[From the London Shipping Gazette.]

THE COLONIAL TRADE.

It is truly deplorable to consider the state of demoralization into which the seamen engaged in the North American trade, and more especially the Quebec trade, are plunged through the machinations of the ruffianly crimps who are permitted to carry on their nefarious traffic in that city. To us it seems most unaccountable that the Colonial office and the local Government and legislature cannot conjointly put down this vile gang, and the trade in which they are engaged. No sooner does a vessel arrive at Quebec than the crew are beset by crimps, who prevail on them to desert, harbour them in debauchery, and then literally sell them to some other vessel which has undergone a similar visitation, and is left without men to navigate her home. Five, six, and seven pounds are constantly given to a man for the run home, while the crimps artfully manage that the greater part of the money shall be paid in advance, when they, as a matter of course, pocket it in payment of the bill they have trumped up for the sailor's entertainment. What is this but selling the services of the seamen for the advantage of the crimp? It is really disgraceful that such a system should be allowed to prevail in any part of her Majesty's dominions.

We are among those who thought that the Act for the Registering of seamen would check, if not entirely put a stop to, desertion; and such, we are confident, would be the effect of a proper and efficient registry, which, unfortunately the present one is not. The second clause of the existing enactment says, that "it shall not be lawful for the master of any ship to carry to sea any seaman who shall not be provided with a register ticket." But it has been decided that this term applies only to vessels sailing from the ports of the United Kingdom, and that a register ticket is not required of a man shipping at a foreign or colonial port. This at once accounts for the crimping trade that is carried on at Quebec; it offers no check whatever to desertion: the seaman runs from his ship, leaves his register ticket in the master's hand, and trusts to his own ingenuity, or the aid of the English crimps, to procure a new ticket when he returns home in another vessel. We believe, indeed, there is no difficulty in any seaman effecting this, and yet, surely, even under the existing clumsy piece of legislation, where the Registry Act has been in operation for more than ten years, no ticket should be given to a new applicant without the most rigid scrutiny. If a different construction were put upon the second clause of the Act, or if it were so worded as to require the production of a register ticket, whether the seamen were shipped at home or not, it would throw some little difficulty in the way of desertion at Quebec. The crimps would soon discover that they had a stock on hand which was unsaleable.

In a correspondence which appeared in our columns on the 18th inst., between a Mr. Campbell, a Notary Public at Quebec, and some of the government authorities there, Mr. Campbell, in a circular addressed to shipowners on this subject, says, "One of the causes which influence seamen to endeavour to be relieved from the engagements they enter into before sailing for this country, is, the immense disproportion between the rate of wages at which they ship at Great Britain, and the rates held out to them here. Until some means can be devised to ensure a supply of seamen for the vessels annually built here, and fill the places of such as are prevented by death or sickness, from prosecuting their voyages, I fear this evil cannot be wholly prevented." But it is not merely to man the ships built in the colony that seamen desert at Quebec: among the vessels that go out from England there is a constant interchanging of seamen, through the medium of desertion and re-entering in other vessels for the run home at the exhorbitant wages which prevail in the colony. For our part we can see no reason why these colonial ships should not, equally with the ships of this country, be required to conform to the registration clause of the Merchant Seamen's Act: this would oblige the owners of the colonial ships to provide crews for them, and not systematically to depend upon manning them with deserters through the medium of the crimps. It is an excessive hardship on the British shipowner, that he should not only have to compete with colonial ships built for £4 or £5 a ton, but also have to pay exorbitant wages beyond which he engaged to do to furnish crews for these rival vessels. We cannot think that this evil is so irremediable as it is said to be, if the colonial office, the Board of Trade, and the Admiralty would take *proper steps in the matter*. Mr. Campbell says in his letter—"The changes made in the Merchant Seamen's Act, and more particularly, all that cumbrous machinery by which it was intended to prevent desertion, by means of register tickets, may, I think, be pronounced a complete failure; and the sooner a repeal of all the provisions on this head can be obtained the better." We agree with the writer that the registry clauses have proved a failure in preventing desertion, but we do not agree with him that on this account the Act should be repealed: we would not pull down the edifice because it needed some repairs; we would not break up the vessel because it required to go into the dock. The registration clauses might, we are confident, be made effectual to prevent desertion, and to put down its concomitant evil—crimpage, even at Quebec; the one would fall with the other. But then the act must be remodelled, and an entire new registry acted upon. Why is the Admiralty so listless in this matter? Why does this board offer no assistance to put down desertion at Quebec? It ought surely to feel some interest in preventing the demoralization of British seamen. There are generally from 300 to 400 sail of vessels in the St. Lawrence, at one time, during the season, and in the summer of last year we pointed out how necessary it was to have three or four vessels of war there, as a support to the masters of the commercial marine in preserving something like order among their men, arresting desertion and preventing mutiny. We anticipate the best moral effects from the appearance of a few ships of war in the river; and the leaving of so many merchant vessels there, altogether unprotected, is, in our opinion, a gross dereliction of the duty which devolves upon the Admiralty. The Navigation of the St. Lawrence will soon be open, and we would strongly urge, not merely the propriety, but the necessity of stationing a frigate or two, and some smaller vessels, in the river during the coming season. As a mere experiment it would be worth trying.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.—The following article is from the Liverpool Albion, of the 3d May:

The Emperor of Russia has published an ukase, in St. Petersburgh, on the 12th April, to the effect that he had determined to invest 30,000,000 of silver roubles in foreign funds, and on this becoming known here this morning it produced a most magical effect on 'Change, instantaneously dispelling the gloom that has hung over business for the last week, and imparting a degree of confidence in commercial circles to which they have latterly been strangers. The ultimate result of the Emperor's measure cannot be foreseen; but to us its value is much enhanced by its opportune appearance, trade at the moment being completely paralyzed by the extreme tightness of the money market, a position universally attributed to the operation of Sir Robert Peel's bill. It is generally admitted that the stocks of produce, of nearly every description, are reduced to a very low point in this town, as the empty state of the warehouses proves. The commercial operations of our merchants, (apart from money matters) must, therefore, be conducted on a sound and healthy basis, and their engagements materially restricted; yet, as the banks refused to give accommodation on the usual securities, and declined discounting paper, which, till within the last week or two, they sought with avidity, and discounted at reasonable rates, the whole machinery was being thrown into disorder, and cash alone was taken where its payment could be compelled, while at the same time it has ceased to be transmitted to us from the manufacturing districts in payment for produce. The banks should have guarded themselves against such a contingency by increasing their reserve of cash; but preferring active securities as being more profitable, they neglected at an unfortunate moment the sound principles of banking, and, when the pressure came with its greatest severity, were unable to afford relief, as, instead of money, their coffers were filled with unconvertible paper. One firm, proverbial for the healthy state of its finances, is said to have provided against the coming storm, and, so far from requiring aid from the helpless bill-brokers, or Bank of England, is able, if required, to accommodate both. Some idea may be formed of the helpless state of the discount houses from the fact that £80,000 in bills, with bankers' endorsements, all due within six weeks, were offered at Messrs. Garney's on Thursday, as security for a temporary loan of £10,000, and yet the latter declined giving the accommodation. The London money market was much easier yesterday, and discounts were more readily obtained, which of itself is sufficient evidence that the scarcity of money was more artificial than real, for by the statement below of the issues of the Bank of England it will be found that the public have fewer bank notes now than they had a fortnight since. The scarcity was occasioned by a temporary suspension of confidence, in part owing to the proceedings adopted by the bank in getting back her notes, and a fear in London that depositors might call upon the bankers and bill-brokers for more money than at the moment they could command, and the latter in strengthening themselves against such an event nearly brought it to pass, and almost stopped the machine *in toto*. Let us hope the worst is past, and take a lesson for the future.—A gradual restoration of confidence is more to be desired than a sudden transition from great despondency to an equal degree of excitement, for most assuredly the latter will bring consequences in its train far more injurious than the recent panic. Next Tuesday will be a heavy pay day in London, after which we may look for a better state of things.

A deputation from the Liverpool joint stock banks has been in London this week, endeavouring to obtain from the Government some relaxation of Sir Robert Peel's law. They were courteously received, but obtained no promise of Ministerial assistance. The deputation was accompanied by several members of Parliament, two of whom, Mr. Fielden and Mr. William Brown, are understood to have put the evils under which the manufacturing districts are labouring in a very strong light, and Mr. Brown further represented that the state of our money market would cause all orders for the purchase of bread stuffs in America that had not been executed, to be cancelled by the steamer that sails on Tuesday, by which the shipment of the necessary supplies of food to this country would be materially curtailed.

The speeches of Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Russell, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer last night, in the House of Commons, all agree in expressing their determination to uphold the present bank law in its fullest integrity.

The cotton market, which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been much excited by the character of the advices from America, has become subdued under the influence of the monetary pressure, and receded fully one farthing per pound in the price of American descriptions between the 23d and 30th instant, the dates on which the circulars were made up. The total sales for the week sum up to 23,800 bales, of which 1,900 have been taken by speculators, 350 by exporters, and 21,550 by the trade. The news from St. Petersburgh, and the more favourable position of the money market in London yesterday, have occasioned a decidedly better feeling to-day, and 7,000 bales have changed hands at an advance of about one eighth of a penny per pound, 3,000 of which have been taken by speculators, and 4,000 by spinners. Were we to offer a suggestion to the trade, it would be, to stock themselves freely at present rates; for, taking into account the estimates of crop, the current prices in Liverpool, and the medium of payments, no relief to the spinner will be afforded *on any one of these points* by the removal of the pressure from the money market; for the spinners and manufacturers may take it as an axiom that, the principles of free trade being equally carried out in regard to monetary facilities in the manufactured articles as in the raw material, with the short supply of the latter that the present year can afford, prices of cotton will show much greater elasticity than those of either yarn or goods; and the greater the demand for the latter the worse position the manufacturers will be in.

The money market has had the same influence on the state of trade in Manchester that it has exercised over that in Liverpool.

HOUSE OF LORDS, April 15.—Their lordships assembled to-day, for the first time, in the Chamber *appropriated in the new Royal Palace at Westminster* to the Peers of England, sitting in their legislative and judicial capacities. The descriptions which have been already published of this magnificent hall fail, through no want of skill in the describers, but from the imperfection of language, to present an adequate image of its gorgeousness and grandeur. When first entering it, the eye is dazzled and distracted by the richness and profusion of the ornaments, the walls and ceiling being charged to the verge of excess with azure, crimson, and gold. The exquisite harmony which reigns throughout, soon sobers the senses, and surprise subsides into admiration. The throne, the most striking object, is a triumph of architectural art, the symmetry of its proportions vieing with the brilliancy of its materials, and the costly splendour of its decorations. It is a vast gothic canopy, distributed into three portions; under the centre is the Queen's chair of state, and a smaller chair is placed on each side beneath the sub-canopies. The ceiling of the chamber is divided into square compartments, which are again sub-divided by elegant panels, carved pendants encrusted with gold dropping from the intersections. A broad oak pannelling, richly carved, which covers a portion of the side walls, subdues the glare of the other parts. The reporters' gallery, placed at the end opposite the throne, is another prominent object, being externally a mass of gilded ornaments. The interior of this gallery is fitted up with the most careful regard to the convenience and accommodation of its occupiers. The house is lighted by richly gilt branches holding lamps, running along the side walls, and lofty magnificent candelabra, standing on the floor at the ends, bearing tiers of waxlights. The woolsack, the table, and the seats for the peers (covered with crimson cloth), resemble those in the late house, and, compared with the luxurious aspect of the other furniture, have a rather homely appearance. The great problem upon which so much depends, namely, the adaptation of the new house for the transmission of sound, cannot be solved without further experiment, under more favorable circumstances; for, during the short sitting of to-day, the constant hum of conversation, perhaps of admiration, amongst the peers and strangers below the bar, would have rendered it difficult to hear the most powerful speaker.

From the Dumfries Herald.

EDUCATION—RAGGED SCHOOLS.

We rejoice to see the extending establishment of Ragged or Industrial Schools. As a means of securing outcast children, and the children of profligate parents, from beggary and vice, and training them up to be good citizens, thus cutting off the very well-heads of crime, and saving the nation the pain, and shame, and expense of future police and punishment, by the virtuous cheapness of early prevention:—these Schools promise to be a vast blessing to the land. Aberdeen began the work. There is not a single beggar to be seen on her streets now. The boys under ten years of age in her Ragged School earn each about £1 15s. a year; and elder boys about £2. In fact they almost maintain themselves. In Dundee, the institution is equally effective. In Glasgow, there is a determined movement in the same good cause. In Edinburgh, also.—A public meeting was held there on Thursday last, when an Association, with the necessary Committees, was formed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining Industrial Schools.

In Dumfries, we have a school of this kind for girls. It is doing very well indeed. It is on a limited scale. It could be easily extended. Only, in a small town like ours, a large institution is not needed. More than half the good work, however, remains to be done here. The begging and pilfering little boys, who haunt our streets, were always more numerous than the girls; and they must be provided for also, in a similar and larger institution. Provost Kennedy is best on doing public good: We beg respectfully to invite him to this good work; and he will find himself amply supported. If the county, and the other burghs in the county, would move along with Dumfries in the matter, and help to build a good large Ragged School, sending their outcast boys, with corresponding subscriptions, to the general institution, it might be at once cheaper and more effective.

Two or three years ago, we pressed on the attention of the public, a scheme propounded by Mr. Stewart, Keeper of the Jail of Dingwall, who published a series of letters on the subject in our columns. His scheme was a farm along with the Ragged School, for more healthful industrial training, and as the best way of making the boys actually keep themselves by spade work and other farm labor. The management of the farm would be a slight complication; but we have much faith in the scheme, and we would like to see Mr. Stewart at the head of it. The very healthfulness of such a school, where boys would live according to nature, would be one of the best guarantees for a clear, sound, virtuous mind and heart.

THAMES OFFICE.—*Sea Wages.*—Mr. Francis Leadbeater, the master of the ship Duke of Wellington, appeared before Mr. Ballantine, on Monday, to answer the demand of George Cooper, who claimed £6 for services on a voyage from St. John (New Brunswick) to London.—The complainant said he left the vessel in which he sailed from England at St. John, and joined the Duke of Wellington for the homeward voyage, as steward, at £4 10s. per month.—Mr. Ballantine: That is very large wages. What did you receive for the outward voyage—Cooper: Only 5s. per month; it was my trial voyage.—Mr. Ballantine: Had you ever been to sea before?—Cooper: No, sir.—Mr. Ballantine: How came you to leave the ship at St. John?—the fact is, you deserted for the purpose of obtaining higher wages for the run home.—No, sir, I was obliged to go into the hospital on account of illness. I was at St. John 13 weeks.—Mr. Ballantine: what profession, or place, did you fill before you went to sea? Cooper: I was waiter at a saloon in the Borough.—Mr. Ballantine: After going out at 5s. per month, you had the conscience to ask £4 10s. for your services for the voyage home?—Mr. Leadbeater said the man was quite useless on board, and that he was not worth his salt. He had been completely deceived.—Mr. Ballantine: How much have you paid him?—Mr. Leadbeater: He has had one month's advance, £4 10s., and I think that is enough. The ship has only been 52 days coming home, and he would only be entitled to 22 days' pay, at the rate of £4 10s. per month if he was a good steward; but he has summoned me for £6. Mr. Ballantine: Pay 2s. the costs of this summons; that is all I shall order. —*London Shipping Gazette, April 23.*

The *Montrose Review* states that "the engrossing subject of conversation throughout the county is the insolvency of one of the largest proprietors: an event which will cause both lamentation and suffering at many a hearth." The *Caledonian Mercury* says, "We deeply regret to add that the party here alluded to is the Viscount Arbuthnott, lord-lieutenant of the county of Kincardine, and who was deeply esteemed by all classes from the highest to the lowest."

Since the disruption in 1843, the seven northern Synods of the Free Church—viz., Argyll, Sutherland and Caithness, Glenelg, Zetland, Ross, and Moray, have contributed, to 1st January last, £139,874 7s. 8d.,—an immense sum, considering the poverty of the people.

The cost of a lady's court dress varies from £30 to £200. The value of jewels worn on such occasions is optional, but it is sometimes immense—according to the wealth and resources of the party. It is a matter of notoriety that the lady of the late Thos. Hope, Esq. appeared at court with jewels estimated at £70,000.

The celebrated Father Mathew, the Apostle of Temperance, has been mentioned to the Pope, with two others, one of whom will be elected by his Holiness to succeed Dr. Murphy as Catholic Bishop of Cork.

SCURVY.—This disease, once the scourge of seamen, and now rare either on sea or land, has been somewhat prevalent in Dumfries of late, and we learn that in other parts of the country it has also made its appearance. The great scarcity of vegetables, particularly of the potato, and the unusual consumption of salt meat and fish, without the vegetable corrective, has probably been the cause of the renewal of this now novel disease.—*Dumfries Courier.*

Accounts from the Cape of Good Hope, to the 3rd March, inform us that the Kaffirs were still in considerable numbers along the Fish River, and that a party of them had made a fresh irruption into the colony. Sir Henry Pottinger had proceeded to the frontier, with the view of arranging all differences with the native tribes.—H. M. Steamer Thunderbolt had struck on some rocks off Cape Recif, and it was feared would go to pieces.

(*From the Toronto Patriot.*)

EXTRACTS from the Hon. R. B. Sullivan's Lecture on Emigration. [Mr. Sullivan was formerly at the head of the Crown Land Department in Upper Canada.]

Our countrymen have not the means of purchasing land; but the settlement of our rear country is of a thousand times more importance to us than its paltry price as wild lands. I never saw a dollar taken by Government from a settler as the price of land, that I did not think it a loss to the public. Believe me, the money can be nowhere better than in the settler's pocket—if he has it, and if he has not, let us get our country settled at all events. Here is the passage paid, the land given, the settler arrived without disturbing the *status* of any one. What then remains—but, that he has not the means of settling on land; that is, he cannot feed himself until his first crops are gathered.

I look over the returns, and I find the most successful among them, who have acquired the most property, and paid best for their land, began with no capital whatever. Ask those who remain of the earlier settlers of Upper Canada, when the journey hither was almost as difficult as one to the Rocky Mountains would be in our day. You do not find they had houses built for them, or roads made for them; no, their great struggle was with the isolation in which they were individually placed. Ten to one, but the first one you meet will tell you—Sir, when my father settled in my township there was not a road, or a miller, a neighbour within ten miles of us. Most of them went in debt for the little supplies of provisions they wanted, and thought it no hardship to pay the debt, afterwards, from the produce of their lands. Five dollars worth of flour, and a like value of pork or other food, would be abundant for each individual, taking men, women and children, until crops should be gathered. Families of five, becoming settlers, ought to consider themselves rich with twenty pounds worth of provisions, tools, and seed.—I believe three-fourths of the settlers in the woods in this country, possessed no such sum; and with assistance to that extent the new settlers ought to succeed, and would succeed well.

For several years to come, there is scarcely an article an old farmer will have to spare which will not be as good as *cash* to new settlers. Young cattle, pigs, sheep, seed, home-made clothing. Fill your country thus, and you will have cheap labour, because it will be labour where it is wanting, and the men will be confined within your country by the best of all bonds, property. You will not have the wives and children of labourers to provide for, for they will be fully employed at home. You will not have to pay in cash, for you will have what is quite as valuable as cash to the settler; and what is better, it is what the farmers of this country cannot export or find a market for.

Take the map of North America, and look to the westward of that glorious inland sea, Lake Superior. I say nothing of the mineral treasures of its northern shores, or those of our own Lake Huron; but I ask you to go with me to the head of Lake Superior, to the boundary line; you will say it is a cold journey, but I tell you the climate still improves as you go westward. At the head of Lake Superior, we surmount a height of land, and then descend into the real garden of the British possessions, of which so few know anything. Books tell you little of the country; and what they do say, will deceive and mislead you. I tell you what I have heard directly from your townsman, Mr. A. Bethune, and indirectly from Mr. Ermatinger, very lately from that country.

A little to the westward of Lake Superior, is lake Winnipeg; and into lake Winnipeg runs the Saskatchawan river—it takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, and the lake Winnipeg discharges its waters towards and into Hudson's Bay.

The river runs from west to east fifteen hundred miles without an obstruction—it is navigable for boats carrying ten or twelve tons, it runs through a country diversified with prairie, rich grass, clumps of forest, and in one of the branches of the river are coal beds, out of which coal can be obtained by any one with a spade in his hand or without, and the plains are covered by the wild buffalo of America.

I am told that you may drive a waggon from one end to the other of this country of the Saskatchawan; and I am told, moreover, that it is superior in soil and equal in climate to any part of Canada; and that it produces wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, in short, all the crops of temperate climates, in abundance.

North of the boundary line, and still keeping within a climate equal to that of Montreal on the north, and to this place on the south, you have a breadth of perhaps six hundred miles by a length of eighteen hundred. North of this again you have a country and climate equal to that of the powerful States in the North of Europe.

Here is a country worth all Canada, told twenty times over. It was still more valuable until 1825, when, in one of those accursed Yankee negociations, two degrees of latitude—from the head of Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains—were given up to our moderate neighbours. The lost territory takes in the great bend of the Missouri, and the whole territory is nearly as accessible by the way of the Mississippi and its tributary waters from the ocean, as the place you sit in.

Now, the Russian empire contains nearly seventy millions of inhabitants, with Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and part of the Austrian empire; it occupies the position in Europe which Canada and the north western territory of England exhibits in America. Both seem made alike for the scenes of great deeds and of great events.

The American North is the territory of an empire, overcrowded at home with thirty millions of inhabitants, a portion of them starving for want of ground on which to raise their food. That nation is the wealthiest and fullest of resources of any in the world.

On the other hand we have the United States—a country thinly inhabited, busy spreading its conquests to the southward—a nation by no means rich in money, having little plan in policy, and scarcely any power of Executive Government; and this country, by the sole and undirected energy of individuals citizens, is rapidly advancing upon one splendid field of the best portion, which we have scarcely heard of, or only heard of, to neglect and despise.

Already Michigan is peopled, Missouri and Iowa are filling with inhabitants. Now they speak of adding new States, which are to reach the British boundary, and they have the audacity to speak of the Saskatchawan as a river which they must have, with its fertile plains and beauteous lakes and streams, three hundred miles within our boundary—because they say it is the way to their ill-gotten acquisition in Oregon.

What, then, will be the consequences to us, if no great movement is made to people the British territories in this quarter of the world? The United States have pressed on us in the North-east—they have got to the Northward of us in the West. We are advancing slowly—our Government is speaking with complacency of their emigrants being received into the United States, and our public lands are held back from settlement, and kept up for years.—Why, the consequence will be that, outflanked by a powerful population, left without the natural increase and nurture which a wholesome distribution of the people of the empire ought to cause, we must fall at no distant period into dependence on the American Republic. Then, indeed, British subjects will come and settle amongst us, and they will buy the land from strangers, which their forefathers bled to win and to maintain, and England will have the satisfaction of considering that she was very careful in keeping the peace, and very learned respecting the labour market of America."

From the N. O. Picayune, May 6.

ACTION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS.—Immediately on the receipt of the news of Santa Ana's defeat at Cerro Gordo, the Mexican Congress held an extraordinary session. The following account of its proceedings is translated from El Republicano of the 21st April. It comes in the shape of a preamble and eight articles, and we give it entire:

The sovereign constituent Mexican Congress, in use of the full power with which the inhabitants of the Republic have invested it for the sacred object of saving its nationality, and as a faithful interpreter of the firm determination with which its constituents are decided to carry on the war which the United States are now making on the nation, without desisting on account of any kind of reverses; and considering that under these circumstances the first public necessity is that of preserving a centre of union to direct the national defence with all the energy that circumstances demand, and to avoid even the danger of a revolutionary power arising which might dissolve the National Union, destroy its institutions, or consent to the dismemberment of its territory, has determined to decree as follows:

Art. 1. The Supreme Government of the Union is authorized to dictate all necessary measures for the purpose of carrying on the war, defending the nationality of the Republic, and saving the federal republican form of government under which the nation is constituted.

Art. 2. The preceding article does not authorize the Executive to make a peace with the United States, conclude a negotiation with foreign powers, nor dispose, in whole or in part, of the territory of the Republic.

Art. 3. Neither does it authorize him to make contracts of colonization, impose punishments, nor confer any civil or military employments other than those whose disappointments are expressly intrusted to him by the constitution.

Art. 4. Every agreement or treaty shall be null and void which may be made between the Government of the United States and any authority whatever, which, subverting the actual order of affairs, should set aside or take the place of the legally established supreme power of the Union.

Art. 5. Every individual is declared a traitor, let him be a private person or public functionary, who either in his private capacity or invested with any authority, incompetent or of revolutionary origin, may enter into treaties with the United States of America.

Art. 6. In the event that the actual Congress finds it impossible to continue its sessions, a permanent committee shall be immediately installed, to be composed of the oldest individuals then found present, of each deputation.

Art. 7. This committee, in the absence of Congress, shall perform the duties of a Government Council; shall appoint, in case of vacancy, the person who is to take charge temporarily of the Executive powers of the Republic; shall regulate the counting and taking of the votes in the election of a new President, shall give possession to the elected person, and shall call together the national representation.

Art. 8. The powers which the present decree confer on the Government shall cease as soon as the war is concluded.

Such is about the amount of the proceedings of the meeting of the Mexican Congress, held immediately after the news had reached the capital, of the disastrous defeat of Cerro Gordo. The editor of El Republicano, in speaking of this extraordinary session, in his paper of the 21st April, says that "to the honor of the legislative body it ought to be observed, that yesterday more than eighty members assembled, and that no other than sentiments of patriotism were heard expressed. May the common danger thus unite all the Mexicans, and cause to disappear even the names of our sad dissensions."

THE SOLDIERS OF VERA CRUZ.—The defenders of Vera Cruz, who were released on their parole, are viewed in a very unfavorable light by the Mexican Government. Morales, Landero and other of the officers who were in command at Vera Cruz, have been arrested for cowardice, and sent to Guanajuato, to be imprisoned and tried. Morales is especially charged with exhibiting feelings of friendship for the United States, and with having declared publicly, in Jalapa and elsewhere, that it was vain to resist Americans; that they were better guardians of the happiness of Mexico than her own rulers. He advised the ladies of Jalapa to remain in town, and assured them and the people generally, that they would suffer no harm or outrage from the Americans. We sincerely hope this assurance of our gallant enemy will be fully justified by the conduct of our troops. Thus far General Scott, we understand, has succeeded in maintaining excellent discipline and subordination in his large force. No robberies, no devastation or outrages of any sort have marked the course of his army. The houses on the roadside were left undisturbed, the cattle and provisions of the poor farmers, the little stock of merchandise in the stores—even the decanters in the grog-shops, on the return of the owners—who fled at the approach of the army—were found just as they were left, with the single exception that a few of the decanters were emptied.—*N. O. Delta.*

NO PROSPECT OF PEACE.—There is no reason to believe that the victory of Cerro Gordo will bring us any nearer to peace than we were before. The war is not unpopular with the mass of the Mexicans. They have suffered none of its horrors. Besides the controling spirits of the country keep up the war spirit, knowing that if the country is occupied by the United States, they will lose their offices and their influence. It is believed by Gen. Scott and the officers with him, that it will be necessary to occupy the whole country. This he thinks can be easily done. With 20,000 men he will march to the capital, take possession of the Government, establish a Provincial Government, and defray its expenses from the customs and mines. Without this force, Gen. Scott will not be able to move with safety to his communications beyond Jalapa. He will have to occupy the Orizaby road, to prevent the enemy operating against his rear from that position. Having arrived in the *Terra Templada*, he will no doubt wait for reinforcements before he pushes farther at least than Perote, the next point of attack.—*American paper.*

SIX HUNDRED CANNON—*Ten Thousand Prisoners.*—The army under General Scott has taken, since it landed near Vera Cruz, besides the reduction of that important city, and the "Mexican Gibraltar," about five hundred pieces of artillery, and prisoners nearly equal to its whole numerical force. Altogether, more than six hundred pieces of cannon have been captured from the Mexicans.

The Sultan of Turkey belongs to the "party of Progress." He is equally sensible, as Christians, of the claims of the suffering, and makes donations to Ireland. He wishes to give to his Empire the advantages modern science affords us, and, among other improvements of the age, is anxious to establish the Magnetic Telegraph in his dominions. Instruments for the purpose, with all the apparatus, have been sent out to him by Professor Silliman of Yale College. The next step the Sultan takes may be the abolition of polygamy and the bowstring, and the introduction of Christianity. For a Turk to turn Christian is a no more surprising event than for an absolute Monarch, like Frederick William of Prussia, to become Liberalized.—*New York Tribune.*

Saw-dust Bread.—Sir John F. W. Herschell, in his discourse on the study of natural philosophy, states, "saw-dust itself is susceptible of conversion into a substance bearing no remote analogy to bread; though certainly less palatable than that of flour, yet no way disagreeable, and both wholesome and digestible, as well as highly nutritive."

ABOLITON OF SLAVERY IN EGYPT.—The *Impartial*, of Smyrna, states that the Egyptian Government has recently promulgated a law for the abolition of slavery after the space of fifty days. At the slave mart there was in consequence a decline in prices of sixty per cent. No sales could be made, as after this interval of fifty days, every slave will be free to stay with or to leave his present owner at pleasure.

How to avoid the Plague.—"It is remarked of the *Persians* that though their country is surrounded every year with *plague*, they seldom or never suffer any thing by it themselves and it is likewise known that they are the most cleanly people of any in the world, and that many of them make it a great part of their religion to remove filthiness and nuisances of every kind from all places about their cities and dwellings."—*Mead on Pestilential Contagion.*

At a ball recently given at Washington, Mr. Polk being present, there was an alarm of fire in the lower part of the building. A newspaper reporter, who was standing near his Executiveship, thus literally sets down the history of the event—"A messenger came up to the President, and addressed him in these words—'*Mr. President, I have the honour to inform you that the house is on fire.*' The President replied, '*The devil it is!*' and pushed for the staircase."

The Observer.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1847.

PUBLIC FAST DAY.—The Fredericton Royal Gazette of Wednesday last contains a proclamation of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, appointing Wednesday the 16th day of June next to be observed as a day of public fasting and humiliation throughout this Province, on account of the famine in Ireland, &c. and for imploring Almighty God that a similar calamity may be averted this year. A form of prayer for the occasion, to be read in all Churches and Chapels in the Province, has been prepared by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton.

FROM MEXICO.—Reports have reached New Orleans from Vera Cruz that the inhabitants of the cities of Mexico and Puebla had proposed the surrender of those places to the American army without opposition, only asking of General Scott protection for life and property.—Other reports affirmed that the Mexicans were taking active measures to fortify those cities against the invaders.

Tuxpan, a Mexican port of some importance in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, had been captured by the American squadron under Commodore Perry, after an obstinate resistance.

EMIGRANTS.—The acting Emigrant Agent at this port, (I. Woodward, Esq.) has received lists of passengers by the following vessels sailed for St. John in April:—Sea Bird, 346 passengers, sailed from Newry, April 17th—Princess Royal, 129, from Limerick, 15th—Gov. Douglas, 261, from Baltimore, 22th—Ocean, 89, from do. 28th—Amazon, 262, from Liverpool, 23d—Ella, 86, from Cork, 20th—Inconstant, 114, from do. 20th—Perseverance, 123, from do. 30th—Eliza, 28, from Waterford, 20th—Hannah, 211, from Sligo, 30th—Total, 10 vessels, 1479 passengers.

The Emigrant Agent at Quebec has published the names of 34 vessels which have sailed with Emigrants from ports in the United Kingdom for Quebec,—the total number of passengers by these ships is stated to be 10,616—four of the vessels have each between 500 and 600 passengers on board.

The barque Barbara, in the very short passage of 12 days from Galway, with 296 passengers; schr. David, from same port, with 73 passengers; and barque Mountaineer, from Cork, with 279 passengers, arrived at Halifax last week.

Extracts from the London Correspondence of the Courier; dated 3d May:—"The numerous friends of Judge Parker in New-Brunswick will be gratified to learn that the Judge is in London, looking uncommonly well, and in very good health. His Honor and Mrs. Parker will go out by Steamer of 15th May."

"At the drawing of the Art Union last Tuesday evening, G. F. Campbell, Esq., the worthy Post Master at St. Andrews, obtained a prize of fifty pounds, and T. E. G. Tisdale, Esq., of St. John, a prize of ten pounds."

Among the passengers for England, from Boston, by the steam ship Caledonia, on the 16th inst. were the Right Hon. Earl Cathcart, late Governor General of these Provinces, family, and suite.

MILITARY CHANGES.—Capt. Molesworth, Royal Engineers, arrived last week from Halifax, to relieve Lieut-Colonel Whinyates, of that corps, in this Garrison, who proceeds to England.

Captain Ormsby's Company of the Royal Artillery is expected next week from Halifax, via Windsor, to relieve Captain Dick's Company at present stationed in this Province, which will proceed to Halifax by the Windsor route.—Lieut. Green with proceed with Capt. Dick's Company; but Lieut Philips will remain in Fredericton, having exchanged into Capt. Ormsby's Company.—Captain Ormsby and Lieut. Fitzhugh will be the two Artillery Officers at St. John.

We understand that the 33d Regiment will not be removed from this Province for the present.—Major Blake, of this Corps, being the senior Officer at St. John, on the departure of Lieut. Colonel Whinyates will become Commandant of the Garrison.—*Courier.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Yesterday afternoon, an interesting child of 6 years of age, daughter of Mr. Henry Bagley, Duke-street, was run over by a dray in Dock-street, driven by a man named Short, and almost immediately killed. We have before had occasion to comment on the carelessness of cartmen in driving through the public streets, but all to no purpose; the evil continues unabated, and until stringent measures are adopted, we fear will ever remain so. In other large cities, we seldom hear of accidents of this nature.—*New Bruns.*

"SONS OF TEMERANCE."—Societies under this title have recently been organized in different parts of the United States, and in Charlotte County in this Province. On Wednesday afternoon the Steamer *Nequasset*, which runs between Eastport and St. Andrews, St. Stephen, &c., arrived in our harbour with a deputation of the "Sons" to the number of about one hundred, accompanied by a number of ladies, forming quite a large pleasure party. The Sons were met on the Wharf by Mr. N. S. Demill, President of the Total Abstinence Society, and other of our leading Abstinence men, and by the Mechanics' Band, who headed them in their march to the Temperance Hall. In the evening, a number of the Members of the St. John Young Men's Total Abstinence Society were initiated into the order of the *Sons of Temperance*, and several of them, wearing the badges of the Institution, joined in the procession from the Temperance Hall, formed by our visitors on Thursday at noon, on their return to the Nequasset, which soon after steamed off for Eastport. The Mechanics' Band was again in attendance, and played several airs in good style.

On Thursday, A. Campbell, Esq., of St. Stephen, delivered a Lecture at the Mechanics' Institute, in which he detailed the origin and progress of the order of the Sons of Temperance, and went into arguments shewing its necessity, and also met the objections that had been urged against its establishment.—*Courier,*

[From the Royal Gazette.]

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—John Ward, Esquire, Hon. R. L. Hazen, John V. Thurgar, H. Porter, John Owneus, John M. Robinson, W. H. Scovil, Edward L. Jarvis, and Robert Jardine, Esquires, to be Commissioners of the Provincial Penitentiary.

George Hayward, Esq., to be a Justice of the Common Pleas, and Enoch Lunt, Charles Clowes, Thomas Hartt, jr., Wm. Scoullar, and Thomas H. Smith, Esquires, to be Justices of the Peace for the County of Sunbury.

James Brown, M.P.P., and John Jordan, M.P.P., to be Commissioners to report upon the practicability of improving and shortening the Road from Fredericton to St. John, by way of Hartt's Mills, through the Douglas Valley.

Hon. John Robertson, Beverley Robinson, Esq., and Dr. George P. Peters, to be Commissioners of Steamboats, under the Act of last session, for the Port of St. John; and James Boyd, Edward Wilson, and Peter Smith, Esquires, for the Port of St. Andrews.

Capt. Thomas Beer, R. N., Thomas Reed, and Thomas M. Smith, to be Commissioners to expend £200 granted last session for placing Buoys and Beacons at the entrance of the Harbour of St. John.

Dr. Wm. Wilson, and Dr. Robert Bayard, to be Commissioners to examine and report on the Lazaretto Establishment on Sheldrake Island, in the County of Northumberland, under the Address of the House of Assembly of last session relative thereto.

By His Excellency's Command.
JOHN S. SAUNDERS.

Secretary's Office, 17th May, 1847.

A diabolical attempt was made, at a late hour on Monday evening, to set fire to some Hemlock bark and lathwood, piled on the bank of the river, below the store of Mr. Gaynor: which had it succeeded, would probably have destroyed the greater part of the city, as it was very dry at the time, and the wind blowing from the south east. Providentially Dr. Toldervy discovered the kindling fire from his room, and he, with the assistance of Mr. Gaynor, and D. S. Kerr, Esq., who happened to be late in his office, succeeded in averting the danger.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

A meeting of the citizens of Quebec called by order of His Worship the Mayor, to establish a Board of Health, was lately held in that city, and the object was accomplished.

The Countess of Elgin has taken passage for Quebec in the Douglas, and her ladyship will be accompanied by Sir Benjamin and Lady D'Urban, and Capt. Kirkland, A. D. C., Lady and family.—*London paper.*

QUEBEC, May 14.—Notwithstanding the long prevalence of easterly wind, only eight square rigged vessels of about 200 which had sailed for the St. Lawrence or were shortly to sail on the 20th April, have yet arrived. Some of the vessels arrived report large quantities of ice in the Gulph. —*Gazette.*

SPURIOUS COIN.—A tolerably free circulation has lately been given to spurious money in Quebec. False Mexican dollars, and American half dollars have been chosen for this locality. The half dollars look remarkably well. We advise shopkeepers, and indeed all who may be lucky enough in these hard times to have silver money coming to them, to beware of being cheated by these forged pieces.—*Mercury.*

KINGSTON, May 11.—Yesterday morning nine Barges and two