

ferred very improperly with the complainant, who had attended the Church of Dr. Armstrong, who, to suit the convenience of the poor Irish in his district, preached in that language. Mrs. Murphy, who had been originally a Roman Catholic, stating how she had been confined shortly before the alleged assault, and that the day after her confinement the defendant entered the house, and on eliciting from her the fact that Mr. Armstrong, a Protestant Minister, had baptized the child, he told her she had sold her soul to the devil, and getting angry, struck her three times on the head with his umbrella. It appeared also that the defendant afterwards, ascertaining that some ladies had given the prosecutrix some assistance with coals and bread, said it was not for her good, and if any one gave her anything she was to receive it, and thank them for it, but she was not to pay any regard to them, as they were bad people. He then struck her three times, and cursed her in Irish. He hurt her very much, and she cried out for mercy. On being questioned by Mr. Robinson as to whether the defendant had given her anything, a good deal of laughter was created by her replying that he had given her "a shilling and a good beating."

Mr. Woollett addressed the Jury at some length for the defence, and called several witnesses, but they only confirmed the evidence as to the assault, as well as to the complainant having been turned out of her bed at her lodgings by her landlady, under the directions of the defendant.

The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Guilty."

Mr. Robinson said, there was no desire to press for a severe punishment, but without any vindictive feeling towards Mr. Donovan, or his religion, the motive of the proceedings was to show that much coercion had been used by the defendant towards the poor and ignorant.—Mr. Woollett was glad to hear such language proceed from his learned friend.

The Chairman (Mr. Puckle) said, it gave him great pain to pass sentence on a person like the defendant; but the Court, as well as the Jury, were satisfied that an aggravated assault had been committed on a poor and weak woman. It was, in fact, an act of religious persecution and domineering, which could not be tolerated in this country; and, had it not been for the recommendation of the learned council for the prosecution, he should have committed him to prison with hard labour; but, under all circumstances, he should fine him £5 for the assault.—The fine was immediately paid; but the excitement was so great among the lower orders of Irish, that a body of police was compelled to be in attendance to keep the coast clear. On the Jury leaving the Court they were attacked, and many of the females who were present had knives secret about them.

Colonial News.

It is stated in the London papers that the Hon. J. Ross, Solicitor-General for Canada West, and Mr. J. Bell Forsyth, of Quebec, had an interview with Sir J. Packington, on Thursday, 16th December, at the Colonial-office.

NEWFOUNDLAND HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—The Express announces that "the new House of Assembly will consist of 9 Roman Catholics and 6 Protestants," as follows:—

Roman Catholics—Messrs. Kent, Little, Shea, Haurahan, Talbot, Benning, Hogeatt, Parsons, Winsor. Protestants—Messrs. Hoyle, Emerson, Hayward, Warren, March, Bemister.

This fifth day of January the river is still open, and Capt. Plump, although at a considerable daily loss keeps the steamer *Gleaner*, on the ferry between Prescott and Ogdensburg, purely out of consideration for the comfort of the travelling public. We believe that no steamer has ever before run before on this ferry at so late a season. The snow covers the ground to the depth of fifteen inches, and we have fine winter weather.—*Prescott Telegraph*.

The fishery on Lake Huron, (says the Huron Signal,) has been, as usual, highly productive this season, and the vessels and hands belonging to Goderich have returned in safety. Nothing appears to limit the extent to which the fishery business might be conducted on Lake Huron, but the want of the requisites for catching, curing, and transporting the fish—the piscatory reserve seemingly inexhaustible.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE.—On Saturday evening last, the usual weekly meeting was held at the rooms of the Society, old Government House, when after the usual business was disposed of an excellent address delivered by the President; and a resolution was passed, requesting the Council to take such necessary steps as may bring before the notice of the Legislature, the importance of continuing the Meteorological Observations at this place under Provincial authority.

An inquest was held in this city yesterday, at the Edinburgh Castle tavern, Queen-Street by George Duggan, Esq., on view of the body of a man named Matthew Mulligan who had been driven to desperation by the drunken habits of his wife, which caused him to leave his home and he was not heard of until Saturday last, when some people who were searching for him were induced

to follow a track through the snow into "Shaw's wood," where they found him hanging on a pine stump quite dead. He had been married about a year. He was remarkable steady and industrious, but his wife was an incorrigible drunkard. The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased hung himself while suffering from temporary insanity, caused by the dissipation of his wife.

The Post Hope Guide says that a horse and buggy, with a dog in the latter; were left by the owner tied to a post in one of the streets of that town. In the owner's absence the horse got loose and started off. The dog immediately sprang to the horse's head, and held it by the line till some one came and re-tied it.

The *Mazepa* is now running between Toronto and Hamilton. Should Burlington Bay freeze up, she will continue her trips from Wellington Square.

The *Chi Justice Robinson* will continue her trips during the winter from Toronto to Lewiston, Queenston and Niagara.

A FARMER GORED BY HIS BULL.—The Hal-dimand Independent of Saturday announces the sudden death of Abram Shirke, a worthy and respectable resident of the township of South Cayuga. Deceased had gone into his barn yard to feed his cattle, and remaining longer absent than usual, some of the family went out to look for him, and to their horror they found him gored to death by a bull; the animal was standing over him exhibiting great ferocity. The hay-fork was found in the yard with the tines broken, and everything indicated that there had been a great contest before the fatal result,—the animal had to be despatched before the corpse could be removed.

On Monday last, a sealed bottle, containing the following melancholy announcement, written on slip of paper was picked up on the South Shore St. Lawrence:—"Foundered on the 18th Nov., brigantine *Orient*, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; crew all lost. William Hayden, master." In all human probability the unfortunate crew of the ill-fated vessel perished in the succession of storms which occurred about the 18th ult. We are informed that a vessel of the same name, and owned by J. B. Cox, Esq., and commanded by his brother, sailed from St. Peter's about the 15th ult. This vessel was built by Mr. Wm. Hayden, who has not left the Island.

Le *Journal de Quebec* says, "Persons who have arrived from the County of St. Maurice state, the rumour is there rife, that the government have offered the situation of Assistant Provincial Secretary to Mr. Turcotte, and that this gentleman is making preparations for his early re-election."

On Wednesday last the Board of Directors of the Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railroad Union Company, accompanied by the Chief and Assistant Engineers, made a trip over the works, between Toronto and Machell's corners, a distance of 28 miles, the length upon which the rails have been laid. The locomotive and cars left the foot of York Street, about 10 in the forenoon, and the run over the line was at the rate of thirty miles an hour. The road was uncommonly steady. Arrived at Machell's corners, the Company proceeded in sleighs, to visit important works in progress, between that and Newmarket, which they found in a satisfactory state of forwardness. Having partaken of a sumptuous entertainment at the house of Mr. McGaffy, one of the sub-contractors, the Company returned home in the evening, by rail, arriving in the city at 6 o'clock. p.m.—*Colonist*.

On Saturday last, Mr. Lovell, Printer to the Legislative Assembly, gave an entertainment to the whole of his employers in Quebec, at Sword's Hotel. The viands and wines were of superior description, and the evening passed off in a humorous manner.

The question is often asked, "Why so many storms and disasters upon Lake Erie? Why the difference between that and the other lakes composing the great chain between the United States and British America?" It is said to be caused by the extreme shallowness of its waters, which are more easily disturbed than the deep waters of its neighbours. Hence the name "Erie," an Indian name signifying "mad," "the mad Lake." This name, like all Indian proper names, is very significant of the boisterous character of lake Erie.

Mr. Leeming has declined to be put in nomination for the Mayorality of Montreal. In his letter declining the request of his friends to become a candidate he says "there are very few temptations to seek an Office, in which, if a man does his duty, he will make few friends and many enemies, subject himself to serious responsibility and constant care and anxiety, and get very little thanks after all."

MARINE DISASTERS ON THE LAKES IN 1852.—The Buffalo Express gives a lengthened statement of marine disasters during the past year, and the loss of life and property caused by them. It was prepared by Captain J. W. Rounds, Agent of the North Western Insurance Company for Buffalo, and may be relied on as correct. The total loss of life is given at 296, and the total loss of property at \$992,659. Of the 229 disasters detailed, seven occurred in the month of April, nineteen in May, twenty four in June, fifteen in July, sixteen in August, twenty one in September, twenty seven in October, eighty five in November, 55 in one gale of the 11th and 12th, and fifteen in December. Six steamers, seven propellers, and thirty five sail vessels, have gone out of existence entirely.

The Montreal Board of Trade petitioned His Excellency to withhold his sanction to any By-Laws passed by the Harbour Commissioners under the authority of the late Act, And His Excel-

lency replied, in substance, that he will not sanction any such, without giving the Board of Trade ample opportunity to express their opinion thereon.

CAPE BRETON.—We regret to record that a melancholy accident occurred at the Sydney Mines, on Saturday last, in consequence of a Waggon on the Railway there passing over and crushing one of the arms and legs of a child, daughter of Mr. Edward Carr, Overseer, at those Mines. Amputation of the arm, has taken place, and the child lies in a precarious state.—*News*.

It is proposed, in Sydney Cape Breton, to build during the present winter, a vessel suitable for the Mackerel Fishery, to be employed in the ensuing season—the funds to be raised by subscription.—A public meeting is to be held with a view to promoting the enterprise.

When the new Telegraph Lines now being constructed by Snow & Dwight, in the Provinces, are finished, Canada will have more length of Telegraph wire within her borders than Great Britain has at this time, and the largest line of wire, under one Company, in the world.

CANADIAN CLIPPERS.—In justice to Canadian Ship builders, it is but fair to mention that advances have been received of the arrival of the Quebec-built Clipper Ship *Gipsy Queen* at Sydney, New South Wales, after a splendid run of 102 days only, from London, and beating the Scotch Clipper *Phanician* by five days in the same run. The *Gipsy Queen* sailed from London on the 12th April last for Sydney, and arrived at her destination on the 22d July. This vessel made the previous voyage home from Sydney to London in 91 days, being one of the shortest passages on record made by a sailing vessel. Canadian built ships it would seem from the above facts are equal in speed to the best Scotch Clippers. Mr. Arthur Wurtele of River David, District of Three Rivers, was a passenger for Australia on board the *Gipsy Queen*.—*International*.

A boy about 15 years of age, committed suicide recently at New Bedford, by blowing out his brains with a pistol.

FIRE.—On Thursday morning last, a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. Austin Doty, corner of Richmond and Kind Streets, which soon communicated to the adjoining building of Mr. McLeod, a cabinet shop. Being frame buildings, and water scarce, they were speedily consumed. They were owned by Mr. W. Glass, and, we believe, insured for the full amount. We regret to add that another fire took place, on Tuesday morning last, whereby the workshop of Mr. William McBride, waggon maker, and the hotel of Mr. McCann, on Richmond Street, were totally consumed. Both were insured for a small amount. We have not heard the origin of either of the above fires.—*Prototype*.

A THUNDER-STORM IN DECEMBER.—During the storm on Friday last, the 24th Dec., a flash of lightning destroyed a house occupied by a family of the name of Beattie, a farmer, on the banks of the Richelieu, in the parish of Saint Mathias, and about three miles below the village of that name. It entered the north chimney, crossed the floor, through a partition, and lodged in the south chimney, which fell with a tremendous crash—shattering every window in the house to pieces, and destroying nearly all the furniture. The inmates were greatly alarmed, but, strange to say, none of them were injured in their persons, except the eldest boy, about 17 years of age, who was floored, and deprived for the moment of his senses, and of the power of one of his limbs; he has, however, quite recovered in both particulars. The family counts eleven, and have found shelter for the present in a friend's house, who lives about a mile distant from the scene of the disaster.—[*Montreal Herald*].

United States.

A correspondent of the *Lowell Fox Populi* thus describes one of the performances of the Chinese jugglers in San Francisco:—

"A plank sixteen inches wide and six feet high, was placed at the back of the stage, and the impaler, with knives, took his stand about fifteen or twenty feet in front of it. The knives were about seven inch blades, and four inch handles, strong and pointed. After playing with them for a time, tossing and whirling them in a most wonderful manner, he threw them one after another, fastening them firmly in the plank before him. He then drew them out, and another Chinaman took his stand before the plank, or rather at the side of it, holding out his arm across the same, and the impaler threw one knife above and another below it, as closely as they could have been placed there by the most careful hand; completely fastening his arm upon the plank. The other arm was then reached across and fastened in the same way, the knives sticking firmly, and the handles crossing each other. The Chinaman then reached forward his head, and quick as thought two knives were thrown, the one above the other below his neck—seemingly within one-fourth of an inch on either side. Such precision and daring was truly wonderful, and the whole evening's performance elicited unbounded applause."

GENERAL PIERCE'S CABINET.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Commercial Advertiser* speaks confidently of the following gentlemen (Mr. Dix excepted) as likely to compose President Pierce's cabinet:—Mr. Hunter of Virginia, Mr. Howell Cobb of Georgia; Mr. Guthrie of Kentucky; Mr. Greene of Massachusetts; Mr. Downs of Louisiana; Mr. Todd of Ohio; and Mr. John A. Dix of New York.

IMPORTANT VERDICT IN AN ADVERTISEMENT CASE.—In a suit in the Supreme Court of New York, before Judge Oakly, brought by the proprietors of the *Courier & Enquirer* against Henry I. Ibbotson, for \$300 for advertising, the jury rendered a verdict for plaintiff of—\$318 89, the amount claimed with interest. It appears that when the advertising was taken to the *Courier* Office there was some misunderstanding respecting the number of insertions. The defence set up was chiefly that Mr. Ibbotson's orders in respect to the advertising were not carried out. However he took the *Courier and Enquirer* daily, and as was presumed by the Court, saw the advertisement in question, and should have notified the editor to alter or discontinue it. The Court ruled that he should have given this notice, and not have expected to enjoy the benefit of the advertisement without paying for it.

The state of Illinois has succeeded in negotiation in the London market bonds to the extent of Five millions of dollars, for railway purposes, the last million of which was taken up at a premium of two per cent. Yet Canadians have been told over and over again by their "clever financier," Mr. Hincks, that it was useless to attempt to get money in the British market for railways in this province, and that their only resource was the employment of Messrs. Jackson & Co., as brokers, contractors and every thing else. Long reign humbug.—*Mercury*.

Much excitement existed in Havana, in consequence of this unmistakable determination on the part of the British to suppress the slave trade.

Communications.

(To the Editor of the Canadian Churchman.)

SIR—An enquiry having been instituted by the Bishop of Exeter at the suggestion of certain evangelical clergymen at Plymouth, into the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Prynne who is said to be in the habit of hearing Auricular Confession in the vestry of the Church—it will not be out of place to enter into an examination of the merits of the case to see how far the Rev. Gentleman has exceeded the teaching and practices of the Anglican Church. Now let us see whether the Church sanctions confession or not. In the first place we find it in three different portions of her ritual viz. immediately after the general confession which is repeated in the morning and evening prayer by the clergyman and congregation. The Priest stands up, the people still kneeling, he pronounces absolution after the form "that Christ has given to his ministers the power and commandment to declare and pronounce to his people being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.—Again in the invitation to the holy Eucharist the priest after exhorting the people to examine themselves truly before partaking of the holy rite, he says and "if there be any of you who by this means cannot quiet your conscience, (i.e. by self examination) but require further comfort and council, let him come to me or some other discreet minister of Gods word and open his grief (which means confession) that by the ministry of Gods holy word he may receive the grace of absolution," and lastly in the visitation of the sick. Here shall the sick be moved to a special confession of his sins, if he feels his conscience trouble him with any weighty matter. After which confession, the priest shall absolve him after this sort. Our Lord Jesus Christ who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee these offences; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Who will dare to say after these extracts from her ritual that the Church does not sanction confession.

The great fault in Mr. Prynne's case is a too rigid adherence to the teaching and practices of the Church of England. He heard the confession of young persons before they received the holy communion and to facilitate this confession he seems to have asked questions which have called forth the indignation and astonishment of the evangelical world, they forget that every question asked by the confessor in the actual discharge of his duty is perfectly justifiable and which if asked by a layman would warrant the commotion lately formed by the Rev. Mr. Prynne's accuser. As the Rev. Gentleman has been accused of Romanising tendencies it will be well to show the difference respecting confession between the Church of Rome and of England, the former obliges all her children to confess at least once a year, and often if they wish to become good christians—with the latter it is optional and it will be seen from the above extracts where a member of the Church of England may safely confess and obtain absolution. Who are the Rev. Mr. Prynne's accusers? certain Clergymen of Plymouth although professing to belong to a church which claims apostolical succession not only deny her authority but other important doctrine viz Baptismal Regeneration and the mysteries in the Eucharist &c. When will the Church be purified of these men who partake of her living but explain away her doctrine, the Church will never be able to fulfil her mission until they are made to obey her or retire from her communion, and from that they may please to call the church whose adherents may judge for themselves confess and absolve themselves and add or detract from the word of God to suit their own conscience and convenience.—I believe one of these accusers above alluded to, is secretary to the Prayer Reformation Society whose object is to divest it of its ancient and Catholic character. I have no doubt the passages