

THE GLEANER

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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

Miramichi, Friday Morning, October 13, 1843.

Colonial News.

Canada.

Quebec Gazette, September 22.

Four Lives lost by suffocation at the bottom of a Well!—It has seldom fallen to our lot to record a more melancholy accident than that which occurred at the Canardiere yesterday, whereby four fellow creatures, in all the vigor of health and strength, were hurried into eternity. From the information we have obtained, it appears that a labourer of the name of Delair, who resided in St. John's Suburbs, was employed by Captain Julien, R. N., to clean and deepen a well that was on his premises. He had been engaged in this employment several days, going down and returning out of the well, without experiencing any inconvenience, till the afternoon of yesterday, when as he was descending, he was observed to lose hold of the rope and fall to the bottom. Mr. Julien's youngest son observing him thus to fall, immediately gave the alarm, and without a moment's delay or consideration, descended, and met with the same fate. The alarm was then given to the neighborhood that two men were lying at the bottom of the well, and amongst those that soon arrived on the spot were H. N. Jones, Esquire, and one of his men named Shields. The latter, without the least hesitation, offered to go down and rescue his fellow men; indeed such was his eagerness, that when one of the by-standers proposed to tie a rope round him, he could not be prevailed on to do so till this was done—fatal precipitancy! He had not descended five or six feet, when he was observed to quit the top and fall. By this time the feelings of the by-standers were wrought up to the highest pitch; and had not Mr. Jones been forcibly held back by Mr. Julien's servant girl and one or two others, he no doubt, would have shared the same fate as the three that had already suffered.

But for all this, another victim, named Matthew, with a facility that seems most extraordinary, attempted the rescue; and like those who had made a similar attempt, he met with the same fate, and fell above the other three. By this time, means were procured, without risking the lives of any more, to take the bodies of the four unfortunate men out of the well; but when they were brought up, life was extinct in the whole of them. Shields and Delair were both married men. The former has left a wife and large family to mourn his untimely loss. We have not heard whether the other has left any children or not.

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

The first session since the assumption of the Government by Sir Charles Metcalfe was opened, at Kingston, on the 25th of September; being the third session of the first Parliament since the union of the Provinces. The following is a copy of the Governor General's speech on the occasion.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: I am happy to meet you assembled for the discharge of the high functions entrusted to you—Various considerations of importance have prevented my calling you together at an earlier period.

Since your last session the birth of a Princess has diffused joy throughout the British Empire, and we have reason to be deeply grateful for the continued protection vouchsafed by Almighty Providence to our gracious Queen, whose life and health are blessings to her subjects.

In the same interval, an afflictive event has occurred in Canada by the demise of your late Governor, my immediate predecessor, whose heart was devoted to the public welfare. Universal regret has done honor to his memory throughout the Province; and I cannot abstain from noticing that his desolate widow and family, and his mortal remains, in passing through the neighboring territories of the United States to their place of embarkation at New York, were received with marked and affecting tokens of friendly respect which indicated both the esteem in which he was held in a country in which he had been personally well known, and also a generous sympathy worthy of the great nation by which it was evinced.

The Act of the Imperial Legislature which facilitates the introduction of Canadian wheat, and of flour prepared in Canada, into the ports of the United Kingdom, will, I trust, prove to be a valuable boon to this province; and is a further proof of Her Majesty's care for the prosperity of this portion of her dominions—A copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on this subject will be laid before you.

Measures will be submitted to you for the improvement of the system of judicature in Lower Canada; of the municipal institutions, the laws relating to education, and the jury system of both divisions of the United Province, and of the assessment laws in Upper Canada, as well as on other important subjects; all of

which will, I am sure, engage your earnest attention.

I have recently made a tour through the province, such as the exigency of public business would permit, in order that I might become in some degree acquainted with local circumstances requiring attention.

I have had great gratification in seeing a fine country, evidently advancing in improvement; and have every where been received with manifestations of loyalty to our most gracious sovereign, and with personal kindness to myself.

It has been highly satisfactory to me to witness the great works in progress, which, owing to the loan raised in England under the guarantee of the Imperial Parliament, the Province has been enabled to undertake or prosecute. They are calculated, I hope to extend the commerce and develop the resources of this vast country, and increase the public revenue and general and individual wealth.

In those parts where works of this description are in progress, I found contentment prevailing at the prospect which they present. In other parts there is a cry for improved roads, for the conveyance of produce to appropriate markets, a claim which is worthy of consideration; for on such communications the prosperity of the country must in great measure depend. No where was this anxiety more strongly expressed than in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, where the community, almost entirely agricultural, in consequence of the heavy duties imposed on their produce in United States have lost the market to which they formerly had recourse, while the exemption from duty in our country of the similar products of our neighbors snubbed them, by greater facilities of conveyance, to undersell the producers of the Eastern Townships in our own markets.—Similar complaints of the effects of the duties on our produce in the United States, and of the facility given to the admission of their produce into our territory, are also made in other parts. Whatever improvement can be afforded in our internal communications is so obviously desirable for the advantage of the community that any outlay devoted to that object and consistent with the means at command, must be highly beneficial.—It is, therefore, much to be regretted that the state of the finances does not afford any immediate prospect of our being able to meet the wishes of many districts deeply interested in this respect.

I cannot refrain from bringing to your notice as a subject worthy of consideration, the state of the prisons in some portions of the province. The Penitentiary at Kingston is an institution very creditable to the country; great cost was incurred in the erection of prisons in other places, and some of the local authorities are now laudably exerting themselves to provide suitable accommodations for prisoners; but in some places there is great deficiency. The justice due even to criminals requires that they should not be subjected to greater punishment than what is designed by their sentence, and that disease, or death, from foul air and want of exercise, should not be superadded to imprisonment. It is likewise due to untried prisoners, who may be innocent, that they should not be confined to the same cell with convicted criminals. A classification and separation of the latter is also requisite. Decency and morality demand the same with regard to the sexes; and debtors and criminals ought not to be confined together. It is desirable that inquiry should be made, in order to ascertain in what respect the prisons of the country may be defective in requisite accommodation, and to remedy any material deficiency that may exist.

The establishment of a lunatic asylum in Lower Canada is much required; those who are visited with the affliction of mental aberration being now confined in the common prison, or in most of the religious and charitable institutions which do honor to that portion of the province. Measures are in progress for permanent location of the asylum now existing under a temporary arrangement in Upper Canada, and for the completion of the arrangements of that institution.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The accounts for the past, and estimates for the present year will be laid before you. I am concerned to announce to you that there is a considerable decrease in the revenue, but I hope that it proceeds from temporary causes, and that it will be followed by a greater increase. The loan obtained in England, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government has been raised on advantageous terms.

The act of the Imperial Legislature prescribing a new tariff renders necessary a corresponding alteration in our custom laws, and this subject will be brought under your consideration. I have no doubt of your readiness to provide for the exigencies of the public service, and as far as that object can be promoted by practical and judicious economy, you may rely on my co-operation.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I will not detain you longer from the commencement of your arduous duties. The welfare of Canada depends on the result of your deliberations on the numerous and important questions which will come before you, and that great end will, I trust, be the sole object of your labours.—It is the anxious desire of Her Majesty's Government, and will be the constant aim of my endeavours. I humbly hope that the blessing of Almighty God will crown our united efforts with success.

New-Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswicker, Sept. 30.

Melancholy Accidents.—On Tuesday week, a number of young persons at St. Stephen started on a pleasure excursion, about six miles from that town; while crossing Mohannastream on a number of cedar poles, fastened together for that purpose, they separated, and Mr. M. Denmor and four young women were precipitated into the water. Mr. D. with great exertions and by the assistance of several others who were on the bank of the stream, succeeded in rescuing three of the females from their perilous situation, but the fourth, whose name was Susan Fisher, unfortunately found a watery grave. She was the second daughter of Mr. Alexander Frazer, and was in her 21st year.

A child of Mr. Thomas Bayin, aged three years, was also drowned on Wednesday week, by falling into a lime pit in Messrs Todd & Townsend's tannery.

Terrible Storm in Florida—Total Destruction of a Town—Fourteen Lives Lost!—One of the most dreadful hurricanes ever remembered to have occurred on this continent passed over Florida on the 18th ult, destroying buildings, lives, and property to an immense amount. The town of Port Leon has almost been swept from the face of the earth. The Port Leon Gazette of the 15th Sept, says—

“Our city is in ruins! We have been visited by one of the most horrible storms that ever before devolved upon us to chronicle. On Wednesday about 11 o'clock, a. m., the wind commenced blowing fresh from the south east, bringing up a high tide, but nothing alarming; at 5 p. m. the wind lulled, and tide fell, the weather still continuing lowly. At 11 at night the wind freshened, and tide commenced flowing, and by 12 o'clock it blew a perfect hurricane, and the whole town inundated. The gale continued with unabated violence until 2 o'clock, the water making a perfect breach ten feet deep over our town! The wind suddenly lulled for a few minutes and then came from southwest with redoubled violence and blew till daylight. Every warehouse in the town was laid flat with the ground, except one Hamlin & Snell's, and a part of that also fell. Nearly every dwelling was thrown from its foundation, and many of them crushed to atoms. The loss of property is immense. Every inhabitant participating in the loss more or less. None have escaped—many with only the clothes they stand in. Saint Marks suffered in the like proportion with ourselves.

But our losses are nothing in comparison with that at the light house. Every building but the light house gone. And dreadful to relate, fourteen lives lost, and among them some of our most valued citizens. Such a total destruction of property never has occurred in our place. Our loss is estimated at \$250,000.

A letter dated Bel-Air, (near Tallahassee,) states that the storm was severely felt at that place, and that many lives have been lost.

Fire!—Yesterday forenoon, a fire broke out in the house owned by Mr. George Turnbull, in Harding street. But a plentiful supply of water from the Water Company's plugs arrested the progress of the flames, before much damage had been done to the building; the walls and ceilings of which, however, received some injury from the water thrown into the house.

Mortality at New Orleans.—The number of interments at New Orleans week ending the 16th ult. was 118, of which 50 were of persons who died by yellow fever.

Nova-Scotia.

Halifax Royal Gazette, Oct. 5.

The election of Aldermen and Mayor took place on Tuesday. The city officers now, are as follows: Mayor—A. Keith, Esq. Aldermen—F. Allison, W. Cladwell, Esqs. Hon. H. Bell, A. M. Kinlay, J. D. Starr, Esqs. Common Councilmen—Messrs. Anderson, Pryor, Williamson, Story, Sinclair, Black, Jennings, Hunter, Hemmeon, Rhind, Winters and Rugg.

Inductions.—The Rev. Mr. McGregor was inducted into the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian Secession Church in Halifax, on Wednesday last. Rev. Mr. Robb is to be inducted to the charge of St. John's Church, North suburbs, this evening.

The Hibernia arrived at Liverpool, 24 hours before the Great Western, although she did not leave Boston until the day after the departure of that vessel.

United States News.

From the New Orleans Picayune, Sept. 22.
ANOTHER TERRIBLE EXPLOSION!—
GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

By the arrival of the Buckeye this morning we have been favored with an extra of the “Louisiana Chronicle,” of Wednesday last, which we hasten to lay before our readers:—It has become our mournful duty to record one of the most terrible catastrophes that have happened on the Mississippi. Yesterday, at about a quarter past ten o'clock, as the steamer Clipper No. 1 was backing out from her moorings at our landing, she blew up with an explosion that shook the earth, air and heaven, as though the walls of the world were tumbling to pieces about our ears. All the boilers bursting simultaneously,—machinery vast fragments of the boilers, huge beams of timber, furniture and human beings in every degree of mutilation, were alike shot up perpendicularly many hundred fathoms in the air.

On reaching the greatest height, the various bodies diverged like the jets of a fountain in all directions—falling to the earth, and upon roofs of houses, in some instances as much as two hundred and fifty yards from the scene of destruction. The hapless victims were scalded, crushed, torn, mangled and scattered in every possible direction—many into the river, some into the streets, some on the other side of the bayou, nearly 300 yards—some torn asunder by coming in contact with pickets and posts, and other shot like cannon balls through the solid walls of houses at a great distance from the boat. All in front of the wheel house appears as though swept by a whirlwind. But anything like an inadequate description of the scene of wreck and ruin is utterly out of the question—What remains of the hull has been firmly lashed to the shore, but it seems to have broken in two and partially sunk. She had just taken on board, at the railroad depot, about 86 bales of cotton, nearly all of which, together with the money chest, and most of the cabin furniture, we are glad to learn has been saved.

On reaching the spot we immediately bent our steps toward the temporary hospital, prepared for the reception of such as might be found to retain a spark of life. The scene was such as we hope never to look upon again. The floors of two large warehouses were literally covered with the dead and dying, and others pouring in as fast as it was possible to convey them—praying, groaning, howling, and writhing, in every possible contortion of physical agony.

The following are the most important particulars, as far as we have been able to gather them:

The crew consisted of 1 captain, 1 mate, 2 clerks, 3 engineers, 2 pilots, 1 carpenter, 1 watchman, 1 chambermaid, 5 stewards, 3 cooks, 15 firemen, 8 deck hands—43.

Passengers.—L. Thomas, missing; P. B. Mohtemat, commission merchant, New Orleans, and one small boy wounded. Deck passengers—1 wounded, 2 not hurt.

Capt. Laurent escaped unhurt; Mr. Bessy, chief clerk, missing, and the 2d clerk killed; John Tyson, chief engineer, badly wounded; Wm. Sumpter, 2d. engineer, thrown 150 or 200 yards through the roof and gable end of a house into the back yard against the fence—one arm was torn off and the fragments of his carcass scattered over the trees; Wm. Nelson, 3d engineer, free man of color, killed; Arnault J. Lavaud, pilot, missing; Wm. Wall, pilot, killed; John Patterson, mate, badly scalded, though likely to recover; Gabriel Pool, carpenter, missing; watchman killed, chambermaid saved unhurt; stewards all killed or missing; two of the cooks killed and one wounded; eight firemen killed or missing; four deck hands killed or missing.

It will be well enough here to state, that all those we have put down for missing are doubtless dead, as every search has been made in the vicinity to recover their bodies in vain. They have doubtless found a watery grave.

The remains of those picked up on shore were interred decently.

The watchman, a white man, was thrown alive, 100 yards, through the solid wall of Baeer's Hotel, into a bed. He retained his senses perfectly for some time after, but the poor fellow expired during the evening.

The cabin boy was thrown about 200 yards through the roof of a shed, and was picked up in a mangled condition.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, we have learned the death of another of the firemen.

* Mr. Thomas, a grocer of Bayou Sara, had just taken leave of a wife and family and stepped on board, when the explosion occurred. His wife and child, and another lady and child who happened to be with her, hearing the uproar, ran immediately to the front windows to ascertain the cause. They had scarcely done so, when, with a deafening crash, driving in a third of the entire roof in its descent, lay a vast fragment of the boiler on the very spot they had just quitted.