

young, all in a mass at the frightful discharge of the steam from the escape-pipe, which the captain of the boat let loose upon them for their own fun and amusement. There were many curious conjectures amongst their wise men with regard to the nature and powers of the steam boat. Amongst the Mandans, some called it the big thunder canoe, for when in the distance below the village, they saw the lightning flash from its sides, and heard the thunder come from it; others called it the 'big medicine canoe with eyes'; it was *medicine*, (mystery,) because they could not understand it; and it must have eyes, for, said they, 'It sees its own way, and takes the deep water in the middle of the channel.' They had no idea of the boat being steered by the man at the wheel, and well might they have been astonished at its taking the deepest water.

From the N. Y. Sunday Atlas.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAWS.

The laws which men make are broken through, or serve but as meshes to catch the unwary; against the strong evil doer they are worse than powerless. Behold the man who has squandered the patrimony of the orphan, and broken the crust of the widow, and snatched the crust from the toothless gums of the old and toothless poor! Behold him as he walks abroad clothed in purple and fine linen, or sits at tables groaning beneath the treasures of the earth. Costly raiment and sumptuous viands, and the richest juices of the grape are his; the four quarters of the globe supply him with dainties and delicacies and rare offerings, the sweat of the poor and needy is distilled into ambrosia for his fastidious appetite. Contrast him, in the insolence of ill gotten wealth, with the poor victim whose face he has ground down by his exactions—whose cup he hath dashed with bitterness—whose bread he has moistened with the torturing tears of grief. See with what an air he swaggers through the streets, 'pride in his port, defiance in his eye,' and then see the other crawling to his miserable hovel, weak, weary, dispirited and desponding, to listen to complaints which he cannot soothe, to witness misery which he cannot alleviate. 'Woe! woe! woe! the worker of iniquity.'

Why is it, gracious providence, that here where we boast of equal laws, and even handed justice—here, where the orator proclaims, and the poets sing, and scribes record, that all men are alike bound by the strong chain of public opinion—that the starving wretch goes unwept and unpitied to his felon doom—and the loftier scoundrel still basks unharmed amidst his rose coloured enjoyments? Why is it, that he who snatches his neighbour's purse—in award of just punishment—rots in the dampness of the prison house, while he who takes from his neighbour his houses and his lands and his possessions—he who absorbs in his own voracious claw, thousands and tens of thousands belonging to others—he who goes on accumulating for his own gain from the sad reverses of those who have entrusted him, rolls in his gilded chariot, and laughs at the misfortunes he has occasioned? 'Oh judgment thou art fled to British beasts, And men have lost their reason.'

WHAT IS INSANITY AND WHAT IS NOT?

A great number of persons firmly believed, that Mitchell would have escaped on the plea of insanity, and we believe that he was partially insane. He exhibited all the cunning of insanity in his escape to Canada, and the folly of insanity in keeping a diary of his transactions; but still it was not, probably, that aberration of the mind that the law or the spirit of the law recognizes. It was an indisposition, not a positive sickness. The physician who said he believed every individual to be more or less insane, spoke the truth. On many and many occasions, the whole human species are insane. The child is insane when, to be revenged upon its loving mamma for some wholesome correction, it refuses to eat its dinner. The lover is insane when he thinks his mistress a goddess, and worships her as one. The man is down right mad, who gets into debt and trusts to contingencies to extricate himself. Every man who commits crime is insane, and after the deed, conscience—your true devil—lacerating his self respect with red hot pincers, and tossing his brains about with his pitchfork, makes him still madder. If acts of insanity could acquit a man, one half the created world might commit the darkest crimes, and escape the punishment of the law. A line must therefore be, and is drawn. Proofs of insanity, before and after the commission of a crime, must be established as clear as Holy Writ, to ensure the acquittal of a prisoner. Every prisoner who is indicted for a high crime pleads insanity. It is the capital on which counsel works most mightily. Without such a plea some of the learned gentlemen of the bar would be put to their wits ends.

THE LAST OF THE SUMMER.

The last of the Indian Summer, the last, the last has shone upon us during the last week. Last Sunday was a lovely day. All the world and his wife were out. Broadway was crowded with beauty and fashion. Those who have only the Sabbath to enjoy, were out in their Sunday clothes, and all looked contented and happy—as bright and joyous as the day itself. All care seemed dispelled—business and its cares dispelled. Sunday, of all days, indicates the bright hereafter—the long, the everlasting day of rest—when Wall street shavers will not pray upon us—when broken

banks will not fret us—when the difference in exchanges will not bother us—nor politics nor the Catholic question stir up hasty anger and hot blood. The battery looked especially lovely. Here the genial air and the sweet sunshine fondly dally, until like the British troops they take their leave, but unlike them not their final leave of the city. The trees upon the battery in part, still boast their green refreshing leaves, while in other parts the trees are bare, and the grass is fresh, bright, and beautiful, while up town it exhibits the decay of nature—the dissolution of the year. A sick man who had endured a long protracting illness, might have thought that the sweet time was coming, as he gazed upon the scene and enjoyed the balmy air, and not that nature's death was about to set its seal upon all things lovely. Possibly, a few—a very few—more such bright and beautiful days, and Winter will have enthroned himself. Take advantage of the time as the ladies do, who, like the bees, bask in the sunshine. Visit the Battery, and there see the last of the Summer!

United States.

From the New York Express.

FRENCH VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES.

Our readers will perceive some harsh things in the following extract, and yet who does not shudder to think that some of them are but too true. When we look back to the good old days of Madison and Monroe, and then contemplate the immediate change in our national character which followed the ascendancy of Jacksonism we may well hang our heads. His loose code of politics and morals has changed the very nature of our institutions, and made triumphant roguery an object of political calculation. Locofocoism, disorder, infidelity, repudiation, and corruption, have stalked among us without a blush—and the moderate, the prudent, and the virtuous begin to ask, what is the end of all this?

The United States have fallen sadly from their renown for morality, which at the commencement of their career, rendered them popular among nations. The generous instincts of good faith, disinterestedness, and justice, which elevate the character of a nation, appear to have disappeared for ever from this generation of statesmen, formed in the school of Washington. The habits of the Americans become at once brutal, and selfish. Failures and murders increase to an alarming extent. The nation *en masse* has twice become bankrupt to its European creditors. The history of the Bank of the United States presents the disgusting spectacle of dishonest managers plundering their shareholders after having cheated foreigners. The people of the United States attempt to acquire riches as the Arabs of the desert run after booty? Moral anarchy, political anarchy, commercial anarchy, such is the incredible position of the United States. Every nation of Europe has its sore. England has the Poor Law and the Corn Law. The oppression which in Great Britain comes from the Aristocracy—in Germany and Poland comes from the Government. In France the emute of Clermont has revealed the social hatred and the sources of anarchy, which create dread for the future. But no where is evil so deep and universal as in the United States. Demoralization has there laid hold of the very entrails of society, and from thence extends to the superior and inferior regions.

How can the American people do other than delight in habits of violence, when the example is set in high quarters. No government can with impunity throw off its moral obligations. The United States are now expiating by general discontent and disturbance, the faults or excesses of General Jackson and Mr Van Buren, and by the majorities by which they were supported. They are punished for their ingratitude and breach of faith towards France. If, as there is reason to fear, the present situation of the United States should continue, the chastisement will soon be complete.

Indictment against the Directors of the United States Bank.—The Grand Jury at the Court of General Sessions in Philadelphia, have found a bill against Nicholas Biddle, Samuel Jaudon, and others, for entering into a conspiracy to defraud the stockholders of the Bank of the United States, of the sum of \$400,000 in the year 1836 and endeavouring to conceal the same by a fraudulent and illegal entry in 1840.

The Grand Jury have also requested a Bill of Indictment may be laid before them against the said Nicholas Biddle and others for entering into a conspiracy to defraud the Stockholders of the Bank of the United States during the years 1836, 7, 8, 9 and '40, by which

the stockholders have been defrauded of a sum exceeding \$300,000.

New York, Dec. 18.

A British Consul arrested.—A Letter from Havana, in the N. O. Bee, says:

A serious affair has just commenced in the neighbourhood of Matanzas. It appears that the English Consul went a few days since to a Plantation situated near the Town, and attempted to obtain the communication of all the slaves belonging to a Planter who had arrived from Jamaica. His seditious counsels might have occasioned a general revolt among the colored population of that place. As soon as the Commander at Matanzas obtained information of this occurrence, he arrested the Consul and sent him here, escorted by soldiers under the order of the government. We do not know what will be the result of this affair.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Prussian State Gazette, under date St. Petersburg, the 6th inst, states that the town of Orel had been destroyed by fire. Seven hundred houses fell a prey to the flames, and some most important documents deposited in the government archives were destroyed.

The West Indian Steam Fleet.—This large fleet is rapidly assembling at the port of departure, and the Southampton river will soon present one of the splendid scenes that has ever been witnessed in our harbours; 14 steam ships of the largest size and power, all of the same dimensions, the property of the Royal Mail packet Company, are rapidly coming forward to this station as they are in succession completed. Three of them, the Clyde, the Tweed, and the Solway, have already arrived from the place of their construction in Scotland at Southampton, and others are soon expected from the Thames, the Mersey, and other ports where they are rapidly progressing.

It is rumoured that the funds arising out of the negotiation of the exchequer counterfeits have been traced to the Bank of France, where they are held in deposit, and it is added that a messenger has been sent over to Paris to attach it in the hands of the bank. It is further stated that government, having a clue to the agent here employed in the transmission of the property, still other measures have been taken for its recovery.

Royal Nurse.—Mrs Brough who has been chosen as the 'wet Nurse of the infant Prince, will receive for her year's services, in wages and gratuities, the very pretty sum of £1250. She is the wife of an under servant at Clermont. The nurse of the Princess Royal received about £650.

Capt Ross has, by letter, stated that he had made a successful approach to within twelve degrees of the Antarctic Pole, and had obtained some very approximate determinations of the South Magnetic Pole.

It is stated that nine thousand pounds of powder were thrown into the Thames during the conflagration of the Tower. No great danger of an explosion appeared to be apprehended in consequence thereof.

COMMUNICATION.

Mr Pierce,

Can you inform me if the Magistrates, at the approaching Session, purpose enquiring why the words SAW DUST, in the Bill for the protection of the Fisheries in our river, which originated among that body, were erased in the Legislature? The Fishermen complain more of the evils which result from this article being thrown into the river—as they consider it highly prejudicial to the Fishery—than they do of the slabs, rinds, &c., prohibited by the law; and it was particularly to remove this evil that they urged the passing of the bill.

I should also like to be informed, if the Magistrates residing in Chatham, intend petitioning the Legislature to repeal the highly objectionable bill, passed last Session, for the erection of a LOCK UP HOUSE in Chatham, at the expense of the inhabitants of the town?

A public meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the subject, at which both the Members of the County attended, by special request, and they there distinctly heard it stated that the charge for this building should be borne by the County, and upon no other terms would they agree to its erection; and so determined were they upon this point, that the bill was framed accordingly and not left open, as it had formerly been. Notwithstanding these instructions, the bill was altered, and in that shape passed, contrary to the positive and unanimous declaration of the parties interested.

We hear much of Responsibility. To

whom are the Members of Assembly responsible, if not to their constituents; and if so, how can they justify themselves in acting in direct opposition to their instructions. If they did not like the bill, they could have voted against it—but they had no right, I contend, to alter it—and more particularly to frame it in such a manner as they well knew would be highly objectionable, and contrary to the wishes of those immediately concerned.

ENQUIRER.

Chatham, January 1, 1842.

[We cannot give our correspondent any information, as we are as ignorant of the intentions of our Magisterial body as he is. Perhaps some of our Correspondents may be able to furnish the required information—if so, we should like to hear from them.] Ed. Gleaner.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1842.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern Mail, arrived on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock.

THE NEWS.

We have very little news to communicate to our readers to day. Our files of English papers obtained by the last steamer, contain no intelligence of the slightest moment in addition to the extracts we have already published—and our Colonial papers are also barren of news.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIRAMICHI BIBLE SOCIETY.

The First Annual Meeting of the Miramichi Bible Society, pursuant to adjournment, was held on the first day of the present year, in St. Andrew's Church, Chatham; ROBERT MORROW, Esq., one of the Vice Presidents, in the chair.

The meeting having been opened with prayer, by the Rev. R. Archibald, and the Report of the committee for the past year being read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed.

On motion of the Rev. A. McNutt, seconded by Mr John Fraser, resolved, 1. That the Report now read be adopted, and printed for the use of the Society.

On motion of Mr J. Spratt, seconded by James Caie, Esq. resolved, 2. That it is a cause of profound gratitude, that the Church of Christ is at present awakening to a sense of its duty, to circulate the Scriptures throughout the world.

On motion of the Rev. R. Archibald, seconded by Mr John Hen, resolved,

3. That this Society should steadily keep in view the important duty, of supplying with the word of God, every destitute family in the county, as soon as the state of the funds may warrant the enterprise; and for this purpose should diligently employ all proper efforts to increase these funds.

On motion of the Rev. James Souter, seconded by Mr Wm Venning, resolved, 4. That sensible that all attempts to enlighten and evangelize the world are vain, without the divine blessing, it is the duty of the friends of the Bible, humbly to implore the divine blessing upon the labours of Bible Societies.

On motion of Mr J. A. Pierce, seconded by P. Williston, Esq. resolved, 5. That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Collectors for their diligent exertions.

The account of the Treasurer having been read and approved,

On motion of James Caie, seconded by George Kerr, Esq. it was resolved, 6. That the undernamed gentlemen be appointed office bearers for the ensuing year:

President—Wm. Abrams, Esq.
Vice Presidents—James Gilmore, Dudley Perley, Robert Morrow, Esquires.
Treasurer—George Kerr, Esq.
Secretary—Rev. John McCurdy.
Committee—J. A. Street, H. Curard, Wm. Joplin, J. Caie, J. Leshe, D. McKay and John Porter, Esquires; Dr John Thomson, Messrs F. Elliott, C. Wishart, Joseph Spratt, Wm. Venning, David Johnston, James Millar, P. Williston, and Mr Wm. Gremley.

The Report exhibited the receipts for the year as amounting in all to £42 5 11; and the Treasurers' account after deducting £23 for a Bill of Exchange remitted to the Parent Society,