

at Sebastopol and Odessa, can hardly prove unacceptable. The fleet in the Black Sea consists of two "divisions." Each division is supposed to contain one three-decker, eight two-deckers, two of which are of 84 and the others of 74 guns, six frigates, one corvette, and four brigs. Thus the fleet, if completed, would consist of two three-deckers, four two-deckers of 84 and 12 of 74 guns, 12 frigates, two corvettes, and eight brigs. "To these," Maxhausen says, "must be added several steamers and a great many galleys or row-boats." There may be about 180 of these galleys, which are principally employed on the east coast of the Black Sea. Mr Maxhausen, although he writes in a Russian sense, insinuates that the navy appears more formidable on paper than it is in reality. We are told that the galleys have, up to the present time (1852) rendered more service than the large vessels. In 1843 Admiral Golovin did not attack the Swedish fleet "because he had but 17 vessels to his adversary's 12." General Keith, however, in the same year, attacked a Swedish squadron of equal strength, and came off victorious. Under Catherine II., a certain Spiridoff acquired some reputation, but the names of the commanders under him were Elphinstone, Greig, and Dugdale. During the war which, after the first French revolution, desolated Europe, the Russian navy was a mere cipher. When allied with England, the fleet of the latter were powerful enough; but when opposed to her, Russian vessels were of no avail.

**STARVATION IN SPAIN.**—It appears that the miserable condition to which Ireland was reduced within a few years ago, is paralleled by what is now taking place in Spain. A writer in a French paper says:—"In vain the venerable Bishop of St. Jacques, in presence of more than six hundred unfortunates resembling moving corpses, who daily besiege his gate, has sold his mules and his carriage. In vain has he reduced himself and his servants to the merest necessaries, in order that he might give the rest to those who perish of hunger. All that he or the other bishops and clergy, all that the government can do, according to *Esperanza*, is but a drop of water to extinguish the conflagration. When we speak of the Government, however, we must remember that a last contribution made by it of 3,000,000 of reals had not been distributed. . . . In the mountains, the starving die by dozens, and in many places fevers of the most dangerous character are joined to the famine. Hundreds of sick expire for want of nourishment and medicine. The streets of our cities are encumbered with old men, women and children, with the visages of corpses, covered with miserable rags, and even worse, troubling themselves no longer except to die in quiet, and imploring with loud cries the succours of the public charity. At the gate of the Archiepiscopal Palace more than a thousand people wait for daily bread, and I hear that one day lately 4,500 poor assembled to receive the alms distributed in the city by one gentleman.

The French clergy are now throwing difficulties in the way of mixed marriages between Protestants and Catholics. Most of the priests refuse to pronounce the nuptial benediction on these unions, unless where a formal engagement is taken to bring up their children in the Romish faith. The Church is no longer contented with the common compromise, according to which boys are educated in the father's and girls in the mother's belief. The consequence is that several mixed marriages have lately been celebrated by Protestant clergy.

**A NEW RELIGION.**—The Times correspondent at Alexandria writes:—

"In Syria there has been much talk of a new faith which has been started in Persia by an apostate Mahomedan, named Shiek Babe, who denies the authenticity of the Koran, and will not recognize any but God, Moses, David, and himself. He has made many converts in some parts of Persia, and is giving the Shah much trouble; but, as Shiek Babe has very unwisely promised his followers that he will bring back to life all those who are killed in defending their faith, his imposture cannot last very long, and there would be room for some Christian missionaries to step in and do good."

#### PERSIA.

The following extraordinary news comes via Constantinople.—A letter from Erzeroum, dated June 3, mentions that four calamities had occurred in Persia—floodations and cholera at Teheran, locusts at Ispahan, and a terrible earthquake at Shiraz and Cashan. At the former place 12,000 to 15,000 persons were said to have been killed by an earthquake during the night, and the pestilence arose from their unburied

corpses. Last accounts from Teheran say the cholera was decreasing. The British mission had, as a measure of precaution, moved to the hills.

Constantinople letters, mention that the Shah had sent an envoy offering to assist the Porte, and that the Persian army is of considerable strength, comprising twenty regiments of regular infantry, with several of light cavalry, officered and disciplined by Europeans, mostly Italians who took part in the defence of Venice, and since 1849 have been in the Persian service.—The army owes much of its efficiency to the genius of a young man, Hussein Khoulou, educated at the French Military College of St. Cyr, and now chief aide-de-camp to the Shah.

#### CANADA.

The harvest commenced in Upper Canada a fortnight ago. In the neighbourhood of Woodstock, London District, Col. Light's farm was half reaped. Altogether the crops were very abundant.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

We learn that Mr. Jackson, Mr. Betts, and Mr. Stephenson were expected to sail from Liverpool by the *Asia*, for New-York, on Saturday last. We understand that they will visit Canada before coming to New-Brunswick, and it is probable, therefore, that they may be here for some weeks yet.

We are quite disposed to make all due allowance for the grumbling of our contemporary, the *Morning News*, at the apparently slow progress made in Railway matters in this Province, as we were all so impatient to see the work under weigh, that we forget to make allowance for the many hindrances likely to occur in making the commencement of such a stupendous undertaking. We believe, however, that, notwithstanding the advance of the season, all that has been promised will be completed, namely, the line between Shediac and the Bend finished, and all the surveys made, this season.

One of the disadvantages all have to labour under who employ men of high standing and large practice in any profession or business is, that they must take their turn in being served.—*St. John Courier*, July 23.

**DECK LOADS—Important to Shipowners.**—The Chairman of the Underwriters' Association, at Liverpool, having brought under the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade a practice which prevails in certain North American Ports of permitting deals and other wood goods to be stowed in the poops of vessels above the main deck, with the view of evading the provisions of the Act of 8th and 9th Vict., c. 93, the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws at this Port has received directions from the Honorable Commissioners of Customs, London, to take the necessary measures for preventing a recurrence of the practice complained of, as being contrary to the provisions of the Deck Load Law. The practice alluded to above of stowing cargo in the poops of vessels, has hitherto been allowed at this Port, the Officers being under the impression that as the poops were measured, and all tonnage dues charged on them, cargo could legally be carried there. In future, however, no cargo can be carried above the main deck between the 1st September and the 1st May.—*Ibid.*

**SALES OF SHIPS.**—Among the list of ships sold at Liverpool previous to the 31st of July, we notice Mr. James Smith's new ship, *Prince of the Seas*, of 1427 tons, new measurement, at £10 per ton, unclassified.—The *Lady Head*, of 868 tons, old, and 837 tons new measurement, A. I. six years, N. M., built at Kingston, in 1853, brought £2900; the *Mersey*, of 610 tons, N. M., A. I., four years and zinced, built at Windsor in 1852, sold for £9 per ton; the *Brooklyn*, of 149 tons, N. M., built at Nova Scotia in 1846, and zinced in London, brought £700 cash; the *Chester*, 688 old, 602 new, built in Nova Scotia, in 1845, unclassified, sold for £3100; and the *Sea Nymph*, of 187 tons, O. M., built in Nova Scotia in 1850, unclassified, £5 per ton; the *Boundary*, 188 tons, O. M., also built in Nova Scotia in 1850, sold for £900, and the *Robert Henry*, 150 tons, N. M., built in the same Province in 1852, brought £900.—*Ibid.*

**REJOICINGS AT PORTLAND.**—The Portlanders had great rejoicings on Monday evening on the arrival of the first train of cars from Montreal. It was received by a salute of 31 guns, and the ringing of bells. The Mayor made an address of welcome, in a brief manner, and was responded to by the Hon. Mr. Pennoyer.—The band played "God Save the Queen," and "Hail Columbia." The immense crowd which surrounded and filled the depot rent the air with loud cheers for the consummation of the great work.—*Ibid.*

**NEW YORK, July 19.**—An account from Havana, dated 11th, says.—The cholera is still carrying away hundreds of slaves. Its ravages have been more fierce on the sugar estates of the District of Cardenas, especially in Banaguises, where nearly all of the largest and most flourishing estates are located. Among the sufferers are Don Mariano Hernandez, the deaths on whose estates, I am told, amounts to over 140, other estates have suffered still more severely.—*Ibid.*

#### Editorial Miscellanies.

**MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.**—On Sunday afternoon last we regret to say, a son of Mr. Irons, superintendent of streets, was unfortunately drowned while bathing in the North West Arm. The poor lad, who was between 15 and 16 years of age, whose untimely death has plunged his family in deep affliction, we understand had been at Church in the morning with his father, but was probably induced by other boys to stroll in the afternoon, without the knowledge of his parents, towards the spot where he so unexpectedly met his death. While we deeply sympathize with those who, tho' unknown to us, are thus overwhelmed in affliction, we would use the melancholy occasion to impress upon all parents, the necessity of redoubled efforts to secure the sanctification of the Sabbath by all under their care; and especially of not themselves setting them an example of neglect of the peculiar duties of that sacred day. And the young we would affectionately exhort, "from this time to cry to the Guide of their youth," strictly regarding the directions of their parents or guardians, and above all things to abstain from making the day of God a day of idleness and amusement, which can never be done by young or old, without incurring the wrath of Him, whose unchangeable command is—REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY!

While on this subject we would ask whether the vigilance of the Police (which has certainly improved in reference to the Sabbath) should not extend to the water as well as to the land. Scores of boats may be seen on the Lord's day in various directions, often containing young men who ought to know better, but who are evidently "following their pastime" on that day, thus coming within the reach of the law. The persons who hire such boats ought to be brought up and punished. We were much pleased on a late visit to St. Margaret's Bay to see a public notice signed by two magistrates, quoting the terms of the law in relation to a breach of the Sabbath, and declaring their determination to punish to the utmost all offenders. This is an example worthy of imitation by the authorities of the metropolis.

**COLONIAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SOCIETY.**—The examination of the Society's School took place at Sackville on Tuesday last, the 20th inst. The school is conducted by Miss Clarke, and the pupils present were about 40 of both sexes, and various ages. The Rev. T. Maynard, and the Rev. Messrs. Maurin and Dunn, examined the children. There was a goodly number of friends in attendance from Halifax, together with many of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of the School. The proficiency of the scholars was most satisfactory, particularly in reading and a knowledge of the Scriptures, and in singing, writing, grammar, geography and mathematics. It requires no argument to prove the value of such schools as these, and much it is to be wished that they were more numerous throughout the Province. Much credit is due to Mr. H. Wright, for his exertions on behalf of this school, in assisting to rebuild the room, and to make up the teacher's stipend.

**THE CROPS.**—From all parts of the Province we hear the most gratifying reports of the appearance of the Crops of all kinds. The country has been blest with most seasonable rains. Hay is likely to be very abundant everywhere, if good weather is granted for making it. As yet we hear nothing of potatoe blight. Labour is very scarce in some districts. At Windsor we hear that mowers readily get a dollar a day, and found—and even labourers, for loading Plaister, earn 6s. 3d. a day.

**DISPENSARY.**—We believe that this Institution, for administering gratuitous medical and surgical relief to the poor of this city, was established many years ago by Drs. Grigor and Stirling, and that it is now conducted by the former gentleman. Tho' but little noticed, such an establishment must have conferred an immense amount of benefit on the poorer classes of the community. No less than 3,600 cases, we are informed, have been attended to, gratis, in one year. Surely something more ought to be granted for such a purpose from the public funds, than the paltry sum of Fifty pounds, at least until the long talked of and much needed Public Hospital, shall be established, which, of course, the Dispensary would be merged.