

Colonial News.

Nova-Scotia.

Halifax Royal Gazette, October 26.

Union of the Provinces.—A Quebec correspondent of the Montreal Courier says that, it understood, the visit of Honourable William Young, Speaker of Nova Scotia, to Quebec, is connected with a convention on the subject of a Union, of the B. N. A. Colonies. If the supposition be true, the business appears to have been kept carefully from the public in the respective Provinces. As we do not see the necessity for secrecy on such a public and general topic, we doubt the accuracy of the rumor. If accident has started the question just now, in Canada, and that opportunity is taken of Mr. Young's presence to obtain Nova Scotia views on the subject, we doubt not, that the Hon. Speaker's well known prudence and tact, will prevent any step which might put him in a wrong position, as regards any of the parties whom he represents as head of the Assembly of the Province.

The subject is one of deep interest, and difficulty; many ardent and strong minds approved of the proposition when it was indirectly discussed on former occasions,—seeing in it a means of Colonial and British strength and respectability, which according to their views could not otherwise be attained;—but other minds, perhaps equally as sagacious, saw some difficulties, in principle, and many in details, to any permanent and satisfactory scheme of Union One suggestion was, that the Canadas should be united, as they now are, in one Province,—and that the Lower Provinces, of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and P. E. Island and Newfoundland, should form another government. Thus the dependencies of England, in America, it was argued, would assume a more influential and more simple character, and effectiveness and economy might result. A thousand sectional feelings would of course, arise against the proposition,—and difficulties in practice frequently balance beauty in theory,—of one thing we may rest satisfied, we suppose, that nothing beyond conversation will be attempted on the subject, without full public discussion, in the Imperial and Colonial Legislatures.

Canada, seat of Government.—A warm discussion occurred in the House of Assembly, on Oct. 8th respecting the seat of government. The House had been informed that the Imperial Government had confined the question to the cities of Montreal and Kingston, but referred the decision between these, to the local Legislature. A report of the Executive Council of the Province had also been transmitted to the House. It recommended Montreal as the most fit place for the seat of government. This document was accompanied by a protest of Mr. Harrison, in favour of Kingston. Dissatisfaction was expressed, that the Home authorities did not settle the question for the Province; but if they had would not the murmuring be the same, with something superadded, respecting distant officers of state deciding on a local question? The Message from His Excellency the Governor General, on the subject, was ordered to be printed; 5000 copies were voted. A meeting was held in Kingston, in support of the claims of that city. An address passed at the meeting appealing from the decision of the Legislative Assembly, and requesting the Governor General to again submit the question to Her Majesty, to whose decision the addressers say they will cheerfully bow.

The Report of the Committee of the Executive Council respecting the Seat of Government, occupies two long newspaper columns. It discusses the various grounds of claim and complaint, on this subject. The reasonableness of the desire, that the seat of government should be placed as centrally as possible,—where the greater number of the people of both sections of Canada should feel most at home and best represented,—and as a place of strength and consequence, is fully admitted. After stating the advantages of Quebec, Toronto, Kingston and Bytown, and more than corresponding objections,—the Report thus enumerates the claims of Montreal:

"The Island of Montreal was chosen as the site of the great City by the French Government in the early times of the Colony. *** No discoveries of localities claiming to be equal, no development of the vast resources of later times, no improvement in Canal Navigation, and not even the discovery and use of Steam, which in other instances have set at naught the calculations of the wisest and most profoundly political men, have made any change in the prospects of importance to Montreal, except as they have confirmed and advanced all prognostications of its future greatness. Situate at the head of Navigation from the Sea, and at the foot of the River and Canal Navigation, not only of Canada but of North Western America, Montreal has long been the Commercial Capital of the Province, and bids fair to be the Mart of Commerce of a larger portion of the vast North Western country of the American States. It is not merely a City through or by which the Commerce of the country passes, but it is the depot and place of exchange of that Commerce, and consequently it is beyond all comparison the centre of the wealth of Canada, a wealth not derived from any partial or changeable source, but flowing to it alike from the Atlantic, from the distant Western Lakes, and even from waters whose natural outlet is to be found at New Orleans, but which by means of Canals have been made to communicate with the Canadian Lakes, and to bring contributions to the favored City of Canada. Ships from the Ocean and vessels from the interior lie together in the port, and

men from all quarters meet there in the ordinary course of business. Montreal has no concern in the sectional jealousies of the different positions of the Western Country, but it is impossible to imagine an improvement in the condition of that country, by which that city is not benefited, while on the other hand, the Upper Canadians having little to do with the affairs of the other Parts of Lower Canada, have a deep interest in Montreal as their own Sea Port and their own Market; Montreal is therefore essentially a City of both the late Provinces; one in which each claim an interest, and it is moreover a City familiar to Upper Canadians as it is to the inhabitants of the section of which each it forms a part, it is the place of all others in which to study the statistics and politics of the whole of Canada,—in which there is the least chance of partial Legislation, or of the interests of any part of the People of the Province being overlooked or disregarded.

"There can be no stronger proof of the correctness of these opinions, than the claim set up by the inhabitants of the Western Country, long before the Union, to the City of Montreal, as a place built up with the result of their industry, and sustained by their Commerce; but the resources arising from the wealth of which they were deprived in consequence of that City forming part of a different Province. That the Lower Canadians resented and resisted a proposition for the dismemberment of their Country and the loss of their chief City, is undoubted, and surely this contest for a place in which both claimed a deep and obvious interest, shared by no other locality, ought to be conclusive evidence in favor of the disputed position, when the enquiry is made where shall be the United Capital of these contending Provinces. * * * All the advantages of common and universal interest in one locality are, in the opinion of the Committee, found in Montreal in a superior degree, to those existing in the most Capital Cities"

Extract of a Letter, dated Bermuda, Oct. 13.—The fever still clings to us, though we have had stormy weather, which it was hoped would rout it. We have now only about a dozen of the 20th Regiment in the Barracks at Hamilton: the last company was removed to Reeve's Island on Wednesday. The Band was previously removed to Hunt's Island. The regiment is now well scattered over the Islands. There have been no deaths in the 20th since Saturday. Five or six deaths have occurred at Ireland Island within the week; among these Mr W. Ellis, foreman of labourers. There is scarcely a house on the Island now that the fever has not visited, but with nothing like the virulence of its first appearance.—Natives and those acclimated have, with few exceptions, survived it.

A considerable number of vessels have been obliged to put into Bermuda, to repair damages received during the Gale of the 3d instant.—Keefer's Reading Room.

The Illustrious.—A paper of the week gives the Rules of a Temperance Society, founded on board H. M. S. Illustrious. What an amazing advance in respectability and usefulness, in comfort to men and officers, in credit and strength to the country, would at once be made if those who man the wooden walls of the gallant Isle were to follow the example of the little band on board the Illustrious, and banish their main source of mischief, effectually, from their company. Where is the man who does not respect the fine saltwater character which forms the better part of the British sailor,—his readiness to assist in cases of extremity,—the honesty of his bearing,—the absence of low, shore cunning from his conduct,—and the buoyant and boy-like countenance and gait, so characteristic of the rise and fall of billows, of the broad scenes on which his eye has been accustomed to expatiate, of the briny winds which have fanned his cheek?—but where is the man who has not felt most painful emotions to see the more unfortunate particulars of the same profession? to see the "liberty ashore" turned into a wretched debauch among the worst dens of the polluted parts of towns,—to see the fine frame contracting premature weakness and decline by means of the rum bottle and its concomitants or riot and exposure and varied ill-usage,—and to know that the manly mind was cheated of cheated of its promised recreation, and got hanks instead of fruit, by the miserable temptations to which it became subject, and which soon made liberty, slavery,—and mis-called pleasure, degradation and pain? Scarcely anything in the empire seemed to require counteracting benevolent exertions much more than these circumstances. The comfortable room, and sources of intellectual improvement and pleasure on board,—and due self-respect ashore were to be greatly desired regarding this important class of men,—and the means for all this is in their own hands, if the proper will and conduct be not wanting.

The Rules of the Temperance Society on board the Illustrious, as furnished by the Christian Messenger, provides for due abstinence,—for weekly meetings for conversation, collection of funds for the purchase of books and tracts, and religious exercises,—for exertions respecting the moral and general welfare of shipmates,—for the observance of morality by members,—for the suppression of all approaches to seditious or mutinous expressions, and for attention to sick or destitute members. We would fain hope to see such institutions fostered, and extended wherever the "meteor flag" waves in the breeze.

Halifax Herald, October 27.

Great Row—a Rifleman Killed.—Several persons arrested.—On Wednesday night, the usual quietude of the city was disturbed by a

row at the corner of Albemarle and Duke streets between a number of rowdies and a party of the Rifle Brigade. The casus belli, we understand, originated in a dispute between a civilian and a soldier, who was killed, in the shop of a person named Connell: the civilians being much stronger than the troops, the latter were severely beaten; one of their party, as stated above, being killed by a blow from some heavy weapon, wielded by an individual, who, with the characteristic modesty of true bravery, has not yet come forward to claim the merit of the glorious action.

On a reinforcement of soldiers coming up, the rowdies got their deserts, for they wore the marks of a well fought battle at the police office yesterday. Sticks and stones were the implements used; and although it did not last one twentieth part of the time that the college meeting at Onslow did, there was one poor fellow killed, and the wounded it is impossible to enumerate. Some of the latter were not engaged in the action; but their curiosity, like Mr. Jones's at Waterloo, carried them near enough to the combatants to receive a distinguishing mark. The piquet, on their arrival, by the aid of their swords, cleared the streets, and rescued the body of their fallen comrade.

The city authorities are busily engaged in endeavoring to fix the honor and responsibility of the murderous deed, upon the person who performed it. When will civilians learn to live in peace, with the military? Surely the difference in the color of a man's coat, should never cause such deadly hatred between a certain class of civilians and the troops. Breaking the peace is bad enough, but when it comes to breaking heads, the parties should be severely punished.

The name of the deceased was William Thatcher, a native of Nottinghamshire, and is said to have been an inoffensive man. He was formerly a groom to Lord Kilmarnock, and bore a good character in the regiment. The whole row is said to have been caused by a difference in musical taste!

Further particulars.—Last evening's Tragedy.—Another row took place last evening, about half past six o'clock. The military, smarting under the injury inflicted last Wednesday evening, came out of barracks prepared for a fight, which shortly after ensued, on the ground where the previous battle was fought. A few heads were more or less injured, and one house occupied by a man named Gooley, was rather gutted. The military were somewhat to blame in this instance. The streets presented quite a lively scene. A man named Cashan, who had his head cut, is said to have been innocently implicated.

One of the largest meetings that we have ever seen in the Masonic Hall, took place last evening; there could not have been less than seventeen hundred. A number of resolutions, sympathizing with the Right Reverend Doctor Walsh, who was attacked by an anonymous writer in the Novascotian, was unanimously passed, together with an address to his Lordship, which is to be presented by his parishioners on Sunday next, after 11 o'clock service. The Hon. Michael Tobin was in the chair, and L. O'Connor, Esquire, acted Secretary.

Accident.—A child belonging to a Mr Toole, milkman, was burnt to death on Tuesday morning. It appears that the mother and father were accustomed to lock up their children in the mornings and evenings, whilst they were supplying their customers with milk. The three children were left together, on the morning of the accident, and the youngest one, about two years and a half old, was amusing itself by stirring the fire with a shingle, when its clothes caught fire. The other two—the eldest of which was only six years of age, endeavored to tear off the burning clothes from their sister, and, finding that they were unable to save her, the eldest opened the window, and getting the other little girl to hold it up, she jumped down, about seven or eight feet, and called in some of the neighbors, otherwise the house and three children would have been burnt. On the arrival of one of the neighbors the poor child was sitting with her little hands resting upon her knees, all on fire, and so dreadfully injured that she was hardly alive. What a melancholy scene must the house have presented, on the return of the parents, who, only a short time before, had gone forth leaving their three children innocently amusing themselves, and, on their return to find the youngest a mutilated corpse; and the second badly burnt in endeavoring to save her little sister.

New-Brunswick.

St. Andrews Standard, October 25.

The weather for the last fortnight—has been so wet that it is feared that large quantities of Potatoes yet in the ground, will be destroyed, particularly in the low land.

During the last week a considerable quantity of landed property in this town changed hands, and we are happy to learn several new buildings will be erected here early in the next spring.

China.

New York Sun, October 29.

Later from China.—By the packet ship Morrison which arrived at this port on Wednesday night, in 135 days from Canton, the American has files of papers to the 5th June, containing the following items.

The schooner Ariel had been detained for some days at Amoy by Commodore Kearney, on account of some irregularity in her papers. The account of this matter is somewhat obscure, but it seems that the Ariel "changed owners" on her arrival at Macao from Boston and became the property of G. W. Fraser.

Commodore Kearney, on examining the schooner's papers, wrote to her captain, Shannon, that the Ariel was not entitled to carry the United States flag, that she must return to Macao, whether he would send her papers sealed up; that all the goods or treasures on freight must first be discharged at Amoy; and that the packet containing the papers must be opened only by Mr Sturgis, the U. States vice consul at Macao.

These orders were complied with, the schooner was allowed to depart, and on the same day Commodore Kearney issued the following notice:—

To American Merchants and others,
All persons having goods, merchandise or treasure to ship from one port to another on this coast, are hereby cautioned against trusting the same on board any vessel in the "opium trade" sailing under the flag of the U. States of America.

We learn verbally that Ke-Ying, the Imperial Commissioner, had arrived at Canton.

Sir Henry Pottinger has issued some very stringent proclamations against smuggling on the river, which appears to have been distasteful to some of the resident foreign merchants at Canton.

Native robbers were exceedingly troublesome at Hong Kong; so much so that the local authorities had issued an Edict forbidding any Chinaman to be out at night without a lantern and a pass, and making other provision to suppress disorder. The house of the Morrison Education Society had been broken into and plundered by a gang of thirty Chinese robbers, who destroyed or carried away all the furniture, severely wounded Mr Brown, and forced him, his wife and children to fly for their lives. The thieves had full possession of the house for two hours. Mr Brown lost about a thousand dollars worth of property, and Dr Hobson, who occupied part of the house, about as much including his surgical instruments.

There had been a great fire at Tingha, in the island of Chusan, which destroyed a great number of houses, and caused much distress among the inhabitants. It was said there that Commodore Kearney had received a communication from the Emperor, informing him that the United States would be allowed to trade at all the ports open to the British.

Eighteen Days later.—The brig Paul Jones, Captain Palmer, from Canton, 23rd June, arrived last night.

Ke-Ying, the Imperial Commissioner, arrived at Canton on Sunday, the 4th June, and, on Tuesday the British functionaries repaired to the city to visit his Excellency, who was expected at Hong Kong on the 11th, to exchange the ratifications of the late treaty with England; but in this expectation the good people had been disappointed, for his Excellency did not intend to budge until about the 1st July. In the meantime a splendid house has been prepared for his use, and a spacious hall built for the exchange of the documents. It was rumored that he would not condescend to go down to Hong Kong, but must have Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary meet him "half way."

Much sickness prevailed on the shores around Hong Kong, in the shipping and the garri-

son. General Saltoun, British Commander in chief of the forces in China, arrived in the W. S. Prosperine, on the 13th June, and went up in the steamer to Canton, on the 19th, on a private visit.

A new Roman Catholic Church was opened for worship on the 11th June, having been built with much despatch, by the aid of funds contributed by English, Portuguese, and Spanish residents.

For the eleven months ending 31st May, the export of Teas to England, from China, amounted to 46,201,251 lbs.

A British Court of Justice with criminal and Admiralty Jurisdiction, for the trial of offences committed by H. B. M. subjects within the dominions of China, and on the high seas within one hundred and fifty miles of the coast, has been established at Hong Kong.

The deaths by Cholera, at Manila, were gradually diminishing. The natives believed that the disease was caused by the waters having been poisoned by the whites, and two Englishmen had nearly fallen victims of the superstitious belief, having been caught and severely beaten. One of the Indians engaged in the assault, was shot down by the police in pursuit.

The Kowloon robbers around Canton, have ceased their depredations, in consequence of the severe measures adopted by the British authorities.

Miscellaneous.

New York Sun, October 19.

THE COPPER ROCK.—The honorable Mr. Colcraft, writing to the Commercial under date of the 13th inst. notices the arrival of the Copper Rock at Detroit, from Lake Superior, on its way to Washington. Professor C. remarks: "Its greatest length is four feet six inches; its greatest width about four feet; its maximum thickness eighteen inches. These are rough measurements with the rule. It is almost entirely composed of malleable copper, and bears striking marks of the visits formerly paid to it in the evidences of portions which have from time to time been cut off. There are no scales in the city large enough, or other means of ascertaining its precise weight, and of this estimating the uncertainty arising from the several estimates heretofore made. It has been generally estimated here, since its arrival, to weigh between six and seven thousand pounds, or