

English writers admit that the Russian army is well supplied for the winter, having large supplies at Simpheropol and Davenkoi.

The Russians were concentrating their forces at Batehi Serai and Simpheropol.

The Bank of England is authorised to issue £475,000 in notes beyond the amount specified in its charter.

Four days later from Europe.

FALL OF KARS CONFIRMED!!

A telegraphic despatch was received at the Merchants' Exchange News Rooms in this city, on Monday, from Boston, announcing the arrival at New York on the evening previous of the American steamship *Arago*, from Havre and Southampton, having left the latter port on the 19th ult.

The news is not specially important. It is affirmed that Sweden has ratified the treaty with England and France.

Rumours of peace continued abundant. At the surrender of Kars General Williams and 16,000 troops were taken prisoners of war. Every thing remained quiet in the Crimea.

Immense preparations were being made to commence operations in the Baltic next Spring. Breadstuffs dull—quotations slightly lower. Merchants market more favourable. Consols quoted at 88 7/8.

Arrival of the Canada.

The Steamship *Canada* arrived yesterday, after an unusually long passage of 17 days from Liverpool, bringing 86 passengers, 10 for Halifax. From the Merchant's Exchange Reading Room we find that she experienced several severe gales. Lost one of her life-boats, one quarter-boat, and had part of her paddle-boxes and bulwarks carried away.

The gale of Sunday was very severe. No news of importance is brought except that the fall of Kars is confirmed.

The following despatch proves the rumour correct:—

HAMBURG, Dec. 16th, 1855.

"Advices from St. Petersburg, dated yesterday the 15th inst., states that Kars surrendered to General Mouraveiff, on the 23th of November. Vasif Pasha, eight other Pashas, General Williams and the whole garrison are prisoners of war."

General Intelligence.

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Halifax Library took place on the 17th Dec. last. We were glad to learn from the Report of the Committee which was then submitted that the affairs of this institution are in a very flourishing condition. The number of Volumes now in the Library is 5951, including 123 purchased during the last year. All debts against the Institution have been paid, and the Committee for the present year will have a large sum at their disposal to enable them to extend its advantages. We understand that a few shares are still to be disposed of, and we would recommend an early application to be made for them. The following Gentlemen compose the Committee for 1856:—S. L. Shannon, Esq., Chairman; Robert Noble, Esq., Vice Chairman; Archibald Scott, Esq., W. Sutherland, Esq., Jas. C. Cogswell, Esq., Henry C. D. Twining, Esq., B. W. Salter, Esq., A. Harshaw, Esq., Treasurer; Secretary and Librarian, Henry Lockyer, Esq.

MICMAC DIVISION, No. 8, SONS OF TEMPERANCE, intend holding a Public Meeting, in the Division Room, on Monday evening next.—Chair to be taken at 8 1/2. Lecture by Mr. R. G. Fraser, on Chemical Analysis.

Mr. George Lefler, of Dutch Village, has left at our office a flower pot containing a beautiful cluster of native strawberry plants bearing ripe strawberries. The plants were taken from the fields, by Mr. Lefler, in the autumn; and the ordinary temperature of his dwelling house has been sufficient to expand their blossoms and ripen the fruit. Ripe, native strawberries amid the frosts and snows of January are a real curiosity.—Recorder.

ADVANCE IN REAL ESTATE.—The auction sales at Sackville, lately, manifest such an improvement in the prospects of real estate in that locality as has hardly ever been paralleled. On Wednesday last Mr. Ackhurst disposed of Mr. Mitchell's premises, divided into quarter acre lots, several bringing upwards of £30.

FIRE IN THE COUNTRY!—A house owned and occupied by Mr. Alex. Taylor, situate on the West side of Lake Thomas, was totally consumed by fire on the evening of the 1st inst., at 7 o'clock, and not one solitary article it contained was saved from the devouring element. The house was a good one, very comfortable, quite new and neatly finished. Mr. T. had but just moved into it. The people in the vicinity are determined to help him with labour, lumber, &c., and try to get him once more "under cover" again.

Those disposed to assist him can send their donations, &c., to Messrs Bauld, Gibson & Co., where the same will be received and forwarded.

PICOU, January 3.—Our harbor is once more sealed by the hand of winter. The ice formed for the first time this season on Thursday night, 27th ult., and on Monday several horses and sleighs crossed between the town and Fisher's Grant. Wednesday was a delightful winter day, clear and frosty; two or three more such days and nights will make the travelling on the ice perfectly safe in all directions.

WESTPORT ACADEMY.—A public examination of the Grammar School, consisting of fifty-three pupils, under the tuition of Mr. George Munroe, took place at Westport on Friday, 21st ult. The manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves was very satisfactory. On motion of B. K. Ruggles, Esq., one of the Commissioners of Schools for the County of Digby, the Rev. Mr. Caldwell took the chair, and expressed himself highly gratified with the efficiency of the school.

W. A. S. Blewett, in writing to the "Liverpool Transcript," says:—"I have just returned home from a pleasing visit to Locke's Island in the County of Shelburne, where I have had the pleasure of instituting the second Union of the Order of the Daughters of Temperance in Nova Scotia."

"After a short delay, proceeded to institute the "Snow Drop" Union, No. 2, Daughters of Temperance, to be located in Locke's Island. Twelve sisters were initiated into this branch of the Order."

[From our Liverpool Correspondent.]

Liverpool, Dec. 28th, 1855.

"There is an intention in Liverpool, of starting a Bank, the want of which has long been felt. The Reading Room is succeeding well. We are apprised of all foreign news as quick as lightning. This is a great advantage. The slate often presents interesting facts.

The election for Municipal Corporations, created quite an excitement here a week or two ago. The reasons why it was lost were that it was not thoroughly understood, and it was feared it would break up the poorer districts, as they are now admirably arranged."

New Brunswick.

St. John, December 26.

DISASTER IN THE HARBOUR.—The brig, *Belle* Robertson, from Savanna for this port, during the gale early on Saturday morning last, lost her rudder when near the mouth of the harbour. She was driven upon a ledge of rocks in the Cove near the Penitentiary, in a shattered condition. The vessel filled with water, and had to be scuttled. Surveys have been held upon her, and the cargo (pitch pine timber) which was consigned to Mr. Wm. Thompson, was uninsured.

There must have been over 2,000 persons on the ice at Lily Lake on Thanksgiving Day; and although several fell through there was no life lost.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—On Friday, 14th inst., a number of persons started to cross a bog marsh interspersed with Lakes, for the purpose of picking Cranberries, and enjoying a pleasure day. It was a lovely morning, and just such a one as, at this season of the year especially, fills the heart of both old and young—when starting on an excursion of the kind in contemplation—with feelings of joy and gladness. But, sad to relate, they had not proceeded far before a young lad named Graham Tingley, aged 14 years, second son of Caleb Tingley, fell through the ice while skating, and was drowned, although within 10 or 15 feet of the bog, and surrounded by his friends, among whom was his father, whose feelings can be better imagined than described. Another young man named Robert Dobson, aged 26 years, while going to his work in company with a boy, on the same morning, thought proper to travel over a part of the same bog marsh, on account of having an opportunity of skating part of the way, and passing along at the time the boy was drowned, and seeing a crowd collected, the boy left Dobson, and went to see what the matter was, and having been there some time, he proceeded on to his work, at length he became very uneasy and went to make enquiry of the neighbours if he had been seen, but could get no tidings of him. An alarm was then made and the next morning parties set out in search of him, and found him drowned in a small lake in the bog. From the position in which he was found, it is supposed he remained with his arms extended on the ice till he perished.

Westmorland, N. B., Dec. 21, 1855.

Canada.

Redpath's sugar refinery in Montreal has in eight months of last year, refined eight million pounds of sugar and 59,000 gallons of molasses.

It will turn out 40,000 barrels a year, the cooage alone costing £4,000. An establishment like this is something for Canada to be proud of.

United States.

Although no Speaker had been elected at Washington, the President's Message was announced to the Senate and House, in writing, 31st ult.

The President transmits the official correspondence between Great Britain and the U. S., by which it is certain that "they differ widely and irreconcilably as to the construction of the convention, and its effect in their respective relations to central America." He apprehends that, with Great Britain in the actual occupation of the disputed territories, and the treaty thereof practically null, so far as regards the rights of the United States, this international difficulty cannot remain undetermined, without involving in serious danger the friendly relations, which it is the interest as well as the duty of both countries to cherish and preserve.

He says—"The constitution of the United States provides that Congress should assemble annually on the first Monday of December, and it has been usual for the President to make no communication of a public character to the Senate and House of Representatives until advised of their readiness to receive it. I have deferred to this usage until the close of the first month of the session, but my conviction of duty will not permit me longer to postpone the discharge of the obligations enjoined by the constitution upon the President "to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

The English Recruitment is next alluded to. It being contrary to the law of nations for one State to raise troops for land or sea service against another State without its consent, and that whether forbidden by the municipal law or not, the very attempt to do so, without such consent,

is an attack on the national sovereignty. The British Government never gave any intimation that an attempt to raise soldiers would be made in the U. States. It appeared that the public agents engaged in draining recruits from the country had "stringent instructions" not to violate the municipal laws of the United States. In the meantime they proceeded by official authority, under the supervision of British officers, civil and military, in the North American Provinces, and some in the United States. This subject is still under discussion with the British Government. The President recommends the appointment of a commissioner in connection with Great Britain, to survey and establish the boundary dividing the Territory of Washington from the contiguous British possessions, as there has been imminent danger of collision between the respective inhabitants, including the authorities in that quarter. Delays will but increase the dangers. Peaceful relations with Spain continue to be maintained, and although some matters between the two governments are yet at issue, the President does not abandon the hope of concluding with that country some general arrangement satisfactory to all parties.

The receipts for the year ending June 30, from all sources, were \$65,893,000, and the public expenditure during the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, including interest and premium, were \$9,844,528. The balance in the Treasury, July 1, was \$18,931,976. The whole available resources of the current fiscal year amounted to \$86,856,710.

NEW FISHERY COMMISSIONER.—Judge Chandler, of Calais, is stated to have been appointed United States Commissioner under the Fishery Treaty with Great Britain, in the place of General Cushman, of Bangor, removed.

A curious accident recently occurred on the New Albany and Salem Railway.—The passenger train, having four cars filled with passengers, came to the bridge over Salt Creek, near Bloomington, and the engineer fearing that the heavy rains which had swelled the stream bank full, had rendered the bridge insecure, directed the passengers to get out of the cars, till they could test the strength of the bridge. He crossed on foot, and then directed the fireman to start the engine, jump off, and he would "catch it" on the other side. The train started, and on reaching the center of the bridge it gave away, and the locomotive and cars were plunged into the stream and instantly disappeared from view.

The judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut decided in a recent case that a priest might be compelled to disclose on the witness stand, any confessions made to him by other parties. This however is directly opposed to a legal decision recently given in Virginia.

There has been most extraordinary weather in New Orleans this season. There has been no frost as yet, a thing unknown to the oldest inhabitant, and the floral kingdom is revelling in vegetation. What is also most singular is that the health of that fever-producing city was never better than lately.

AUSTRALIA.—In Australia, the Legislative Council were discussing the subject of steam communication between Sydney and Great Britain. Two routes are presented—one by way of Panama, the other via Singapore. The former is said to be the cheapest. Flour had advanced, the stock being light. Firsts £25 per ton, seconds £33. The tariff had been increased on all kinds of spirituous liquors, tea, sugars and tobacco.—On tea and sugar alone, the revenue will be increased £72,000 sterling. Gold dust had declined in value, owing to the large supply.

MEXICO.—Important news from the city of Mexico to the 18th inst. Alvarez has resigned the Presidency and retired to the South. Gen. Comonfort had assumed supreme authority, and organized a new ministry.

Letters Received.

Samuel Webb, 28th, (3 subs.) Edward C. Foster, (your communication had no date.) Rev. C. A. Buckbee, 21st. W. H. Everett, 28th, (rem.) David Jenks, 26th, (1 sub., rem.) R. R. Layton, 27th, (1 sub. Yes, it was placed to their credit.) James Soiey, 25th, (rem., quite satisfactory.) Rev. C. Tupper, 25th, (rem., 7 subs.) Robert D. Porter, 29th, (rem. 42 subs.) John Whitman, 25th (rem. 1 sub.) Rev. J. E. Balcom, 26th, (rem. 1 sub.) Archibald Davison, 26th, (rem. 1 sub.) Obed. Parker, 28th, (5 subs.) Samuel Wheelock, 29th, (1 sub.) W. H. Rogers, Esq., 27th. Rev. W. Chipman, 28th, and 1st inst., (rem., 4 subs.) Rev. Chas. Randall. Theodore H. Parker, 25th, (Will write by this mail.) Abel Strong, 29th, (4 subs.) Obadiah Parker, 24th, (rem.) Rev. B. Taylor, 19th, (rem.) Capt. W. Churchill, 29th, (rem., 7 subs.) Capt. P. Holmes, 31st, (2 subs.) C. Jost, 31st, (1 sub.) Rev. J. C. Hurd, 29th. Richardson Harris, 29th, (rem., 1 sub.) Gideon Fleek, 23rd. Handley Starratt, 22nd, (2 subs.) John Crocker, 24th, (rem.) John Gammon, 29th, (your paper is regularly posted. We will endeavour to find out why the P. O., authorities detain it.) John Bowden, 28th, (rem.) Rev. Weston Hall, 31st, (rem., 1 sub.) Rev. G. Armstrong, 24th. Rev. J. Whidden, 2nd, (rem.) Rev. J. Stevens, 3rd (2 subs) S. Fitch, Esq., 31st. W. Johnson, Esq., Jan. 2nd. R. W. Freeman, 28th. Rev. John Chase, 3rd.

Received from Rev. J. E. Balcom,—A new year's gift for Bible distribution in Germany, by Bro. Oncken, £1 12 6.

SOME of our brethren complain that they have not received the Minutes of Association and Convention, when no directions have been given by them or the Secretaries how they are to be sent. Many have had them months ago, either by sending for them or directing us how to transmit them. We have been most anxious to get them off, but do not wish to incur the expense of mail conveyance without an order to that effect.

We have received from "a true disciple of Christ," by the hands of a Brother in Prince Edward Island, the sum of Four Pounds, to be appropriated as follows:—

- One Pound for circulating the Scriptures among the Jews.
- One Pound for ditto in India.
- One Pound for ditto by Mr. Oncken.
- * Ten Shillings for French Mission House.
- Ten Shillings for Gaelic Mission.

We shall be glad to forward the same without delay.

* Brother Churchill will please deduct that sum from his next remittance to us.

ERRATUM.—In the letter in last number from Brother T. W. Crawley, for "Expenses £16 5s. 8d." read "17 shillings."

Extracts from Letters.

DEAR BROTHER,
"I shall do all I can to obtain new subscribers. I pray God to bless you in your labours, and hope you may succeed beyond all your expectations. Your last number was very interesting to me. I think the Editors of a Christian or Religious Paper need look up to God for much grace and wisdom.
Yours affectionately,
CHRISTOPHER JOSE.
Guysborough, Dec. 12th, 1855."

DEAR BROTHER,
"I feel a deep interest in the prosperity of your valuable paper, and shall cheerfully do all in my power to increase its circulation. No one can carefully peruse its pages without deriving pleasure and advantage.
May you be prospered in your arduous labours for the diffusion of religious and general knowledge, and may your efforts be accompanied by the Divine blessing, and may great good be the result.
Yours faithfully,
I. J. SKINNER.
Port Medway Dec. 24th, 1855."

DEAR SIR,
"I shall be happy, as formerly, to do what I can for the interests of the *Christian Messenger*.
I remain, yours truly,
JAMES B. McNUTT.
Onslow, Dec. 19th, 1855."

MY DEAR SIR,
"I shall do all in my power to extend the circulation of the paper.
Believe me, yours truly,
G. LEWIS TREMAIN.
Port Hood, Dec. 13th, 1855."