

troyed and all vestiges of its former inhabitants are gone—parts of houses, churches, &c. remain, but the inhabitants have all perished by cold. One of our contemporaries in referring to the gloomy subject says:—It would require no very vivid imagination to imagine the appalling sense of destruction which bleached the features and chilled the hearts of those unhappy colonists when they began to realize their forlorn condition, when the cold rapidly increasing and their harbours became permanently blocked with icebergs, and the genial rays of the sun were obscured by fogs—when the winters became for the first time intensely rigid, cheerless and dreary—when the summers were also cold, and the soil unproductive—when the hills were no longer crowned with forests, but covered with snow and ice throughout the year, and the valleys filled with glaciers—when the wonted inhabitants of the woods and the waters were destroyed or exiled by the severity of the weather, and their places supplied by monsters of a huge and affrightful character.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:
CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1845.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE MAILS.—The frequent alterations of late in the mail arrangements, has sadly perplexed the community. For the information and guidance of our readers, we shall publish weekly a notice of the time at which the mails are despatched from the Post Office in Chatham, and the time appointed for their arrival.

The Mail for Fredericton, direct, closes on Monday morning at 7.30 o'clock; and arrives on the morning of Friday, at 2 o'clock, A. M.

The Southern mails are closed at 5.30 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesdays and Saturdays, and arrive at 7 o'clock on the mornings of Mondays and Thursdays.

The Mails for the Northward are despatched soon after the arrival of the mails from the southward on Mondays and Thursdays; and arrive here on the mornings of Friday, at 6 o'clock.

A Mail is also made up, to and from P. E. Island, by the steamer St. George, every fortnight.

FIRE.—We have this week the painful task of recording, that extensive fires have been raging for some time past, in the upper part of this County. About two o'clock on the morning of Monday last, while a high wind was blowing, the flames were communicated to the premises situate in the lower settlement on the Bartholomew's river, belonging to the following parties, which were totally consumed, together with nearly all they contained:—Patrick Walsh, house and barn; James Toner, house and barn; Angus Campbell, house and barn; John Keenan, house and barn; William McKenzie, a house; Michael Doherty, house and barn; and a cabin, occupied by John McDonald, who has a large family. Some cattle were destroyed belonging to the parties, together with their fences. It was with the greatest exertion that the valuable Mills belonging to A. McLaggan, Esq., were preserved, as well as the Manse in the vicinity, occupied by the Rev. Mr. Turnbull. The barn on the latter premises caught fire, but was preserved.

All the parties who have suffered, are in indifferent circumstances, and as they have lost their all, we hope some measure of relief will be extended to them by the public.

We understand that a considerable quantity of fencing was destroyed in the settlement on the Renous river, but have not learnt that any other property fell a prey to the flames.

Early on Sunday morning last, a dwelling house situate at the mouth of the Kouchibouguac river, in the County of Kent, occupied by Mr. Richard Leonard, was destroyed by fire. The family was aroused from their slumbers by the cracking of the flames, and it was with the greatest difficulty they effected their escape. How the fire originated we have not been able to ascertain.

BEAR HUNT.—A Correspondent at Newcastle, under date of the 10th instant, furnishes us with the following account of a very novel affair which transpired on the previous day:—

"During the spring several bears were seen in the vicinity of Newcastle, and as several sheep were missing, Bruin was supposed to have been at work. Yesterday, one of those animals was seen leisurely strolling through a street in the upper end of the Town, and on his being discovered, a very amusing and exciting scene took place. Bruin immediately took to his heels, pursued by men, boys, and dogs, and after running about a quarter of a mile on the highway, was met by some persons who were likely to interrupt him, if he continued that course; he then ran in the direction of the river, across Strawberry Marsh, clearing fences and ditches with remarkable facility; but while crossing the Gully, he was overtaken by the dogs, one of whom laid hold of him, and a short but vigorous battle ensued, in which master Bruin evinced his abilities in a very striking manner, and disposed of his antagonist in a very summary way. The Bear again pursued his course to the river, plunged in, and made for the opposite shore; but by this time the number of his pursuers had greatly increased, and left him small chance of escape. Several boats and canoes immediately started in pursuit, and after considerable difficulty he was captured. He was about the size of a large dog, and weighed 200 lbs."

A Porpoise was shot one day this week in the river, opposite Newcastle. The carcase floated ashore about five miles above, and was picked up by some Indians. This is the first time we have heard of this marine animal being seen so far up the Miramichi. The folks in our metropolis have been unusually visited during the past week.

Since the above was put in type, another correspondent has sent us the following communication detailing some further particulars of the sports in which our Newcastle friends have been lately engaged in:—

"On Friday last a very large sized Grampus made his appearance in the river abreast of the Town of Newcastle. Such a novelty in this place very naturally attracted a great concourse of the people of the Town; and a few sturdy knights of the thimble at once volunteered to capture this Royal Fish, armed not with harpoons, according to the accustomed mode of taking them, but with old British muskets, and plentifully supplied with powder and ball, manned a boat, and proceeded in chase of this monster of the deep, determined to capture him, in order that, according to ancient privilege, they might, by the first steamer to England, forward his huge tail to their Royal Mistress, Queen Victoria. The Fish was soon overtaken, and well directed charges were poured into his gigantic body in rapid succession; the fish retreated with great precipitancy, but from the crimson stream that followed him, plainly demonstrating the injuries he had received, left such traces behind, that the party in the boat were able to pursue his course with certainty. After each successive charge, the Fish appeared more violent and frantic, throwing at times the water to an immense height, and causing the waves to roll as if agitated by a violent storm. The crew pursued him for an hour and more, nearly to Douglastown, where he became still more desperate, made one plunge and disappeared, and the party were obliged to retrace their steps to Newcastle unsuccessful. The next day he was seen and easily despatched by a party of lumbermen, at the boom eight miles above Newcastle, the gun shot wounds having partially disabled him. It is to be hoped that a sufficient quantity of oil may be extracted from him to lighten the darkness of the North West during the next winter. The day he made his appearance and since, great numbers of Sturgeon have been taken by the fishermen, no doubt driven in from sea by the Grampus, as they are not often taken in quantities so far up the river."

"On the Monday following, the quiet of our little Town was thrown into excitement, in consequence of the appearance of a large Bear at the head of Blarney Lane. He had fearlessly at noon-day emerged from the forest, crossed the fields skirting the Town, and from the stillness and serenity of all around, ventured thus far, and was actually pursuing his course towards the public square, when he was confronted by a child in the street. This visible sign of animation and human habitation brought Bruin to a full stop. He then carefully surveyed his position, and the scene in which he was then situated differing so widely from what he had been accustomed to, Bruin found he was in the wrong box, and that instant flight was necessary for his safety. By this time an alarm was given, and the town was in commotion. The Bear made directly for the river, and the able denizens of the place were in close pursuit; the Bear plunged in, and made for the opposite side. Boats were put in requisition, and before he succeeded in crossing, was overtaken, and after a sturdy fight of some duration, in which he displayed a deal of tact and much bravery, was captured and brought to land, amidst the shouts of the people. Had he the same power of submersion that the unfortunate Grampus possessed, Bruin

must have escaped, as his captors were provided with neither harpoons nor muskets."

BISHOP MEDLEY.—The Surveying Steamer Columbia, having on board His Lordship the Bishop of Fredericton and Family, left Halifax on Wednesday week, for St. John.

STATISTICS OF LOWER CANADA.—The following information is gathered from a Report of a committee of the Legislative Council, appointed at the last session, for collecting information respecting the property and population of Lower Canada:—

"The total population is 691,293. Of Deaf and Dumb there are 725; of blind 523; of Idiots 950; of Lunatics 308.—The proportion of these classes to the whole population is extraordinarily great, far greater, we believe, than in the United States. The proportion of Deaf and Dumb is only exceeded by the solitary cases of Switzerland and Baden. These physical disabilities are somewhat unusual in a comparatively new country. We should look for them rather in old, over-populated countries, in the squalid dens of great cities, where want and wretchedness congregate. The number of occupied acres of land is 7,540,450; of which 3,083,940, or near one half, are under cultivation. The produce in wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, Indian corn, buckwheat and potatoes, for the year 1843, was 21,365,913 Winchester bushels.—Potatoes was by far the largest crop, next oats, then barley, peas, buckwheat, &c. Of wheat the produce was 914,909 bushels. There are in the province sixty three colleges, academies, convents, &c., and 1,556 elementary schools, making a total of 1,619 educational establishments, attended by 56,578 pupils. Of wool, 1,209,782 pounds were produced in 1843, and 2,264,537 yards fulled cloth, flannel, linen, and cotton, were manufactured."

LATE FIRE AT QUEBEC.—The following more detailed particulars of the late disastrous fire at Quebec, is copied from the Mercury, published in that city:—

The 28th of May will ever be a memorable and melancholy anniversary for the citizens of Quebec. It dawned in all the brightness and warmth of the summer season; but ere noon the city was one scene of terror and desolation. Thousands, ay, thousands, who rose to their daily labors possessed of the comforts and independence which labor and patient, persevering, industry ever ensure long before nightfall were beggared and homeless. Many exchanged their morning greetings never again to meet in this world. Seldom indeed has it become the task of an editor, to record a more disastrous and painful calamity.

About half past eleven o'clock yesterday morning, the alarm of fire was given, when the tannery in St. Valliere street owned and worked by Mr. Richardson, was discovered to be in flames; originating as we have heard, in some way from the bursting of a boiler. The day was remarkably warm and the heat and dryness of the few days previous had rendered the roofs of the buildings in the neighbourhood, and those more remote, highly susceptible of ignition. The adjoining and opposite dwellings were soon involved, and in an inconceivably short space of time the burning flakes carried afar by the then rising wind had ignited some buildings in the neighbourhood of St. Roch's Church—a considerable distance from the outbreak of the fire.

The wind gradually freshened, from the west with a coming storm, and it was soon evident that all human endeavors to arrest the progress of the fire in a locality studded for the most part with wooden buildings alone would be useless and that impression was fatally verified. Onwards and onwards swept the flames—street after street fell before them. A species of whirlwind seemed to aid its fatal advances—for in advance in the rear on every side, the raging element developed itself with momentarily increasing fury. Spots that to the shrieking and affrighted refuge were now apparently safe, in a few minutes subsequently were wrapped in a vast sheet of flame, until at last to the stricken inhabitants despair succeeded to energy and they abandoned themselves to hopeless despondency and inactivity.

From eleven in the morning until midnight! did this dread fire hold uninterrupted sway until its career was arrested in St. Charles Street—nearly one mile from the place of its outbreak!—at the broadest point the breadth of the burnt district is about one third of a mile.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 houses are supposed to have been consumed, and it is calculated that 12,000 persons are this day homeless! Most of these people have lost their all, the rapid advance, and sudden capricious directions taken by the flames not only rendering it impossible to save any portion of the property in the dwellings but in a vast number of instances barely allowing the inmates sufficient time to escape living.

About one third of the population are homeless and beggars.

The Church in St. Roch's is in ashes; the Convent is saved. St. Peter's Chapel is also burnt down. The large brewing establishments of Messrs Lloyd & Lepper and McCallum are consumed, and the line of wharves from

Munn's to the one at the foot of Hope Hill. On these were an immense quantity of deals all consumed.

At this point the fire was arrested by throwing down the piles of deals and on the town side by blowing up two houses; this operation was conducted by Lt Col. Warde of the Royal Engineers, and some of the officers and men under his command.

Various rumours are afloat as to the number of lives lost. We have seen seven crissed and mutilated remains. Of these two were mothers with their infants clasped to their bosoms, an affecting instance of that clinging affection inherent in a woman.

In the Upper Town several houses were on fire. The Artillery Barrack was three times in danger, as also several private dwellings.

It is feared that many victims as yet unknown will be soon discovered.

A meeting was convened yesterday evening, and the bakers ordered to commence the supply necessary for the relief of those distressed.

This day relief was extended to about three thousand persons.

At an adjourned meeting of that of last night we are informed that the extremely handsome sum of upwards of £7,000 were subscribed; the list being still open. We also learn that the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese has issued circulars to his clergy, directing them to collect donations of every description in aid of the sufferers.

The Gazette of the 30th contains the following additional particulars:—

Several small craft were burned at the landing place above St. Paul's Market. The Market Hall was also burnt.

The number of lives lost cannot yet be ascertained. The number of bodies found in the ruins up to last night is said to be 17.

REWARD OF INDUSTRY AND TALENT.—The following highly instructive paragraph is copied from the New York Sun:—

"A few years ago, Luther Severance and James Harper were bringing water by the rail full to wash type in a printing office; they were knocked about here and there and scolded by older boys. But they did not sit down and weep, and declare they would run away from their masters. No, they stuck to their trade, year after year, till they became of age. Where are they now? Severance is in Congress, and Harper is at the head of the largest printing establishment in America, and was recently elected Mayor of the city of New York by a large majority. So much for energy and industry."

"What young man will fold his hands and slumber, when, by active exertions, he can take a high stand, and be eminently useful among his fellow man? Up and be doing! Lose not a day or an hour in sloth, and there is no position too elevated for you, or beyond your reach."

PRESIDENT OF HAYTI.—An exchange paper furnishes us with the following description of the recently-elected President of the above-named Republic:—

"Pierault, the new President of Hayti, is a full black, over six feet high, erect in figure, and about seventy two years old. He still rides well, is often on horseback, and, for his age, is very active and vigorous. He has little or no education, but is said to be gifted with considerable natural shrewdness, and to be temperate in his habits—in the latter particular, having greatly the advantage of his predecessor. His wife, from whom he has long been separated, has for some years been residing in Sicily, with her sister, the ex-Queen."

MELANCHOLY DISASTER.—Intelligence has been received at New Orleans, by an arrival at that place from the Island of Jamaica, that a sad disaster had occurred on the Cordillera of the Andes. The snow, it is reported, descended in fearful quantities from the Paramo de Ruiz, (which is situated on the western side of the plains of Marquita, and from 150 to 200 miles west of Bogota) and destroyed a large and populous district. It is supposed that twelve hundred lives have been sacrificed by this fearful calamity.

PATENT MEDICINE.—A letter in the Charleston Courier, details the following most extraordinary success which has attended the discovery of Patent Medicines in the United States:—

"Brandreth, with his pills, has risen from a poor man to be a man of fortune. He has now at Sing Sing a three story factory for grinding his medicines. Aloes are carted into it by the ton, and whole cargoes of the pills are despatched to every part of the Union, and down every body's throat. He has expended thirty thousand dollars in a single year for advertising. Comstock began with nothing, but by crowding his patent medicines, has been able to purchase one of the finest houses in Union Place, and gives magnificent suppers, soirees, &c.—Mortgage adding bitters to pills, has run up a handsome fortune of \$300,000.—Sherman, taking