

FIRE IN ST. STEPHEN.—A most disastrous fire broke out about 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning last in St. Stephen. It commenced in a barn in rear of Mr. Wm. Campbell's house on King-street, and immediately communicated to the building in rear of the three-story house occupied by Mrs. Atherton as a boarding house, and belonged to Robert Watson, Esq., taking in its course the other two houses on the corner belonging to Mr. Watson, and extending up King-street on the West side the whole length of the square until it reached Mr Hill's store on the upper corner, consuming, in an incredibly short time, besides the buildings mentioned, a two-story dwelling-house belonging to Mr. W. Campbell, a two-story dwelling-house owned by Mr. T. B. Abbot, a two-story store owned by Mr. Michael Egan, a two-story house owned by Mrs. Kelly, a one-story house owned by Mr. James Waddell, a two-story house owned by Mr. Wm. Owen, two one-story houses owned by Mr. Michael Egan, and a one-story store owned by Mr. W. Campbell.

The loss is estimated at about \$35,000, of which about \$14,000 were insured. The owners of all the properties had more or less insurance, except Mrs. Atherton, who lost almost all her furniture, clothing, &c.—the occupants of the house merely escaping with their lives. So dry was everything that but for the extraordinary exertions of the three fire companies and the calmness of the night, it is thought most of the town would have been destroyed.—*Courier*

Sir Charles Napier, in his account of the operations connected with the capture of Bomarsund, says he never saw heavy guns moved so difficult a position as on this occasion. They were dragged and carried a distance of four miles and a half up the roughest ascents by the seamen of Admiral Clad's division. The official statement of this fact is important, because it answers an unhandy remark in the *Journal des Debats* as to the tardiness with which the British battery was erected. The French had horses to draw their artillery, and, moreover, had a nearer and easier position to. No such feeling as has found expression in the columns of the *Debats* prevailed among the French engaged in the action, for they loudly cheered our gallant seamen when dragging the guns through their encampment.

The Springfield Republican says that the growing crops of tobacco in the Connecticut valley is a large and very promising one. It has seldom, if ever, looked better, and promised more than it does now. It thrives well in the midst of other crops, which are much injured by the drought. The yield must be large and the quality good.

A young man named Short, a clerk in a dry good store in Cincinnati, and a young Lawyer named Peacock, from Chicago, fought a duel in Kentucky on Saturday. Short was fatally wounded in the left breast at a second fire. They fought about a young lady, to whom Short was engaged to be married.

Mr. T. D. Archibald is appointed a Member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia.

C. B. Hamilton (1847) formerly commander of the *Vestel*, 26, on this station, has been appointed to the Ceylon, flag ship of Rear Admiral Houston Stewart, C.B., at Malta

One of our writers says you can tell when you are surrounded by a dozen Americans by the following unerring test—three will be found smoking cigars, and nine reading newspapers.

It appears that from the report of the inspector, that the enormous capital of \$5,000,000 is employed in the milk business in New York and vicinity. The amount paid for pure country milk is estimated in the report at \$1,350,000; for swill milk from the distillery fed cows, \$2,540,000; for water and adulteration, £1,250,000.

The New Orleans Bee says that the popularity of Santa Anna has waned as rapidly as it rose, and there is good reason for the belief that before many months that that despotic ruler will for the fourth time, become an outcast and a fugitive.

Advices from Belize, Honduras, to August 2d, give a deplorable picture of things there, touching the scarcity of breadstuffs consequent upon the destruction of crops by locusts.

Five Artillerymen deserted from the Garrison in Fredericton on 2d inst.

Two German Jews, passengers in the steamer *Washington*, at New York, were arrested on the 14th instant on board that vessel, and from 12,000 to £15,000 worth of smuggled Jewellery taken from them, which they had about their persons. They were placed in custody.

A very important decision has been recently rendered in the English House of Lords, in a question of copyright. The decision is, that a work composed by an alien cannot be copyrighted in Great Britain unless the author is residing within the Queen's dominions, and owing allegiance to her at the time of its publication in Great Britain. This decision is of the greatest importance to all American authors and publishers. It is given, too, by the highest judicial authority in the kingdom, and is not subject to review or repeal. It may therefore be taken as English law hereafter, that Americans cannot take out copyrights of their works in England unless they go there to live, or at least are residents there at the time of their publication.

The Legislature of this Province has, by proclamation, been further prorogued until the 17th day of October next.

From a report just made to the Secretary of the Treasury, it appears that in the United States from January 1 to June 17, 1854, there were sixty-four steamboat disasters, involving a loss of \$2,275,442 and five hundred and forty-eight lives.

Dates from Barbadoes to the 12th of August report the disappearance of cholera; the number of deaths during the epidemic amounts to 18,000. At Grenada and St Lucia the disease was raging fearfully.

The British Post Office pays the Railways in England £370,000 a year for carrying the mails.

About one hundred negroes in Cuba who had purchased their freedom have taken their departure for Africa via England. The present Captain General of Cuba, it is stated, is earnest in his desire to put down slavery in Cuba.

Ten thousand of the working women of Bristol have sent an address to the Queen praying that public-houses may be closed during the whole of the Sabbath; twelve thousand working men of the same place petitioned Parliament to the same effect!

Accounts from Berlin state, that Prussia is quite satisfied with the evacuation of the Principalities, and professes to assume openly the character of a mediator.

A levy *en masse* in Poland has been ordered by the Czar; each landed proprietor is ordered to supply twenty-four men, of whom twelve must be armed with scythes and axes.

The clipper bark *Mermaid*, arrived at San Francisco from Hong Kong, brought news that two ships bound to California with Chinese immigrants, had been lost in the China Sea, together with 1000 of their passengers.

The European news is gratifying in one particular. The price of wheat has fallen to an extent that must materially affect our markets. We think flour is as cheap in London as in New York.

The editor of the *Detroit Advertiser* was a few days ago shown a specimen of paper manufactured from a weed which grows spontaneously all over the Northern States, and known generally by the name of *Whitlop*. Though possessed of some woody fibre it still becomes entirely a perfect pulp under the ordinary bleaching and beating operation.

Prince Albert has actually persuaded Lord Hardinge and the other military authorities to change the dress of the British Army, into a sort of German fashion, covered over with frogs and German laces. This substitute will throw 1200 lace makers out of employment in London alone.

The 'Assemblée Nationale' says:—"We are assured that an experiment has just been successfully made in France of employing swallows to carry letters, as pigeons were used some years back. Six swallows taken in their nests at Paris, were conveyed by railway to Vienna, and there let go, with a small roll of paper, containing 1,510 words, under the wing of each. They were let go at 7 1-4 in the morning; two arrived at Paris a few minutes before 1; one at 2 1-4, one at 4 o'clock, and the other two did not make their appearance.

There have been very few deaths in Fredericton for the last week. The instances are as few at the present as at any period during the last five years.—*Reporter*.

It is gratifying to be able to state that no deaths from Cholera have taken place, at the Marine Hospital in this City, nor at the Provincial Lunatic Asylum on Carleton heights.—*Courier*.

We learn that Mr. Morton is now engaged in locating the remainder of the railway line between Saint John and the bend.—*Courier*.

BUSINESS IN ST. JOHN.—We never saw such a change in the business aspect of this City as was manifested towards the last of the week. From death-like stillness every thing has suddenly sprung into new life and activity. We doubt, if there ever was such a bustle in King Street as there was on Saturday. A good Fall business may yet be done.—*Morning News*.

Dr. J. B. Fiske, of Bangor, aged 70 years, fell dead in the street on Monday last.

QUICK WORK.—The steamer *Creole*, on her last trip from Windsor to St. John, made the run in nine hours and twenty minutes from wharf to wharf.—*N. Bruns*.

A farmer in France, stuck a pea in a potatoe, and planted them together in March. Pea produced a stalk which was covered with pods, and the potatoe gave eleven healthy roots. He thinks that by this means, double crops could be obtained and the potatoe disease prevented.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Tuesday last a raft on which were ten men was blown on the verge of the abyss of the Chaudiere Falls.—By great exertions a cable was secured to a rock under the suspension bridge, and all on board were safely landed—one after another. Half the population of Bytown were witnesses of this trying scene.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

From Late English Papers.

The following account is reproduced from a London paper:—

The fortified post known as the Bomarsund was situated on the most Eastern point of the largest of the Aland Islands. This point of land juts out into the sea which washes its Southern, Northern, shores. On the West, a tongue of land runs down to the South towards Lumpar Bay. The country is rocky, wooded, and partly cultivated. The main fort stands at the head of a semicircular bay, facing the South. It was a long granite structure, about forty feet in height, and mounting from eighty to a hundred guns in casements. Its fire therefore swept the bay. Above this fort the land gradually rose; and on the crests of the low hills stood three round granite towers; one on the highest ground to the West; the second, an inconsiderable work, in the centre; and the third on the Eastern hill. Opposite the Southern point of the island lay the isle of Presto, also fortified by a tower.—On the West the Russians had thrown up an earth work mounting six guns. From the centre of the bay the batteries stood about North, and the ships of war, steamers, and transports, stretched across from the East to the Western shore. The ships so moored were—*English*: *Bulldog* (flag of Sir Chas. Napier) *Edinburgh* (flag Admiral Chads,) *Hogue*, *Ajax*, *Blenheim*, *Amphion*, *Termagant*, *Belleisle* (hospital ship,) *Penelope*, *Sphinx*, *Gladiator*, *Valorous*, *Vulture*, *Pigmy*, *Lightning*. The troop transports were the *Prince*, *Julia*, *Columba*, *Cornelius Fox*, besides several yachts and cutters.—*French*: *Inflexible* (flag,) *Breslau*, *Trident*, *Tage*, *Duperré*, *St. Louis*, *Algerine* (hospital ship,) *Phlegethon*, *Darien*, *Souffleur*, *Asmodee*, and the Imperial yacht. The *Leopard*, *Arrogant*, *Odia*, *Helcla*, *Locust*, *Porcupine*, *Otter*, *Aiban*, and *Cockoo*, were stationed on the North side of the Island.

The story of the siege of Bomarsund begins on the evening of the 7th of August; when the transports had all arrived, and Admiral Napier in the *Bulldog* steamed through the fleet to see that all was ready. At nine that evening the signal was hoisted to get out all the boats; and the *Termagant*, *Stromboli*, and *Sphinx*, by the light of the moon, sounded the passage to the Western shore, where the landing on the morrow was to take place. In those regions the summer morning breaks early, and at two on the 8th the day's work had begun. At three, the *Edinburgh*, "with boats hanging all round her," followed by the *Duperré*, rounded the West point, and the *Edinburgh* sent four shells among the woods on shore to warn off any Russians who might be lying there. An hour later, the *Amphion* and *Phlegethon* took a position West of the earth work, and after firing with great effect for half an hour, sent three boats in to spike the guns. It was found that the Russians had fled; and, with three cheers, the English and French flags were planted on the battery. Soon after this, the Western tower opened fire on the two ships; but the *Bulldog* and *Stromboli* came up, and engaged the tower, to divert attention from the landing.—This operation began at half past four, and by eight o'clock upwards of ten thousand French soldiers were safely ashore, and marching through the woods and over the heights into the enemy's country. This is justly regarded as a work of "singular energy and rapidity." The troops encamped for the night near Skarpans, a village about two

miles from the West tower, which, as it commanded the main fort, was the object of the first attack.

Nor had the English been idle or unmolested—A hot fire of shot and shell was directed against them on the 13th, 14th, and 15th; and it was a sight to see the shells bursting all about while the men kept to their work, and the officers were at their toilet, or writing, or breakfasting on the granite ledges. The battery was finished on the 12th, and it was not wanted against the Western tower, the guns were returned to the Eastern tower. On that morning also Captain Pelham of the *Bleheim* landed a 10 inch gun, and, although in an exposed position, kept up a steady fire on the Western face of the large fort, supported by the *Hecla* and *Valorous*. Other ships came up at intervals, and threw shot and shell with great effect upon the fort. Captain Ramsay also landed three 32 pounders and pounded away at the Eastern fort. The combined fire proved too much for the Russians; at half-past four their guns were silenced; a flag of truce was hung out, and the marines and sailors coolly walked in and took possession of the fort and 118 prisoners. On the morning of the 16th there still remained the great fort; but it obviously stood no chance. Again the ships, Captain Pelham, and the French, kept up a sustained fire; and early in the day a flag of truce showed that General Bodisco had had succumbed to the Allies. Captain Hall of the *Hecla* went ashore; the Governor surrendered, and the garrison, 2000 in number, laid down their arms. Soon after Admiral Napier and Parseval joined General Baraguay d'Hilliers at the fort.

THE ARMY IN INDIA.

Whilst the German and French newspapers in the interest of the Russian Government are spreading wonderful stories as to how the wandering Tartars of the Asiatic Desert, and the people of Khiva, Boekhara, and Afghanistan (all of whom are furious Mahomedans, of the same sect as the Turks) are about to seize the favourable opportunity created by the attack of Russia on the Sultan to form a close and affectionate union with the Czar, and to march, under the command of Russian Generals, some thousand or fifteen hundred miles through trackless deserts, and over impossible mountains, to attack his enemies, the English, in India,—whilst these stories, worthy of the great Baron Munchausen are still before the world, it may be well just to give some notion of the strength of the army which any enemy that may reach the banks of the Indus will have to encounter on its arrival there.—The following is a tabular statement of the strength of the Anglo-Indian army, according to a calculation carefully drawn up by a friend of ours, and handed to us for publication:—

Bengal: Queen's troops, non-commissioned	16,010
Com'y's "contingents,	156,761
	—172,771
Bombay: Queen's troops	5,600
Company's "	48,873
	—54,474
Bombay: Queen's troops	4,600
Company's "	66,944
	—71,544
Total force in India, exclusive of commissioned officers	298,789
Of which 36,210 are Europeans, and 262,579 Natives.	

The real object of the German and French flatterers of Russia in putting forth their empty threats against British India is to keep the whole of the Anglo-Indian army in that country; but they will not succeed in that object, if Russia should plunge into a war with England and France. In the year 1799, when England did not possess the fourth part of the strength that she possesses now, a strong division of troops was sent up the Red Sea, under the command of General Baird, to act with the army of Sir Ralph Abercrombie; and a division four times as strong may be sent into the Mediterranean at the present time, if its services should be required. In the coming war India will be a source of strength, not of weakness, to England.

The War office have just made nine sergeant-majors, five sergeants, three quarter master sergeants, four colour and one company sergeant, ensigns without purchase.

Over 70 members of the Irish constabulary have volunteered to join the British troops in Turkey.—Some have been appointed to subaltern ranks in the commissariat department.

The crops in Great Britain are generally good, especially the wheat crops. The potatoe crops in Great Britain are abundant, and are of much superior quality to those grown for some years past.

In Dublin the fields of wheat are said to be "dropping with richness." Reports of the potatoe crop are equally satisfactory.