

Colonial News.

Nova Scotia.

Halifax Morning Post, May 7.

STEAM AND STEAMSHIPS.—Important—another step in the progress of Steam; great time on Cunard's Wharf; important position of Halifax.—The arrival of the steamers on Friday afternoon made quite a sensation in our usually quiet city. The delay of the Hibernia on the latter part of the voyage caused her arrival to be simultaneous with that of the Acadia from Boston on her way to England. The St. Lawrence being now open, the Unicorn had fires lighted up and the steam up, all ready for a start. And the Margaret, (reserve boat), made the fourth steamer lying at Cunard's Wharf, the whole presenting a scene of bustle and business rarely exceeded in any of the more frequented ports of the world.

Concentrated on that wharf might be seen the natives of almost every country in Europe and America—the confident Briton, bewhiskered Spaniard, mustachioed German, Russians, Austrians, Italians, and formal Frenchmen, the dark Mexican, possibly the not less swarthy Texian, and the calculating keen looking Yankee. One, perchance, from every State in the Union—from the wealthy and gentlemanly planter of the south, to the "Som Stick" of the Onion State, returning or going, as the case might be, intent on his last speculation in wood-clocks.

These wanted apparently only the long tailed Chinaman, and the turbaned Persian or Turk to complete the medley; for there were costumes and persons rendered familiar by long observation, such as the varied uniforms of the British Army and Navy, full dress and undress. The Negro of every shade of complexion, also, might there be seen, from the coal black Congo to the light Mulatto. Conspicuous among the throng, stood a Native Indian of North America, perhaps more at ease than any of them, gazing listlessly with arms folded across his breast, probably too proud to acknowledge how deeply he was interested in the stirring scene, perhaps wondering where the ingenuity of the "pale face" would at last end. There he stood, on the land once his birthright; but now the inheritance of other men, among whom the Indian almost feels himself an intruder.

The hurrying to and fro of persons on business—the greeting of friends who had long been separated—the indifferent looks of the strangers who neither knew or cared for any here, and those who had only curiosity to prompt their attendance at the busy scene made up no small portion of the grouping of the picture. Then the number of labourers busily employed carrying or wheeling coal on board the ships, the short stay of which rendered it of importance that they should be "coaled" with the utmost promptitude, was of itself a cheering sight. The Mails, luggage, &c. &c., had also to be landed for those passengers who had reached their destination, or who were to proceed to Canada in the Unicorn. Those who were still bound on, glad of a resting place on "terra firma" are off in parties of ten or a dozen to stroll through the city and environs. Mail officers and Post Office runners swearing, and Truckers exerting themselves to the utmost to please their employers—every variety of vehicle, public and private, for the conveyance of passengers and luggage, are also in attendance. These and many other circumstances unite to make up the panorama of apparent confusion—only apparent—for the work is rapidly progressing. A few hours will suffice to set again in motion those magnificent vessels, to steam their way across the waste of waters.

Examine more closely these stupendous works of art. It is easy to discover the fact of their great power, beauty, and costliness—one, (the Hibernia,) surpassing every thing afloat, and two of them fitted to bear comparison with any thing of their class in the world. What a triumph is their success over the elements they were destined to encounter! How thoroughly clean and neat they are, nay, even elegant. High above all the din and bustle they have occasioned, is the noise, (unearthly enough, heaven knows) of the steam escaping, sufficient to appal the unpractised observer, but to the initiated a certain indication that there is no danger. Now you hear the hoarse bawling of the officers, and anon, the shrill whistle of the boatswain, as the duty is being carried on with regularity of men who perfectly understand their business.

In a few hours the ships will resume their voyages. The gallant Hibernia will press on with untiring speed to Boston, the rapidly rising emporium of the Western World. The Unicorn will re-commence her contests with the currents and storms of the mighty St. Lawrence, in which she has been so singularly successful. Our own Acadia will shortly resume her voyage, her prow directed to that land emphatically termed the "Bulwark of Liberty and the Home of the World." The North America also with them will have taken her departure to grope her way through the fogs of the American coast to her destination in Newfoundland. The whole scene was to a contemplative mind deeply impressive as well as novel, and could not have been witnessed by the most casual observer, without feeling how deeply we are indebted to steam navigation:—

"Soon shall thy arm, unconquered Steam, afar Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car; Or, in wide waying wings expanded bear The flying chariots through the fields of air."

Halifax is only now beginning to assume her proper position in this new era of steamship enterprise. Her situation is peculiar—Her advantages incalculable. She is destined to be

one of the greatest cities on the American continent. With her capacious harbour, standing out as it were into the sea, and commanding the whole southern coast—and at the same time having communication by land with the whole interior of the continent, her claims will force her into notice notwithstanding neglect, and raise her to a height of prosperity, opulence and power, unequalled in the western hemisphere. It is only of late years that she has taken a stride in permanent improvement. Look at the number of houses, new towns, and villages, that are rapidly rising up around us. Look at the vast advantages we possess in having the sea encircling this peninsula. Halifax will be a sea girt city, with unequalled facilities for securing cleanliness and for communicating safely with the sea. A new era is just opening upon us. Be it ours occasionally to notice its progress. The remarkable feature we now record is—that no less than nine steamers, five of which had crossed the Atlantic, were in our harbour on Friday. The Saxe Gotha would have made the tenth.

The Nova Scotia Nightingales commenced their annual concert on Sunday evening. It is quite probable there had been some tuning of the instruments previous to that time; but we believe we are correct in saying there had been no indication of performing in concert, or an attempt at chorus. We therefore congratulate all who are fond of evening walks on the early attuning to melody of the frogs. Though the sound may not be so harmonious as the performance of our garrison Bands, it is nevertheless not to be despised or thought lightly of, for it tells of bright skies, limpid streams, and ruddy summer. Their songs are those of nature, having for an accompaniment verdant lawns, budding trees, seed time, and golden harvests. Messengers with tidings rich and bountiful should neither be despised or ill-treated—though the great creator of all has not thought proper to form or clothe them in the most fascinating manner:—

"I see around me the wide fields revive,
With fruits and fertile promise; and the Spring
Come forth, her work of gladness to contrive,
With all the reckless birds upon the wing."

Halifax Guardian, May 10.

The Weather for the last few days although somewhat bleak and variable, has been on the whole highly favourable for vegetation; and the season is considered much earlier than in former years—Snow and ice have long since disappeared from our Fields and Harbours, and the Farmers are now easily employed at their usual healthy and pleasant occupations.

Commercial Prospects.—The Spring vessels after very long and tedious passages, are at last beginning to arrive fully freighted with every variety of disposable articles for our enterprising merchants. The stocks of last year's goods in the hands of dealers, both in town and country, are we understand unprecedentedly low, so that an animated and profitable Spring trade is confidently anticipated.

New-Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswick, May 9.

A Cargo for the Mediterranean.—The schooner Clyde, owned by B. Killam, Esquire, of Yarmouth, cleared the other day for a market in the Mediterranean with the following cargo. The Clyde is the first vessel that has sailed from that port for the Mediterranean. The articles are—50 tons Ice; 52 fresh Salmon; 6 Halibut; 900 Codfish; 1 carcass Veal; 26 bbls Alewives; 12 bbls. Herring; 15 boxes Smoked Herring; 5 bbls. and 4 half-bbls. Beef; 3 bbls Pork; 2 kegs Lard; 1 cask Cheese; 49 bbls. Potatoes; 1 box Cranberries 40 small Spars; 1200 Staves; 10 M. Shingles; 1200 ft. Ash Oars; 19,000 feet Boards.

Fortifications.—The Times states that the plans, specifications, estimates and details of the proposed fortifications between Quebec and New Brunswick have been completed, and will be sent home by the Acadia, for the approbation of the heads of the Engineer department.

Dr. Bollock, a physician of eminence, arrived by the Acadia to attend the Governor General of Canada, having been despatched by the Home Government for that purpose.

Newfoundland.

From the Newfoundland.

We learn from the Conception Bay Herald, the particulars of a painful visitation which has recently befallen a respectable family in Lower Island Cove. It appears that on the morning of Wednesday last about six o'clock, the house of Mr David Garland took fire, and before the inmates were aware of their danger, the destructive element was around them in every direction. There were Mr. and Mrs. Garland, and five children in the house, who had not at the time risen from their beds—the two former being on the first floor, escaped with difficulty and some injury, and succeeded in rescuing a baby who lay near them. The four who were up stairs sought their escape through the windows, which two of them succeeded in effecting, though one of these shortly after expired from injury received from the fire, as well as from his fall. The floor gave away before the others could follow, and they were hurried to their terrible fate. A fine young woman of 20 years—a boy of 7, and a younger girl have been precipitated into eternity by this event.

The fire is supposed to have originated in

the kitchen—the winter boy had got up about sunrise, and as usual had proceeded to the woods; a spark must either have caught some clothes or the woodwork, and so spread throughout the kitchen. The morning was fine, with a light breeze from the west.

An inquest has been held before W. Bennet, Esq., Coroner for that division of the District, on view of the bodies of Susana, Priscilla, and Jabez Garland, and a verdict returned in accordance with the foregoing facts.

United States News.

New York Sun, May 4.

Great Rise in the Upper Mississippi.—We learn from the Dubuque (Iowa) Express, of the 19th ult., that the Upper Mississippi had been rising gradually for eight or ten days, and was higher than it has been since 1828. The Express says: It covers islands, bottoms, gardens, &c., and has done a great deal of injury, by carrying off bridges and fences. The river at present, certainly is magnificent, and well may it be termed the "Father of waters," deluging as it does the bottoms and islands, it is at least a mile and a half wide in front of our city, while it certainly has carried "the cold water movement" a little too far for those of our citizens inhabiting the lower end of towns.

Arrest of the Publisher of the Evening Post.—An officer of the U. S. Senate came on to this City on Wednesday morning, and arrested Wm. G. Boggs, Esquire, publisher of the Evening Post, upon a charge of having feloniously obtained a copy of the Annexation Treaty. We understand the officer returned to Washington yesterday afternoon, with his prisoner.

European News.

From British Papers to the 19th of April, received by the Steamer Hibernia.

Egypt.—The Pacha is about to rout one more of the monsters of the desert—by boring for water between Cairo and Suez, which he expects to find sweet, at the depth of 1000 feet. For this purpose he is awaiting an apparatus ordered from England, calculated for boring to the depth of 1500 feet. No mention is yet made of the introduction of wood paving or the new sweeping machine, into this disenchanted region; but they will follow in their turn.

Death of Thorwaldsen, the Sculptor.—Copenhagen, March 26.—The celebrated Thorwaldsen died suddenly the day before yesterday. He was 74 years old.

It is intended to open the railway from Darlington to Newcastle, on the 18th of June, after which there will be an uninterrupted railway intercourse between Newcastle-upon-Tyne and London.

Dover.—Great changes are about to take place at Dover and Folkestone; at Dover some 1200 new houses being about to be commenced. Nearly the whole of the little fishing town of Folkestone is to be pulled down immediately; the tenants have long since had their notices to leave, and in a short time we may expect to see this place converted into a fashionable and most delightful watering place. Its position with Dover as a place of transit to and from France must secure it eventually a large and increasing prosperity.

Reported Intended Conversion of the Bridgewater Canal into a Railway.—The Manchester Guardian states that a rumour is current that it is intended to drain the celebrated Bridgewater Canal, and convert it into a railway from Manchester to Runcorn.

The Hastings, 72, has been selected to relieve the illustrious, 72, on the North American and West India station. She will not be commissioned, however, until June next, as Sir Charles Adam's period of service does expire before August.

The largest quantity of waste land in any county of England is in the North Riding of Yorkshire, there being no less than 132,815 acres of common or waste land out of 1,867,592.

Irish Education.—The proposed grant this year to the national Board is £27,000, being an increase for the year of £22,000.

Death of the Last of the Highland Bards.—Died lately, at Gairloch, Ross shire, the celebrated Gaelic bard, Alasdair Buidhe Mac Iobhair, at the advanced age of eighty four. He was poet to the lairds of Gairloch, from whom he had a pension. He was a bard of great merit, but very few of his pieces have been printed. He may be considered the last of the highland bards, with the solitary exception of the author of "Loch-Aic," MacColl. Alasdair Buidhe was at a wedding, some years ago, when a miserly gentleman observed, that "the bards were extinct." "No," said Alasdair, "but those who rewarded them are gone!"—Scottish Guardian.

Emigration to New Brunswick.—In pursuance of notice, Major Evanson, J. P. Sussex Vale, Kings County, New-Brunswick, delivered an interesting Lecture on the subject of emigration to that Colony, on the evening of Wednesday last, (April 8th,) in the Corporation Hall, during which he detailed much useful and practical information that will be found of great service to intending emigrants.—London-derry Journal.

It is said that the mediation of Great Britain has been accepted for the settlement of the difference between the King of Sardinia, and the Bey of Tunis.

The French Government, it is said, has determined on abolishing slavery in its colonies, and to pay the planters two million sterling as compensation.

Awful Profanity, and its Punishment.—On Sunday week, at Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, some Crumlincton men were drinking and card playing in a public house, and, in the depravity of their hearts, got up a mock administration of the Lord's Supper! Shortly afterwards, one of the party a man named Barras, was suddenly seized with paralysis, was carried home by his comrades, put to bed and died on the Thursday following, after enduring excruciating torment,—torment so dreadful that it frequently required four men to hold him down. Another of the profane party is also ill.—Provincial paper.

Dreadful Catastrophe at Minorca.—Nearly 500 Persons Killed.—A dispatch from Don Juan Caldeute, Deputy Alcalde of Felanitx, to the Political Chief of the Balearic Isles, states that on the afternoon of the 31st March, when an immense crowd was assembled in the church yard of Santa Rosa, to hear one of the twelve sermons preached annually there, the high wall of a neighbouring cemetery fell down upon the assembly, burying about 300 persons under its ruins. The Alcalde, Don Francisco Benasser, six of the members of the Corporation, and the Priest, were amongst the victims. A private letter from the same place, dated April 1st, states that the consequences were even more frightful than was at first supposed, the number of the sufferers being four hundred and fourteen killed, 72 wounded, 92 contused, and 28 with fractures.

A Wealthy Beggar and His Will.—Begging has long been reduced to a most successful system in England, and many are the anecdotes introduced in the English Journals in relation to the "profits" of mendicancy. We find a peculiar instance mentioned of a beggar who had a tablet erected to his memory in the Parish Church where he most frequented—that of Rotherhithe. The career of this man is described as a most extraordinary one, and it gives a complete proof how wealth is amassed by strict economy. James Smith was a beggar of no usual description, and, "though advanced in years," says the London Despatch, "he was one of the most active of his class. His continued rounds of employment was through two hundred and ten parishes, and his industry was well rewarded. He left an immense deal of property, the chief part for charitable purposes.—None of the two hundred and ten parishes have been forgotten, where he was kindly treated.—To almost all he has left funds, but has carefully excluded from his will any parochial authorities, in whose district he fancied he had been neglected. To the parish of Rotherhithe which was always a favourite resting place of his, he has left property which produces £40 a year, and the interest of the money is thus disposed of: Upon each Sunday, after the sermon in the Church, 120 loaves, of the value of 6d each, are distributed among the poor old people of the parish, who thus profit by a beggar's wealth and gratitude; for no doubt many of the recipients of his bounty have often given their mite to the real eccentric mendicant."

The Papacy and the Great Powers.—The Tablet, a Catholic newspaper, takes a gloomy view of the present state of the Papal dominions and the dangers which threaten them: from several quarters. Amongst the most dangerous of those enemies is said to be Russia, whose emperor is denounced as "the great Antichrist of the north," and from whose rule, when once it includes Italy, is predicted, "a hideous persecution and calamity, such as the Church has never yet hardly witnessed." The other enemies of the Papal see besides its own insurgent subjects, are said to be England and France, and the following is a summary account of its alleged position at the present moment:—"Besides then, the local and social convulsions of Italy, we have hanging over the Holy See—first, the armed Protectorate of Austria; secondly, the efforts of Russia to gain, at least, so much influence in Rome as shall prevent the publication of unpleasant documents; thirdly, the endeavours of England to cajole the Pope into putting the screw (epiritual) upon his too ardent subjects of that kingdom. The Pope, unable to uphold the temporal dominion without the aid of Austrian bayonets, and the three most powerful cabinets of Europe applying all their craft and force to compel His Holiness to abuse his spiritual power to the common injury of Christendom! Luckily, the hand of God has carried the church through as great dangers as the present, and has promised to carry her through all dangers—otherwise we should say that this was no very pleasant prospect."

Death of Sir Charles M. Wenworth, Bart.—We have to announce the demise of the above respected baronet, who expired on Wednesday last, at his residence in Devonshire. He was born in 1775. The deceased was the son of the gallant Governor of Nova Scotia who was created a baronet for his attachment to the British cause at the outbreak of the American war. The baronetcy becomes extinct.

British guano is now being gathered from the Flamborough Cliffs, in Yorkshire. A number of vessels are now employed in bringing the new manure, Guano, from the coast of Africa, the expense of doing so being necessarily less than bringing it from the Pacific.

One vessel, which brought home 500 tons of the manure, a few days back, at £8 per ton, amounting to £4,000, netted a handsome sum for her owners, the expenses of the voyage not being above £500.

The Mermaid steamer, which conveyed the corporation of Wexford to and from the repeal dinner given to O'Connell at Cork, hoisted the repeal banner; on the return of the steamer she was boarded by an armed boat's crew, be-

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