

THE BEE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN 25, 1837.

DREADFUL FIRE AT ST. JOHN, N. B.—From letters received in town, and from the *Fredericton Gazette* of the 18th instant, with which we have been politely favored, we have made some hasty extracts, giving an account of a most distressing fire which occurred at St. John, N. B., on the night between Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th instant. Such a calamity is at all times disastrous, but in the depth of a North American winter, it is doubly so. The night of the fire was the coldest we have had this winter, Fahrenheit's thermometer being 10° below zero. We regret to say that our late townsmen, Mr J. Malcolm, Mr W. J. Corbet, and Messrs Robertson & Hatton, are all among the sufferers. The two former, however, succeeded in saving a good deal of their property. All the printing offices were reduced to ashes, except one, and that one it appears was not in a condition to tell the tale of woe. We received papers by last Saturday's mail, from the United States, Canada, or St. John, from which we are led to infer, that the post office must also have been burned down. We will be able to give further details next week.

In the mean time, as some hundreds of families are rendered houseless, and destitute of all the necessities of life, the inhabitants of this place, who have been so long saved from such a calamity, should lose no time in giving some substantial proof of their sympathy for the sufferers. For this purpose, we would recommend that a *MEETING* be held at 7 o'clock, on Thursday evening, at the Royal Oak, to take their case into consideration.

[Extracts from Private Letters]

Nine o'clock, Monday morning, 16th January. Awful has been the last 36 hours, but the tremendous conflagration with which we have been visited, is now nearly at an end. I have just time to give you an account of our disaster. The fire commenced in the store of Robertson & Hatton; they have lost every thing, books, papers, and all,—and no insurance. The fire spread with fearful rapidity. All water-st. is gone on the west side, from Meritt's warehouse to Tisdale's corner, and thence down the south wharf to Kinnear's, is a heap of ruins yet blazing. On the east side of water street, from Disbrow's, back buildings included, in rear of the Bank of N. B., to Chadwick's corner all is gone; thence up the south side of the square, to Mr Grade's corner, excepting Peter's Brick building, which is unhurt. From McGrade's corner, down the west side of Prince William street, to Johnston's stairs, all is gone, excepting Sand's buildings, and Walker's stone store. On the east side of Prince William street, Donnelley's corner, and all from that to Nicol's store, inclusive, is burned, except Mr Boyd's and the City Bank. The south wall of Disbrow's brick building, occupied by Miss Farley, being fire proof, saved King street and the rest of the City. The wind was N. West, pretty fresh, and sparks and brands flew frightfully. No vessels were burned, but many had their masts and rigging on fire, and were obliged to cut all away. The steamer *Gazelle* was got under way and dragged the vessels out of the slips as fast as they floated, for it was near low water. The destruction of property is awful; the amount is roughly estimated at £400,000, but as yet all is conjecture."

Another letter, dated St. John, 15th January, says,—The fire raged with incessant fury until 8 this morning, having consumed about 80 buildings, and property to an amount, of which, as yet, we can form no calculation. You will be able to form some idea of the extent of the losses, and suffering, when I tell you, that not a single house is standing between Mrs Boyd's and Miss Farley's, in Prince William street, and that from the Bank of New Brunswick, every thing on the west side of the street is swept down, to the Market square,—of which square, the south side has only remaining, the Attorney General's Brick building;—that from Disbrow's wharf, northwardly, both sides of Water street have been burnt to ashes, and on the south market wharf, not a single store remains. All Ward street is swept off; and Peters' wharf, and Johnston & Nicol's wharves have not a building preserved.

The Bank of New Brunswick nobly withstood the flames, and saved Mrs Boyd's, and consequently the whole of the lower part of Germain street. The City Bank is preserved, I know not how. Mr Black's house is a heap of ashes. Standing at the Commissariat

door, you may survey the whole scene of devastation, which presents to the eye only Peter's brick store remaining, and proving its fire proof capabilities. Excepting this store, the two Banks, and Miss Farley's store, the stone and brick buildings seemed to burn as rapidly as the wooden ones. The scene of horror on the south Market wharf and in Ward street, is beyond description; valuable goods to an immense amount, either burned or thrown over the wharves;—thousands and thousands of casks, puncheons, and barrels of all kinds, piled up on the ship—the streets choked up with furniture and merchandise of all descriptions,—men, women, and children walking about half crazed;—all tend to render our city lamentable indeed.

Tilton had £15,000 worth of goods in store, more than half of which will be utterly lost to him. The Kinnears, Street & Ranney, and John Walker, must be among the heaviest losers. The N. B. Insurance Office is heavily in for it of course,—the Central, it is said, some 5 or £6000; the West of Scotland £20,000; and all the American Companies something. Poor Hatfield wholly uninsured;—Mr Black is said to be insured. The printing offices, excepting Chubb's, are all gone; Chubb had his press removed, and cannot get started again soon. George Robinson, and the Woodwards all absent, and their property destroyed. This brief statement, you may rely upon as accurate, and I hope it will relieve you from some of the doubts always attending reports of such matters.

It is reported that four men have been burned to death, and a lady (Mrs W. Reynolds), is said to have died of terror.

REMARKS ON THE GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY OF NOVA SCOTIA; pp 272 8vo; by A. Gesner, Esq., Surgeon. Halifax: Gossop & Coates.

We notice the appearance of this work with no ordinary pleasure; it is at once an acquisition to Nova Scotia, and to geologists in all parts of the world, as every work must be which adds a new country to the number of those which have been geologically investigated. It has long been a subject of speculative observation that Nova Scotia is rich in Mineral wealth, but Mr Gesner has unfolded the volume of Nature and presented to his readers substantial realities. The familiarity and technical accuracy with which he arranges and treats of the various branches of his subject, display a degree of knowledge and research which we were not prepared to expect. In case however, the reader of this volume should form too high expectations, and suppose that our author has given all that is necessary to be known of the geology of Nova Scotia, we would remind him, that the present work may be viewed only as an introduction; it gives the general outlines of the different formations of the Province, leaving the filling up to be performed by future Geologists, as the progress of improvement and scientific research shall develop them.

There is one circumstance to be regretted; but for which we would attach no blame to the Doctor, namely that this volume like all other works on the Natural History of the Earth, is rendered almost unintelligible to the great mass of English readers, by adhering to the antiquated system of a Latinized nomenclature. Will no master spirit come boldly forward, and free the English Language from this reproach, a reproach to which it has long been subjected by the whole corps of Lawyers, Physicians, Botanists, Zoologists, Mineralogists, &c., who after the manner of the Hindoos, wrap up in impenetrable obscurity from the vulgar eye, all the technicalities of their various professions, and all that is valuable in the Arts and Sciences; by such conduct they insinuate that the English language is so poor that it is incapable of disseminating Scientific Knowledge; this we maintain is so far from being the case, that in this respect it has left all its predecessors in the background.

Making allowance for this drawback, the Doctor has produced a very excellent, cheap, and, to many, an entertaining hook: he deserves, and we trust will meet with the patronage of a grateful and intelligent Public.

We would drop a hint to the Doctor that his work would sell in thousands in Great Britain and the United States, and we think that he should lose no time in securing and disposing of his copy-right there,

where we cannot help thinking his greatest harvest lies. We detain the reader no longer, but hasten to lay before him an extract from the work.

It is necessary in pursuing an enquiry into the Formations of Nova Scotia, to divide the Province into four distinct Geological Districts. The lines which separate each division, extend from south west to north east nearly, and run in a longitudinal direction with the greatest diameter of the country. If a line be drawn from the Gut of Canso to Yarmouth, lengthwise the Province, crossing the Counties of Sydney, Halifax, Lunenburg, Queen's and Shelburne, it will cover and run in the direction of the Primary and unstratified rocks of Nova Scotia—Hence all the south side of the Province will be called the Primary District, for in it the Primary rocks are most abundant. On the north west side of the Primary District, and extending its whole length from Antigonish to Cape St. Mary, there is an immense tract of country occupied by clay slate (argillite.) Hence the Middle Division of the Province will be called the Clay Slate District. Again, if a line be drawn from Annapolis to Merigonish, and a curve made in the direction of Windsor River, all the remaining part of the Province will be called the Red Sandstone District, including the Coal Fields, through which the Cobequid chain passes. Lastly, the whole of the North Mountains, extending from Mrier Island to Cape Blomidon,—the Five Islands, the Two Islands, Isle Hant, and all the Capes on the north side of the Bay of Fundy, will be called the Trap District, the rocks of which rest upon the Red Sandstone.

It must not be supposed however, that each class of rocks already named, appear always upon the lines that mark those natural divisions. Such is not the fact, for they are variously indented by each other, irregularities and deviations from right lines occur probably in some places to a considerable distance; notwithstanding in each of the divisions thus made, the Rocks from which each District is named are abundantly predominant, and occupy a large extent of country. Many advantages will arise from keeping this very general Geological description in view, for from a knowledge of these facts distinct data are offered the Geologist, that will save him much labor in following up the different associations existing among the secondary strata, and guide the miner while he is seeking for ores. For it would be as vain to search for coal on the South side of Nova Scotia, where granite prevails, as for granite among the sandstones of Cumberland, or grindstones among the trap rocks of Blomidon. It is interesting to observe that the different Formations in Nova Scotia, correspond with those of the United States. In both countries they extend from north east to south west, nearly parallel to the Atlantic coast, having the transition and secondary rocks placed to the northward and westward of the primary formations. The same laws which have operated among the rocks of other countries, have their effects fully exhibited in this Province. And there are few Colonies—perhaps none of the same extent, where so great a variety in the scale of superposition, and so rich a field, is exposed to the natural philosopher, or to those who only seek the pecuniary profit of mining,—as the Province of Nova Scotia. A section of the strata extending from Halifax across the province to Cumberland Basin, would expose a greater variety of rocks and minerals, placed in regular order, than has yet been discovered in any country of a similar magnitude."

Next week we shall present our readers with the Doctor's remarks upon the geological formations of this section of the Province.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—Last Wednesday evening Mr James Primrose read an interesting Paper on "The Economy of Time," which gave rise to a protracted and amusing debate.

At a recent meeting, the Rev. James Smith, of Stewiacke, and the Rev. Thomas Trotter of Antigonish, were elected Honorary Members of the Institute.

This evening, Mr John Campbell will deliver "A dissertation on Grecian and Roman Literature." Next evening Mr H. Blanchard lectures on "Optics."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—We acknowledge the receipt of No 2 of the "Christian Messenger," and also of the "Acadian Telegraph." They are both respectably got up; the selections they contain are good, and their mechanical execution will bear comparison with most of the periodicals of the day. The former as a medium of communicating Religious and Missionary Intelligence among the numerous Dissenting population of these provinces was much wanted.