

masted ship that ever entered this harbour. She lately made the fastest voyage from America to England yet performed by a *Screw*, having taken only an hour or two more than twelve days. While on the subject of steamers, we may mention that the new Cunard Steamship *Arabia*, has been sold to the West India R. M. Company, to make up for the loss of the *Amazon* and *Demerara*. She is perhaps the finest steamer ever launched into British waters, possessing the most powerful engines ever built. We regret very much her withdrawal from the station for which she was intended, as we had great hopes that the performances of the two new ships would throw into the shade the much boasted runs of our republican neighbours. We trust, for the honor of the British nation the Cunard Company do not contemplate standing still, for we have heard a whisper that they are in treaty for the sale of the *Persia* also. The support they have hitherto received, would entitle us to expect more spirit, and there can be no manner of doubt, that unless they continue to build the very best ships that British skill can construct, they will be eventually run off the waters of the Atlantic. They have an active and jealous rival in the field, but still we are fully convinced by no means a match, at least yet, for the shipyards of the Clyde. We shall be delighted to hear that the *Arabia* was only parted with to oblige a friendly company, subjected suddenly to great and unforeseen disasters.

Perhaps the most exciting political topic of the month, has been the report of the Committee on the Cumberland Election, which has been the means of sending Messrs. Howe and Fulton back to their constituents. Intense interest is manifested by all parties in the result of this re-election, and it is generally supposed that the stability of the existing Government will be affected by it one way or another. On Friday the 27th ult., the imposing ceremony of consecrating a new Roman Catholic Bishop, in room of the late Bishop Fraser, took place in Halifax, and being the first consecration in the Province, excited a good deal of interest in the community. The new bishop is Dr. Colin McKinnon of Arichat.

The Executive Government of New Brunswick, has accepted the proposition of the Canadian Railway delegation, and the question is now under discussion in the Assembly. It is stated that the Hon. Mr. Hincks goes to England with the first packet, to negotiate a loan and to close the arrangements with regard to the Halifax and Quebec Railway.

We observe that the American Government has granted, or is about to grant, an additional sum of \$200,000 per annum to the Collins line of Steamers, which will enable them to add both to their number and efficiency. The British Government, at the instance of the United States authorities, has disavowed the firing into the *Prometheus* Steamer at Greytown, and apologised for the act, and all parties, except perhaps the unlucky commander of "the *Express*," have expressed themselves satisfied. We were somewhat surprised to notice that an American expedition has been sent to Japan, with what object has not been very clearly stated, but it is presumed with the intention of enforcing commercial relations between the two countries. Every attempt of the kind hitherto made by other nations for the same object, has resulted in entire failure. The Kossuth mania has, to a great extent, subsided in the States. The Magyar, has contracted, it is said, for 40,000 muskets at two dollars each. He is still successful in collecting a good deal of money.

Mr. Crampton takes the place of Sir Henry Bulwer at Washington, and has been very warmly welcomed by the President. He is a man of high character