

The Politician.

From the London Pictorial Times.
THE FAMINE QUESTION.

England has of late been almost shocked from her propriety by the unwelcome cry of "Famine." In the midst of unusual commercial activity, and whilst millions are being invested for the advancement of railway undertakings, a thousand tongues proclaim the distasteful truth, that starvation treads closely upon our footsteps. Whilst our dreams are of plenty, the fiend of want waits to clutch us as her own—whilst gold is being heaped up by successful speculation, the food is wasting away upon which the country depends, without, it is said, the prospect of the ordinary supply from the usual sources. Nature, in fact, has frowned bitterly upon us, when trade and speculation were in their most pleasant humour.

Upon the truth or falsehood of this view of our state and prospects much of our present security and future prosperity must depend; and from an examination of the question, but little comfort can be drawn. The advocates of discontent, and the abettors of rebellion are, of course, ready to exaggerate the evils which a bad season has brought upon us; and with the vicious activity peculiar to the class to which they belong, the impending misfortunes and probable hardships of the poorer portion of the population are already quoted as consequences of a policy which they disapprove. Much, however, as such agitators may endeavour to exaggerate the mischief, and by their exaggerations throw a shadow of falsehood over all the statements they touch but to garble, it is certain that a wide-spread failure has occurred in one of the chief supplies of food consumed by the labouring poor of these realms, but more particularly of Ireland. After careful consideration of the various accounts, the loss in the potato crop may in round numbers, be stated at one third of the ordinary bulk! This is quite serious enough without the false colourings of exaggeration; for it is in fact destruction of the usual means of subsistence of some millions of our fellow subjects, and, by that destruction, the throwing of those millions upon the cupboards of those who have the better fortune to be above the more common vicissitudes of the seasons.

We are now in November—proverbially the most gloomy of English months—and before the new year breaks in upon us, we shall know the miseries which the loss of the potato crop will inflict upon us. December and January threaten us with a fearful tragedy. Already the journalists are on the alert to ascertain, and the authorities busy to verify, the extent of the unhappy visitation. One party cries aloud for the opening of the ports for the admission of foreign grain, forgetting in its zeal that England and Ireland are not the only countries where bad harvests have occurred, and that the prevalence of scarcity elsewhere will prevent that supply which their half-informed fancy suggests as an inevitable result of the admission of food duty free. Another clique denounce the thought of depending upon the harvest fields of other lands when our own are insufficiently cultivated; and, with great show of reason, remind us of the fact advanced by the political economists, "that all the ships in the world would be insufficient to carry the supply of corn required by Great Britain for one year's consumption;" whilst a third, equally shortsighted, pronounce laboured panegyrics upon the government for delaying its announcement of what they intend doing, because that very delay, they say, "will stimulate the people, who are in danger of starvation, to bestir themselves ere the final agony approaches." These last, and most cruelly philosophic of the three, commend the formal and unmeaning answer of the Premier to the address of the people of Manchester, and in the same breath would ask us to admire the almost equally unsatisfactory declaration of the Viceroy of Ireland.

Colonial News.

Nova Scotia:

From the Halifax Guardian.

SOIREE IN AID OF SALEM CHAPEL.—The soiree in aid of the funds for erecting a Chapel for the congregation adhering to the Rev. Dr. Belcher, took place as had been previously announced, on Tuesday evening last, at Masons' Hall, and notwithstanding the tempestuous weather

and the rain which fell without intermission, was numerous and respectfully attended as will be evident when we mention that, after the meeting had been opened with prayer by the Chairman, Dr. Belcher, upwards of four hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down to tea. During the course of the evening able and interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. John Martin, on the social character of religion; by the Rev. Peter G. McGregor, on the influence of public worship on the morals of the people; and by Mr. James Belcher on the claims of religion on the efforts of the young.

At the conclusion of the Rev. Mr. McGregor's address collecting cards were introduced to the meeting, 50 of which were taken up by different ladies and gentlemen who pledged themselves to procure not less than 1 pound each.

Vocal music was introduced between the addresses and at other periods during the evening, which was one of most gratifying and heart-felt enjoyment throughout; and a unanimous and well merited vote of thanks having been passed to the ladies who provided and superintended the entertainment, the company separated, after singing the Doxology, at about 11 o'clock.

The nett profits of the Festival are estimated, we understand, at about one hundred dollars.

Halifax Times December 16.

RAILROAD MEETINGS IN CANADA.—The inhabitants of the populous villages of St. Germain and St. Lazare, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, held a public meeting on the 2d inst., in compliance with a request of the Mayor, Mr. Turgeon, to re-echo the resolutions passed at the public meeting held at Quebec, in support of the great scheme of the Halifax and Quebec Railway. The Mayor was called to the chair, and Joseph Jolwet, Esq. acted as secretary. A series of resolutions was passed—a committee appointed to communicate with the Quebec committee—and in order to facilitate and diminish the survey that will be made, a Commission was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Elie Audet, Pierre Boldue, Louis Audet, Ant. Audet, Louis Fournier, and Francois Baquet, to examine the locale over an extent of about twenty leagues, in order to establish the spots over which the projected road can more readily be traced on that tract, in approximating it as near as possible to the City of Quebec.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS.—Four convicts escaped from the Dromedary hulk, Ireland Island, Bermuda, on the night of Tuesday Nov. 26. A gig belonging to the Royal Engineer Department was stolen, and a store at Somerset robbed the same night—and it is supposed the convicts put to sea, though the night was tempestuous, and dark and rainy. They have not since been heard of.

THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

This event, notwithstanding the bravado of many of the fighting newspapers, is not likely to come off. It is now understood that the last despatches from the Mexican Government to that of the United States, embrace terms of mutual adjustment. The propositions contain in their preliminary overtures the withdrawal of the American fleet from Vera Cruz, and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, after which they (the Mexican Government) admit themselves to be ready to interchange diplomatic negotiations and agents, and to settle all outstanding debts and claims upon that Government from the United States upon amicable terms.

The truth is, Mexico is in a most embarrassed condition. She owes the United States one million of admitted claims; and in England and elsewhere, more than five millions more. She is largely indebted to France. A large portion of the indemnity due our country is yet unpaid—and the English are looking on with a desire to see how they are to be made more safe. France is far from being content. The insult to the minister is not to be booked, as it now stands.

It requires no very keen observation to see that both England and France have their eyes open in regard to the present posture of affairs in Mexico. The English particularly are desirous of a foothold, especially in California.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

The U. S. Falmouth, at Pensacola, brings later dates from Mexico. These confirm the report that Mexico is prepared to negotiate with the United States. Gen. Paredes has written to the Mexican Government that his greatest pride shall be to repress all revolutionary movements and put down any illegal opposition to the proposed negotiation with the United States.

"The day before the Commodore sailed from Vera Cruz he despatched the sloop of war St. Mary's. Owing to calms and currents, she was obliged to anchor near one of the reefs which form the harbor. This was no sooner perceived by the commander of the Mexican naval force than he ordered one of his steamships of war to proceed to her assistance.

"A breeze sprang up before the steamship reached her, but the fact itself is worthy of mention, to show the good feeling which exists on the part of the authorities, and which was manifested on several occasions.

"Every thing induces us to believe that another revolution is close at hand in Mexico, in which Almonte will probably take a conspicuous part. Distracted as the country now is, with neither money nor credit, malcontents in every quarter, and reckless aspirants for place or plunder in every city or town, it is almost impossible for the present Government to hold together much longer."

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY DEC. 20, 1845.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ARRIVAL AND CLOSING OF THE SEVERAL MAILS, AT THE POST OFFICE, CHATHAM.

TIME OF ARRIVAL.—Monday.—Nova Scotia, St. John, Fredericton, Dorchester, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Pettitcodiac, Richibucto, 6 A. M.

Tuesday.—Newcastle and Douglstown, 5 A. M.

Thursday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, Pettitcodiac, Richibucto, 6 A. M.

Friday.—St. John, Fredericton, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Newcastle, South West, 6 A. M. Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8 A. M.

Saturday.—Newcastle, Douglstown, 5 A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabisintac, 3 P. M., every fortnight.

TIME OF CLOSING.—Monday, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Fredericton, Newcastle, South West, Douglstown, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8 A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabisintac, every fortnight, 8 A. M. Nova Scotia, Saint John, Dorchester, Richibucto, Pettitcodiac, 9 P. M.

Thursday.—Newcastle and Douglstown, 8 A. M.

Friday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, St. John, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Richibucto, Pettitcodiac, 9 P. M.

N. B.—Letters will be forwarded upon the payment of a Fee of "six pence," and Newspapers "one penny" each, if posted within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the closing of the respective mails at this Office.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—The Courier with the Southern mail did not arrive until late on the night of Thursday last. The recent heavy fall of snow, which has rendered the travelling very heavy, was the cause of the delay.

The papers thus received furnish but little news. The President's Message to Congress is the great feature of attraction, both in the Colonies and the United States, and many of the journals are nearly filled with extracts from this document, and comments thereon. We have endeavoured in the course of our reading to pick up a few other articles of news, which are copied elsewhere.

UNITED STATES.—We have devoted a large space to-day, to extracts from President Tyler's annual Message to Congress. This document is a very lengthy affair, embracing many subjects uninteresting to our readers; but as they are no doubt anxious to hear this functionary's opinion on the Oregon question, and the state of the negotiation at the present time, we have copied his remarks thereon entire. The position assumed by the President is high and belligerent, and his sentiments in the highest degree arrogant and presumptuous, frequently very discourteous, and we mistake much the character and temperament of the British people, if on the receipt of this state paper in the mother country, the ire and indignation of the whole nation be not aroused.

President Polk was put into his present position by the Democratic party, which comprises the lower description of voters, in opposition to the Whigs, in whose ranks are to be found the commercial men, the large land-holders, and, generally speaking, those who possess wealth and influence in all the sea-port towns of the union.

We cannot, notwithstanding the high assumptions of the President, and his impertinent bluster, bring our minds to imagine, that War will grow out of this affair. We have too much confidence in the good sense of the members of both houses of Congress, to imagine they will press the arrogant assumptions of the head of their Republic, on the British Government: but even should we be deceived on this head, we have hope in that large and influential body of men, located in all parts of the country, who love Peace, because their Great Master commanded them so to do; and because during her mild and benevolent reign, commerce, science, the arts, and literature,

are allowed to march onward, dispensing their benefits and blessings; and we have also greater hope in that other large body of men, which a war with England would most seriously affect, by the destruction of the trade of the country, and the depreciation of the value of property.

We shall wait with anxiety the action of the other branches of the Government on this, at present, all-absorbing question—but should war ensue, (which may kind Providence avert) we have full confidence in the justice of our cause, and in the power and ability of the nation to maintain our rights.

GRAND SCHEME!—Solar, Terrestrial, and Lunar Grand Junction Railway.—The Herepath Journal thus satirizes the present mania for Railway speculations.

"We understand that a line is projected to unite the Sun, Moon and Earth, under the above title, in order to bring into closer contact the immense Solar, Lunar and Terrestrial interests which are at present so widely separated. The amount of capital is not yet fixed, but the shares are expected to come out at a very heavy premium, as there is no probability of a competing line. Mr. Greene, the celebrated aeronaut, has been already engaged to survey the line; and should any difficulty be found from the motion of the Sun or Moon, a clause will be introduced into the Act commanding them to stand still for the express purpose. The Provisional Committee will be composed of various gentlemen at present advertised as Directors of so many railway schemes, who have great interest in the Lunar luminary, having been hitherto celebrated for the ability with which they have been in the habit of performing the exploit of 'shooting the moon,' Mr. Samuels we understand, is to be the Engineer, and Mr. Wilkenson the Chairman; the line being of course, on the Atmospheric principle."

UNITED STATES.—The papers inform us that another fire had occurred at Pittsburgh on the 29th ult., which destroyed two tobacco factories, and several other buildings.

Immense quantities of Flour have been received at New York, Boston, and other sea-port towns, from the interior, and the price has receded.

It was rumoured in New York, that the British Minister at Washington had been recalled by our Government, because he had failed to bring the negotiations on the Oregon territory to a satisfactory conclusion. A private letter from that gentleman, denies the truth of this report, and says, "he was not aware of being recalled or superseded."

THE SEASON.—On Monday and Tuesday last a large quantity of snow fell, which has blocked up the roads, and rendered travelling thereon very heavy.

CANADA.—The Quebec Gazette of the 17th November says:

"The new ship Eliza Morrison, which sailed yesterday morning for Liverpool, had on board the greatest number of barrels of flour that has ever, we believe, been cleared out in one ship from this port, say 8725 barrels; besides a large quantity of provisions, deals, and staves."

A Quebec paper thus speaks of the feeling of the people of Canada regarding the contemplated Railroad:

"The New Brunswick papers of the 22nd ult., continue to be filled with matter relating to the Railway. Meetings are held in different parts of the Province, and the feeling appears strong against the line supported at Halifax. Here in Canada we feel no other interest in any particular line, than that it should be out of the easy reach of parties from the United States frontier. If at a distance from the inhabited frontier, intelligence of the movement of any hostile force to interrupt the communication, would be discovered in time to ensure a defeat or the interception of the party. There can be no objections to branches to Fredericton and Saint John, and also to the Bay of Chaleurs, Miramichi, and other places on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence."

THE AMERICAN PRESS.—As our readers may be desirous to know something of the opinion of the United States Press on the President's Message, we give a few selections below:—

"We say at once that in the treatment of the general subject of our relations to the two great Powers of Europe, Europe and France, the message lacks temper and discretion. The message lacks temper and discretion. The reference to the attempt of both these powers to induce Texas to preserve her nationality—which, as having been recognized by them they had a perfect right to do—seems to us unwise."