

TO OUR READERS.

We hope our readers will excuse the little variety which we have been able to introduce into our present number, in consequence of the large space taken up with the Annual Report of the Montreal Society and the report of the Annual Meeting. We have ventured upon this use of our pages from the conviction that the whole would prove interesting to our readers. In this connection we would be permitted to call the attention of friends to the amount of debt still due by the Montreal Committee, and would hope that they will not permit that Committee to be chargeable with it. It will be seen from the statements in the present, as well as past, numbers of the *Advocate*, that the Committee here have contributed liberally of their money towards the liquidation of the debt; and it cannot be forgotten, that while the Committee gave their labor gratuitously, the debt incurred was contracted in efforts for the good of the entire Province. We understand that the amount of debt still due is £220.

MONTREAL PILOT.

We think it right to note the excellent report of the Annual Meeting of the Montreal Society, which appeared in the *Pilot* of 29th ult., and from which we took part of the report in our present number.

THE MUSIC.

The Music which now forms so interesting a part of the *Advocate* is unavoidably omitted in the present number. Our readers may rest assured, however, that this omission will be made up in a subsequent number.

NUMBER ONE AND TWO.

We hope that all those who do not intend to continue the *Advocate* for the present year, and to whom we may have sent the two first numbers, will have the kindness to send them back to us without undoing them from their envelope, so that we may receive them without delay, as we are now out of both of these numbers.

News.

DISTRESSING EVENT.—A circumstance of a most melancholy nature occurred on Thursday, the 27th December, at the old and respectable Tavern Stand of Mrs. Dewey, and her daughter, Lindy, in the parish of St. Remi, County of Huntingdon. While the old woman was in the act of drawing a portion of high wines from a cask in the cellar, the spirits came in contact with the flame of a candle, which caused immediate ignition of the spirits and caught the old woman's clothes. The daughter, hearing her cries, ran to her assistance, and, in her endeavors to assist her mother, her own clothes caught fire, and nearly consumed the whole of the clothes she wore at the time. They, however, were able to reach the top of the stairs leading from the cellar, in a most shockingly burnt condition. The old woman survived the accident, only three hours; and her daughter, Miss Lindy Dewey, languished in extreme pain until Wednesday night last, when death terminated her mortal sufferings. Mrs. Dewey's remains were attended to the grave by a large number of friends, relatives and neighbors, and indeed few deserve to be more honored. She was ever ready to assist the sick, and feed the hungry. Her memory will be long remembered, and her mournful death much regretted by a large number of the recipients of her bounty.—*Courier*.

SCHOOLS.—We are happy to see that the principle of supporting Common Schools by a property tax, is gaining ground in this County. We have heard of nearly a dozen School Sections, where the principle will be tried this year. We have not the slightest doubt but that it will have the effect of filling the School

Houses, and relieving the Trustees from their present anomalous position. Where the property and the children are pretty equally divided there can be no injustice in it.—*Pictou Gazette*.

CANALS.—From an article in the *Whitby Freeman*, we learn that the Welland Canal, 42 miles in length, cost £270,000, or nearly £6,500 per mile; it has 37 Locks, 100 feet in length by 22 in width; height of Lockage, 330 feet. The Rideau Canal (made by the British Government), 135 miles in length, cost £500,000, or, about £3,700 per mile; it has 47 Locks, 142 feet in length, by 33 in width; height of Lockage, 283 feet. The Lachine Canal, about 8 miles long, cost £120,000, or £16,250 per mile.—The Erie Canal, in York State, is 363 miles, and cost £7,000,000, or, upwards of £19,000 per mile; it has 93 Locks; height of Lockage, 686 feet.

SENTENCE OF DEATH.—Jacob Nell, residing near Templeton, was tried at the County of York Assizes on the 15th inst., for the murder of his wife, Maria Nell, on the 9th day of November last, while on his way home from Toronto. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on the 7th day of February.

THE WHISKY TRADE IN CINCINNATI.—We learn from *Cial's Advertiser*, that 276,000 barrels of whisky, averaging fifty gallons each, are sold here during the year, while thirty-six thousand are manufactured into alcohol, to be used in medicine and the arts. The cost of this immense number of gallons is two millions two hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars. It will be seen, that the far larger part of this quantity of liquid fire is for drinking, and is, of course, devoted to the destruction of health, character, happiness, life, and the hope of heaven. More than two millions of dollars every year changing hands in this city, in the Satanic work of human destruction! In the manufacture of this whisky, which is sent all over the country, four millions and fifty-six thousand bushels of corn are consumed. Thus it is, we repay God's kindness, in giving us a fruitful land. Its rich products we convert into agents to mar his handiwork and ruin his creatures eternally.—*Central Watchman*.

PAUPERS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—From a statement of the alien passenger agent, it appears that the total cost of pauperism in Massachusetts for eleven years, from 1838 to 1849, has been \$3,462,888.74, of which \$885,927.08 has been paid for alien paupers. The amount of head money received from alien passengers during this period, deducting expenses, was \$149,176.61, and deducting this from the expense of alien paupers, the balance against foreign paupers is \$736,755.47.

BIRTHS.

Montreal—9th inst, Mrs S H May, of a son. 18th inst, Mrs Thomas Hood, of a daughter. Mrs R M'Indoe, of a son. 20th inst, Mrs John Gibson, of a daughter. 21st inst, Mrs Digby Campbell, of a son. 23d inst, Mrs John Leeming, of a son. 26th inst, Mrs George Clark, Geffintown, of a son.
Galt—3rd inst, the wife of the Rev J Malcolm Smith, of a son. 18th inst, the wife of Robert Hamilton, Esq, of Hawksbury Mills, of a son. St Catharines—18th ult, the lady of Thomas Towers, Esq, of a son. Toronto—13th ult, Mrs W C Crofton, of a daughter.
Brantford—6th inst, Mrs J R Ballachey, of a daughter. Mrs George Ballachey, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Montreal—22d inst., Mr. Charles Gordon of Russelltown, to Anna Bruce, second and youngest daughter of John Edwards, Esq., Keithburn, Hemmingford. 24th inst, by the Rev Mr Burns, George Macdougall, Esq to Janet, daughter of Mr James Aitkin.
Percy—19th inst, by the Rev Mr Bowers, of Seymour, Mr James Wilson, to Miss Elizabeth Pierce. 20th inst, by the Rev Mr Bridges, (Baptist) of Brighton, Mr Norman Baldwin, to Miss Mary Pierce, all of Percy.

DEATHS.

Montreal—12th inst, Mrs Clara Talon dite L'Esperance, wife of Mr James Hunter, aged 63 years. 28th inst, Mr William Don, Marble Cutter, aged 69, and for the last 33 years a most respectable citizen of this place.
Caledon—24th ult after a protracted illness, which she bore with Christian fortitude and patience, Elizabeth, wife of Mr Jackson, "Potter", aged 65.
Boston—31st ult, John, son of Michael M' Cormick, and nephew of Christopher M' Cormick, of Montreal, aged 35 years.
Compton—11th inst, of scarlet fever, Wm James, only child of the Rev C P Reid, aged 4 years and eleven days.
Danville, Shipton—8th inst, Mary Stimson, wife of George White, Esq, aged 30 years and four months. 10th inst, Christina, daughter of Dennison Gullup, aged 19 years and seven months.
Freightsburg—11th inst, R V V Freiligh, Esq, at an advanced age.
Napane Mills—14th ult, Mr Robert Cooper, a native of Lanarkshire, Scotland, aged 49 years.