlement, and that he could not help entertaining the hope that a settlement would be accomplished. He had instructed Mr. Packenham, the British minister, to return immediately to Mexico, where, he had no doubt, his services would be useful towards effecting the above object, and that gentleman had just sailed from Plymouth. The government had further instructed Sir Charles Paget to proceed with a naval force from the St. Lawrence to the coast of Mexico, to render any protection to British interests, that circumstances might require.

The deputation remarked to Lord Palmerston, that without desiring to make any allusion which might be offensive to France, they could not but recollect that when a dispute of long standing between that power and the United States, a few years since, on the point of producing serious consequences, the French government did not hesitate to avail itself of the meditation of Great Britain. They urged that there was something revolting to the common principles of justice, in any power assuming to determine for itself the precise measure of compensation to which it was entitled, and then saying, "Here is our demand—we will not relax one iota of what we claim—we will refer to no intermediate tribunal whatever—we are the sole judges of what we require—and if you do not pay all we claim, we will blockade your ports until we compel you." The deputation next adverted to the case of the blockade of Buenos Ayres, which was even still less justifiable than that of Mexico, for every point of difference had been removed there, and yet the blockade continued.

Several of the gentlemen present said they had commercial establishments in those countries, which were exposed to the most grievous inconveniences by the proceedings of the French government, such as they felt no friendly power ought to inflict, except under circumstances of pressing and unavoidable necessity.

Lord Palmerston paid the greatest attention to all that was said by the deputation during the conference, which was a very long one, and concluded by assuring the gentlemen present that the government would spare no pains to effect the removal of this interruption to their trade.—*London Times.*

From the New Orleans Bee.

Destruction of the Fortress of St. Juan de Ulloa, in less than four hours, by three French Frigates.—*The Port of Vera Cruz open to Commerce.* The French steam vessel Meteor, Commandant Barbotin, arrived here Thursday night, in three days from Vera Cruz, bringing despatches for the French Consul, which contain the following very interesting intelligence:—

On the 27th November, at noon, the French squadron, comprising the ships L'Iphigenia, la Gloire, la Nereide, on board of which was Admiral Baudin, and two bomb vessels, attacked the fortress of St. Juan de Ulloa, and in the course of four hours discharged 8000 balls and 300 bombs, which destroyed the works and buried the Mexicans in the ruins.

The Iphigenia received 160 balls in her sides, yet she remained immoveable at her anchorage, and kept up her fire till the end of the engagement, which lasted four hours. The French had 33 men disabled, of whom five are dead.

The Mexicans lost from five to six hundred men, killed and wounded.

The three frigates and two bomb vessels anchored under the fire of the fort, which was protected by one hundred and sixty pieces of ordnance. The port of Vera Cruz is now opened to all nations. The other ports of Mexico will remain in a state of blockade, until intelligence from the city of Mexico shall arrive.

Admiral Baudin has consented to permit General Rincon to keep one thousand men at Vera Cruz for the maintenance of public order and tranquility. The remainder of the troops, amounting to between 3and 4000 men, have been sent away. General Rincon has, moreover, agreed that the relations between Vera Cruz and the interior of the country, should be completely re-established.

No treaty had as yet been concluded, though deputies had been sent to Mexico for the accomplishment of this purpose. From a clause in the treaty, it would seem that the French government has reserved the right of importing goods into the country for one year, free of all duties.

Further particulars. We are indebted to the captain of the Meteor, for the following ample and highly interesting details respecting the expedition and the attack upon the fortress of Juan de Ulloa.

After the arrival of Admiral Baudin off the coast of Mexico, Mr. Leroy, one of the commanders, was despatched to the city of Mexico, to make known to the government the ultimatum of France. A few days after, he returned, without bringing any satisfactory reply. The next morning a letter was received, in which Mr. Baudin was requested to repair to Jalapa, in order to treat with the envoys of the government, and to send away a part of his forces, that Mexico might not appear to be compelled to yield to violence. The admiral consented to the first conditions, but refused positively to listen to the second. He therefore took his departure, and was saluted with a salvo of nineteen guns on his entrance into Vera Cruz.

On his return, he stated that the envoys had accepted all the conditions imposed by France, with a single exception, viz; that by virtue of which Mexico was to authorize sales by retail to be made by the French; and that the envoys had wished to consult the government respecting this point. Mr. Baudin added, that he had granted them a few days more, but as at the expiration of this period, the replies still continued unsatisfactory, hostilities would immediately commence.

On the morning of the 27th, the bomb vessels Cyclops and Vulcan were towed by the steamboats as far as the middle of the shoals which bound the eastern side, where they anchored. The Nereide, commanded by the admiral, the Gloire and Iphigenia, afterwards took their places on the line. In the meanwhile, some of the Mexican envoys went on board of the admiral's vessel, and sought to obtain a respite. At twenty-five minutes past two, they left the frigate. The signal to prepare for action was given at twenty-eight minutes past two, and continued nearly four hours without intermission. The Prince de Joinville, unwilling to remain an idle spectator, asked permission of Admiral Baudin to take a part in the action, and without waiting for his reply, raised the tri-colored flag on board the Creole, discharged a broad-side at the fortress, and kept up for some time a heavy fire. The Creole was struck by several bullets. The bomb-shells effected most dreadful havoc within the fortress. The situation of the powder magazine being known, shells were then thrown directly upon the spot. Three of them explored with so much violence that the decks of several of the French vessels, at a distance of more than a mile, were strewed with their fragments. The Covollero, one of the strongest towers of the fort, exploded about five o'clock, P. M. The portions of the fort demolished by the frigates were in a most deplorable condition, the embrasures being entirely dismounted and battered to pieces. At five o'clock, the guns of the Mexicans were nearly silenced.

The frigate La Gloire was then removed by the steamboat Meteore. The fire of the two others continued until night fall. It was then kept up solely by the bomb vessels. Just as the frigate Admiral was about to set sail, a canoe approached from the fortress, and demanded a truce, that the dead and the wounded who were buried under the ruins might be withdrawn. The admiral replied that he could not grant a truce, but that he would send a summons to capitulate, and that if it were not signed by six o'clock A. M. of the 28th, he would recommence on the fort and city. The terms of surrender were accepted, and at break of day all the boats of the squadron were sent to attend the wounded of the enemy, who were subsequently removed to Vera Cruz.

In this action, which was continued two hours and a half by two of the frigates and four by the third, eight thousand balls and three hundred and twenty bombs were thrown into the fortress. On the French side five men were killed, one of whom was a midshipman, and thirty-three wounded, two of whom were officers.

In case this attack had proved unsuccessful, a force composed of 500 marines and 300 cannoneers was ready to assault the fort, and the steamboats being furnished with bridges to be cast upon the walls, the castle would have been carried by assault.

The Mexicans have suffered immensely—the captain of the Meteore with whom we conversed, gave us a touching description of the carnage. The shore was covered with the dead and dying, and the piteous cries of the latter were heard amid all the din and tumult of the battle.

We must not omit adding that throughout this affair the conduct of admiral Baudin was marked by generosity. He refrained from firing upon the city, and though he was strongly advised to attack the fort during the night, which would have given him an immense advantage, he replied that he would only fight the enemy in the day. The other vessels belonging to the squadron, took no share in the action, as there was not room enough for their operations.

The French vessels still continue to cruize in the neighborhood of the coast of Mexico, to prevent the entrance of vessels in any other port than that of Vera Cruz.

We are told that the English consul had requested admiral Baudin to spare his house, if he attacked the city. The admiral promised to observe his request. By a curious fatality the only bomb that reached the town, fell and exploded near the dwelling of this functionary, carrying away a portion of the roof.

The French squadron now consists of twenty-three vessels.

Communications.

[FOR THE CHRONICLE.]

MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.

No. 1.

Mr. Editor:—Having attended the extra meeting of the Institute, on Thursday evening the 20th inst. and finding but a small proportion of my brother Mechanics there,—I am desirous (by your permission) of communicating to them some intended arrangements of the Institute, or rather of its office bearers, which I think will not be generally approved of, either by Mechanics or by many other members. In the first place, I observed a warm desire on the part of some, that our Funds should be speedily put into motion, for certain Lectures which in themselves may be interesting enough, and for aught I know, might afford some amusing information to a *few* persons of science;—but I venture to affirm, as a Mechanic, and I I think, that I shall be borne out in my statement, by most men of science, both in Europe and America, that *Geology*, though very entertaining to a certain class of people, is not the *science*, nor the *subject*, which should stand first for a course of Lectures to a Mechanics' Institute.—No Sir, the majority of the Members require Lectures of more essential service to the Artizan and Mechanic: Lectures that will give not only pleasing theoretical information, but convey a fund of lasting and practical knowledge: one sound Lecture on Mechanism on any single branch that can be named, will be of more real value to the members of the Institute, than all the Lectures that could be given on Geology from January to December.—I do not mean to detract from Geology as a science; nor from the merits of the able Lecturer; but while other and more beneficial Lectures are required, and particularly so at the foundation of our Institute, I think it would be a sad waste of the Funds to pay for Lectures on Geology, when so few of the members can be at all interested in the subject. The idea of giving *Eighty pounds*, for eight Lectures on Geology, is a proposition so startling, as to awaken apprehensions for the future economy of our accumulating funds.

December 24, 1838.

No. 2.

Mr. Editor:—There are many important objects in connexion with the Institute, which I shall occasionally (by your permission) attempt to lay before the members, so that they may have ample time to digest the subjects well, before they shall be called upon in that hurried, and vulgar manner, of giving their assent by a show of hands! such a method of deciding important questions, has too much the appearance of covert imposition upon the good sense of the majority. I am fully aware, that *great* and *learned* men, possessing nothing but high Ethereal sentiments, might when mixed with beings of *more common* understandings, and *fancying* themselves as amidst a mass of semi-barbarians, adopt the method of showing hands, as the most tangible means of ascertaining the wishes of an uncivilized people:—but sir, it is possible, that a large proportion of the members of the Institute, can write; and *perhaps read* a little for themselves; and if so, I maintain, that their understandings should not be so insulted.—Every question, or subject that the President has to submit to the Institute, should be laid before the Members in writing; every member should be required to give his affirmative or negative, not by a show of hands, but by ballot, this would be the sure method of testing the good sense of the body without appeal to the too often excited passions.

At the next meeting of the Institute, an important question is to be decided, which is, "*what shall be the best securities for the Treasurership?*"—This sir, is a question attended with greater difficulties, than many at the first sight would be led to suppose. The Institute not being a chartered body, to whom, with safety, can securities be given? If *death* should take place where the funds are placed, and a *failure* in the securities; who among the members of the Institute can attempt *legally* to recover the amount of funds? Not one.—To obviate these possible difficulties, I would suggest that the Funds of the Institute be always deposited in one of the Banks of this city, accompanied by a written resolution of the body, that no portion of such funds shall be at any time drawn out of the Bank, unless by a written order from the Recording Secretary, signed by the President, one Vice-President, and two Directors. Such resolution should be placed in the hands of the Cashier of the Bank, which in my opinion, would be a greater safeguard over the Funds of the Institute, than any written securities that can be offered, and in the event of Fire, the vaults of a Bank would prove much safer than the chest or trunk of a dwelling house.

I am sir, your obedient,

A MECHANIC.

December 27, 1838.

Mr. Editor.—Will you please to inform the Mayor, the six Aldermen, and six Assistant Aldermen, particularly those of them, who compose the Carleton Ferry Committee, that another accident has befallen the Ferry Stairs, at the South Market Wharf. It is not at all uncommon to find one step missing in these stairs:—indeed it seldom happens that they are quite complete. But at this time there are two steps missing, and as they happen to be next neighbours, I do not see how women, unless they can ascend three feet at a step, or allow themselves to be pulled up by some friendly hand contrive to get up at all. Pray ask the Mayor to order the steps to be replaced.

December 26.

THE CHRONICLE.

ST. JOHN, DECEMBER 28, 1838.

Professor Gray's Lectures on Experimental Philosophy.

On Monday last, Professor Gray, of King's College, Fredericton, gave his introductory Lecture, and on Wednesday his first Lecture on the properties of Air, illustrated by numerous Experiments; and in the evening of those days, the Lectures were repeated to the Mechanics' Institute. We know that the opportunity of attending a course of Lectures on the useful subjects included in Mr. Gray's plan, has long been anxiously desired by numbers of respectable individuals in this city; and we are confident, that the kindness of the Professor in undertaking the course, at this season of the year, at so much personal inconvenience to himself, and without the smallest view to profit, for he expressly stipulated, that the condition on which alone he would tender his services, was, *that they were to be wholly gratuitous*, will be appreciated as it justly deserves. We conceive too, that the public thanks are also due to His Excellency the Chancellor, who when solicited by His Worship the Mayor so to do, readily gave his sanction to the proposed Lectures; and to the Council of King's College who have permitted Mr. Gray to bring down with him the apparatus belonging to the College, for the purposes of illustration. That a course of Lectures, got up under such circumstances, should be as attractive as these have proved, was to be expected.—Among the company which has attended the morning Lecture, we were happy in seeing, His Honor the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Parker, the Master of the Rolls, His Worship the Mayor, several Clergymen and other gentlemen, with their families.—In the evening the members of the Mechanics' Institute, with their Officers, attended in great numbers.

Forming our opinion from the specimen we have already had, we should say, that it is impossible to conceive of any thing more interesting and instructive than such a course. The noble range of subjects which comes within the Professor's plan; his judicious selection of topics; his pleasing, animated delivery; his perfect ease of manner, the result not of conceit, but of profound acquaintance with his subject; his clear, simple style, rendering his explanations level to the capacity of children; the promptitude, and perfect success of all his experiments: render it one of the most pleasing exhibitions we have ever had the good fortune to witness.

Mr. Gray, has intimated, that his course will embrace three more Lectures on air; two on Mechanic's, one of them on prime movers, and the other on connecting machinery, and what we are sure will be looked forward to with the greatest anxiety, two on the Steam Engine, for the purpose of illustrating which, the Professor has two large models, one a *working*, the other a *sectional* model. The Lecture to day, will be on air, and will commence at 3 o'clock. The Lecture days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and the hour 3 o'clock: the evening Lecture to the Mechanics' Institute will be given at 8 o'clock. The Room in which they are given is the Female Central Madras School, which has been suitably fitted up, and is exceedingly well adapted to such a purpose.

For the sake of the College to which Professor Gray belongs, which was too long made to serve the purposes of faction, the object of unmerited abuse; and for the sake of the community, who cannot but be benefitted by it, we heartily wish Mr. Gray such crowded audiences as will induce him to favor the City with a similar professional visit at another time.

The most important item of intelligence received during the past week, is the unjust bombardment and capture of the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa and the town of Vera Cruz, in the Gulph of Mexico by a French squadron. Time was, when, if a *Rodney*, a *Nelson*, or a *Collingwood*, had the naval command at Jamaica, that no *foreign* Fleet or squadron, would have dared assailed any friendly Port or Fortress in these waters, without being told that they must first pass through the *wooden walls of Old England*; a task, which in those days, would have cost the Frenchmen, more heads than their paltry squadron could have carried. There were enough British ships of War in the harbour of Quebec during the month of September last, to have scattered the whole French squadron to the four winds of heaven. But in the present times, we are often told that many things are *expedient*. It was expedient for the British Ministry, to allow the French government to trump up a paltry demand on the Mexicans, which had not a shadow of just cause according to the Laws of Nations. It was also *expedient* to allow a French squadron to blockade the friendly Port of Vera Cruz, under promise of the French government that their ships would not violate any just law, but should soon be withdrawn. It was "expedient" too, for Lord Palmerston, when called upon by British Merchants, to announce to them that their Properties would be safe and that the French blockade would be immediately withdrawn. The latter cause, perhaps, rendered it again "expedient" that a British squadron, should be scattered from Jamaica to Bermuda, and its Admiral contented to wait for orders from the British Ministry, before he could venture to stop the unjust bombardment of a paltry French squadron!! Happily for the honor of Old England, in the days of a Rodney or a Nelson the word "expedient" from an imbecile Ministry, was not allowed to be entered into their vocabulary. When decision and movement were required, a Rodney or a Nelson never waited for orders of "*expediency.*" They knew what was right, and quickly performed it.—We have heard of the Russian Government secretly assisting the American Brigands in the invasion of the Canadas, which we can hardly credit; but in this unjust capture by the French, we see *direct assistance* given to the Americans in their unjust seizure and invasion of the Texian territory, a territory belonging to the Mexicans, and which they would certainly have retaken, had not this assistance been given to the Americans by a French Fleet, under the flimsy pretext of having a demand upon the Mexican Government.—When such repeated violations of National Laws are winked at by the British Government, we need not be surprised if some paltry squadron be allowed to blockade the *whole of the St. Lawrence*, while the British Admiral may find it "expedient" to be at Jamaica, waiting for orders!

Christmas Collections.—The following amounts were contributed for the benefit of the poor, in the undermentioned places of worship in this city, and Portland, on the 25th instant:—

Trinity Church, (St. John.)	£23	4	10
Saint John, do. "	11	18	10
St. Luke's Church (Portland.)	11	11	7
Wesleyan Chapel, (St. John.)	14	0	0
Ditto Ditto, Portland,	9	6	0

The semi-annual Examination of Mr. E. Fitzgerald's School was held on Saturday the 22d inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M. on which occasion, Premiums for superior merit in their respective classes, were awarded to the Pupils as follows, viz:

In the Classics, to Johnston, sen. and Roberts; Modern History, Merritt: Use of the Globes, Gilbert; English Composition, Knollin; English History, Kinnear; Geography, Robinson: Arithmetic, 1st class, Knollin; 2d class, Anderson; 3d class, Kirby; Writing, Merritt; Certificate in Writing, Street; Orthography, Reading, &c. Woodward; Certificate in do. Hastings, senr.; General Answering, DeVeber, junr; Conduct, De Mill, sen.

Woodward, Hastings, jun. and DeMill drew for the Premium.

His Honor Judge Parker, Examiner, who expressed his entire approval both of the system of education observed in the School, and of the progress of the Pupils, whose parents, for the most part, attended the examination with evident satisfaction.—School re-opens on the 7th January.

Another Christmas Day has passed, and we are hastening on to the close of eighteen hundred and thirty eight.

The close of a year more than any other season is calculated to bring to our minds a train of serious and solemn reflections. Amid all the festivities and pleasures of Christmas, there is something that reminds us that like the Year, we are imperceptibly sinking into oblivion, and in a line "as level as the sunbeam" and darting as directly to its termination, we have been passing through unresisting space into unknown eternity.—Every one therefore, at the close of a Year, should reflect, that a few of those short periods of time will close his existence, and put an end to his high hopes, his great designs, his lofty ambition.

But this undoubtedly is the most joyous season of the year—The good old customs are still remembered; the manly sports, the assembling of friends and families around the festive board; but above all the generous hospitality and bountiful distribution of necessaries to the poorer classes of mankind.

And now for a few of the past events of the dying year. Much restlessness has been manifested among the Kingdoms of Europe—Russia seems intent on aggrandizement of territory, and beholds with a covetous eye the mighty possessions of Britain in the East.—Spain is yet distracted by a civil war—two factions waging a doubtful contest for the power France is exacting with the utmost rigour her claims upon the Mexican Government.—In our own country the Canadians are defending against a rebel band, their lives, their property, and their dearest privileges—Strong in the justice of their cause and warmed by the recollection of the deeds of their forefathers, we have no fear for the issue, though a whole *rebel nation* is in their front.—Our own Province is rapidly rising in wealth, agriculture and importance; and it is a pleasing and honorable fact that New Brunswick has been distinguished more than any other British American Colony, both for attachment to the Sovereign, and for her earnest endeavours to assist by every means possible, they brave fellow colonists in Canada.—Our city St John still continues to advance with giant strides, in arts, sciences, and commerce. The universal thirst for knowledge lately manifested, gives an earnest of the future literary prosperity of our populous town—while Churches, Banks, &c. of handsome structure now rising in various parts of the city, improve the appearance of our streets.

It now remains only to close those scattered sentences, with a few words to our Patrons. During the past year we have laboured to do justice to all classes: the Professional man—the Merchant—the Mechanic, and the Farmer, have all had the free use of our columns in whatever concerned the welfare of the public. And we beg to return our most sincere thanks to those gentlemen who have honored us with their support: and more particularly to the Farmers, who have liberally subscribed during the past year; and it shall be our aim to render the paper as useful and instructive to them as to the Merchant, so that Commerce and Agriculture may advance hand in hand. We again repeat our thanks to our active Agents in all parts. The Chronicle has pursued and will pursue the same direct line of policy, advocating reform in so far as it does not tend to weaken our bonds with the Mother Country, and unawed by influence still will comment upon every thing connected with the Provincial Government, which is beneficial for the people to know.

An Express arrived at Government House on Monday morning last, from Quebec, by which we learn that Sir John Colborne urges forward more Troops in consequence of demonstrations on the Frontier of Lower Canada. The 11th Regiment commenced moving to-day by detachments; they will be conveyed to Quebec on Sleds, and, we understand, that excellent arrangements have been made by the Commissariat for their comfort and accommodation on the whole route. The 11th are a fine body of men, and it affords us much pleasure in referring our readers to the Addresses from the Civil and Military authorities on its departure from St. John. A company of Artillery and the depot companies of the 65th and 93d are also under orders for the same quarter.—*Royal Gazette.*

The Good Old English Fashions.—Many of our readers are aware that several families of Emigrants of respectable character and industrious habits, lately arrived from England, and were located on the Saint Andrew's road, in the "Harvey Settlement" which now comprises 23 families or nearly 90 persons.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with his accustomed liberality, and with the feelings of an English Gentlemen of the olden time, has recently provided those people with an excellent dinner of Roast Beef and Plum Pudding, thus judiciously selecting a custom which is hallowed to Englishmen by the uninterrupted usage of their ancestors from the remotest ages, for the exhibitation of his munificent generosity.—*Ib.*

LATEST FROM CANADA.

Montreal, Dec. 17.—*The Kingston Chronicle* of Wednesday, states, that Dorephus Abbey, the Colonel, and Daniel George, the Paymaster, of the American Brigands taken near Prescott, were hung that morning at the new drop, back of the Gaol.—Very few persons, besides the military, attended the execution.

Another of the brigands is ordered for execution on Wednesday next.—*Courier.*

Goddu, one of the Bermuda exiles, was arrested a few days ago at St. Hyacinthe, affidavits brought into town. It is not, we hear, for any offence he has committed since his return, as it is said he wrote Sir John Colborne where he might be found, should the Government require any information from him respecting the future plans of his fellow-exiles, which he had opportunities of ascertaining while attending the meetings with them in the United States.—*Ib.*

The four prisoners, Cardinal, Duquet Lepailleur, and one of the Thibert's, sentenced to be hanged, were officially informed of their fate on Saturday afternoon, by the Judge Advocate. We have not been able to learn when they are to suffer, but have heard that it will be on Wednesday or Friday.

We have just been informed from a source which we deem to be authentic, that among the prisoners taken at Prescott, is a son of the Governor of Illinois, and a son of the Naval Officer of the United States in command at Sackett's Harbor. The Governor of Illinois, we understand, crossed over to Kingston and made a demand on the part of the United States for his son. Even a sight of him was of course, peremptorily refused by the Authorities at Kingston.

From our Montreal Correspondent.

"Montreal, Thursday evening, Dec. 13.

"Messrs. A. P. Hart, and Lewis T. Drummond, Counsel of Cardinal and the other prisoners tried by Court Martial, moved for the order of the Judges—the Chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Pyke, requiring the Sheriff to produce certain warrants which he had received regarding the prisoners previous to Martial Law being proclaimed—this application being preliminary to the motion of prohibition. After hearing the arguments of the Counsel, the Judges postponed their answer till this morning, when they gave their opinion that they had no power to grant such an order. The application for a writ of Prohibitation will be heard before all the Judges in Chambers on Saturday morning, when the Judge Advocate and Crown Officers will be notified by the Counsel for the prisoners to attend.

"Several of the prisoners that were arrested at the commencement of the troubles have been discharged. Among them are John Donegany and Doctors Vallee and Ferranff.

"On Tuesday eight prisoners accused on oath before the Coroner's Inquest on the body of the late Mr. Walker at Latortue, of being concerned in that barbarous murder, were brought in town and safely lodged in jail."

"Montreal, Friday evening, Dec. 14th.

"The Court Martial sat a short time this forenoon.

"Twelve the greater part of those arrested on suspicion in the City at commencement of the troubles have been discharged from Gaol. Chas. Mondelet, L. M. Viger,—Decrivieres,—Berthelot,—Lafontain, D. Chapin, and Durocher, of St. Eustache are among the number."

We understand that the Sheriff has received Warrants for the execution of Abbey and George, Colonel and Paymaster to the Brigands, which will take place on Wednesday next.

Look out for Squalls.—The following epistle has just been received by the worthy Mayor of this Town. The Chief Magistrate will of course, '*hide his diminished head.*' His Executors (poor fellows) must also look sharp, and make him alter his will. It is to be hoped that he will inform each of them, if he has not already done so, of the unenviable office he has conferred on them. Who would now be Executor of a Lord Mayor!

Address—To the chief Magistrate of Kingston Upper canady.

With Speed.

Post marked—Belleville, N. Y., Dec. 4th, 1838.

Ellisburgh Nove. the 30th 1838

To his majesty chief magestrate of Kingston in upper canady &c. &c.

If you pass Judgment on those patriots or sentence them to death or to Banish them you may expect trouble before spring I have got the mindes of the people in the Joining counties and in this county I can rais in a fortnit a army of 10000 affective men that neither fears death nor hell they are redy and willing when they are calde upon if you put them or cos them to be put to death nothing but death shall hinder you and your executers from sharring the same fate and if you will reprieve them I will promise that they will not trouble you any more and if not death and destruction will be your fate.

Sinde and sealde this 30th day of November in the year of our lorde one thousande eight hundferd and thirty eight.

J. W. H.
M. H.

We have perused a letter from a gentleman connected with the Ministry, wherein it is stated, that Mr. H. S. Chapman, who was recently appointed Secretary to the Hand-loom Weaving Commission, had been removed from office, in consequence of his conduct, it is supposed, with respect to the late troubles in this Province, and his intimate connexion with the leaders in the rebellion.—*Montreal Gazette.*

Last Friday night a party of the Mounted Volunteers of Pickering and Whitby, in this District, brought up, and safely lodged under Mr. Kidd's protection, a parcel of the last winter's rebels, from the most disaffected part of Pickering, amongst whom is a son of Peter Matthews, (whose execution seems to have produced but little other impression in his own family than to make them worse,) and one William Bentley, one of those wandering Yankee Carpenters, which infest this country—who was before accused of being on the rebel side at the action of Montgomery's; who, we believe, was admitted to bail on that, and other treasonable charges, he is now accused of administering the "Hunter's" and other unlawful oaths, and of exciting the people to rebellion. It is to be hoped, this pestilent fellow, with others of his stamp from the States, who come amongst us to "seek whom they may devour,"—sum and substance, will be effectually prevented from doing further mischief.—*Toronto Palladium.*

The *Kingston Herald* of the 11th, after quoting the accounts from the west, which we gave on Wednesday, adds the following in relation to the movement of the troops in that direction;—

On Sunday evening, the steamboat Traveller took up for Toronto, the 3 companies of the 72d Regiment from Fort Henry, and also several pieces of Artillery, with the men, (the horses went by land to Cobourg,) under Major M'Bean, of the Royal Artillery. More Artillery and the 71st Regiment are expected here from Montreal, in a few days. Artillery and the bayonet will settle the business.

Yesterday morning the three companies of the 65th Regiment, which arrived here at the close of the navigation, from Three Rivers and Nicolet, marched out of town, on foot for Kingston. They were accompanied by Major Fraquharson; Captains Smyth and Gold; Lieutenant Westropp; Ensigns Cook, Barry and Wolfe, and Assist. Surgeon Nicoll.—*Montreal Courier.*

If the Canadians hang any of the young Americans at Prescott, we shall have to hang MacKenzie, Theller, and a few such characters.—*N. Y. Herald.*—A bargain be it.

Another Engagement.—News is understood to have reached Toronto on Monday night last, that Commodore Drew, whose vessel is frozen in at Gravelly Bay, on Lake Erie, was attacked a few days since by a large party of pirates on the ice, with intent to cut him off, but that he repelled the scoundrels, and drove them back without loss to himself, killing