

ing an increase in the debt of \$38 millions, and in the yearly charge of 34 millions. Now of the whole debt, about 800 millions and a half are still unredeemed; and the late operations have reduced the sinking fund to above 11 and a half, which will take 43 years to complete the redemption, according to Mr. Vansittart's estimate. During that period, therefore, we must continue to raise taxes to the amount of 34 millions a year, in consequence of the late war; in other words, before we have done with it, we shall have paid, 1,530 millions besides what has been already paid. Thus the total cost of the war, upon the very low estimate which was made of the former heads, comes to more than the enormous sum of 2,040 millions!!!

## Distressing Fire at Newfoundland.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F. FEBRUARY 17.

Between the hours of eight and nine, on the night of the 12th inst. a Fire was discovered in the house of Edmund Walsh, in Gambier street, about two doors from the south side of Duckworth-street. The inflammable materials of which the buildings of the town are constructed excited the most alarming apprehensions. The wind blew furiously from the south east quarter, and rapidly bore the flames to the range of houses forming the north side of Duckworth-street, while the all-devouring element also extended its ravages to the south, against the wind, and westward towards the cluster of new buildings lately erected on the extensive premises of Messrs. Crawford, & Co.; and by 5 o'clock on the morning of the 13th inst. all the buildings between Sawyer's corner, at the east end of Duckworth-street, and new Methodist Meeting-house at Gill's shute, westward, and from the corner building on the King's beach, facing the Ordnance wharf, to the erections opposite Messrs. Hunters & Co's. in Water-street, comprising about 130 houses were completely destroyed. In these are included the houses in the Custom house lane, north of Duckworth-street. The Custom-house and adjoining buildings happily and narrowly escaped. Occasional showers of snow and rain that fell during the conflagration, somewhat retarded the progress of the flames, and the removal of one or two houses in Water-street greatly contributed finally to subdue the fire. Our limits will not allow us this moment to go into a very minute detail of the calamitous event.

When the flames reached the north side of Water-street, facing the premises of Messrs. James Macbraire, & Co. the immense body of fire almost in contact (from the narrowness of the passage at this point) with the houses on the south side of the street, soon communicated the flames to the fronts and roofs of those buildings. It was here that very extraordinary efforts were required, and were happily exerted; for upon the success of these efforts depended the security of the most important part of the town.

The volumes of fire detached from the more immediate scene of destruction, and carried by the storm to buildings not in imminent peril, filled the inmates with terror and dismay; and in the removal of their goods, considerable damage has been sustained.

The aggregate pecuniary loss has been moderately estimated, at upwards of one hundred thousand pounds; and about fifteen hundred persons have been driven to seek new abodes, in the most inclement month of a Newfoundland winter.

To the seamen from the King's ships, and the troops from the garrisons, directed by their respective officers, every praise is due; for it is to their steady conduct, in conjunction with the efforts of the orderly and respectable inhabitants, that we stand indebted for the preservation of the most valuable part of the town. Here it becomes our indispensable duty to state, that the bulk of the lower orders of the community stood, during this afflicting moment, with their arms folded, surveying this disastrous scene with an apathy disgraceful to the human character. Many of this description, instead of contributing their efforts to arrest the progress of the flames, or to aid the unhappy sufferers, appeared to have no object but pillage; and the distresses of their unfortunate fellow creatures have, of course been considerably aggravated by the depredations committed by monsters in human shape, upon the property snatched from the flames!

The wants of the civilized portion of mankind are, for the most part, fictitious, and arise out of the nature of our education and of our habits. Hence it is that we estimate very differently, the same sufferings in different individuals.

A small number of those who have sustained loss upon

this unfortunate occasion, are so happily placed as to suffer no abridgement of their former comforts. The great majority must inevitably feel distress, and many of these be reduced to a condition, calculated strongly to excite the best sympathies of our nature. Happy! thrice happy ye, whom fortune has enabled to bestow liberally upon your suffering brethren, without missing what you bestow, and thus, at a cheap rate, to purchase for yourselves a luxury, of which the callous and unfeeling can have no adequate conception!

The season at which this misfortune has befallen us, gives a stronger colouring to the picture of distress: hemmed in by vast and impenetrable barriers of ice and snow, that insulate us, as it were, from the civilized world--no interiors to fly to, but a frozen, trackless wild! yet the calamity we lament sinks in the scale of comparison, when we carry our thoughts to the very narrow escape of the stores and magazines, the destruction of which must probably have levelled all distinctions, by reducing a population of 12,000 souls to a comparative state of starvation!

It would far exceed our limits to enumerate the whole of the individual sufferers by this dreadful catastrophe: amongst other valuable property and premises destroyed by the devouring flame, was the new Methodist Meeting-house, a building simply and nearly executed, and only very lately occupied for Divine worship; not a vestige of which is now to be seen; it cannot even boast of a chimney to point out where it stood--it was built by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of Newfoundland, at an expence of upwards of £1200; and as the hands of all are now held forth to alleviate the miseries of the wretched sufferers, the members of this late place of worship have, we understand, determined that their preacher, the Rev. Mr. Pickevart, shall forthwith proceed to England, where, we feel unshaken confidence, he will soon obtain in that land of religion and liberality the means of rebuilding a Chapel here.

The two Printing-Offices being situated very near where the fire first broke out, the premises were totally destroyed; but, happily, by great exertions, materials sufficient were preserved to enable both establishments to proceed.

We have heard of but one life being lost; a man named John Power, who was in bed at the time, has not since been heard of; and it is more than probable he lost his life in the fire.

FEBRUARY 24.

On Friday the 16th inst. the Court of Sessions assembled in the Court house, to try the following persons, charged with plundering various goods, the property of sundry unfortunate persons, during the fire on the night of the 12th instant:--

Edward Devan,	Joseph Lawless,
Thomas Walsh,	James Walsh,
John Dooling,	James Dooling,
	Edward Aid.

The above seven persons were found guilty, and severally sentenced to be publicly whipped and sent out of the country, with the exception of Thomas Walsh; and the former part of the sentence was immediately carried into execution on the Church hill, in the view of a numerous crowd of the lower orders of the inhabitants. So prompt and exemplary a punishment, it is hoped, will operate as a check upon the evil disposed in similar calamitous cases. The constables and inferior police officers, it is but common justice to observe, have manifested a laudable vigilance upon this occasion.

MONTREAL, 6th APRIL.

On Friday the 29th ult. the Grand Jury of this District presented to the Court of King's Bench, a Bill of Inducement against Samuel Sherwood, Esq. for a Libel against the Prince Regent, the Duke of York, and other eminent characters. The trial will take place the next September term. Mr. Sherwood is the same person who had just been elected a Member to serve in the next Provincial Parliament for the county of Essingham.

FOR SALE at AUCTION, on the 20th June next, if not previously disposed of at private Sale,

**1000** ACRES of LAND, more or less, in King's Clear, under great improvement, together with two DWELLING HOUSES and two BARNs thereon--cuts from 30 to 40 tons of English Hay, and can with very little expence be made to cut double that quantity. The Farm is well known, therefore needs no further recommendation.

JACOB RUSSELL.

King's Clear, 20th April, 1816.

## CONTRACTORS WANTED

FOR building a STONE GAOL in the Parish of New-Castle, County of Northumberland,--also for finishing the Carpenters work agreeably to a plan, and specification to be seen at the Office of the Attorney-General, Fredericton; at Wm. Pagan's, Esq. City of St. John, and at Lewis Henry's, Miramichi; at which places sealed proposals will be received until the first of June next, when the lowest offer will be accepted, good security being given for the performance.

Miramichi, 16th April, 1816.

## COLLEGE LAND.

Eight LOTS of College Land, containing 25 Acres each, situate in the rear of the town plat of Fredericton, will be let at the office of the subscriber, on Friday the 10th day of May next at ten of the Clock in the forenoon.

J. M. BLISS.

27th April, 1816.

## FOR SALE AT AUCTION

On the first day of May next at the Coffee-house A FARM and TRACT of LAND, formerly belonging to Samuel I. Ellegood, in the Parish of Prince William (County of York) and now the Property of Samuel Grosvenor--Terms of payment easy, and made known at the time of sale.

R. SMITH, Auctioneer.

Fredericton, 2d April, 1816.

## For Sale at Auction,

The 1st day of May next,

A BUILDING Spot of 30 Feet, on the front Street, and 65 Feet in Depth, with a Barn thereon, next to JACOB BLAICHER.

Fredericton, 26th March, 1816.

## TO BE SOLD, By Auction

The 1st day of June, and possession given the 1st day of July, LOT No. 167 in Block No. 10, together with a comfortable Dwelling HOUSE and BARN thereon, the property of the Subscriber. If not previously disposed of at Private Sale, it will be struck off on the above day to the highest bidder.

JONAS FITZHERBERT.

N. B. Those who are indebted to him are desired to make immediate payment--and all Persons to whom he is indebted are requested to call for payment, as he intends shortly to leave Fredericton.

Fredericton, 12th March, 1816.

## To be Sold, By Auction,

On Saturday, the 3d day of August next at 11 o'Clock in the forenoon, at JOHN McLEOD's in Fredericton,

THAT valuable Farm of RICHARD ROGERS, in Woodstock, with the Houses, Barns, and Fences thereon, 468 Acres of Land, more or less, (subject to a Mortgage) bounded on the South by Capt. Bull, and North by the Revd. Frederick Dibblee, the whole taken in execution from Richard Rogers at the Suit of William Bull, by a Writ of Fieri Facias issued out of the Supreme Court for ninety-eight pounds New-Brunswick Currency, and will be Sold on the above day to the highest Bidder, by

GEORGE D. BERTON,

Sheriff of York.

2d April, 1816.

## JOHN A. HERSEY,

RESPECTFULLY informs the Inhabitants of Fredericton and its vicinity, that he has taken the SHOP lately occupied as a STORE by Mr. E. AVERY, in which he intends carrying on the

*Silver-Smith and Jeweller's business*

in its various branches. All articles in his line made, and warranted,--old ware and Jewellery repaired in the best manner, and every order punctually attended to.

Fredericton, 23d April, 1816.

## NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of the late JOHN KING, of Fredericton, deceased, are requested to exhibit the same duly attested, and those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

MARGARET KING, Adm'x.

MARK NEEDHAM, Adm'r.

Fredericton, 19th Sept. 1815.

## NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any just demands against the Estate of the late FRANCIS M. BEATH, of Fredericton, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested; and all Persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

CATHARINE M. BEATH, Executrix.

ROBERT SMITH, ALLWARD HARNED, Executors.

20th June, 1815.

Half Pay Certificates & Military Allowance, Bills of Exchange, Indentures, & Bail-Bond, for sale at this Office.