

and the fat is melted into oil, but few of the people eat the flesh, though it is said to be well tasted.

CAVERNS IN ICELAND.

The cavern of Surtshell, the largest and most remarkable, both in appearance and origin, in Ireland, lies in a tract of distorted lava, which has flowed from the Bald or Geitlands Jokul northwards into one of the sources of the Hvitan. In describing this cave we shall follow the account of the Danish travellers, which is the most circumstantial, and agrees in all important points with those of more recent visitors. At the entrance they found the roof fallen down about a gunshot in length, so that in this part it resembled a long rent twenty or thirty feet deep covered with pieces of broken lava. At the end of this was a dark opening thirty-six feet high and fifty-four wide, forming the mouth of the real cave, which has generally the same dimensions. Here they lighted a large wax-candle, brought with them from Copenhagen on purpose, and proceeded into the interior, the roof of which was hung with stalactites, its walls glazed, and its floor covered with fallen fragments. They next passed a hole in the roof, and soon after came to two side openings, running at an acute angle with the main approach. The one on the right contained some bones of oxen and stones placed as if for a fire, but nothing else worth noticing; the other on the opposite side is larger and more curious, and is named the Viiget or Intrenchment cave, from a wall built across it at a little distance from the entrance. As it is about eight feet above the floor of the principal vault, and is darker; it formed a most secure retreat for the robbers and other outlaws, who in former times frequented this place, and is mentioned as such in the Sturlunga Saga. In it they found a number of bones of sheep and oxen, retaining their original form and colour, but so much decayed as scarcely to bear their own weight, and easily rubbed down by the fingers. It is fifty fathoms long, and in the middle there is a small pool of water, also frozen at the bottom. After leaving this chamber, they proceeded further into the great cavern, when they soon encountered a wall dividing it into two apartments, one of which, however, soon terminated. In the other, they passed some more openings in the roof, and a pool of water, also frozen at the bottom, which had stopped Olafsen on a former visit, being then too deep for him to wade. To this point the walls had been found glazed and the roof adorned with various stalactites of lava, but here both of these appearances vanished. After passing the fourth opening, the ground descended rapidly, the darkness increased, the air grew thick and close, and the cold became more intense. The floor was covered with ice, formed of curious five and seven sided cones or prisms, having much the appearance of the second stomach of a ruminating animal. At last they came to a heap of stones, near which was a piece of birch-wood, retaining its form, but quite decayed and broken in two, showing that some time previously this place had been visited by men. They repaired this pyramid, and left on it two coins, together with their seals impressed on wax. Henderson found the larger coin, the smaller, as he supposes having fallen down among the stones, and also the impressions in wax, though nearly obliterated. About 220 paces further on they reached the end of the cave stopped up with stones; upon which they returned, carefully pacing the distance to the last opening in the roof, where they got out and measured the remainder above ground. According to this estimate the whole length is 5034 feet, or rather less than an English mile, to which it must nearly approach, as there are several windings in the interior. This cave was famed even in the first ages of Icelandic tradition, when it was believed to be inhabited by a giant named Surtur or the Black, in honour of whom one of the skalds, named Thorwald, composed a song and sang it at the mouth of the den.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

St. John Chronicle, November 6.
The Liberty of the Press Triumphant.—Our Trial for Libel.

On Thursday the 29th October, the Trial commenced, and lasted the whole of that and the two following days. The Court was crowded with the respectability of the County of York and its vicinity, the Officers of the Garrison, the Members of the Council and of the House, who came to hear a legal battle in which they were all personally interested. The result, as the whole country already knows, terminated to the discredit of the Government, and to the satisfaction of the supporters of the Chronicle, as well as to almost every person in the Province, in a Verdict of "NOT GUILTY."

The Prosecution was instituted and brought to trial with the full assurance of obtaining a verdict. On Thursday morning, when they were chuckling with delight at the prospect of silencing the Chronicle for ever, the officials and friends of the present government were to be seen in the streets of Fredericton and giving expression to their joyous feelings after this manner—"The verdict will prove that the present Government enjoys the confidence of the people." "On the issue depends the credit of the government and the downfall of the paper." "I'll venture to say the printers

wish now that they had never opposed the Government." But to them, alas, the spirit of prophecy was not given; and the evening of the 3rd day proved the opposite, viz: the Government dishonored and discredited, and the Chronicle enjoyed more of the public confidence than its persecutors did.

The Verdict is more than equivalent to a vote of censure passed by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly upon the conduct and political measures of his Excellency's Executive Council, because they (the council and assembly) had it in their power to punish the printer for the alleged libel, but instead of doing so, they chose to refer it to the country, and the measure was adopted to try the strength of the government. It must teach them that though they are surrounded by the paean of authority, that there are bounds to that authority, and that they who would wrestle with the Press, must not only possess a giant strength, but must bring to the contest unimpeachable characters and sound loyal principles, else their antagonist will become the mighty instrument of their overthrow. It ought to teach them that they rule by the People and for the People, and that although the practisers of political corruption remain unpunished whilst undetected, that as soon as the light which emanates from a FREE PRESS breaks upon them, and brings them to the censorship of the public, they meet with the contempt which they deserve.

The Verdict, we hope may inform his Excellency the Governor, that his advisers are not infallible, and that their principles do not possess that which they boast is their peculiar characteristic, *the confidence of the People.*

Nor does it fail to convey a useful and salutary lesson to us; it shows that our truest friends, our friends in need, are the People, and that they approve of the course we have pursued; it shows the People that they must look to the Press, as the guardian of their rights and the detector of abuses.

We here take the opportunity of thanking in the warmest manner the Gentlemen connected with the Press in Great Britain, Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, who lent their talents and columns to animate us in our defence of the common cause—the FREEDOM OF THE PRESS—assuring them, that if, at any future time, either of them should be unfortunately placed in a like situation, the Chronicle will not be lukewarm in their behalf.—To the Editors in this Province who have remained merely neutral, we also return our thanks; and to those (who for the honor of the profession we are happy to say are few,) who have supported a prosecution of their brother Editors we can, under the circumstances, easily forgive them, hoping that their future remarks will not be as futile or so unavailing to produce the effect intended.

In conclusion—we still maintain our right to comment upon Public Men and Public Measures, and of censuring whenever it may be necessary; and while our columns will be ever open to the advancement of Christianity and good government, and the Rights of the People, the "Lion" which is our emblem, will present the same steady, bold, and stern front, alike to the encroachments of power and the undue increase of democratic influence.

The Prosecution for Libel.—In another part of our impression of to day, we give some account of the late Trial for Libel. We hope soon to be furnished with copious notes of the whole proceedings, which we will take care to lay before our readers with all possible despatch. Thanks to the exertions of our able, zealous and excellent Counsel J. A. Street, R. L. Hazen, and George Botsford, Esquires; also to the impartiality of the Judge, and the patriotism of the Independent Jury who tried the cause, this most iniquitous star-chamber prosecution has terminated in one of the most glorious triumphs ever achieved in a Court of Justice.—Results of no common importance have been secured by this event. The country for some time to come will escape the curse of having ex officio information by the Attorney General fastened upon it. It is to be hoped that the reign of parasites and spies will be at an end, and there will be no more enquiries as to who writes for the Chronicle; that our Office place of business and residences will no longer be watched to see who comes and goes, or holds intercourse with us. That we shall receive all our letters in future, without the smallest danger of being opened or examined. And for some time to come the people of the Province will be allowed to express their opinion of the manner in which the Public Revenues are expended. And what is of infinitely greater consequence, there must be a change in the principles on which the Provincial government is conducted, and also a change in the men who are to conduct our affairs. The persons who have lately been in the enjoyment of the governor's confidence, if they ever had it, have now lost the confidence of the country, as the late Trial abundantly shows, and have become truly odious to all the thinking portion of the community. There never was such unanimity as the trial has elicited, there are scarcely any individuals who do not rejoice at the Verdict, and what is more who do not openly express their exultation. It is regarded as an attempt fraught with more extensive and lasting good to the country, than anything which has occurred for many years.

It affords us the greatest possible satisfaction to know that his Excellency the Lieut. Governor has expressly declared that he never did approve of the prosecution instituted against us,

and that he never would have consented to it, if he had not been assured by the representatives of the people that it would be a proceeding acceptable to the country at large. But who are the parties who are culpable in this case? The obvious answer is, the set of wretches who by a villainous system of the most wicked agitation contrived to acquire a commanding momentary influence in the country, and into whose tail the Governor got necessarily entangled on his first arrival in the Province, and from which he has never until now been able to extricate himself. From this moment His Excellency may render himself an independent Governor, and act accordingly.

Colonial.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

St. John Morning News, Nov. 11.

From the News Room Slate.—"There are 190 houses building in St. John, and its environs, this year, independent of the Burnt District, and those commenced last year."

The average number of buildings which are put up in the city of New-York, in the course of a year, amount in about 800, and about 400 in the same time are destroyed by fire, which leaves a balance of 400 in favour of the growth of the city each year. New-York contains a population of about 300,000—the city of St. John from between 20 to 30,000. The number of buildings destroyed here during the present year were about 10. From this calculation the reader will be able to form some idea of the advancement of our city compared with that of 'the Queen City of America.' Let it also be brought to mind that these buildings have gone up in St. John through a season of almost unparalleled commercial difficulties.

St. John Herald, Nov. 11.

We have had a long continuance of easterly weather—and an abundance of rain. Several vessels are anxiously looked for, which cannot get up the Bay from the Cape, until we have a change. The season continues very open and mild, as yet.

The principal business of the season is now drawing to a close, and although the river still remains open, yet the supplies for the country are mostly all purchased and forwarded up. The market, now is bare of many articles, that are much required in lots, but which cannot be obtained until several expected cargoes arrive. Consequently, Flour is scarce, and prices are firm for all descriptions of provisions. West India produce remains as it has been throughout the summer, without much variation in price or demand; speculations, however, to a considerable extent, have been made in the articles of Sugar and Molasses—but holders all evince a desire to sell. Teas keep high, and best quantities of Black Teas have reached 4s. 6d. by the chest, and a small lot of very common sold by auction this week at 3s. to 3s. 6d. There is but a small supply in market, and in the hands of only two or three, who have made large sums of money on this article. Our timber market is likewise good—and prices are rather looking upwards; there is not so much demand for deals, which are principally held by a few. There is at all times a great difficulty in obtaining an exact Price Current for our market; otherwise we should furnish our readers with a weekly one.

Fredericton Sentinel.

A True Bear Story.—Ned Gable and John Poulcis, two Indians employed by Dr. Gesner, recently laid a snare for Carriboo near the Maquapit Lake; the latter on returning to secure his game found that a fine Carriboo had been taken, and afterwards devoured by a bear. Full of disappointment, he took the way to his wigwam, and was followed by the aged robber of the forest; but being deaf he did not know of the approach of Bruin until he was close upon his heels. The old Indian turned around, and raised his ta-ma-hegan (axe), and the bear prepared for action, but finally made a slow retreat. He afterwards made a similar attempt, but Poulcis knowing that it would be death to run, again faced him, and the bear again retreated. The two hunters finally prepared a dead-fall, and baited it with the remains of the Carriboo; and on the following morning, they had the satisfaction of finding their enemy in limbo. The bear was taken to Dr. Gesner, and may now be seen in his museum stuffed. It is a male 3 1-2 feet high, and 6 feet long. The paws are 7 inches broad. The animal weighed upwards of 400 weight. His grinding teeth are much decayed from age, and the scars on his sides, and marks of teeth in his skin, shew that he has been in bad company.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Novascotian, Nov. 11.

Boy Shot.—Several Boys, we understand, joined in attacking on some of the Coasters at the Market wharf on the evening of Tuesday week for the purpose of carrying off cabbages, and apples, which formed part of their

freight. They annoyed and endangered the crews by volleys of stones, when one of the men discharged a gun loaded with shot, the body of a boy named Penny, who lies in a dangerous state,—the man who fired is in Jail. Thus, as appears by the facts related, a very wanton and outrageous attack, on strangers, which should have been summarily and completely put down by some authority, has resulted in severe injuries to one party, and harassing punishment to another. We understand that this shameful attack on the Coasters is only one of a series of such occurrences. They will now, we suppose, terminate; but better before.

Captain Douglas, late commander of the Steamer Unicorn, has been appointed to command of the Columbia.

The Acadia arrived from Boston on Tuesday, in 43 hours.—She brought 47 passengers, and took from Halifax 15, making a total of 62.

The hon. S. G. W. Archibald has returned for Colchester, without opposing Alex. Archibald, the former member for Truro, is opposed by Mr. Flemming, Messrs Holmes, T. Dickson, J. McGrigor, and Blackadar, contests the County, Messrs Hatton, Ross, and Wilkins, the town of Pictou.

Mr. Uniacke will be opposed by Mr. Bowen at Sydney.

Extract of a letter from Messrs. Whitney,

Mr Keefer, dated St. John, Oct. 31.—"The winds are getting so boisterous, that the Windsor boat will discontinue her trips for this season on that route. The New America will ply to Boston twice more leaving St. John on her last trip on Thursday 12th inst., she will lie a week in Boston prior to her return on the last trip.

The Mail for England, by the Britannia Steamer, will be closed on Thursday, the 5th of December next, at 12 o'clock.

Halifax Times, Oct. 10.

High Tide.—The tide rose remarkably high this morning, and overflowed several of the cellar stores in Water-street, causing considerable damage to sugar, salt, and other commodities deposited therein. We understand that so high a tide was never before known in the harbour—the roaring of the surf during the night was very loud, and it tokened some unusual commotion of the ocean.

Pictou Mechanic & Farmer, Nov. 11.

The County Election.—Between the hours of 10 and 12 A. M., on Thursday, a Poll was opened in the County Court House, for the election of two members, to represent the County of Pictou in the next General Assembly.—Four Candidates appeared on the hustings. The High Sheriff, after a short address to the Electors, in which he urged the propriety of order and good feeling, expressed his desire that uninterrupted tranquillity might be observed throughout the contest, proceeded to read the Writs and the recent enactments passed for the regulation of Elections.

The Candidates and their proposers spoke briefly. Their speeches will be prepared and circulated at an early hour to-day, at the office.

Ere the dawn of day, the voters began flock into town and fill the Court House. The majority of those who obtained possession of the room, being supporters of the Conservative interest, their Candidates maintained the ascendancy during the day.

At the close, the Poll was as follows: Henry Blackadar, 174, John Holmes, 174, Thomas Dickson, 108, James McGregor 108. We trust that every man will come to his duty without any necessary delay. It is your duty you owe to your country, and a privilege extended to yourselves, to come forward in support those whom you deem worthy of your confidence.

United States.

New York Sunday Atlas, Oct. 25.

Great Political Excitement.—Charge of Fraud against the Whigs.—For the last few days, there has been an immense political excitement in this city, owing to a charge of fraud against some leading members of the whig party, in bringing persons from Philadelphia to vote at the polls and influence the election. The investigation of the matter is going on, and the result must shortly appear. We, neutral paper, have nothing to do with the transaction in its present form. To give an impartial account of the affair, we should be compelled to occupy a space that would sweep all other matter from our columns. The politicians must fight their own battles in their own papers, to which we refer our readers. We cannot consistently mention the assertions of the respectable and leading whigs we ourselves assert to be fully substantiated, and themselves awkwardly situated. We only express the hope that every violation of the purity of our elections will meet its just punishment, and be made amenable to the laws. We do heartily rejoice in the strong expressions