

the sea itself worshipped. The mosque, which has been erected on the ruins of the ancient temple, is itself crumbling to decay, and of the five domes which once decorated it, two only now remain; while the three entrances and the way leading to them, are nearly blocked up by huge masses of stone, which have fallen from the roofs and ornaments of the building. A good deal of elaborate decoration, however, appears on the back of the temple, but it consists of groups of small figures sculptured in the Jain taste. The present condition of Somnath is one of ruin and abandonment; the interior a resting place for cattle, and its decorative architecture the abiding place of the bat and the owl.

The Temple of Somnath was originally one of the most splendid fanes of Hindooism, and of the very highest antiquity. Dedicated, at various periods, to the moon, to the self-existent, or Budh, and to the Siva of the Hindoo triad, it remained for centuries an object of the highest veneration to the people of India, until Mahmoud of Ghuznie, A. D. 1,022, in his tenth expedition against the fanes of Hindooism, besieged Puttun, and destroyed Somnath. When the conqueror made good his entrance into this great temple, after having continued the siege for three days, and slain five thousand of its hapless defenders, he found an idol of stone, five cubits in height, surrounded by smaller images of gold, and standing in a sanctum supported by six pillars richly set with gems of the rarest value. Priests surrounded the altar, who with prayers and shrieks, besought the king to spare their God; but the conqueror, rushing forward, aimed a blow at the idol with his mace, which severed it in twain, and from the body rolled gems, coins, and treasures incalculable. The priests were put to the sword, and by the command of Mahmoud, the fragments of the idol were carried to Ghuznee, and cast before the Great Mosque in honour of the triumph of Islam; the mace of the conqueror was also long preserved, and, at the same time, probably, were taken thence the sandal-wood gates although no mention is made of them by the historians.

Somnath appears to have been restored as a Temple of Siva, after its destruction by Mahmoud; but long years have past since its Hindoo origin was forgotten by the descendants of those who fought and fell for its honour, and the ruined mosque which now stands on its site is the property of the Mohamedan Government of Puttun, where it serves the purposes of a sheltering stable for cattle, and a resting place for the wandering medicant.

There remains, indeed, but little to mark its original greatness, for the interior of Somnath consists simply of a large hall, supported on an octagon of pillars, with a smaller room, or sanctum, wholly undecorated. The floor of this first hall is covered with huge blocks, which have fallen from the roof, and the whole has an air of utter desolation. Yet the Persian historians tell us that when Mahmoud of Ghuznee, tempted as much, probably, by its reported wealth as by his religious zeal, laid siege to Somnath, and, after a desperate resistance, planted the banner of the crescent upon its bastions, that he found a covered apartment, supported by six pillars, each pillar encrusted with gems of enormous value, and an idol of cut stone five cubits in height. This idol was venerated by the Hindoos more than any other; the attendants washed it daily with water brought from the Ganges. The revenue of ten thousand villages was assigned to the support of the temple; two hundred dancing women, with three hundred musicians, were ready to perform before it; many smaller images of gold and silver in the temple surrounded this the greatest of the gods; and three hundred barbers were in waiting to shave the devotees, who sought admittance to the holy place. Such was the popularity of this obscene worship that the Princes of Hindostan devoted their daughters to the service of the temple, and, at the occurrence of an eclipse, sometimes as many as a thousand individuals came to perform their devotions. But 800 years have passed, and the hall of Somnath has changed with its religion; it is now little but a heap of ruins, here and there a sculptured block alone revealing the cunning of the hand, who chiselled its originally rich and gorgeous ornaments.

Colonial News.

Canada:

Montreal Transcript, May 2.

Half of the country bordering on Lake St. Peter is under water. It is supposed that between Point du Lac and Berthier, more than five hundred farms are inundated, and the only communication between many of the houses is by canoes.

From a letter of a correspondent from River de Loup, of date 27th April, we make the following extract, which will be found interesting:

"Yesterday I went with a friend to take a view of the Lake ice, taking passage in a canoe; a mile from the Lake, we passed through a wood where several habitants were amusing themselves by shooting muskrats, which are driven from their habitations by high water, and found in great numbers, swimming about, perched upon floating wood. The continual report of the sportsman's gun showed that a most destructive war had been declared against the *Rat d'eau*.

We were now attracted to the Lake ice by a tremendous noise, like the distant roar of a sweeping hurricane; this appears to be a move of several hundred acres of ice from the great Bay, which in its slow, and majestic march,

bore down trees and every thing before it, but the main body of the lake remained as firm as a rock.

River du Loup was never known to be so high. Much damage has already been done below this, and more anticipated, as it is now forcing while I write, and no one knows where the deluge will stop.

The mail from Quebec due yesterday has not arrived.

Montreal Times, May 1.

WHEAT IN STORE—It is estimated that there are about 17,000 bushels of wheat in store at Cleveland, and about 80,000 bushels at Michigan City. Of that at Cleveland, 30,000 bushels are designed for the Canadian market.

New-Brunswick.

Woodstock Telegraph, May 6.

Last week we mentioned that fears were entertained for the safety of the Restook Bridge. On Saturday, about 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the Bridge, which had been broken into three portions, was carried down the river past this place. We understand it is thought that if the Boom lately erected at that River, immediately above where the Bridge stood, had all been closed, the Bridge would have been saved. The upper side of the Boom was closed about twenty four hours, by request of the inhabitants in that vicinity, (of which requisition we have seen a copy,) before the Bridge was carried off, by which means the Drift stuff and rubbish were prevented from lodging against the bridge; and the consequence is, that that end of the bridge was preserved, about sixty feet of which remains there still.

The loss of such a Bridge will be severely felt by persons travelling in that direction. It was about 700 feet long, and cost by contract about £1,650, which added to a loss of £800 said to have been sustained by the Contractor, leaves the total cost about £2,250. It is thought £1000 will replace it again, as the Piers, Abutments and Heaters are still standing.

In addition to the loss of Bridges sustained by the extraordinary rise of water last week, we learn that the following between here and Restook have also been carried off: Two below Hammond's, Watson's bridge, Wark's bridge, Irvin's bridge, and Donnelly's bridge. The upper Gizaquit, and several others much damaged. The road in many places where it ran along the bank of the river, is entirely gone, leaving it extremely difficult for the Mails to get along.

Since last week we have heard that the bridges over the Macknaguck and Keswick streams have been carried off.

A Saw Mill on the big Presquile was moved about three rods; and a Saw Mill from the Machias stream is now in the Restook Boom.

St. John New-Brunswick, May 9.

SEARCHING AMERICAN VESSELS—It is stated in the United States papers that two American vessels have recently been searched on the coast of Africa. To which the *Madisonian* (the official paper printed at Washington) adds:—"We are not aware that any information on the subject has yet been communicated to our Government; but if such an occurrence has actually transpired, we have reason to believe that prompt and decisive steps will be taken. From the north to the south from the east to the west, there is not an American who would not draw his sword in defence of the ground assumed by our Government, in relation to the alleged right of search set up by the British Government. The attempt to put such a bullying right in operation on American vessels, will certainly be resisted in an efficient manner."

St. John New-Brunswick, May 11.

GASPERAUX—The take of these fish in our harbor has been very great during the last three days, the quantity being so large that the fishermen have been obliged to put up temporary vats for the purpose of salting them. A few shad have already made their appearance, and a salmon or two. If fish bring any thing like a reasonable price, this will be a profitable season to our fishermen.

St. John New-Brunswick, May 13.

THE BOUNDARY SURVEY—On Thursday morning Lieut. Colonel Estcourt, the Boundary Commissioner, accompanied by his lady, and Mr. Scott his Secretary, arrived here in the American Revenue Cutter from Eastport, and took lodgings at the St. John Hotel. Colonel Estcourt expected to have obtained a passage from Eastport to this City in one of the Steamers, but none being expected when he arrived at Eastport from Bangor, the Revenue Cutter was placed at his disposal and brought him to St. John. The Officers of the Cutter were entertained at dinner by Lieut. Colonel Estcourt, at the Hotel on Thursday.

We learn, that it is contemplated by the Commissioners to clear out again, the due north line run by the Commissioners in 1818, from the Monument to the river St. John, about three miles above the Grand Falls, and to erect permanent monuments along its course. Meantime, the survey of the St. John, above the point where the due north line intersects it, will be carried by Captain Broughton and Mr. J. D. Featherstonhaugh as Surveyors and Capt. Robinson, and Lieut. Ripon, as astronomers on the part of England, with such officers as may be appointed to act on behalf of the United States. Six chosen men of the Sappers and Miners accompany the surveyors, and are also at the Hotel. They will leave the city for Fredericton in the course of next week.

Nova-Scotia.

Halifax Times, May 16

At the April meeting of the Society for Pro-

moting Christian Knowledge, the Bishop of Sodor and Man in the chair, in reply to an application from the Bishop of Nova Scotia, it was agreed to grant £200 towards the support of the Divinity students at King's College, Windsor, for the present year. The Board also granted the sum of £25 each, towards completing the new churches building in New Brunswick at second Westlock, under the care of the Rev. John Black, and at Richibucto, under the care of the Rev. T. N. DeWolfe.

Pictou Observer.

Messrs. Hodgkinson and Batters, professors of Photographic Portraiture, arrived here yesterday in the Steamer St. George. They have suffered intense pain since their accident on the ice, and we regret to add are both crippled—Mr. Hodgkinson having lost both feet, and Mr. Batters all his toes. They intend to return to the United States by the earliest conveyance.

Newfoundland:

Halifax Times, May 16.

Newfoundland dates to the 28th of April were received by the packet Sandwich, on Friday last. The news brought by the Sandwich may be embraced in a few paragraphs.

The Seal Fishery has been tolerably successful as to the catch, but upwards of 20 sail of craft of a superior description have been totally wrecked, and many lives lost in this hazardous employment. One of the papers mentions the arrival up to April 11, of 38 vessels, having 105,000 seals—and subsequent dates swell the number. The *Indicator* records the following remarkable instance of filial piety:—

"It has seldom occurred that the Journalist should have to record so many instances of loss on the Sealing Voyage of Newfoundland as at the present season. Already has rumour brought an account of no fewer than 20 vessels totally lost, and several entire crews, with a great number of hands from various vessels.

"About a fortnight since, as many Schooners drifted past this harbour, fast locked in the ice, the Breton, Hearn, Master, was reported damaged and in danger, within about two miles of the shore. The news reached the Catholic Clergymen about the hour of Mass in the morning, and they immediately prayed the congregation to lend their assistance, upon which a large number of persons proceeded on the ice, and having unloaded her of her Seals, they repaired her, replaced her Seals, and left her.

"A few days afterwards she again received severe injuries, so much that it was determined to abandon her, but the master (Hearn) unable to undertake the task of travelling to the shore on the ice, could not be prevailed on to leave her. His son, a lad of about 18 years of age, implored his father with tears to make the effort, but in vain, upon which he at once determined to remain to share his father's fate. Here a scene, the most heart-rending, took place. The afflicted Father besought, conjured, commanded his son to leave the vessel, but tears were his only reply, the boy remained unchangeable, and at length they were left to their fate.

"We are delighted to find, however, that both father and son have reached St. John's, having been taken off the wreck by a schooner belonging to Mr. Daniel Green, of Harbor Grace.—Surely the youths of St. John will testify their estimation of this virtuous act of filial devotion by bestowing on this truly deserving young man some mark of public esteem."

West-India News.

EFFECTS OF THE LATE EARTHQUAKE—A Correspondent of the New Orleans Tropic, writing from Havana, says that the Island of Martinique has changed its level. On the northern side it is two feet higher above high water mark, than formerly; on the lee side it is sunk two feet. All the houses have an inclination from a perpendicular. In Antigua a large mountain has been rent asunder, leaving a fissure in it of one mile and a half in extent, 75 feet deep, and 35 feet in breadth. It is impossible to save the sugar crops, as the mills are so broken that they cannot be repaired in time to grind cane.

Havana;

Letters from Havana received at New Orleans, state, that eighty of the Negroes concerned in the late insurrection there, have been beheaded. A letter in the *Picayune* says—that of those who fled to the woods great numbers were shot, and adds, that not less than Five Hundred were either killed or have hung themselves.

Porto Rico:

Captain Card, of the brig *Llewellyn*, arrived at New-York, from Mayaguez, states that the Negroes on several plantations, had revolted, and killed some of the inhabitants. The Governor General, who was at Mayaguez, was immediately sent for by express, and upon his arrival at the seat of the insurrection, ordered out a body of special police officers to suppress it—serious consequences were apprehended; and when Captain C. left, considerable excitement and alarm existed.

Cuba:

It is stated that the number of people daily arriving at this port from Hayti is very large, some of whom state the reason of their leaving to have been they considered their lives in danger every moment they remained. The cruel, blood-thirsty deeds daily committed in that place, they state, surpass all belief;—people were assassinated in cold blood in the streets, carried to the shore and thrown into the sea.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI: SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 20, 1848.

"Seasonable Remarks."—Under this head, the Halifax Times of Tuesday, contains a long article, from which we take the following hints to intending tourists:

"* * * But all the world are not sporting characters, nor engaged in business pursuits. A great portion love to travel, for the sake of new scenery—to become acquainted with the peculiar characteristics of a people—to gather a knowledge of the world, from actual observation—and to study the progress in arts, manufactures, and civilization, of the countries thro' which they may pass. If in Europe, the tour of Europe is considered a necessary finish to the character of a gentleman; comparing small things with great, a tour in America, will do something for the mind predisposed towards the acquisition of that character. And we would recommend to those around us, who have a few weeks or even a few days leisure, to take advantage of the opportunities for rubbing off local rust, which most certainly begets degeneracy in one way or another, that the facilities of transit now presented to them, afford. A person can start from Halifax, and make a tour of Nova-Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, in one week, with no more difficulty as regards locomotion, than engaging a seat in a coach, or a passage in a steamer. Thus let him leave Halifax in the Western Coach for Windsor—cross in one of Witney's boats to St. John—take coach thence to Dorchester—drive on through Shediac and Richibucto to the great timber depot Miramichi—take passage in the St. George to Prince Ed. Island, and thence in the same boat to Pictou—and come home by the Eastern stage through Truro. Rapid as this transit must necessarily be, we venture to say that with common observation, and making use of the various opportunities that present themselves, besides being an eye witness of the country, and the sectional peculiarities of its inhabitants, he will derive more real information than he could ever expect to procure at home, from hearsay or books, during the term of his natural life. Nor need Halifax be the starting point, for it must be apparent, that at any particular place on the circle we have described, the same facilities exist for going and returning. But if another route be more desirable, and the tourist's time is not limited, and his purse be as liberal as is absolutely requisite for a provincial excursion, he may diversify his wanderings by a trip to the United States—an additional week would enable him to visit Boston and New York, and return—or he may go further, and arriving at Quebec embark in the Unicorn for Pictou. If he take passage in the Saxe Gotha, at this port, he will be able to visit the towns upon the coast, and they are well worth an hour or two of the traveller's attention. Arrived at St. John, he will find Whitney ready to steam him on to Eastport, or to Boston where he will meet the Royal Mail steamships, and may engage a berth either for Liverpool, England, or Halifax, Nova-Scotia. As Tadmer in the Wilderness, so Nova Scotia on the American continent, appears destined, from its situation with regard to the old and new world, to become a great thoroughfare of nations, and to derive from the circumstance a vast commercial and political importance. The people of the Provinces are not half alive to the advantages which modern enterprise and improvement are crowding around them, or they would use them, and help forward their future greatness by patronising them largely."

Pr. Ed. Island.—We copy the following paragraph from a late Charlottetown paper. We are glad to learn that our brother Editors, and their readers in that Island, are relieved from this odious tax, and we trust the strong and judicious objections forwarded to the parent government by our Legislature, will have the effect of speedily removing the evil in this Province.

"We have the authority of the Postmaster for stating, that the inland Postage of one half-penny upon the Island Newspapers, will henceforth be discontinued, as recommended in the Report of the House of Assembly."

American Re-Prints of British Works.—The recent decision of the Postmaster-General in England, prohibiting the transmission of certain American papers, and the re-prints of British works, has produced considerable excitement in Canada. The parties contend it will not benefit the British authors, but prevent them from reading works which they cannot otherwise procure; that it will lead to smuggling, and cause a great falling off in the revenue of the Post Office. We perceive by late papers, that the Postmaster-General there, has suspended the recent order from the home