

ice passage. The ice masses from the gulf would then be driven landward and those of the Neva seaward, whilst in this battle of the Titans, the marvellous city, with all its palaces and fortresses, princes and beggars, would be swallowed in the floods like Pharaoh in the Red Sea. Scarce may we speak thus lightly of the future, for in truth the danger lies so near that many a Petersburg heart quails at the thought. Their only hope lies in the improbability of these three enemies, west wind, high water, and ice passage combining against them at one and the same time. Fortunately for them there are sixty four winds in the compass.

Had the old Finnish inhabitants of the Neva islands made their observations and bequeathed them to their successors, the average chances would have warned them how often in a thousand years such a combination must occur. In short, we shall not be astonished any day to hear that Petersburg, which like a brilliant meteor rose from the Finnish marshes, had just as suddenly been extinguished in the same. God protect it!

The hand of man, he adds, can do nothing here. New moles for keeping out the water, and new canals for carrying it off, are talked of and tried, as it were only to shew the fruitlessness of such plans, and meanwhile St. Petersburg lies utterly defenceless. So insidious and unforeseen is the rise of the water, that public means are adopted to warn the city of the danger:—

When, after a continuation of westerly winds, the waters of the Neva is observed to creep round the uttermost parts of the islands, a cannon is fired from the admiralty, and flags hoisted on all towers, to apprise the inhabitants that their city is besieged by the Nereids. As the water increases, the cannon is fired every hour. As it advances further, and inundates the lower outskirts of the city, the alarm is sounded every quarter of an hour; when it steals into the city itself, signals are repeated every five minutes, and in the last extremity minute guns summon, with desperate cries, every boat to help.

Our author proceeds to give an account of the dreadful inundation of the 17th November, 1824, the worst the city had ever experienced, and the horrors of which are still in every mouth. The waters rose so gently and innocently, that in those portions of the city too remote to hear the signals, the inhabitants had no suspicion of what was going forward, and only wondered to see the clear shining pools of water lying in the street,—thousands, therefore, continued their usual avocations, and hundreds paid for this day's work with their lives. But as soon as the waters had fairly gained possession, they threw off the mask of peace. Lashed into fury by a strong west wind, and bearing all opposition before them, they shot in lengthened currents through the streets, filling the cellars and lower stories, and dashing upwards from the sewers under ground in violent columns. Every minute now increased their force and volume. The vehicles on the public stands were lifted from their wheels, those horses which were deserted by their owners perished miserably in their harness, and many owners who stopped to save their horses perished themselves. Stone houses fell, and wooden buildings were lifted entire from their foundations, and with all their contents went driving about the streets. The trees in the squares hung thick with fugitives; cattle and horses were dragged up stairs, on to a second story, and stood in landings and ante rooms,—and many families, whose members the waters had surprised when apart, were doomed never to be reunited. The flood rose for twenty four hours,—and the horrors of the night, with every public lamp extinguished, and no moon, may be faintly conceived. But the distress of this day, was surpassed, if possible, by that of the ensuing, when the retreat of the waters showed the extent of the misery. Thousands of human beings had perished, whole rows of houses which had resisted their first fury, now fell down as their foundations were drained from beneath them—the loss of cattle, furniture, and other property, is estimated at upwards of a hundred millions of rubles, or almost five millions sterling. As a sequel to this, the public distress was wound up to its last pitch by the wasting pestilence which ensued. Dreadful as was this visitation, it was nevertheless tempered with mercy. Had the inundation happened in the spring, the shock of the ice masses, which no building could have withstood, would have been superadded to the violence of the waters, while the steaming exhalations from the heat of the ensuing summer would have incalculably multiplied the diseases of the survivors. The height of this inundation is designated upon the principal houses, with the date annexed, and our author quaintly observes, 'God grant that the Petersburg house painters may never earn another rouble by such a job. For every inch higher that they place their mark the city will have had to pay millions more of roubles, and hundreds more of families will have been thrown into mourning.'

TEMPERANCE.

Boston Notion, June 4.
THE GREAT TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION.

Yesterday morning, at an early hour, the principal streets of our metropolis were full of life and animation. In addition to numbers of our own citizens of both sexes,

thronging the walks and thoroughfares, many strangers were in town, and swelled the number of promenaders. To a spectator who had no previous knowledge of the grand feature of the day, it must have been evident from the bright and animated looks of the ladies, the gay and holiday attire of the children; and the bustling and eager din of the gentlemen, that some spectacle of unusual interest was about to be presented. The weather was fine—the sky bright and cloudless, and the air fresh and pure.

The convention met at the State House at 9 o'clock, A. M., and the meeting which was very large was called to order by Samuel F. Holbrook, President of the Washington Total Abstinence Society of Boston. After a prayer from Rev. Mr. Scudder, of Charlestown, a committee was appointed, which reported the following list of officers.

The Convention then adjourned to reassemble at the same place, at 3. The procession was then formed upon the Common under the direction of the Chief Marshal, Captain W. S. Baxter. At 20 minutes past eleven the march commenced, and at 12 the head of the column wheeled from Washington into State street, on the South side of the old State House. Among the first persons we recognized, was the Rev. Mr. Taylor. The fine naval band with their inspiring strains, the march of the vanguard of the Cold Water Army. Then came a corps of marines in full uniform. They followed the Naval Total Abstinence Society, the gallant little tars of the Apprentice Brig, men from the Receiving ship Ohio, and from the Navy Yard, with the United States flag unfolding its stars and stripes to the breeze. Next marched the Middlesex Temperance Societies and Delegates. The Washington Total Abstinence Society of South Reading had a neat banner, inscribed 'July 4, 1776.' Three marshals preceded the Salem Brass Band, in full uniform. Then came the Salem Washington Total Abstinence Society with an United States flag! The Lynn Washington Total Abstinence Society had a banner which was painted a man drinking from the bucket of a draw well—'The Old Oaken Bucket.' The Marblehead Society had a handsome and appropriate banner surmounted by a ship. Following the Haverhill Delegation, came the full Boston Brigade Band preceding the Boston Washington Total Abstinence Society. This Society displayed several banners among which was a very rich one of crimson and gold. The Delegates from the 'Empire State' followed next. The Banner of the New York Washington Total Abstinence Society bore a likeness of the Father of his Country—with the motto, 'Total Abstinence from all that Intoxicates.' They carried also the banner presented to them by the Ladies of New York, on which was a painting of the 'Happy wife.' The juvenile Temperance Society, marching two by two, with their banners formed, perhaps the most interesting part of the procession. The Boston Temperance Society followed next. One of the banners bore the following inscription:—'Pauper Tax, \$320,000. Who made it? Who pays it?' The Brighton, Pepprell, and South Boston Societies followed. The last had a banner showing a tavern, and a rum seller turning a drunkard out of doors. In the distance was a well. The Pawtucket and Central Falls Society was followed by the Rehoboth Society, on the banner of which were four vignettes—the subjects of which were Poverty and Death—Prosperity and Health. The New Bedford Society had a splendid banner of Blue silk. The banner of the Fall River Society was of white silk, on which were painted an emblematic figure of Justice, with the motto 'Our cause is good and we will do it.' The Hingham and Plymouth Societies came next. A Band preceded the East Cambridge Union Temperance Society, on whose banner was inscribed—'Kindness the most Efficient Law.' The Roxbury Temperance Society bore a rich banner representing Hannah Hawkins destroying the Hydra of intoxication. The West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain Society followed, with a magnificent banner of crimson and gold. The Dorchester Society bore on their banner a figure of Hope, with the motto 'Hope for the fallen.' The splendid banner of the Brookline Temperance Society was universally admired. This was presented them by S. A. Walker, Esq. The last Society in the procession was that of Needham.

According to our estimate, the procession numbered about four thousand. They marched at quick step, and occupied about half an hour in passing our office. The course taken by the procession was, down Park street Mall, up Tremont street to Elliot street, through Elliot to Washington street, down Washington to State street, down State to Merchants Row; round Faneuil Hall, down Commercial street, up Clarke street into Hanover street, down Cambridge to Charles street, through Charles to Beacon, up Beacon to the State House, where they were disbanded.

We have witnessed many magnificent spectacles, civic and military, but never did we see a procession that might more truly be called a triumphal one than that which gladdened and brightened the streets of our metropolis yesterday. Its march was gazed upon by thousands, among whom were a large majority of the gentler and better sex. Women have often smiled when arming their lovers and husbands for the field, and they may well exert their influence in urging them forward now in a determined warfare against the most baleful enemy of the human race. Supported as it is, by some of the noblest men among us, the cause—the glorious cause of Temperance must be triumphant. We trust the day is not far distant when intoxicating drinks shall be banished forever from the land, and men shall look back to the period of their devastation, as upon a second Reign of Terror more fatal than the first.

COLONIAL.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Cape Breton Spirit Times, May 25.

It will be seen that 9 square rigged vessels and 6 vessels laden with 'black diamonds,' have cleared for various ports Colonial and American, during the last week. Truly Cape Breton has little cause for dependency. While her sister colonies, right and left, are languishing under an unprecedented commercial depression—while even in the great neighbouring Republic, commerce is at a low ebb—Cape Breton is flourishing—more so than for years past. The depression experienced elsewhere does not extend to this quarter; on the contrary the floodgates of prosperity appear to have been opened upon us—our merchants are making preparations for an increased spring business—and new buildings are going up in every direction.

CANADA.

Montreal Times, May 19.

The rumour that England had obtained from Mexico a cession of the Provinces of California, appears to have sprung out of an arrangement proffered in 1834 to the English holders of Mexican bonds by which one half of the amount due, say about £5,000,000 sterling, with the interest, was to be converted into a consolidated fund. The other moiety of the existing debt, it was proposed, to discharge by warrants for land in various departments.

The terms of the proposed arrangement were subsequently modified. A new fund has been created for one half of the debt—one sixth of the custom house duties at Tampico and Vera Cruz has been set apart for the payment of the interest on the whole of the debt. The other half of the debt is to be discharged by lands, at the rate of Four Acres for £1 sterling.

In virtue of this arrangement, the English bondholders may obtain in California, or anywhere else in Mexico, 20,000,000 of acres of land, at the rate expressed, for one half of their debt, or five millions sterling.

We learn that an extensive emigration is contemplated. Few countries hold out greater inducements; and less than half a century will present a large British population on the shores of the Pacific and the Gulf of California.

Montreal Transcript, June 1.

The Steamer Lumber Merchant, Capt. Chabot, arrived in port yesterday morning, with 250 of the passengers of the Jane Black, wrecked below Pointe des Monts. Captain Chabot reports that on the arrival of the Lumber Merchant at the Jane Black, the provisions of the passengers were reduced to the last meal, and that none of their baggage was saved. The passengers speak in high terms of the kindness shown them on board the boat, and by the Indians of Point des Monts. The Lumber Merchant proved herself an excellent sea boat. We regret to state, that two of the passengers died on board the steamer on her way up. The Lumber Merchant left last night for Quebec.

On Sunday last the Fete de Dieu was celebrated with all the pomp and magnificence peculiar to the Roman Catholic Religion. The Procession was very large, and the decorations splendid in the extreme, fully equalling anything of the kind ever witnessed in Montreal. Two companies of the Fusilier Guards accompanied the procession, together with the band of that Regiment. The streets through which the procession moved were lined with branches of the spruce tree, and on the arch opposite the Recollet Church, erected to celebrate the arrival of the Governor General, the motto had been changed in honor of the

day to that beautiful passage in the angelic song at the birth of our Saviour, 'Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth and good will toward men.' The French Church and the altar were richly decorated with all the religious insignia, and during the whole day it was crowded with worshippers from every direction, who had assembled in honor of the occasion.

The Recollet Irish Temperance Society, wearing their medals, and such as are members of the St. Patrick's Society wearing the appropriate badges, led the procession, preceded by a party of the Guards in full uniform.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI:
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 14, 1842.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

The Courier with the Southern mail arrived on Friday night at 11 o'clock.

ISLAND OF SAINT DOMINGO.

The Halifax Times states, that intelligence from the above named Island to the 1st May, at Jamaica, reports that a very serious disturbance had taken place there. President Boryer had refused to make returns to the Chamber of Deputies, of the Budget of Ways and Means, and a statement of the manner in which the treasure belonging to the late king Christophe had been disposed of. The deputies who asked for these documents had been expelled; they were re-elected, and the demand repeated with the same results. This exasperated the people of the south, and induced them to declare themselves independent, and place General Boryela at their head. No actual hostilities had taken place at the latest dates.

Further particulars respecting the late disastrous Earthquake, will be found among our extracts.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENTS.

DURING the heavy squall on Friday week, a Canoe, heavily laden, which was crossing Bay du Vin river at the time, was seen by persons on the shore to upset, while a man was proceeding forward, as they supposed, to lower her sail. She was picked up the following morning. See proved to belong to an individual named James Ryan, a settler on Bay du Vin, a very hard working industrious man, who had left Chatham the same day in the canoe, which was laden with salt; and as he has not been heard of since the occurrence, there is every reason to apprehend he met with an untimely end. He has a wife and a large family of small children.

A young lad, son of Mr Jas. Symest, while playing near the dam of his father's mill, in Tabismtac, unfortunately fell in the Mill pond, and was drowned.

FIRES IN THE WOODS.

VERY extensive fires were raging in the woods in the immediate vicinity of the settlements, on both sides of the river for some days prior to Saturday, when the heavy rain which fell on that day, extinguished them; not however, until several buildings were laid in ashes on the North West, and a large amount of fencing in different directions, destroyed.

Every year the country suffers from the indiscretion of persons persisting in burning their land at a very unreasonable period, and yet we hear of no delinquent being brought to suffer the penalty of his offence. This is a mistaken act of forbearance. The law, we are sorry to say, is lamentably defective—merely providing that the parties found guilty, shall be fined. It should go farther, and state—that persons found clearing land by fire after a certain day of May, until Oc-