THE OBSERVER.

[Tues]DAY, AUGUST 20, 1839.

DREADFUL CONFLAGRATION!

[...]st one Hundred Buildings, and a vast amount of other Property in Ruins.

It is with feelings of sorrow and consternation, that we again sit down to record the visitation of our devoted city, with the ravages of that most terrible and uncontrollable of elements, FIRE. But little more than two years have elapsed since the inhabitants of St. John were afflicted (on the night of Saturday, January 14, 1837,) with a tremendous conflagration, which laid in ruins one third of the most flourishing mercantile part of the city, and caused enormous loss and misery, from the vast destruction of valuable property; and scarcely had the community begun, Phœnix-like, to rise in renewed vigour from the ashes of their former prosperity, than, in the inscrutable wisdom of His dispensations, an overruling Providence has again seen fit to visit us with a still more severe and extensive calamity. At this moment whole extensive tracts of streets and wharves, which a few hours since were loaded with immense quantities of valuable Merchandise, are nothing more than heaps of smouldering ruins; and where the busy hand of industry and the active bustle of commercial enterprise and traffic were constantly in vigorous exercise, are now nought but piles of smoking rubbish, and the blackened and dismal relics of former wealth and plenty.

On Saturday evening last, about 9 o'clock, (the same hour and day of the week as the great fire of 1837,) our citizens were alarmed by the dismal tones of the pealing fire-bell's sound, scarcely had they time to ask of each other "*Where is it?*" than an awful pyramid of flame shot far and fearfully up into the clear atmosphere, plainly enough declaring where the danger was, and filling with terror and dismay all who beheld it. It was immediately ascertained, that the fire had commenced in a building in Nelson Street, occupied by Messrs. Hugh Irvine & Co., shipbuilders, as a store and warehouse; and originated, as is reported, from the carelessness of a boy, who was drawing *ardent spirit* from a cask, and who suffered his candle to come in contact either with the spirit, or with a pile of *oakum*, which was very improperly placed *on the top of the cask*. In a very few minutes the whole building was in a mass of flame, and instantly communicated to the large and lofty store owned by W. E. N. Deveber, Esq. and occupied by Mr. Thos. E. Millidge, General Merchant; and from the extremely awkward situation of the premises, in a sharp angle of a very narrow and crowded street, the dense mass of surrounding buildings and lumber yards, filled with dry and combustible materials, and the extreme dryness of the weather, it soon became apparent, that no human power or exertion could possibly confine the ravages of the devouring element to the immediate scene of their commencement. Added to all other unfortunate impediments, it was low water at the time, and consequently no sufficient supply of water could for a long time be procured in the neighbourhood of the fire. It now became evident, that the whole of Nelson street, with its contiguous alleys and back courts, and the various wharfs comprised between it and the North Market Wharf were in the most imminent danger; and that even that important wharf itself, crowded as it was with enormous stocks of the most valuable merchandise, was in the greatest jeopardy; and the result unhappily proved, that these fears were indeed but too well founded. In an incredibly short time the whole space alluded to was enveloped in flames, the proprietors and residents having time to remove but a small portion of their property, ere the devouring element drove them from the scene of their labours. Both sides of Nelson street having rapidly ignited, the fire quickly spread on the one side backwards to the neighbouring wharves; and on the other, upwards into Dock street; the buildings between which and Nelson street being situated on a continued acclivity, afforded the readiest possible channel for the transmission of the flames. At this time, the spectacle, as viewed from the upper parts of the city, was sublime and terrific in the extreme; and the hearts of the gazers sank within them, as they contemplated the fearfully rapid progress of destruction, the comparative futility of the strenuous exertions which were everywhere making to arrest it, and the alarming probability of its extending over the whole city. But the finger of Omnipotence was outstretched; and where human wisdom and efforts failed, the overruling power of the Most High interposed in His own time and way. "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther," it is the prerogative of Him only to address to the raging elements and the destroying flames. The conflagration continued extending with unabated fury till nearly daylight on Sunday morning, sweeping away in its course every building in Nelson and Dock streets, on the Hon. Wm. Black's, Crookshank & Walker's, Lawton's, Waterbery's, Donaldson's and the North Market Wharves, the whole north side of the Market Square, including the houses of Thomas Merritt, Esq. in Prince William street, opposite the Commercial Bank, and all the buildings from the end of Dock street down the south side of Union street, to Adams slip. The arrest of the calamity was as singular and unexpected as its career had been rapid and fearful: when the destruction was at its very height, and its widely-spread extent had so divided the exertions of the people, as to render their efforts almost hopeless, a merciful Providence gave success to their labours, and enabled them to limit the scene of desolation. By the indefatigable exertions of the Royal Artillery, who managed the Ordnance Engine, the newly built houses of Messrs. John and James Lawton, in Union street, to the east of Dock street, were saved from destruction, after having been several times on fire, and the flames thus prevented from spreading in that direction; while the ground on the heights behind Dock street and the Market Square being principally yards and gardens, afforded an effectual check in that quarter. The houses also on the north side of Union street, opposite the end of Nelson street, were frequently on fire, but saved by immense exertion, and the conflagration thus prevented from overrunning York Point. At the other extremity of the scene of terror, a number of resolute individuals laboured desperately to pull down the corner buildings on the Market Square, owned by Thos. Merritt, Esq., so as to prevent the fire reaching from them across the street, to the Commercial Bank and the Messrs. Barlow's corner; but not succeeding in the attempt, they daringly persevered in tearing down the exterior boardings, even while the buildings were in flames over their heads and thus diminished the power of the flames in that direction; while at the same time, a number of intrepid fellows, at the *side windows* of Mr. J. K. M'Kee's house, *against which* Mr. Merritt's wooden buildings were erected, laboured at pushing down the burning beams and timbers, and extinguishing the fire on Mr. M'Kee's roof, as often as it ignited; and thus the work of destruction was fortunately arrested at that point. But during the whole time that these buildings in the Market Square were burning, the Messrs. Barlow's corner, as well as the Commercial Bank, and the houses occupied by Messrs. Melick, Summers, Millar, and David Merritt were all in the most imminent danger; as the flames threatened momentarily to cross the street, and the heat was so intense that it required the most indefatigable exertions to prevent those buildings from igniting; and it was only by covering the roofs and fronts of them all with carpets, and constantly drenching the whole with water, that they were saved from destruction. Had the flames, indeed, crossed there, nothing could have saved King street from destruction; in which case the extent of the devastation would have been incalculable. Some idea of the intensity of the heat may be given, by the fact, that altho' the united breadth of the water-slip and road ways between the houses of the North and South Market Wharves is 200 feet, yet the latter is severely scorched, and some of the houses repeatedly took fire; and it is owing to the active exertions of the Carleton Fire Company, who constantly kept their engine playing upon the South Wharf, that it was saved from destruction. Several schooners lying in the slip were dismasted, to prevent the spread of the flames, which had seized on their topmasts.

It would be both impossible and invidious to particularize individual exertions at a scene like this, where so many were indefatigable and intrepid; but it is due to our Garrison to say, that the services of the military, both Officers and men, were exceedingly valuable, both in guarding property and assisting at the engines; and the assistance derived from the copious supply of water from the Water Company's plug at Messrs Barlow's corner, was invaluable. Had such a beneficial aid been attainable in the neighbourhood where the fire commenced, an immense amount of property might have been saved from destruction.

It is impossible, at present, to calculate the amount of loss from this awful conflagration; a far greater number of inhabited houses has been destroyed, than [illegible] fire of 1837; and as they were [illegible] than the great one of that memorable year. The season of the year, and the present splendid weather, however, are greatly in favour of the sufferers; and it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in repairing the disasters our enterprising community has sustained. A public meeting was held this day, to devise measures for the relief of the suffering poor. It was Providential that the night of the fire was peculiarly calm; as, had there been any wind, with such extremely dry weather, but little hope could have been entertained of saving any considerable portion of the city.

It would be a hopeless and useless task to compile a correct catalogue of all the unfortunate sufferers on this disastrous occasion; but we have availed ourselves of the subjoined list of the *buildings* destroyed, published yesterday morning in a slip from the *Courier* office, and which we believe is generally as correct an account as can at present be obtained.—It is gratifying to state, that we have heard of no loss of human life during the awful catastrophe; nor of any accident beyond severe bruises.—So rapid was the career of destruction, that the removal of goods was often arrested by the sudden arrival of the flames; several gangs of rigging, blocks, &c. for large new ships, were at one time thrown into scows for safety, but before they could be removed, the falling and flaming ruins of buildings covered and entirely destroyed them. A considerable quantity of property belonging to James Kirk, Esq. was hastily thrown into a fire proof vault in his store, and altho' all the rest of the building was consumed, the vault remained uninjured, and its contents were yesterday removed in safety.—Mr. Parks, of Dock street, was less fortunate; in a vault under his premises, was a valuable stock of wine; which indeed safely remained till after the fire had terminated, but a chimney subsequently falling, broke in the vault and destroyed the whole of its contents. The Hon. John Robertson's safety vault was also broken in by the falling ruins; but its contents had fortunately been previously removed.

It is earnestly to be hoped, that the occurrence of two such awful conflagrations as that of 1837 and the present instance, in so short a space of time, will induce our official authorities to adopt more efficient means, to prevent their recurrence in future; by importing more powerful Fire Engines than the paltry things which now disgrace the city, organising and encouraging *Axe & Hook and Ladder Companies*, and procuring the establishment of *water plugs*, from the Company's Works at proper stations throughout the city.

NORTH MARKET WHARF.

Wooden Building belonging to Mrs. Hugh Johnston—lower part occupied by Messrs. John M'Crea, Joseph M'Pherson, and J. Garron, Grocers—upper part by Mr. Thomas Crozier, Merchant, and Messrs. H. & P. M'Culloch, as a clothing store, &c.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Mr. Richard Bonsall—lower part occupied by Messrs. Charles Crookshank and H. J. Thorn—upper part by Mr. Crookshank as a dwelling.

Wooden Building belonging to Mr. H. Blakslee—occupied by himself and Mr. Thomas S. Estey, Merchants, and Mr. Lockey, Grocer.

Wooden Building belonging to S. Scovil, Esq. of Gagetown, and occupied by Mr. Wm. H. Scovil, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Messrs. James Lockwood & Co., Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by R. M. Jarvis, Esq and occupied by Messrs. E. L. Jarvis & Co., Hardware Merchants.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Jas. Hendricks, Esq.—occupied by T. M'Avity & Co., Hardware Merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by John V. Thurgar, Esq., Auctioneer and Commission Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by the Messrs. Leavitt, and occupied by Messrs. D. & F. Leavitt, and W. Leavitt, Flour Merchants, &c. Thos. Leavitt, Esq., American Consul, and Mr. E. Anderson, Grocer.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Hugh Johnston, Esq. and occupied by Messrs. J. W. M. Irish, and D. J. M'Laughlin, Flour Merchants, &c. and Mr. Robert Ray, Sail-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, and occupied by them as a Warehouse, and by Mr. Alexander Robertson,* Flour Merchant.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Messrs. Crookshank & Walker, General Commission Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. Crookshank & Walker, occupied by Messrs. Crane & M'Grath, Merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Hon. John Robertson, General Commission Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. John Robertson, and occupied by Messrs. James Otty & Co., Merchants, and Mr. G. T. Ray, Sail-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, and occupied by Messrs. Barlows & Ketchum, Merchants.

The above were all three or four story buildings, and generally filled with merchandise of various descriptions.

NELSON-STREET—*West side.*

Wooden Building belonging to Hon. John Robertson, occupied by Messrs. Alexanders, Barry & Co. and Jas. E. Chipman, Merchants, and Mr. Robert Ray, Sail-maker.

An extensive range of Wooden Buildings on Donaldson's Wharf, belonging to Lauchlan Donaldson, Esq., and occupied by Messrs. W. M'Aulay, Grocer; Faulkner & Wheeler, Flour Merchants, &c.; Peacock & Clinton, Francis Gallagher, and J. Bowen, Coopers; R. Laskey,* Block-maker, and P. Doyle and T. Pryor, Blacksmiths.

A range of Fish Stores on Waterbery's Wharf owned and occupied by Mr. David Waterbery.

Wooden Building owned by W. & J. Lawton, occupied by Messrs. Wm. & James Lawton, Ship-builders, as a mercantile establishment.

Wooden Building owned by W. & J. Lawton, occupied by Mr. Chas. Hunter, Block-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Lawton, occupied by Messrs. B. & C. Lawton, Boat-builders.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Charles Kay, Cooper.

Wooden Building owned by Allen Otty, Esq., occupied by the Mechanics' Whale Fishing Company as a Cooperage.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Lawton, occupied by Messrs. Wm. & John Dunham, as a Cooperage, &c.

Wooden Building owned by Mrs. Wooffendale, occupied by Mr. C. M'Lauchlan as a Warehouse.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. C. & B. Lawton, and occupied by Hugh Irvine & Brothers, Ship-builders, as a Store, &c. and several families.—It was in this building that the Fire originated.

Wooden Building with extensive range on wharf belonging to Mr. W. E. N. Deveber, occupied by Mr. Thomas E. Millidge, Merchant, and Mr. Thomas Bell, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Messrs. James Lockwood & Co. as a Warehouse—formerly owned by Hon. William William Black.

Extensive range of Wooden Buildings owned and occupied by Messrs. Crookshank & Walker.

NELSON-STREET—*East side.*

Wooden Building, owned by Estate of James Hendricks, and occupied by T. M'Avity & Co., as a warehouse.

Extensive range of Wooden Buildings, owned and occupied by Messrs. Ratchford & Brothers, General Commission Merchants.

Range of Wooden Buildings in rear of the property of James Kirk, Esq. owned and occupied by Messrs. Ratchford & Brothers.

Wooden Building owned by James Kirk, Esq. occupied by himself and Mr. Jas. Robertson, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. D. J. M'Laughlin, occupied by Mr. Charles M'Lauchlan,* Flour Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. J. W. M. Irish, occupied by Messrs. Mackay, Brothers & Co. Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. Waterbery, occupied by Mr. A. Burgoyne.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. Waterbery, occupied by Mr. M. Murphy.

Wooden Building owned by Estate of J. C. Waterbery, occupied by Mrs. Lockhart, as a Boarding House, and Mr. Holman.

Brick Building owned and occupied by Mr. John M'Garrigle, as a Grocery and Boarding House.

Wooden Building owned by Walford Fisher, Esq. of Grand Manan, occupied by J. Gillaway, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Wm. Dunham, occupied by Mr. Wisdom, Carpenter, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Wm. Dunham, occupied by Mr. John M'Keen, and others.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. James Goodwin, Shoemaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. George Thomson, Blockmaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Andrew Reddick, Carman.

Wooden Building owned by Wm. Scovil, Esq. and occupied by Mr. John Ward, Cooper.

Wooden Building owned by Wm. Scovil, Esq. and occupied by Mr. [illegible] Daley, Grocer.

Wooden Buil[illegible] Mrs. M'Kee [illegible]

and Mr. Henry Paxton, China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. William A. Robertson, Merchant Tailor, occupied by him and Messrs. J. Burrill and John Gillis, Merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Thos. Parks, Wine and Spirit Dealer.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. C. C. Vaughan, and Mr. S. Cooper, China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. D. Waterbery, occupied by Mr. Hamilton as a Grocery and Liquor Store.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. R. Nowlan, and Mr. Beynon, Confectioner, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Thomas Calvert, occupied by Mr. William Westoloren, Tin Smith, and Mr. M'Loon, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Toole, occupied by Mr. John Tobin, and several others.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. D. Spillane, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Elijah Parker, Tobacconist.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. William Dunham, and Mr. J. Decker, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. John Rodgers, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. Lawlor, Confectioner.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. John Ryan, Grocer.

DOCK STREET—*East side.*

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Timothy Collins, occupied by Messrs. P. Kelly and J. Floyd, Grocers.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. T. Ray, occupied by Mr. Wm. Clawson, Leather Cutter, &c. and Mrs. Johnston as a Clothing Store, and Mr. John Marshall.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Geo. Whitteker, occupied by Mr. James Agnew, Watchmaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. R. Calvert, and Mr. N. P. Alexander, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. R. Calvert, occupied by Mr. John Kinnear, Watchmaker.

Brick Building owned by Mr. R. Calvert, occupied by Mr. Richard Calvert, jr. as a China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. George Harding, and Mr. David Paterson, shoemaker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, occupied by Mr. M. Nugent, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, occupied by Mr. Alexander Ewing, Auctioneer, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Estate of B. Bailey, occupied by Mrs. Monahan as a Liquor Store.

Wooden Building, owned by Benjamin Stanton, Esq. and occupied by Messrs. Kelly, Toole, J. T. Stanton, and others, principally as Clothing Stores.

MARKET-SQUARE AND PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

Wooden Building, owned by Mr. John Melick, occupied by Mr. W. O. Smith, Druggist, Mr. James Bowes, Merchant, and Mr. James Balloch.

Wooden Building, owned by Mr. John Melick, occupied by Mr. James Burns, Watchmaker, and Mr. William G. Lawton, Merchant.

Wooden Building, owned by Mrs. Slason, occupied by Mr. Wm. Reynolds, Bookbinder and Stationer, and Mrs. Slason and Mr. Cogley.

Wooden Building, owned by John M. Wilmot, Esq. occupied by Mr. Alexander Yeats, Hardware and Saddlery Merchant, and Mrs. Thomas, Boarding House.

Wooden Building, owned by Mrs. Taylor, occupied by Messrs. Holdsworth & Daniel, and Mr. A. Burgoyne, Merchants, and Mrs. M'Kee, Boarding House.

Wooden Building, owned by Thomas Merritt, Esq. occupied by Thomas Smith, Esq. and Mr. Charles Patton, Merchants.

Wooden Building, owned by Thomas Merritt, Esq. occupied by Mr. Wm. Strickland, Merchant, and Mr. Anthony R. Truro,* Circulating Library, and Bookstore.

UNION STREET.

Wooden Building, owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. John Hennessey, Grocer.

Wooden Building, owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by L. Sullivan, Tailor.

Wooden Building, owned and occupied by Mr. Grace, Carpenter, and others.

Wooden Building, owned by Samuel Bagshaw, Esq. occupied by Mr. Wilson.

Wooden Building, owned by Samuel Bagshaw, Esq. occupied by Mrs. Cary, Mrs. Harbison, and Mr. Riggs, Grocers.

Wooden Building, owned by Mr. Bagshaw, unoccupied.

Besides the persons above named, several other individuals who had Goods stored in the buildings are losers to a considerable amount. Among these are Messrs. Adam & Davidson, Wm. Hammond, S. Gould, Lewis Burns, &c.

The total amount of of property destroyed, including Buildings, Merchandize, and Household effects, it is thought, cannot fall far short of £200,000—but at present the sum can only be conjectured. Large amounts are insured in the Office of the New-Brunswick Fire Insurance Company, the Central Fire Insurance Company of Fredericton, and Ætna and Protection Companies of Hartford, Connecticut, and other offices in the United States and Great Britain.

The burnt district of 1837, being situated to the Southward of the Market Slip, the fire did not extend to that portion of the City.

Several persons have been apprehended and committed to prison, having stolen Goods in possession.

☞ Those individuals having this mark (*) attached to their names, were burnt out in the great Fire of January 14, 1837.

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the City of St John, held at the Court House pursuant to public notice, on Tuesday the 20th instant—for taking into consideration what measures would be most advisable to be adopted in consequence of the late calamitous fire; His Worship the Mayor having been called to the Chair, and John H Gray, Esquire, appointed Secretary to the Meeting—

On motion of E. D. W. Ratchford, Esq. seconded by James Whitney, Esq.:

It was Resolved unanimously, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to call the Legislature together with as little delay as possible, for the purpose of their taking into consideration the calamitous consequences resulting from the late awful conflagration in this City, and for adopting such measures for the prevention of the like calamity in future as in their wisdom may be deemed expedient.

And further Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare such Bills and Petitions as may be considered necessary to be brought before the Legislature.

And further Resolved, That the following Gentlemen do constitute such Committee:

His Worship the Mayor,

Mr. Donaldson,	Mr. Ratchford,
Mr. Charles Ward,	Mr. John Walker,
The Recorder,	Mr. Hanford,
Mr. Alderman Porter,	Mr. George Harding,
Mr. Humbert,	Mr. James Peters, Jr.
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Wm. Hammond,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Gray.

On motion of His Honor the Recorder, seconded by Mr. John Owens:—

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of taking up Subscriptions and Petitioning the Legislature for a grant of Money to be applied by the said Committee to the relief of the sufferers; and,

Further Resolved,—That the following Gentlemen do compose such Committee:—

Mr. John Ward,	Mr. Francis Kinnear,
Mr. John M. Robinson,	Mr. W. Jack.
Mr. John Owens.	

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by George D. Robinson, Esq.:—

Resolved unanimously,—That this Meeting entertains a deep sense of obligation to Major Brookes, the Officers and Men of Her Majesty's 69th Regiment and Royal Artillery, for the valuable and efficient services rendered by them at the late destructive fire,—not only in resisting the progress of the devouring element, but in rescuing and protecting the property of the sufferers.

And further Resolved, That the Chairman of this Meeting be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing Resolution to Major Brookes and Capt. Stowe, commanding the Royal Artillery in this garrison.

On motion of L. Donaldson, Esq. His Worship the Mayor having left the Chair, and His Honor the Recorder having taken the same, seconded by G. D. Robinson, Esq.:—Resolved that the thanks of this Meeting be given to His Worship the Mayor, for his able conduct while presiding over the same, and that the proceedings thereof be published.

JOHN H. GRAY, *Secretary.*

Tuesday, 20th August, 1839.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Her Majesty's Commissioners, Colonel Mudge and Mr. Featherstonhaugh, with a party of woodsmen we hear are about proceeding, if they have not already gone, from Fredericton to the Disputed Territory, and propose commencing their investigations without loss of time. We wish them every success in their most arduous undertaking. They will have to struggle until winter sets in with a wilderness of woods and swamps impenetrable to horses. But we trust that the dispute with our neighbours respecting their limits will be concluded in such a manner by the proceedings of these Commissioners as to lead to a prompt and final settlement of this exciting question upon principles [illegible] to the sacred [illegible]tion to be satisfied with any definitive arrangement effected under the auspices of these most serious considerations, and we would fain hope that our neighbours will also be influenced by such motives, and will look upon the labours of those gentlemen in a friendly light, and as being directed to the permanent establishment of good will between the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine.

Some persons have circulated paragraphs in some of the Journals stating that Mr. Featherstonhaugh is a salaried officer of the United States Government at this time, and that consequently he is an improper person to be entrusted by Her Majesty's Government with the important Commission he is charged with. We have taken pains to ascertain the truth of these reports, and we find them to be entirely unfounded. It would appear indeed almost superfluous to contradict them. For who in his senses would suppose that Her Majesty's Government would place so much confidence upon this occasion in any one who had the slightest official connexion with either the Federal or the State Governments. As to Mr. Featherstonhaugh, who we have not the advantage of personally knowing, we are acquainted by report with his eminence as a geologist, and it has been asserted in American publications, that no one possesses such extensive Geographical and Topographical knowledge of North America, acquired by personal observation, as himself. We believe that he was the person who led the way in attracting the attention of the American people to those mineral resources which Geology developes, and we understand it was because of the Federal Government becoming aware of the importance of that service, and of their confidence in him, he was some years ago appointed to the very responsible but purely scientific charge of Geologist to that Government. During his engagement with the United States, which entirely ceased some time ago, he visited their confines, and traversed various portions of their extensive territory, and since that period we know that his researches have extended to the borders of the St. Lawrence, a part of the very limits now in dispute. The only reproach that we have heard of, as having been directed against him by Americans, was, that he was too much of an Englishman for their countrymen. We are informed that the personal observation of those who have seen him in this Province leads them to concur in the truth of this opinion, and in placing full reliance upon his native loyalty and affection to England, and his attachment to British interests.

We sincerely hope that the inhabitants of this Province will be just to this gentleman, and to the Government which confides in him, and that they will wait for the result of his labour, before they pronounce an opinion upon his merits.

We augur most favourably from this proceeding of Her Majesty's Government as indicating the earnest interest which they take in this question, which is of such vital importance to the welfare and security of her North American dominions.

The Wesleyan Methodist Centenary Meeting, (was abruptly closed on Saturday evening by the breaking out of the calamitous Fire,) was held last evening in the Wesleyan Chapel, Germain street. The Meeting which was large and respectable, was addressed by the Rev. Robert Alder, of London, Hugh Bell, Esq. of Halifax, Rev. Mr Knight, Chairman of the Nova Scotia District, Rev. Mr. Temple, Chairman of the New Brunswick District, James Carson, Esq. of Dublin, Mr. J. Avard, of Westmorland County, Rev. S. Busby, and others. The amount of subscriptions at the close of the meeting, was 1452l., which it is probable will be still further increased.

The new and spacious Wesleyan Chapel in St. George's street was dedicated to the service of ALMIGHTY GOD on Sunday last. Appropriate Sermons were preached to large, respectable, and attentive Congregations, by the Rev. Mr. Richey, Principal of the Wesleyan Academy, Coburg, U. C. in the forenoon; by the Rev. Mr. Croscombe, of Windsor, N. S. in the afternoon; and by the Rev. Mr. Alder of London, in the evening. The collections amounted to £53.—The dedication solemnities were performed at the commencement of the morning service, by the Rev. Mr. Alder.

☞ We have been requested to intimate that the splendid Engraving of the QUEEN, issued from the office of the New York *Albion*, has been received, and is now deliverable at the office of M. H. Perley, Esq. to the subscribers of the Albion in this city and vicinity.

CIRCUIT COURT.—George Noble, convicted of manslaughter, has been sentenced by the Court to three months imprisonment and a fine of ten pounds; John Carroll, for a similar offence, to six months imprisonment.

On Wednesday last, His Honor the Judge was obliged to adjourn the Court till the following morning in consequence of the absence of the Petit Jurors; not one could be found to form a Jury upon. His Honor expressed his dissatisfaction that the Jurors should have absented themselves, that it had delayed the business before the Court, which, had the full impannelled Jury attended, would have been despatched more speedily, and that many evil results would follow to the country if Jurymen would not perform their duty. Only fifteen Civil cases have been decided; about 40 remain therefore to be tried. Judge Parker will preside during the remainder of the sitting.

Much complaint has been made against the irregular attendance at Court of the Petit Jurors, and of the consequent delay of several important cases; but it should be remembered, that the great loss of time it occasions to Merchants and others engaged in daily business, and for which they have no comparative remuneration, holds out but small inducement for persons to neglect their daily avocations, that they may be in attendance to act as Jurors for settling other peoples accounts.—This is a subject which should occupy the attention of our Legislators during the next session; the loss of time in a juryman should be a paramount consideration in the breast of a Legislator, for, how often does it happen that a Petit Jury is called upon to decide important cases wherein property to the amount of *several thousand pounds* is at stake, and which have kept them in close confinement from 20 to 30 hours for their decision; and for all their attention and sacrifice of time, they have been remunerated with the *exorbitant sum of one shilling per man!!*—*Chronicle.*

ORDINATION.—James Disbrow, B. A., of King's College, Fredericton, (son of N. Disbrow, Esq. of this City,) was ordained by the Bishop of London, in St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 26th of May last. We understand that Mr. D. is expected to return to this country shortly, having been appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese to minister in one of the vacant Parishes in Nova Scotia.—*Courier.*

CASE OF RESUSCITATION.—On Monday last, a Seaman belonging to the brig *Susan Maria Brookes*, while assisting a boat belonging to that vessel in carrying out a kedge anchor, was thrown overboard by a turn of the hawser catching his leg, and carried down with the anchor. Every exertion was made by the men in the boat to free him from the perilous situation, but without effect; and so firmly was the poor fellow held, that he could not be extricated until the anchor was again weighed,—a space of nearly twenty minutes, when animation was apparently completely destroyed. He was then taken to the dispensary of E. A. SMITH, Esq. Surgeon, who, with the assistance of S. G. HAMILTON, Esq. Surgeon, succeeded in restoring animation in a very short period, and on the following morning he was enabled to return to his duty.—*Ib.*

Tuesday the 17th September, is, we learn, the day appointed for opening the Court at Kingston, for the trial of the four persons charged with the murder of Bernard Coyle, at the house of Mr. T. Ferguson, in King's County.—*Ib.*

CORONERS' INQUESTS.—An Inquest was held in the Parish of Portland, on Friday the 9th instant, by the Coroner of this City and County, on view of the body of Jane Hampton. Verdict—Death from the excessive use of Ardent Spirits.

On the 9th instant, an Inquest was held at Greenwich, King's County, before Isaac Haviland, Esq. Coroner, on view of the body of *John Williams*, a [illegible], who came to his death by hanging himself with a [illegible] in a wood house belonging to Mr. Joshua M'[illegible]. Verdict of the Jury accordingly.—The de[ceased ha]d for a length of time been labouring under [illegible].

A very handsome brig of 240 tons, from the building yard of the Hon JAMES RATCHFORD, of Parrsboro', was towed into the harbour by the steamer Nova Scotia last week, for PETER DUFF, Esq. We learn that this vessel is built of the very best wood of Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick, thoroughly copper-fastened, and that the determination of the builder to place the character of his vessel on an equality with the most approved in either Province, is amply borne out by the present sample. It is highly gratifying to observe the spirit of emulation in this branch of Provincial industry, thus extending itself to the outports; and we trust that those of our citizens, engaged in the same business, will, by adopting every possible improvement, resolutely maintain the superiority they have hitherto so deservedly held.—*Chronicle.*

Launched on Tuesday from the Ship Yard of Messrs. J. & A. Appleby, in this city, a fine new copper-fastened Brig of 266 tons, called the *Sidney*, owned by Peter Duff, Esq of this city. In the model and workmanship of this vessel, the Messrs. Appleby have fully kept pace with the improvements lately introduced into our naval architecture.—*Gazette.*

Arrivals on Thursday morning per steamer Nova Scotia from Windsor.—Rev. Mr. Alder, one of the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, London; Rev. William Bennett, of Newport, one of the first Missionaries sent to this country by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and formerly General Superintendent of the Missions; Rev. Richard Knight, Chairman of the Nova Scotia District; Rev. William Croscombe, of Windsor; and the Rev. Matthew Richey, Principal of the Wesleyan Academy, Coburg, U. C.—*Ib.*

☞ *The Warrants for Bye Roads in King's County have been received at the Treasury.*

The Bill for the Union of the Canadas, introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, contemplates the annexation to New-Brunswick of the District and County of Gaspe and the Magdalen Islands.

The following Gentlemen of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had the honor of being presented to the Queen at the Levee of the 26th June last:

The Hons. Alexander Stewart and L. M. Wilkins, Members of the Legislative Council, and William Young, Esq. Member of Assembly of Nova Scotia, by the Marquis of Normanby.—Doctor T. M. Peters, and Mr. J. L. Wilmot, of New-Brunswick, by ditto.—Ensign Edward Warwick Harvey, on his appointment to the 36th Foot, by his uncle Viscount Lake.—Ensign Thomas Cochran Inglis, on his appointment to the 69th Regiment, by his father the Bishop of Nova Scotia.

In the Vice Admiralty Court of Halifax, Monday, 5th August, 1839.

The Court opened this morning at half past ten o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, and with other business, brought under its notice the cases of the four American vessels,—the *Java, Independence, Magnolia*, and *Hart*, seized at Yarmouth for breach of the laws relating to the Fisheries of this Province, came on for trial.

The Judge having heard the affidavits of Joseph E. W. Darby, the seizing officer, and the exhibits thereto annexed; also the Depositions of witnesses resident at Yarmouth, taken by Wm. H. Keating, Esq. under a Commission to him directed for that purpose, and on motion of Counsel on behalf of Her Majesty, and it appearing that no appearance had been entered, or claim put in on behalf of the owners of the said vessels or property seized, the Judge by Interlocutory Decree pronounced that the said Vessels with the cargoes, stores, tackle, apparel and furniture, were and are respectively subject and liable to forfeiture and condemnation, and therefore condemned the same respectively as forfeited to our Sovereign Lady the Queen.

CANADA.—There is a report entered on the Register kept at the exchange, that a new Civil Governor is expected out from England, and that Sir John Colborne intends to return home immediately, on his arrival. The Report of a Governor General being about to be appointed, has been frequently circulated, and may at last prove true. Sir John Colborne has been praying for leave to return home for more than three years past, and was once at New York on his way to England, when he was requested to return to take the military command, some time after the departure of Lord Aylmer. Whether he goes or stays, the excellence of his private character, his zeal for the public service, and the difficult times in which he has been placed in this country, entitle him to the respect and grateful acknowledgement of his fellow-subjects. There are some things which we disapprove in the conduct of public affairs, upon which we have been silent, being persuaded that public complaints could not procure a remedy under existing circumstances, but spread discontent, and thereby increase existing evils. Upon the whole, we probably have as little cause for complaint against the administration of the government, as exists in any other country, and certainly fewer than exists in countries where a resort has been had to popular violence.—*Neilson's Quebec Gazette.*

In Friday's paper we mentioned the arrest of Captain Appleby, who, as commander of the steamer Caroline, cut a conspicuous figure in the last disturbances on the Buffalo frontier. On this subject the Kingston Chronicle says,—"It will be remembered that the American Minister at the Court of St. James, in his note to Lord Palmerston demanding reparation for the destruction of the Caroline, asserted, along with other glaring falsehoods, that the statements made were supported by the oath of persons of undoubted veracity. Appleby is one of the principal witnesses. This Ruffian began his career as Capt. of the Caroline, by piratically invading this province; he next perjured himself by the account he gave of the destruction of that steamer,—and is now in Buffalo jail for violating the person of a young lady under fifteen, confided to his care and protection by her parents. Yet this monster, stained with crimes of the most diabolical and revolting nature, is, we dare say, equally respectable with any of Mr. Stevenson's "undoubted witnesses."—*Quebec Transcript.*

A rumour has been current in town, that the State prisoners are all to be liberated, on condition of their leaving the Province for ever. We are afraid this is the case; we have seen so much of this sort of conduct, within the last eighteen months, that we shall not be surprised at any thing. When the rebels and murderers are *en route* for the "far East," we shall believe it,—not till then. If these men are again permitted to hang about the frontier, John Bull will have to pay another half million before next spring.—*Montreal Courier.*

Naval Promotions on this Station.—We are delighted to hear that Lieut. Fowell, R. N., has been promoted to the rank of Commander, and that Mr. D. Elliot, of the same service, has been made a Lieutenant. The efficient and gallant service of these two gentlemen in the little steamer Experiment, at the defence of Prescott, richly deserved this mark of their country's approbation.—*Kingston Chronicle, August 7.*

The Hon. Henry Clay had dined with His Excellency Sir John Colborne at Montreal.

Harvest in Canada.—The accounts of the coming harvest, which we continue to receive from various parts of the province, are very favourable. Throughout the Home and Gore districts the wheat has been much injured with rust; we are apprised by private letters, that in the London and Talbot districts, the crop has shared the same fate. It is thought that the calamity has been general throughout the province. Indeed, so general has it been in the Home and Gore districts, that scarcely a field has escaped. In some places, too, on light lands, the wheat has been blasted, and between rust, blast, and the other string of calamities common to the farmer, that may be expected to follow the recent heavy rains, it is not expected that the crop this season will amount to an ordinary average.—*Toronto Colonist.*

The Harvest.—We are pleased to hear from almost every quarter of the country, of the goodly prospects of our farmers. Providence seems to be smiling on their labors, and rewarding the honest sweat of their brow with an abundant harvest.

The wheat fields, it is said, were never more prolific. A much greater quantity of grain will be realized this season, than has been at any previous one. With the exception of an occasional spot of rust, it is all bright and good, and a more favourable time for harvesting never occurred.—*Hillsborough, (Ille.) Beacon.*

A Lovely Prospect.—A correspondent of the New York Express, writing from Michigan, speaks of the Prairie Round, where, with an area of 21,000 acres, at least 12,000 is in wheat. Again on Sturgis Prairie, with an area of 20,000, at least 13,000 is in wheat. "On the elevation of Prairie Round, you can behold the vast plain of twelve thousand acres, all waving in golden color, ripe for the cradle. The eye that has never beheld a sight like this, has no conception of its grandeur and beauty. At this moment every man and boy, and even women, are actively engaged in cradling, raking, binding, and stacking the golden harvest. I have seen hundreds of women near their log cabins, assisting in the active duties of the field.—But, after all, a large portion will be left out and be destroyed. There is not *help* enough in the country to secure the crop."—What a glowing prospect is this!

Throughout all our cities on the Atlantic coast the blessing of general health is, so far this season, abundantly enjoyed, with the exception of a few cases of yellow fever at Charleston. There is no where else any alarming sickness of any sort.—*American paper.*

We see notices in the Philadelphia papers that subscription papers are open for the relief of the family of Wm. L. M'Kenzie, the Canada "Patriot" at the offices of the Herald, *National* Gazette, the Pennsylvanian, and the Inquirer. For the *family* of this felon and vagabond we feel all the compassion that the case calls for, but we question very much the propriety of all this formality of flourish in giving countenance to a fellow who has been instrumental and will probably be instrumental again—in causing more murders and robberies and expenses to the country than could be atoned for by fifty gibbets. He is unquestionably rather the most contemptible specimen of the genus humbug that has ever been [illegible]. Most mountebanks have some shadow of redemption in their villany, but there is not even an apology for one in the case of M'Kenzie.—*N. Y. Gazette.*

The Queen continues her equestrian exercise almost daily, in which she is always attended by Miss Quentin, the daughter of Sir George Quentin. This young lady, though holding no specific appointment in the Royal household, might very properly be styled equestrian lady in waiting, as it is her duty to prepare and train the horses destined for her Majesty's own use, assist her Majesty in mounting and dismounting—in short, to perform all the *petits soins* usually performed by attendant cavaliers on maidens of lesser degree. Miss Quentin is a first rate horse-woman, and has trained the horses for the special use of the Queen. She rides from Kew every morning to attend her Majesty.—*Cheltenham Looker-on.*

Mr. Joseph Hume, in bringing forward on Monday evening his motion for an inquiry into the management of the Bank of England, made a speech for him so unusually good and full of well arranged matter, that some surprise is expressed in many quarters how it was concocted. We are not curious about this point, but are content to take the speech as it stands upon its simple merits, as one of the best summaries which has been given of the administration of the Bank, and of its injurious action upon the trading interest of the country, for the last twenty years. The subject is one of such vital importance, so closely connected not only with our prosperity, but with our character among foreign nations, for honor and stability, that every one who agitates it upon fair and intelligible grounds is entitled to respect and attention.

No approach was made in the course of the debate, to an answer to the statements put forward. By the other members who addressed the house, there was either an evasion of the question; an attempt to charge the evil upon the system, instead of upon those who have the management of it; or a protest against entering upon the consideration of it at this late period of the session. Ultimately the motion was lost by a majority of 64, in a house of 122 members—a very full attendance for this question; the votes being 29 for, and 93 against it.

We are not at all disposed, on this occasion to press with unnecessary severity on the Bank directors, but they appear to be placed in this dilemma—that, on the one hand, they have proved themselves incompetent to the trust reposed in them, or on the other, that they have had to act under influences so contradictory, that it was impossible for them to do right. The wide-spreading mischief which has assailed our commercial system and our credit, at intervals gradually shortening during the last 20 years, can receive in no other manner, a comprehensible explanation.—*London Times, July 10.*

From the Bermuda Royal Gazette.

Examination of the bottom of the American Brig Exchange, by the use of "Bethell's Diving Apparatus."—An examination of the bottom, &c. of the American brig Exchange, Captain Brayton, which vessel we reported in our last Gazette, as having got on the rocks to the northward of these islands, on the night of the 5th ult. took place in the harbour of Hamilton, on Tuesday last. The machine used was "Bethell's Diving Apparatus," and the singularity of the invention attracted crowds of persons to witness its operation.

The person who went down on this occasion was a shipwright of the name of Prattant—Mr. B. Oakshott, foreman of the shipwrights of her Majesty's Dock Yard, Ireland Island, superintending. The attention of such of the spectators as were placed sufficiently near the vessel was first directed to the clothing of the diver, who, when perfectly equipped for his sub-marine exploration, presented a most grotesque figure. He was encased in a double or treble suit of woollens, from his shoulders down to, and including, his feet, to preserve warmth; then came a pair of trowsers that covered his feet, and a jacket, the sleeves of which came tight to his wrists, made of Indian rubber; the trowsers and jacket being secured firmly round the waist by a [illegible] iron girdle; on his feet were a pair of boots each weighing eight pounds; on his back and breast he had two weights of about thirty pounds each, secured by straps; and over his head was a large helmet, made of metal, and resembling somewhat a human bust, that rested on his shoulders, back, and chest and which afforded room within for a sufficient quantity of air. In the helmet there were glasses through which the diver could plainly discern anything at the bottom of the sea; a tube, thro' which a constant supply of fresh air was received from above, and by which the used air escaped. There was a large boat in attendance, in which was the force pump, and a derrick, (the latter of which being used to lift the diver from the bottom of sea, for his own weight, and that put on him to keep him down, brought him to weigh about two hundred pounds.) while Mr. Oakshott and assistants kept as nearly over the diver as possible, ready in case of accident to bring him up, which [is] done by a line attached to the girdle and through the derrick; by this line also signs are [made] by the diver, "when all is right," when more [is] required, and when he wishes to be brought up.

Prattant was lowered down under the starboard side, in about [illegible] water, where he commenced his examination, being about twenty minutes under water, he [came] up from the larboard side under the ste[rn] [illegible] completed his survey; the boat in attendance tracked him round the vessel. Prattant [illegible] the superintendent, Mr. Oakshott [illegible] Surveyors and Agents of the vessel, [illegible] follows:—the bottom of the main keel perfect; bottom of the false keel slightly ragged [illegible] and one piece of sheathing of about eight feet off [illegible] larboard side of the false keel.

Prattant, it is said, can remain under water, should occasion require it, for upwards of an hour, and letting go the weights attached to his [illegible] back, and by putting his finger upon the valve of the escape pipe, he will immediately rise to the surface; this mode of raising himself, however, is only [resort]ed in extreme cases, the boat [illegible] being to [illegible]