

anything of the quantities of dung, knows it is of itself incapable of promoting vegetation, or sustaining vegetable life, until decomposed and incorporated with a portion of earthy soil, and it is not therefore to be wondered at that disease and failures in the Potatoe crops are so prevalent. The wonder is, that, while such a system of planting is persevered in, any of these crops should succeed at all under such treatment; and indeed this is only to be accounted for by the small quantity and inferior quality of the dung applied, which is generally found mixed with great quantities of half-rotten straw and other extraneous substances, such as coal cinders, &c., and were it not that the fresh earth is laid immediately on the top of the dung after the seed is planted, the failure of the crops would be to a much larger extent; of this I have no doubt. The ground, too, in a very impoverished state, may be speedily digesting and drying up the dung prevent to a great extent a total failure of the crop, although the seed were planted thus injudiciously in the midst of the dung; for it will be observed that in such ground the rot is not so destructive as in rich deep soils. The first and great point, therefore, in setting the Potatoe, is to have the manure properly commingled with the soil before introducing the seed, the plain I adopt in planting, which is briefly as follows:—

In preparing a parcel of ground for the reception of the Potatoe seed, I proceed to have the manure spread regularly over the surface, and evenly dug in. I then either drill the ground, after the manner of gardeners in sowing peas, and plant the Potatoes in the drill, or plant them with a dibble, without drilling about two or three inches beneath the surface, the dibble being formed with a broad point, so as to insure the Potato having on open space left beneath it, when dropped into the hole. For large fields, which cannot well be dug or planted in this manner, I would recommend the ground to be prepared and the dung spread exactly as for Oats or Barley. Then have the ground drilled, and in planting place the seed Potatoe in the clean soil, on the back of the half drill, formed by the return of the plough, which half drill should be made larger than ordinary, to bring the seed as near to the centre of the drill as possible, so as to afford it every advantage of the fresh soil to vegetate in. In this way the fructifying earth, in which the seed is embedded, will secure its healthful vegetation, and as it progresses in its growth, and so soon as it throws out roots, it will reap the full benefit of the manure contained in the surrounding soil. It is of the utmost importance to have the seed planted, so as it may have the earth both below and above it when put in; for in keeping the seed free from the dung, I apprehend, lies the whole secret, which should be particularly attended to.

Colonial News.

Canada:

Kingston, September 24.—We mentioned a fortnight since the disease in the potatoe crop, rendering them unfit for food, even for cattle. We learn that a farmer in Loughborough has fed some of these diseased potatoes to his hogs, and they have died in consequence thereof.

Montreal Pilot, September 23.

Storm and Melancholy Loss of Life.—On Saturday afternoon about half past 4 o'clock, this city was suddenly visited by a squall from the North and West, resembling in fury a tropical tornado.

It is our painful duty to relate, that during the height of the squall a melancholy catastrophe occurred on the river. Mr Cook, the writing master at the High School of Montreal, in company with two brothers of the name of Dean, lately from England, and a gentleman named Wilkinson, were on their way to Sorel, on a voyage of pleasure, when opposite Point au Tremble they were overtaken by the full fury of the squall, their canoe was upset, and, melancholy to record, all four sunk to rise no more.

Montreal Gazette, September 24.

We understand that several ships have gone, or are about to go, light from this port to Quebec, there to take in cargoes. The decreasing demand for flour in Europe does not enable holders to offer what the owners consider remunerative freights while the improved demand for timber, and the comparative scarcity of vessels, in consequence of the employment of a particular class of shipping in the guano trade, offer additional inducements at Quebec.

Nova-Scotia.

From the Halifax Times.

Election of Mayor.—The Honble. Hugh Bell was elected Mayor of Halifax on Thursday last, the 3d inst. A complimentary address was voted to Alex. Keith, Esq. the late Mayor. The Mayor elect in his address to the Council stated it to be his intention to apply the salary attached to his office as a subscription towards the erection of an Insane Asylum in the city, on condition that £2000 should be raised from some other source in Halifax, or in the Province, or provided by the Legislature, to erect a building for that purpose, and the Legislature shall make permanent provision for the same.

At the same meeting of the city council, Henry Pryor, Esq., was elected Alderman for Ward No. 1.

C. H. Belcher, Esq., and Thos. Fenerty, Esq., were elected City Auditors.

The Governors of Dalhousie College, by letter to the city council, claimed a nominal rent for that part of the College ground, occupied by the city for the site of the Engine House—the consideration of which letter was referred by the Board to the next meeting.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1844.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—On a more careful perusal of our English files, we discover the following additional news.

Lord Stanley has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, preparatory to his being called to the Peerage.

Thomas Norton, Esquire, has been Gazetted, Chief Justice of Newfoundland.

The accounts from Great Britain and Ireland represent the crops, generally, as being very abundant. In the latter island, they are stated to be "most luxuriant."

The young Prince was baptized at Windsor Castle on the 6th ultimo, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He received the name of Alfred Ernest Albert.

MEXICO.—The New Orleans Picayune contains the following distressing account of the destruction of the town of Matamoras, by a hurricane.

"The first and most important news which we have received is that the town of Matamoras has been destroyed by a hurricane. It occurred on the night of the 4th ult, and was more tremendous in its effects than the hurricanes of '35 and '37. More than two thirds of the houses of the city were prostrated, and the remainder were more or less injured. As to the extent of the loss of life we are not accurately informed. The correspondent of El Centor de Vera Cruz estimates the whole loss at above two hundred souls. The direct destruction, however, so far as we can learn, was at the two mouths of the Rio Grande, some thirty miles below the city of Matamoras. Here scarcely any were saved.

"In writing of Matamoras the editors have nothing to mitigate the extent of its ruin. They describe it as a beautiful city, abounding in luxurious habitations, and provided not only with the necessities of life, but many of its most refined luxuries. In a moment, as it were, every thing was laid waste. We cannot do better than copy portions of the Courier's translations from El Diario del Gobierno, being the report of the first Alcalde of the city to the Government.

"Except the houses of John Pedro Jose de la Gaza, of Donna Juana Perea and the new church, there is not a building which is not much damaged or which is not a heap of ruins. The following persons perished in the crash: an infant son of Don Mariano Aguado, an artillery soldier, three women are badly wounded but still survive.

"Among those buildings are the artillery barracks, and the hospital Malta, containing nearly 100 sick, the wall of the prison and half the wall of the graveyard. To tell every thing in one word—the greater part of the population are compelled to live in shanties built among the ruins of their houses. I leave your Excellency to imagine the miserable condition of all sorts of produce growing in the fields."

CANADA.—A dinner was given to the Hon. William Young, Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, by the Liberals of Toronto. The Hon. Henry Boulton presided, assisted by the Honble. Robert Baldwin, as vice president. The party consisted of from ninety to one hundred gentlemen.

A JUST REBUKE.—The Hon. Daniel Webster, on the 19th September, was addressing a meeting in Massachusetts; and arguing against the annexation of Texas, and the idea that England wished an alliance with Texas—because the British people were opposed to Slavery: An individual in the crowd cried out—"They are all slaves in England." Mr W. rapidly turned his eyes in the direction of the speaker, and said—

"My friend, did not your father come from England a free man? And then, his eye flashing with fire and indignation, he poured forth a torrent of rebuke which elicited a perfect tornado of applause. Curling his lip and looking the speaker through with his piercing eye, he continued—"What blood, pray, do you inherit? All slaves in England? What liberty there is in the world out of our country, is in England. It is inferior only to our own, and although controlled by the ancient establishments of the country, yet all the liberty that is consistent with law and order, as established in that country, does there exist. And whence came the principles of the right of suffrage, the glorious system of trial by jury, the privileges of the habeas corpus act, the fearless independence of the press, and the right of public assembly? All these are derived from England, and still exist in England, where they are slaves, forsooth?" Mr Webster paused a moment, and then continued his address.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.—The latest Liverpool paper contains the following information:—

The importation still continued to be light until the last few days, when several cargoes from Canada have arrived, and more daily expected. Quebec has brought 1744 to 184 per foot, and St. John cargoes of large average have been sold at 21d to 21 1/2 per foot. The demand from the country continues to be good. Quebec Red Pine has been more in request—it has been sold at 19d per foot. A cargo of St. John Deals has been sold at 2d 11-16ths per foot of 2 inches; Richbucto Planks at 2 1/2d, and St. Andrews at 2 1/4d—St. John Ash Hhd. Staves are worth £6 to £7 per M. Birch Timber is in great demand—nitre parcels having brought from 19d to 20d per foot.

The Halifax Times contains a Letter dated at Liverpool, September 18, which contains the following paragraph:—

"The Lumber market continues firm, and the recent arrivals make a ready sale. Quebec white pine at 17 1/2d a 18 1/4d; St. John's, 21d a 21 1/2d; Nova Scotia 18 1/2d a 18 3/4d per foot. Quebec red 18 1/2d a 18 3/4d; St. John 18 1/2d a 18 3/4d; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Planks 2 1/2d a 2 3/4d per foot of 2 inches. Good Quebec stand. staves, £50 a £54; W. O. Pancheon £14 a £16. A large new Miramichi built vessel has been lately sold at £6 5/8 per ton.

PUBLIC REJOICINGS.—The friends and countrymen of Mr O'Connell in Halifax, celebrated the news of his liberation, by a Procession and bonfire, and the burning of Sir Robert Peel's effigy. In St. John and Portland salutes were fired, and a number of houses illuminated. Similar displays were manifested in Newcastle, Chatham, and other parts of this river, on the evenings of Wednesday and Friday.

SIXTEENTH VOLUME.—In commencing the present volume of the Gleaner, we tender our acknowledgments to our numerous readers for the support they have given us, particularly during the last year, when party feeling ran high, and several electioneering partizans, having taken umbrage at the line of conduct we adopted during the strife, used no little exertion to injure us. They, however, met with but little sympathy from the public; and we have pursued our avocation, seeking no opportunity of revenge, but on the contrary, rejecting much tending to keep up the senseless petty local jealousies which unfortunately exist, and to widen the breach in our already too much distracted community. This is the course we intend still to pursue, and we have no apprehensions for the future. We shall make an early call on such of our subscribers as are in arrears, when we trust they will be prepared to meet our demands. This is necessary to enable us to pursue our laborious duties free from the intrusion of those destroyers of all peace of mind "Duns," and to discharge our lawful debts. "A consummation most devoutly to be wished."

SMOOTH SHILLINGS AND FRENCH HALF CROWNS.—During the week the

Merchants and Traders have come to the determination to take the smooth shilling, which had passed current for twelve pence, at the reduced rate of ten pence; and the French half-crown, which passed for two shillings and nine pence for two shillings and six pence. This resolution has been adopted in consequence of the traffic for some time carried on by several persons residing in Miramichi, in purchasing these coins at very reduced prices, in Canada, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, where they have been cried down; and putting them in circulation here. So abundant have they become of late, that there is scarcely any other money in circulation.

It was high time that something should be done to prevent the growing evil, but it would have been better, and far more honest, had the parties who were privy to this lucrative business being carried on, called public attention to it at an earlier period, and not allowed some hundreds of pounds to get into circulation among the farmers and labouring men who will now have to bear the principal loss of their depreciation in value. But will this cure the evil?—we answer no. The price put on the smooth shilling is too high, still leaving a profit sufficient to induce parties to continue the traffic; and when some hundreds of pounds more are introduced, we shall have a further reduction, the loss falling as in the present instance, on those ill able to bear it. Why not strike at the root of the evil at once—it must be done sooner or later, and we say the sooner the better, as the loss will be lighter now than at any subsequent period.

The French half-crowns we consider well worth the value at present set upon them.

RIOT IN ST. JOHN.—The Head Quarters of Wednesday, obtained by Kelly's stage last evening, contains the following paragraph.

"A report is in circulation throughout the town to-day, that a 'recontre' took place in Saint John on Monday night last, between the Repealers and Orangemen of that place, and that two of the former had been killed, and a number wounded. We have not heard the particulars of the affair, nor received information from any source that we can rely on. We hope, however, when the truth comes to be known, it will be found that the report which has reached us has been exaggerated."

As the St. John Observer, published on Tuesday, makes no mention of the affair, we are led to conclude, the tale has been greatly exaggerated in its transmission to Fredericton.

Marriages.

On Tuesday the 8th inst, by the Rev. William Henderson, Mr NERT MORRISON, to Miss JESSE, eldest daughter of Mr Tavis M' Tavish; and at the same time, Mr HUGH MORRISON, to CATHERINE, second daughter of Mr Tavis M' Tavish, all of the Parish of Northesk.

Deaths.

At Chatham, on Monday morning last, CHARLES WESLEY, son of Mr Thomas Spratt, aged 3 years. At Napan, on Thursday week, DAVID JOHNSTONE KERR, youngest son of Mr James Kerr, aged two years and a half. At Bathurst, on Wednesday, the 23d September last, JANE, relict of the late Samuel Waitt, Esq., formerly of England.

Shipping Intelligence.

Port of Miramichi:

Entered, October 5—schr L'Italienne, Brilot, Quebec, general cargo. 7—brig Baltic, Duabar, New York—Gilmour Rankin & Co. 8—barque Tweed, Dixon, Liverpool, general cargo—J. Cunard & Co; schr Elizabeth, Harding, Halifax—Sundies; brig Resolution, Davis, Penzance. Cleared, October 5—brig Fero, Patterson, Hull 8—brigs Grove, Lamb, Milford; Lilburn, Ellison, Newcastle. 9—brigs Virgine, M'Neil, Sydney; Baltic, Dunbar, Pictou. 10—barque Pollok, Frazer, Liverpool; barque Humber, Hopkinson, Hull. 11—schr Pife, Kedge, Exmouth; brig Anthony & Anne, Arrowsmith, Hull, schr Elizabeth, Harding, P. E. Island; schr John Henry Tobin, Halifax; brig Salisbury, Harry Harrison, Stewart, Hull.