

ENGLISH TOWNS—GOING AHEAD.

SUNDERLAND.

Last year the tonnage of coal at Sunderland was larger by far than in any previous year, and exceeded that of 1852 by 18,515 chaldrons; the number of chaldrons exported in 1853 having been 693,122. In 1852, also, 4,200 tons of shipping were built, and 1,000 more latter part of the year; and if we turn to the Customs receipts we find that they point to the same favourable conclusion. We built 65 more ships, and 22,256 tons of shipping, from the hulls of New York last year, the excess of tonnage being actually more than that which was built on the stocks in Great Britain, and about 3,500,000 tons showing in our foreign ports.

MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

The Society's and its garrison are all-newly one hundred, and observed the festival by supping at the St. John Hotel. The room was decorated with national flags. Over the chair was the green banner of the Society, the Party wreath with Shamrock, and the old legend of Erin, "We are George Carter, Esq., Mayor of Sunderland." The hall was presented from the Royal Engineers, a scutcheon of a scutcheon, and Messrs. H. Farley, Mr. the oldest member of the Society, was selected to take the chair. Mr. Robert Armstrong occupied his place as Vice-President. The Friends (Rev. Dr. Walker, Esq., Vice-President, &c.) of the St. Andrew's Society were amongst the guests of the evening. An excellent band was in attendance.

MIDDLEBURY.

The number of cargoes loaded at Middlebury for foreign ports in 1853 had been considerably above five hundred and fifty—being nearly a hundred more than were loaded in any previous year.

New York, March 22, 1854.
Postscript, dated 20 March 8th. No change whatever in completion of war news.

LATEST FROM LIVERPOOL.

The only intelligence received on this continent from Europe, since our last publication, was received at New-York last night and is as follows:

New-York, March 22, 1854.

Prince Alfred, dated 20 March 8th. No change whatever in completion of war news.

LATER AND IMPORTANT BY TELEGRAPH THIS MORNING.

The London Morning Herald states that Colchester had fallen, and the garrison massacred.

TAX DUTY ON IRON.—A difference of opinion exists as to the policy or expediency of continuing these duties, but we do not agree with our correspondent in that respect. We are of the opinion that it would be impolitic to take the duty off of American Iron—not at least until similar exemptions are removed from Colonial produce entering the United States. Besides, we met in a fair way of having the railroad from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Bay of Fundy completed in the next summer, and Canadian iron, if we neglect that, will be one of the heaviest items enumerated among the articles of traffic thence. These consisted of a sort of large boats or pack-trains, which were sent over land across the desert. When turned bottom up, they are expected to afford a firm foundation, even though that means east, on which to place a railway that is to join the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and unite us and more closely with the wonderful East.

BIRMINGHAM.

There is energy and life in the old fast-grown industrial city, which has monopolized all the progress and development of the country. The progress of Birmingham in population and extent, within the last fifty years, has few parallels, even in the new world. Within the last half century, the town has almost tripled in magnitude, and every year seems to add to its growth. It is the chief centre of the community. During the first forty years of the century, the average increase was 600 houses, with about 3,000 of population per annum; for the ten years ending 1851, the increase of houses was about 6,000, with an annual augmentation of the population of nearly 3,000. The last two years however, exhibit results of a far more extraordinary and gratifying character. For 15 months ending March last, the increase in houses was 2,020, equivalent to an augmented population of nearly 15,000 persons in this brief space of time. The last year, taken altogether from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1853, shows an increase of 2,000 houses, or a result of manufacturing activity still going on. A return of the building plans registered for this period, according to the Improvement Act, shows that the increase is at the rate of nearly 14,000 persons a year, and is equivalent to the number of houses springing up on an average in the suburbs, including the agricultural districts of Warwick and W. M. Worcester on the one hand, and the great manufacturing localities of South Staffordshire on the other. If we were to include these, probably we should have to add to last year's figures another estimate given above. It is not, however, merely the increase that the vitality of the community, is being developed. An institution, which, in the beginning, will cost 20,000 £, has been well paid; and parks and pleasure-grounds have been sanctioned; and a free library will speedily be established. Every effort has been directed to the utmost to please, and the efforts were eminently successful, for a pleasure party, has been organized than that which celebrated the festival of the Irish Patron Saint.—*Fremantle*.

A DESPATCH FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

A despatch from the Colonial Secretary was read on the table of the Nova Scotia Assembly on Thursday last, stating that the House of Commons had resolved in the event of hostilities with Russia, to extend their protection to the subjects of Prince, in the several colonies of the Empire. The despatch directed the Lieut.-Governor to exercise the authority of the Government for the same purpose when necessary.—*Wales*.

A similar despatch to the above named has been received in this Province, and printed in the last Royal Gazette for public information.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening the New-

Mr. Lawrence delivered the seventh and last lecture on the Moral and Intellectual Subjects. The property of the Institute and its expenses are to be borne by the members, and we have no doubt the valuable lessons conveyed by the lecturer will exert a salutary impression upon many of the young who had the privilege of hearing them. The Lecture Hall is a fine class room, and will be used again for the winter session, and the course of instruction will be again given.

NOTES ON COAL.

Coal, which at one time was considered to be almost confined to our own island, is now met with in almost every country and quarter of the globe.

Our colonial possessions are fit in, especially those of the British American Colonies, Vancouver's Islands, the U.S. Colonies, and Australia.

In the East, China, Japan, and most of the islands of the Eastern Archipelago. In many parts of North and South America it is abundant.

It may be procured in Cuba, and even in Greenland, and several other parts of Arctic America.

Asia, while it is not so abundant as in Europe, is still a great producer.

The nations of Europe, Russia, France, Germany, Bohemia, and Poland; Norway, Sweden, and Denmark; Russia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Switzerland. On the Asiatic Continent it is found in Turkey, Syria, Persia, Armenia, and Nepal; in China, Japan, and most of the islands of the Eastern Archipelago.

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