

sily removed, so as to permit the employment of other remedies if necessary. I am not prepared to say whether the benefit and instantaneous relief, following the application of the lather, are to be ascribed to the chemical composition, or simply to the fact of its affording some degree of protection from atmospheric agency, or both.

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th June, received by the Caledonia Steamer.

Destruction of Raggett's Hotel, Dover-Street.—Dreadful Loss of Life.—We are greatly pained at having to record one of the most dreadful calamities by fire which has occurred in London for many years. It appears that shortly before one o'clock on Tuesday morning a fire broke out upon the above-named well-known premises, which in the course of a few hours were completely destroyed, scarcely any of the valuable property being saved. The melancholy loss of life on the occasion, however, absorbs every other consideration.

The following facts, collected from statements made by the Earl of Huntingdon and other survivors, leave no doubt as to the origin of the fire, and that five persons at least—viz., Mrs. John Round, the lady of the hon. member for Maldon, Essex; Mr. Raggett, sen., proprietor of the hotel; his daughter, Miss Raggett; Mrs. Barnes, one of the female domestics in Mr. Raggett's employ; and Mrs. Jones, a nurse in the service of the Earl of Huntingdon, have perished by the occurrence.

It appears that the hotel (which is a very capacious one) was at that time of the outbreak completely occupied by families, chiefly from the country. The Earl and Countess of Huntingdon, with their infant son, Lord Hastings, occupied the front drawing-room on the first-floor, and the corresponding rooms above for their servants, Mrs. Jones and the nursemaid, &c.—The back drawing-room was occupied by Mrs. John Round and her daughter (who had only arrived there late on Monday afternoon from Brighton, to be presented at Court next day), and they had also a sitting-room and other apartments on the second floor. Another suite of apartments on the drawing-room floor were occupied by Mr. R. Poer King and his sister; and beneath these were apartments in the occupation of Lord Louth, the Hon. Col. Bouverie, and other gentlemen, the remainder of the building being devoted by Mr. Raggett to his own family and domestics, and those of the families staying at the hotel.

When the fire was first discovered, the hotel had not been closed for the night. Mr. Raggett and his daughter retired to rest shortly before twelve o'clock, as did the servants, with the exception of the head waiter and cook, who, as well as Mr. Raggett, junior, were sitting up for those inmates who had not then returned home. Mrs. Round and her daughter had been to the St. James Theatre, to see the French plays, and the Earl and Countess of Huntingdon to that theatre also. Mrs. Round and her daughter came home a few minutes after 12, and retired to their sitting room on the second floor, to partake of supper.—They had scarcely sat down when the waiter, who had seen Miss King whilst going up stairs entering her bed-room at the back of the first floor, and who had again descended, was alarmed by hearing screams of fire. On rushing up to the first floor landing he met Miss King coming down in a distracted state, exclaiming that her bed-room was in flames and that she feared she had set fire to the bed curtains. He found the whole room in a blaze, and entrance impossible from the dense smoke that issued from it. The screams had attracted the attention of the inmates, and on his rushing up the second floor stairs he saw Mrs. Round on the landing in the same dress in which she had arrived from the theatre. He told her the house was on fire and to make her escape. He ran down stairs, supposing the lady to be following him, and saw no more of her. Miss Round states that she was with her mother at this time, and either from the smoke or fright the lady fell on the stairs, but at the same moment a man caught her up, saying he would save her; and seeing her, as she supposed, safe, she ran back into the apartment occupied by her attendant, but was unable to proceed down stairs on account of the intensity of the heat and smoke. She and Miss Raggett again went back to the front room, and opened the window; and when a fire-escape arrived the fire

was coming into the apartment. Miss Raggett was the first to go out, but did so before the conductor could get up, and fell on to the pavement and was killed.

Miss Round then got out with her attendant, and effected their escape. Mrs. Raggett was confined to her bed, she having broken her leg a few days previous; the two sons forced their way up, and carried her down. A minute or two before this occurrence a painful sight was witnessed by the crowd which had already assembled. A poor fellow, servant to Mr. King, was seen to make his appearance at an adjoining window of the second floor to that from which Miss Raggett fell.—The flames were in the apartment, and in the hope of immediate assistance he got outside, and clung to the window-still for several minutes. The flames bursting through the window burnt his hands so dreadfully he let go his hold, and fortunately fell into the balcony, from which he ultimately managed, with difficulty, to scramble into the street. About three or four minutes prior to the cries of fire being raised, Lord Huntingdon had arrived home, and his lordship states that he had scarcely put his hat down when he was startled by the alarm. His first impulse was to the room where his son and servants were. Mrs. Jones, the nurse, had heard the alarm, and was preparing to dress the child, but his lordship snatched his son from her arms, and with the countess ran out of the house, telling the nurse to follow him. He believed she did so, but returned for some article, and must afterwards have mistaken the staircase, and gone into one of the back rooms, and out of the window, from the position in which his body was found.

Charles Robertson, the head waiter to the establishment after much difficulty succeeded in saving the books and the cash-box, and also Colonel Bouverie's luggage. He had a most difficult task to wake the porter; for upon entering his bed-room he shook him violently, and told him that the house was on fire.—The porter answered him, and he retreated, but the porter not making his appearance, Robertson returned and found him fast asleep again. By great force he at length succeeded in getting him up.

The rapidity and intensity of the fire may be accounted for from the fact that the whole of the apartments were mere lath and plaster, and that there was three times as much wood in the building as is usual in modern houses. Although, therefore, there were 10 engines in attendance within half an hour of the outbreak, and a plentiful supply of water, the whole building, with the singular exception of the sitting room of Mrs. Round, which remained with the supper things still standing on the table uninjured and untouched, was in flames.

It appears that the Countess of Huntingdon has lost the whole of her jewels, the estimated value of which her lordship states to be as much as £3000; and those of the unfortunate Mrs. Round and her daughter, which they intended to have worn on Tuesday at the drawing-room, are estimated at a much larger sum, in addition to the plate. Mr. King, who is a merchant from Bristol, had in one of his apartments a large and valuable chest of plate, supposed to be destroyed.—Mrs. Raggett is not expected to recover the shock she has experienced by this calamity.

Her Majesty had herself witnessed the progress of the flames from the Palace, and a messenger was at an early hour sent to enquire into the extent of the damage.

Oddfellows.—The delegates from this union assembled at Wakefield on Monday, when it was announced that the increase for the year in the number of members had been more than 9,000; that dispensations had been issued for opening 109 new lodges; and that there was a clear balance in hand of £550. Mr. Joseph Grattan, of Chesterfield, was elected chairman, and Mr. Hodson, of Manchester, vice chairman.

A numerous meeting of delegates connected with this order was held at Glasgow on Monday, when it was stated that there had been an accession since the 1st of January of 309 lodges and 255,979 members. Since that period 216 additional lodges have been opened, making the actual number of members nearly 270,000. The property of this society generally is stated to amount to upwards of £530,000.

The disturbance in Italy.—The following is a copy of a letter received this morning from Italy:

"Florence, May 7.

"The greatest tranquility reigns throughout Tuscany; unfortunately it is not the same in the Papal States; there the agitators continue to conspire, and it will require all the vigilance and energy

of the government to prevent another insurrection. The disaffected—and they are in great numbers—are far from being intimidated by the recent military condemnations; they hold frequent secret meetings, and during the night post on the church doors the most seditious proclamations. The police is most active, and in many parts of Pope's dominions a military commission holds permanent sittings. Within the last fortnight the following condemnations have been pronounced, and the unfortunate beings executed; two at Ravenna, one at Faenza, two at Urbino, and two at Macerata."

Sugar.—Important fact.—In the petition of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the House of Commons, praying for a reduction of the duty on sugar, we find the following important statement:—"That within the space of the last ten years, upwards of thirty one millions of money have been wrung from that portion of our people which can permit itself to use sugar, more than it would have had to pay if there had been no protective duty: apply the same course of examination to the other imported articles on which differential duties are imposed, and how appalling would be the result."

MOVEMENT FOR THE JUNCTION OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEAN.

There seems at present some, perhaps not a remote, prospect, that the long talked-of junction between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans may be carried out. A gentleman is at present in London, striving to interest the great capitalists in the speculation, as he is armed with the necessary powers by the Mexican Government, and as money is abundant for all purposes which present the least chance of a fair and safe investment, it is not improbable that he may succeed. Joint stock companies, for objects of quite as Utopian a character challenge, by their glowing and deceptive announcements, the reader's attention in every British newspaper. It seems that Don Jose de Garay, with some Mexican officers and an Italian engineer, Don G. Moro, have been employed upwards of a year in surveying the district of Zehauntehe, and that the result of their investigations have satisfied the great French authority, Arago, and other eminent scientific men in this country and on the Continent, that the new scheme is feasible, and may be successfully carried out. Garay is guaranteed by the Government for a period of fifty years, two-thirds of the tolls arising from the transit, commencing with the opening of the communication between the two oceans; and for the fourth of the receipts which the Government takes, the shareholders are to have an interest to the same amount for sixty years after the expiration of Garay's term. Breadth of land to the extent of 30 miles, on each side of the line, is ceded to him in fee simple, with the privilege of purchasing lands, and establishing colonies to the extent of 150 miles more. This, in substance, is the proposition which is now before the capitalists of London, and its purport we have gathered from a circular addressed to many of the leading commercial houses. The document is unaccompanied by any estimates, but these promise to be furnished in a forthcoming pamphlet devoted to the subject; but the shareholders are assured, in general terms, that the speculation will secure a return of fifteen per-cent upon the invested capital. The present unsettled state of affairs in Mexico will operate to some extent, against the American Republics. North or South, is not held to be "first rate" in Europe. But the convenience to the shipping interests of the world, in saving the protracted voyage round Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, and in bringing us so many thousand miles nearer the great fields of commerce in Asia, the shores of the Pacific, Australasia, and Oceania, may induce many of the leading British merchants to regard the scheme, not so much in the light of a pecuniary return, as an investment for the promotion and extension of their pursuits. A project so gigantic ought long since to have been carried out by the combined efforts of all the maritime nations, but in the absence of a consummation so devoutly to be wished, the judicious application of private capital, contributed in tolerably equal proportions by the mercantile body in different parts of the world, would be the next best arrangement that could be made.

Whether the scheme which now solicits attention is the most feasible that can be offered, cannot with safety be affirmed, until something, more conclusive and satisfactory than the meagre outline at which we have glanced, is before the public. In the meantime, we shall keep our eye upon the movement, and "report progress" as circumstances

develop themselves. The project, in every point of view, is interesting to Great Britain, and more especially to the United States.

Colonial News.

Prince Edward Island.

Charlottetown Gazette, June 24.

Melancholy Accidents.—A Frenchwoman residing on lot 9, (formerly of Miramichi,) was killed by Lightning on the night of Monday the 9th of June inst., during a very severe storm of lightning and rain. It appears the unfortunate woman and her husband had retired to rest, and were awoke by the rain dropping through the roof on to their bed, they arose, and were in the act of moving the bed alongside a stove, when the electric fluid struck the stove, shattered it to pieces, and killed the poor woman on the spot.

Another accident also occurred, on the same day, during the same storm, at Rollo Bay. A party of men (3 French and 3 Irish) of the name of Fidele Peters, Charles Burke, Isaac Chevereux, Michael Howlett, Stephen Hacket, and J. Hacket, were out fishing in the above Bay, in two boats, when a squall struck the boats, and capsized them, and melancholy to relate, the whole six were drowned. We have heard that two large barns were razed to the ground, in the vicinity of the above accident, but have not been able to ascertain the particulars.

[Since writing the above, we have received the following additional information from a Correspondent of the Eastward:]

"On Monday the 9th inst., about 3 p.m., a hurricane began suddenly, and six persons out fishing in a boat were drowned; another boat in which were eight persons, was upset, but a vessel lying at anchor near, they were providentially picked up and saved. The violence of the wind blew a vessel off the stocks, building by a Mr. M'Dougall, and dashed the timbers apart, scattering them some distance; large hail fell in abundance, and broke all the windows facing to windward, for miles, along the coast—breaking the window-frames also in many instances. Several houses and barns were blown down, others unroofed and otherwise damaged; fences and trees prostrated, &c., and if the crops had been more forward, the destruction might have been immense. It is said, that an old man, deemed weatherwise, told the Fishermen in the morning (when apparently fine) of the approaching storm, and advise them not to go out, or if they did, to keep near the shore, but they disregarded his advice. This person says, three more like storms may be shortly expected."

Canada.

From the Quebec Mercury.

A deputation from the shipmasters in port, consisting of Captains Muirhead and Sayers, proceed to Montreal this evening, to lay before His Excellency a memorial praying for certain measures to stay the present growing evil of desertion among merchant seamen. The substance of the memorial is to solicit the appointment of a magistrate whose sole duty shall be the summary trial of marine cases, whose office shall be in the lower town, and in whose court no fees shall be exacted; to render it incumbent to import two-thirds of the crews for ships built here; and to place colonial built shipping on the same footing, with regard to register tickets, as those English built.

The memorial also prays His Excellency to recommend the remission in England of the fine incurred by ships now proceeding home with seamen not having tickets, in consequence of the inability of masters to man their vessels otherwise than by shipping these men.

The number of desertions, this season, yesterday amounted to 700.

Nova Scotia.

Halifax Times, July 1.

Fire.—The past week has been prolific in alarms of fire. On Saturday last, at 1 o'clock, p.m., the roof of an unoccupied house opposite the old Methodist meeting was discovered to be on fire—but timely aid being procured, no damage was done. Later in the day, about half past four o'clock, there was another, and as it turned out, a more serious alarm—a fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. George Paterson, Carpenter, in Gottingen street, which spread amongst the inflammable materials with great rapidity, and unfortunately communicated to the houses ad-