

FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steam ship Charles, Capt. C. Forbes, arrived yesterday morning from Chicago, Jan. 20th, by way of Kingston, Ontario, which places the Elton on the Pacific...

The Charles made the passage out in eight days and four hours, a simple time for the steamer Panama on the Pacific.

On Friday, the 14th of January, the ship left Kingston, Jan. 21, with 241 passengers and \$420,000 in specie on freight, and about the same amount in the hands of the passengers.

We learn from private sources that there is much suffering and sickness at the mines, and from the want of the necessary medical and surgical instruments, numerous deaths.

It is concluded that those miners who are able to work, and are without the working class, can average an ounce per day. But against this are to be set down the rainy season, and interruption by sickness, together reducing the daily product for the year materially below that.

The regular demand of a physician, is an acute call, with a charge for medicine of corresponding extravagance, as for instance, a dollar for a dose of salts. The many cases having set in earlier than anticipated, the amount of provisions at the mines, it is found, is much short of a sufficient supply.

The session of the California Legislature was to commence on the 15th of December. Its principal business would probably be to put the machinery of government in motion.

The British bark Colony, living on from Oregon via Vancouver's Island, has been seized by Colonel Colbr, the collector, for a violation of the revenue laws.

There is no clause in the Constitution which gives Congress express power to pass any law respecting slavery in the territories. The authority was deduced from various sources, which he proposed to examine before he concluded.

When Professor Webster was brought into the municipal court, on Saturday, to hear the indictment against him read—Monday's Post of that city says:—

A few minutes before one, he entered the court room moving with a quick, nervous step, and was led to the chair. The expression of his countenance was that of a person just recovering from some severe illness.

There were various clauses of the Constitution and various other sources, foreign and domestic, whence this right of unlimited legislation was deduced.

Now, sir, I repeat, is the contest worth the cost? To place this barren, and, as I believe, unconstitutional proviso upon the statute book, is that a recompense for the wounds that would be inflicted, and the feelings that would be excited, whose disastrous effect no right-minded man can contemplate without the most serious apprehension?

There are many who had attended his lectures in college and elsewhere, and many others who had heard him testify in court in cases of murder by poison, and we venture to say that not one of either class could bring themselves to realize fully the dreadful clang in his situation.

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time comes, and I am required to vote upon this measure as a party man, I cannot do so.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

By a published list of the members of the Assembly of this State, we learn that their occupations are as follows:—

Table listing occupations of Assembly members: Congress, 53; Merchants, 21; Lawyers, 20; Physicians, 4; Millers, 1; Farmers, 1; Clergymen, 2; Teachers, 1; Clerks, 1; Accountants, 1; Millers, 1; Contractors, 1; Manufacturers, 1; Merchants, 1; Merchants, 2.

—Prof. Com. Mr. ...

SANTA FE.—The message of Governor Bell, of Texas, was delivered to the Legislature of that State on the 26th ultimo.

The message of Governor Bell, of Texas, was delivered to the Legislature of that State on the 26th ultimo. Upon the subject of the territory claimed by the State, and now held under control by the federal government, he says he is not disposed to change the federal authorities with a design of participation in the most unjust and onerous of all having already placed the government in the attitude of an adverse claimant of any portion of the territory of Texas, because he has had to direct evidence that such is the fact.

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THE BOSTON MURDER—PROFESSOR WEBSTER—SENT IN COURT.

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day morning last, reach New York on Wednesday morning, and we can have the letters here, in Quebec, on tomorrow (Sunday), which was by the contemplated route we should have had had not and passengers in Quebec on Wednesday.

The average passage of the steamer from Halifax to New York is 63 hours, now a rate of speed that is not to be met elsewhere. It would take 61 hours after its arrival at Halifax. At first there might be some difficulty in making the Post Office to adapt this route, but the advantages would be so apparent that they could not hesitate as to the necessity of adopting it.

But in addition to these advantages, he should attend to the fact that the route proposed would be a great benefit to the commerce of the provinces, and which probably called for the exertions of the merchants of Quebec. As far as the interests of the provinces were concerned, it was not a matter of indifference that the route proposed was not a matter of indifference.

He had no objection to the route proposed, but he was not prepared to guarantee, but any error in it, if it would be well prepared to do so, and he would be glad to read the difference in cost of transport, as estimated by Mr. Fisher:

Table comparing costs of routes: 20,000 lbs. flour of Chicago, \$3 50c, \$700,000; Freight to Quebec, 50c, 10,000; Forwarding to St. John, 5c, 10,000; Insurance, 1 per cent., 8,100; Insurance from Quebec, 4 per cent., 1,050; Freight from Quebec to St. John, 50c, 100,000; Commission, 2 1/2 per cent., 23,053.

Table comparing costs of routes: 200,000 lbs. flour at Chicago, \$3 50c, \$700,000; Freight to New York, 1 00c, 200,000; Forwarding to Buffalo, 5c, 10,000; Insurance to N. York, 1 per cent., 9,100; Shipping charges at N. York, 5c, 10,000; Insurance from N. York, 1 per cent., 9,291; Exchange on N. York, 1 1/2 per cent., 14,676; Freight from New York, 50c, 50,000; Commission, 2 1/2 per cent., 25,062.

Postal communication between Halifax and Quebec. From the Quebec Mercury.

We publish to-day a copy of the correspondence between the Deputy Post Master General and the Provincial Secretary on the subject of the mail arrangements between Halifax and Quebec.

SECRETARY OFFICE, Toronto, 8th January. SIR.—I am commanded by the Governor General to transmit to you, for the information of the Quebec Board of Trade, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Deputy Post Master General on the subject mentioned in your letter of the 13th December last.

SECRETARY OFFICE, Montreal, 27th December, 1849. SIR.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, transmitting, by command of the Governor General, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Trade of Quebec, respecting the postal intercourse between the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada, so as to insure the transmission of the mail three or four times a week, and at the rate of six or seven miles an hour, including stoppages, by which means, it is alleged, a large portion of English letters, now sent through the United States, would be transmitted through those provinces; and requesting me to report on the subject, for His Excellency's information.

With every desire to support the reasonable demands of the Merchants of Quebec, for any improvement in the mail arrangements affecting their city, I am constrained to say that I should not be warranted in sustaining their present claim; there are many reasons for my taking this view of the case, but I need mention only a few.

First, a scheme of Post communication with Halifax three or four times a week, at a rate of six or seven miles an hour, would involve an expense infinitely beyond the present means of the Post Office to support, and, as I humbly conceive, far beyond any benefit to be derived therefrom. Further, with weekly packets for eight months, and fortnightly for the remaining four months in the year, connected during the summer period by a rapid internal communication, with the ports of arrival and departure of the mail in the United States, and during the winter by the best conveyance that the means at our disposal afford, it appears to me that the merchants and other inhabitants of Quebec have nothing to complain of on the score of the postal arrangements with England.

I have thought it my duty frankly to express my opinion upon the application in question; nevertheless, it is His Excellency's desire that I should do so. I will, of course, submit the case for the consideration of his Lordship the Post Master General.

I have, &c., T. W. STAYNER, D. P. M. G. The Hon. James Leshe, Sec., &c. &c.

We see by the English papers that four vessels, three English and one American (whale ships), have been crushed by ice bergs, during the past season, and entirely destroyed; fortunately in every case the crews were saved. Rumor has it that others have shared a like fate.

REWARD OF MERIT.

On the 31st December last, fourteen privates and the sergeants, belonging to the Royal Canadian Rifles, stationed here, received their discharge, and we were very much gratified that our friend, Sergeant Farel Courvoisier was one of the number.

Sergeant Courvoisier, I am happy to congratulate you on your discharge from this Regiment with a character which no Soldier in the British service can excel, having served the long period of twenty three years, nine of which you have held the rank of Sergeant, and during the whole of your service, your name has never once appeared in the Adjutant's book.

We also understand that on a count of his extraordinary good service, he has been allowed to retain the office of Town Sergeant. May he long live to enjoy it.

PROSPECTUS OF "THE WATCHMAN," A RELIGIOUS AND LITERARY JOURNAL, PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE CITY OF TORONTO.

This Journal will vindicate the great principles of Protestantism; but especially that form of Protestantism termed dissent or non-conformity. The equal rights of the several sections of the Christian Church, the support of the Gospel Ministry by voluntary contributions, the introduction of lay agency into all the Councils of the Church, are some of the positions which will be advocated in the Watchman.

The Watchman will not be the official organ of any religious community, yet the wide sphere will feel great pleasure in inserting brief notices (if twined) of the progress of evangelical denominations. Especially is it expected that in the absence of a conventional organ, the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion Church, will consider this Journal their medium of acquainting the public with their operations and progress.

Great care will be taken to render the Watchman not only unobjectionable, but interesting and instructive as a family newspaper. It is intended that this periodical shall maintain a position equally distant from the airy region of romance and the spiritless monotony of an uninteresting compilation.

1. THE MISCELLANY—containing original and selected articles—religious, moral, literary, scientific, &c.

2. THE FAMILY CIRCLE—in which the duties, responsibilities, advantages, &c., &c., of this most ancient compact will be discussed.

3. THE GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL—which will furnish notices of the position, history, habits and customs, &c., of the various nations of the earth.

4. THE POESY AND GENERAL REVIEW.—Here the sentiments of the leading periodicals on the great topics affecting the interests of the Church and the world, will be inserted, also occasional reviews of late works.

5. ECCLESIASTICAL—or an index of the progress or decline of evangelical Christianity in the world.

6. THE WATCHMAN or principal editorial department—containing a faithful testimony for the truth, a solemn protest against the prevailing errors in the doctrines, practice, polity, &c., of professedly Christian Churches; also a review of news.

7. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE—containing Provincial, American, British and Foreign news. Special attention will be paid to the proceedings of the Canadian parliament.

8. THE AGRICULTURE department will contain general selections, notices of the latest improvements, &c., in its most important branch of Canadian industry.

By engaging in this enterprise, the undersigned places himself under heavy responsibilities—moral, literary and financial; and he is fully aware that without divine assistance and the hearty co-operation of brethren in Christ and personal friends, those responsibilities will be extremely burdensome.

The Watchman will be published every Monday evening, by and for the undersigned.

TERMS: Annual subscription for a single copy, in advance, 10s. Ditto ditto, not in advance, 12s. 6d. 12 papers to one address, per ann., each, in advance, 8s. 9d.

Each Agent furnishing ten subscribers, who pay in advance, will be entitled to a copy for one year gratis; and for every additional five pounds, remitted in advance, a copy of the Watchman will be furnished. Ministers of the Gospel, and other responsible parties, are respectfully requested to act as Agents. Communications to be addressed to T. T. HOWARD, 321, Toronto, P. O., and invariably post paid, unless from parties who act as Agents gratis or who furnish literary articles for publication. For rates of advertising, see last page. T. T. HOWARD, Proprietor and principal Editor. Toronto, Jan. 21, 1850.