

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

Serious Failure in London.—A very large failure has occurred in the west-end bill discounting circles. The party is Mr. Gibbs, late a partner in the celebrated firm of Hayward and Gibbs, whose bankruptcy many years since occasioned much conversation in the money-dealing world, their reckless conduct in disposing of the hard earnings of frugal persons who intrusted cash to their care, bringing down upon them the condemnation of all parties. It is said he has carried on the same sort of business as formerly, securing large advances from moneyed people, holding out the best of ample interest to induce them to make him the depository of their capital. His debts and liabilities will be £180,000, and they are expected to involve several nice points of law. The assets are stated at £70,000, but will take some time to realise. A west-end lawyer is a creditor to the tune of £23,000, with security for about £11,000 of the amount, and some wealthy sheriff's officers, as discounting agents, will, it is said, be most severely floored by this stoppage. A fiat in bankruptcy was issued against Mr. Gibbs on Thursday.

Accident—Loss of Life.—We have to record a melancholy loss of life which occurred last evening about half past 9 o'clock. The particulars as far as we can learn are that Capt. Barnes, of the ship *Prudence*, was about proceeding on board his vessel, which lies at the end of Merritt's Wharf; he was accompanied by Mr. James Hinds, boot and shoemaker, of this city, who expressed a wish to see Capt. B. safe on board before he returned home; the night was very dark and stormy, and when going from one wharf to the adjacent one, where it is connected at the end with Mr. Disbrow's, they unfortunately fell together into an uncovered space between the two wharves, and were drowned. Capt. B. was a native of Portaferry, Ireland, where he has left a wife and four children. Mr. Hinds was also a native of Ireland, and has been in business here for many years; he has likewise left a wife and several children to mourn their unexpected bereavement. Capt. B.'s body was found shortly after the accident, much bruised by the fall; that of Mr. Hinds has not yet been found.

The first appearance of the *Comet* to European astronomers is now announced. We give the letter of Sir John Herschell, entire.

THE GREAT COMET.

To the Editor of the *London Times*.—Sir—I wish to direct the attention of your astronomical readers to the fact, which I think hardly admits of a doubt, of a comet of enormous magnitude, being in the course of its progress through our system, and at present not far from its perihelion. Its tail, for such I cannot doubt it to be, was conspicuously visible, both last night and night before, as a vivid luminous streak, commencing close beneath the stars kappa and lambda, Leporis, and thence stretching obliquely Westward, between gamma and delta, Eridani, till lost in the vapors of the horizon. The direction of it, prolonged on a celestial globe, passes precisely through the place of the Sun in the ecliptic at the present time, a circumstance which appears conclusive as to its cometic nature.

As the portion of the tail actually visible on Friday evening was full 30 degrees in length, and the head must have been beneath the horizon, which would add at least 25 degrees to the length, it is evident that, if really a comet, it is one of the first rate magnitude; and if it be not one, it is some phenomenon beyond the earth's atmosphere, of a nature even yet more remarkable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. W. HERSHELL.

Collingwood, March 19.
S. P. M., March 19.—The tail of the comet, for such it must now assuredly be, is again visible, though much obscured by haze, and holding very nearly the same position.

PROSPECTS OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The period at which five hundred ministers will be constrained, for conscious sake, to abandon an Establishment within which they can no longer find freedom even in the exercise of the most strictly spiritual acts of the Christian ministry, cannot in all probability, be more distant than the month of May, when the regular annual meeting of the General Assembly will take place. The necessity is therefore equally obvious and urgent, that immediate steps should be taken for the sustentation of a free Presbyterian Church in Scotland. This is requisite not merely for the sake of the ejected ministers and their families—although it must be a hard heart that will not feel for those men of God and their wives and little ones, as, in obedience to the inexorable demand of duty, they leave their comfortable homes to go—they know not whither—but also and yet more strongly it is requisite for the sake of Scotland at large, that the moral and religious wants of the people amongst whom those ministers now labour should not be felt without supply.

It is with mingled regret and satisfaction that we find ourselves almost, if not altogether, alone—so far as the metropolitan press is concerned—in the advocacy of the great principles for which the Church of Scotland is so nobly contending. We deeply regret that our journals are not found, as we believe the ought, engaged in this cause; but we feel an humble pride and satisfaction in bearing our own testimony to the truth, and upholding, so far as we can, what we believe to be a righteous cause. We are thankful that we are equally free from that bitter spirit of hostility to Established Churches that leads some rather to exalt in the troubles of

the Scottish ministers, than to sympathise with them in their sufferings,—and from those Church attachments or ties of political partisanship that seem to make others afraid to speak out on such a subject as this. The more we know of the case, the more convinced are we that the Church of Scotland, in contending for a freedom in the performance of spiritual functions which is absolutely and vitally essential to religious liberty, and the more satisfied are we that we have taken that ground on this question which is most in accordance with the dictates of Christian principle. And, indeed, distressing as the present prospects of the Scottish Church are, we cherish the hope that these calamities will be overruled, for good, & that amongst the means by which this shall be accomplished, one will be the more combined force against the heresies of the day which the Presbyterians and Wesleyans—united more than before, because now better known to each other—will present in defence of our common Protestantism.

UNITED STATES.

Present to the Turkish Sultan.—A most superb and elaborately specimen of English manufacture, intended as a present from Ali Effendi, the Turkish ambassador, to the Sultan, was a short time since inspected by Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, at Buckingham Palace. This costly present, which was manufactured by Mr. Taunton, of Norfolk-street, Islington, at a cost of 500 guineas, is an umbrella of little more than the ordinary size, covered with rich brocaded crimson satin, manufactured in Spitalfields expressly for the purpose. The whole of the metal of which it is composed is of pure gold. The handle, which opens with a secret spring, contains a gold chronometer, the dial of which is about an inch and a half in diameter. The part containing the chronometer unscrews, and beneath is a sundial and compass (the plate of gold), set with a brilliant of the first water; and upon this portion of the handle being unscrewed the following articles are arranged in six compartments: A thermometer, a pencil-case & watch-key, a knife with two blades, the star and crescent engraved on each side of the handle, a comb, a tooth-pick, and an ornamented circular case containing (in three divisions) twenty-five leads for the gold pencil-holder. In the next compartment of the handle is a mirror, set in a bordering of chased gold. The tube, which is of gold, highly engraved, with a design of scroll work and flowers (when divested of the handle and ferrule, the latter of which contains a powerful microscope, richly ornamented and carved in gold,) is so ingeniously contrived as to form a telescope, with a twenty miles range, have a sliding tube to adapt it to various sights and distances. The whole is inclosed in a red morocco case, lined with green velvet and white satin, with the star and crescent emblazoned at the four corners and in the centre. The two massive handles, and the locks, keys, and hinges, are of solid gold.

Daring Robbery.—One of the most daring robberies ever recorded, occurred in the city of Columbia, Georgia, on the 14th inst. A handbill offering \$5000 reward for the recovery of the money, gives the following particulars:—

"On the evening of that day, just as the officers of the Western Insurance and Trust Company of that city were about closing the vaults and bank for the night, three or more persons entered the banking house in disguise, secured the officers in such a manner as to render them unable to give an alarm, & then proceeded to rob the vaults. They, they did, and then escaped. As near can be ascertained the following amounts were taken:—\$3000 in American and Georgia gold; \$12,500 in notes of Augusta Insurance and Banking Company, Brunswick Bank, Mechanics' Bank of Augusta, and Bank of Charleston; \$4,000 in Central Bank notes; \$1,175 in Columbus Bank notes and other claims on said bank; a package of memoranda of monies in the hands of agents of the bank, amounting to \$2,400; various packages of special deposits, composed of \$18,000 in notes of the Bank of Charleston, \$14,000 of \$15,000 in various other bank notes."

FRESHETS.

There has been an extraordinary rise in the Connecticut river, owing to heavy rains and the melting of the snow. The flood is said by some to exceed that of 1801. In some of the towns of the river, the streets in its immediate vicinity were flooded, and the first stories of the stores and dwelling houses inundated.

A Buffalo-paper says, a wide breach has been made in the Erie Canal,—two bridges and a house carried away, and the farms inundated.

Emigration.—The immense emigration, says the New York Express, foretold some weeks since, has commenced. The Packets have already brought out many mechanics. In June and July we expect them by thousands weekly. A large body of tailors, painters, and clerks, have had meetings in London, and appointed committees to make arrangements for their embarkation to the United States and Canada.

Great Freshet in the Potomac.—The rains of last week melting the masses of snow on the Alleghany Mountains, caused a sudden and heavy freshet in the Potomac river. The water rose higher than at any time since the great freshet of 1836. At Harper's ferry fears were felt for the safety of the bridge by which the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad passes to the Virginia side, but fortunately the water did not reach the bridge and it escaped damage.

Flood at Albany.—The heavy rains at the close of the last week and the commencement of the present, and the sudden dissolution of the vast quantity of snow north and west of Albany, has produced an unexampled flood at Albany and in the valley of the Mohawk. On Sunday last the water was three feet deep in front of the Eagle Tavern, Albany, and passengers for the steamboats had to reach it in skiffs and scows. The Hudson was still rising when the boat left on Monday evening, and had reached a formidable height. The water had nearly risen to the second story of the buildings in the lower part of the city and there was no egress but by boat.

The Mohawk has broken up in a tremendous freshet. Utica is partly under water, notwithstanding its elevation. The snow in that vicinity was deeper than anywhere else in the Union. We understand that the railroad communications west of Schenectady is interrupted by the freshet.

From American papers.

The Boston lawyer who was sent to State Prison some time since, is principal dishwasher in the kitchen, and gives entire satisfaction in that capacity. He tried at first to learn the cabinet making business, but did not succeed.

They have in New Orleans the shell of a sea turtle which weighed three thousand pounds. It was found dead in the harbor of Point-a-Petre, two or three days after the late terrible earthquake. The Crescent City says that if mounted on runners as a sleigh it would carry at least six persons.

Numbers of persons impressed, with the notion that the world would come to an end about 12 o'clock on Friday morning, [the anniversary of the crucifixion, according to the traditions of the church] were watching the whole Thursday night, and anxiously speculating upon each passing event. Every moving cloud and stirring breeze was to them an indication of the certain consummation of all earthly affairs.

An Old Bachelor, in Boston, was fined \$25 and costs, last week, for saluting the nose of a young lady against her will. The lips were said to be the most tempting pair ever displayed, and the bachelor pleaded guilty to the charge. The Aurora called his sentence a hard one, especially as the culprit had so completely a justification for his deed from the lady's own lips.

The income-tax in Great Britain produces about thirty-five millions of dollars annually, a greater sum than the whole revenue of the United States government in years of prosperous trade.

The Asylum Journal, published at Brattleboro', Vt., states that fifteen Miller lunatics are there confined.

No less than thirteen churches are being constructed in Baltimore.

S. T. Arthur is now associate Editor of the Philadelphia Saturday Courier. Mr. Arthur is a zealous and able advocate of the Temperance cause.

The Emigration, this spring, from the U. States to the Oregon Territory, is said to be very great.

A disgraceful Outrage occurred in the Legislature at Harrisburg, Pa., in which a member drew from his bosom a dirk knife and plunged it into the back of his antagonist.

Lodging on the shoulder blade, the wound appeared slight, but the blade of the dirk bent nearly double.

The Editor of the Boston Bulletin was brutally assaulted in his office, a day or two ago by a man named Winchester.

Three hundred persons were naturalized in New York on Friday and Saturday, the 14th and 15th inst.

HARD TIMES.—At a recent wedding in Boston, the bride wore jewels worth \$10,000, and a lace veil worth \$1,200.

The wheat crop in Delaware Co., U. S. is up, and looking well.

Great Britain annually buys \$60,000,000 worth of produce from the U. States—two thirds of which is cotton.

It is stated in the Boston papers that Carpenters will be in demand in that city during the summer.

The streams in Virginia and Maryland in many places have overflowed, and carried away bridges and destroyed other property.

Israel D. Andrews, Esq. of Eastport, has been appointed by the President, United States Consul at St. John, N. B.

The fare between Boston and Albany has been reduced to \$4.

CANADA.

We are happy to learn that the Champlain and St. Lawrence Rail-Road is in operation.

The Cars run daily between St. Johns and Laprairie with the mail and passengers. The last accounts from Burlington and Champlain state the ice to be quite firm in the Lake yet, with little prospect of a steamer at St. Johns before the 1st of May.

Montreal Cour.—We learn from the Quebec Mercury that the family of a man named Severin Girard, residing in St. Lewis Suburbs, narrowly escaped being poisoned by drinking tea mixed with deleterious compound.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that some of the Montreal papers not long since, commented in terms of just reprobation on the conduct of our precious Cabinet at Kingston, in removing from the controul of the Court of Queen's Bench in Lower Canada, to the capital, the papers of the late Attorney General, Mr. Ogden. Many of these documents it was said, were of such a nature as very seriously to compromise the characters of Messrs. LaFontaine, Morin and others, and there was great danger, if they fell into the hands of these gentlemen who now so laudably assist their confederates in "governing wrong," that they would speedily "be killed or missing." If, what we have heard within the last few days be true, the worst suspicions of our contemporaries are confirmed: It is said that Sir Charles Metcalfe, shortly after his arrival sent for Mr. Ogden's papers—the survivors of the auto da fe only were sent, and his Excellency, who by some means or other, had been apprised of the nature of the facts contained in the original collection, was exceedingly annoyed, and remonstrated on the suppression or destruction of some of the documents. We give the attention of the Kingston Chronicle to the subject. If false, (Sir Charles Metcalfe has not sent for the papers in question)—if none of them have been destroyed or misplaced, our contemporary will not feel assured, be slow in saying so. For his own satisfaction, His Excellency himself cannot too speedily (if he has not already) make himself master of the disclosures in Mr. Ogden's papers.—*Coburg Star.*

The Seat of Government.—The vexed question of the Seat of Government is again set at rest, for a time at least. The rumours so industriously circulated by the French Party, having severely injured business in Kingston, a Deputation, consisting of Messrs. Cartwright, H. Smith, Jr. and Kirpatrick, waited upon His Excellency, Sir Charles Metcalfe, and put the plain question to him,—"Did the Executive intend to remove the Seat of Government?" to which plain question His Excellency very plainly answered, "that the Seat of Government was a matter which the Provincial Executive had nothing to do with, resting entirely in the hands of the Home Government, and depending upon the ultimate success of the Union; and moreover, that when an intention to remove the Seat became necessary, the people of Kingston would have due notice." These are the ideas, if not the very words of His Excellency, and very consistently confirm what was said by the Colonial Secretary, Lord Stanley, to his Worship the Mayor, when in London. It may therefore now be considered certain that the two next Sessions of Parliament will be held at Kingston.—*British Whig.*

NOVA-SCOTIA.

The Halifax Times of the 25th ultimo says:—

The Cape Breton Spirit of the Times, of March 21, which only came to hand on Thursday morning last, contains a Prospectus respecting the establishment of a Fishing Company at Louisbourg. The facilities which Louisbourg affords, in its safe and commodious harbour, and the abundance of fish upon its coast, would well adapt it, for an establishment of the above description—and there can be little doubt that an enterprise which repays individuals of small means, would prove more valuable to those engaged, were a large outlay embarked in it, and if it were properly and judiciously managed. The prospectus intimates that a meeting would be called to consider the subject, but we do not find by later dates that it has taken place.

Gas.—Now that the snow has all disappeared, and the frost is out of the ground, the Gas Company are able to form some judgment of the effect upon their pipes of a Nova Scotia winter. Some escapes of the fluid have been perceptible in various places, which are now undergoing inspection, and the defect, which is every where more or less incident to first laying the pipes, will be remedied. The frost has not had any effect upon them, and the examination now in progress, will, we understand, render a similar labour unnecessary for many years to come.

PROVINCIAL.

The last Royal Gazette publishes the following Despatches:—

BY COMMAND.

(Circular.)
Downing Street, 9th March, 1843.
Sir,—In compliance with a recommendation to that effect, addressed to this Department by desire of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, I have to request that you will apprise all Officers in the Colony under your Government, authorised to draw for Salaries quarterly, that the amount to be drawn for any portion of a quarter, should be computed with reference to the number of days in that quarter, and not to the number of days in the whole year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Lt. Governor Sir Wm. M. G. Colebrooke.

(Circular.)
Copy. Downing Street, 22d March, 1843.
Sir,—In consequence of the great inconvenience which has attended the detention at Boston or Halifax, of the Royal Steam Packets, to await the arrival of Mails from the interior, Her Majesty's Government have instructed the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the non arrival of the Mails from Washington or from the North American Provinces, is not an emergency that would justify any delay in the departure of those Vessels.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Lt. Governor Sir Wm. Colebrooke.

(Circular.)
Copy. Downing Street, 7th March, 1843.
Sir,—I have the honor to transmit to you the copy of an Order passed by Her Majesty in Council on the 24th ultimo, regulating the Trade of Her Majesty's Subjects with China and India, and I have to request that you will cause the utmost publicity to be given to the Regulations contained in this Order in Council, in the Colony under your Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Lt. Governor of New Brunswick.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Legislature of this Island was prorogued by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Henry V. Huntley, on Saturday the 15th inst. with a speech, in which, after thanking the members of both branches for their careful revision of many Laws of great importance, and the enchantment of others which circumstances recommended, and expressing his expectations of an increasing Revenue under the alterations made in the tariff, his Excellency says:—

"I regret to observe that a riotous disposition has discovered itself in the Eastern part of King's County. Active measures have been adopted, quiet has been restored, and many of the rioters are under recognizance to appear for trial. I avail myself of this occasion to remark, that although your Legislative labours are, for a time, to be suspended, yet I would earnestly impress the remembrance of other duties which belong to your influential stations; and there is not one of greater magnitude, or of more vital importance, than that of leading the minds of the people to the consideration of obedience to the Laws, both in a Religious and Moral sense, and to the wretched state of that society where this is despised, or even forgotten.

"Those who endeavour to promote such a state of society, and who, by artfully inflaming the minds of the people, betray them into turbulence and crime, incur a dreadful responsibility, and are the wilful enemies of God and man; but to you, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen, I confidently look for the exercise of a sound knowledge, and that guided by your Christian feelings, you will, in your intercourse with the inhabitants, strive to convince them that by violence and insubordination they retard their own prosperity, and aid the designs of men who, for selfish purposes, are misleading them; and also, that it is an imperative duty to obey the Laws under which they have placed themselves—Laws that will be defended with rigour and administered with impartiality."

THE STANDARD.

St. Andrews, Thursday, May 4, 1843.

Charlotte County Bank.

Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.

Director next week—L. Wilson, Esq.

Discount Day—TUESDAY.

Hours of Business, from 10 to 2.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday, otherwise they must lie over until next week.

Alms and Relief House.

Commissioner next week—John Parkinson.

SAINT ANDREWS.

Marine Assurance Association.

Hon. JAMES ALLANSHAW, President.

Director next week—Hon. H. Hatch, Esq. Secretary.

Office open every day, (Sunday excepted) from 10 till 4 o'clock.

Saint Stephens Bank.

WM. PORTER, Esq. President.

Director next week—Abner Hill.

Discount Day—SATURDAY.

Hours of Business, from 10 to 1.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day.

LATEST DATES.

London, Mar. 3 Montreal, April 25

Liverpool, Mar. 4 Quebec, April 25

Edinburgh, Mar. 1 Halifax, April 25

Paris, Mar. 1 New York, April 29

Toronto, April 23 Boston, April 30

We have not as yet received the Second April Mail from England, which was despatched by the new Steamer *Hibernia*, now 14 days out. The Stage this evening will no doubt, bring the English Mail, and should there be any news of importance, we shall issue an Extra.

MEND THE WAYS.—We trust that the Commissioners for this Parish, will have the street from Rait's Store up to Mrs. Springetts, repaired, which is now in such a miserable state that horses cannot pass without going on the side walk, and also in several other places in the upper part of the Town, which require attention.

A FAIR OFFER.—Any gentleman desirous of having a favorite tune or piece of Music, arranged for the *Amateur Band* can do so, at a very trifling expense, by sending it to Mr. R. Foster, their leader. We are happy to notice that some gentlemen have already embraced this offer, and are much pleased, at Mr. Foster's style of arranging, which they had an opportunity of hearing at the Concert of Friday last.

GILDING AND SILVERING.—We beg to draw attention to the Advertisement of John C. West, & Co. in this days paper, who by Magnetic Electricity gilds & silvers watches and worn plated ware, at a very low price. These gentlemen have specimens of articles owned in Town, which have been gilded and silvered by them, which are equal if not superior to the original plate. They also take Daguerreotype Likenesses, in the best style, with late improvements in colouring.—Call at their Room, Pauls Hall, and examine for yourselves.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
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