

European News.

From British Papers to the 19th August, received by the Caledonia, Steamer.

New Zealand.—Orders have been transmitted to New South Wales, to detach six companies of the 58th, six companies of the 96th, and six companies of the 99th regiments, at present stationed in New South Wales, to New Zealand. Six companies of the 11th regiment, at present on a passage to New South Wales, are also ordered to be detached to New Zealand, and four companies only of each of these regiments are to remain at headquarters. This arrangement on the part of government will give 24 companies of British soldiers to protect the interests of our countrymen in New Zealand. The twenty-five gunners and drivers of Captain Turner's company have not yet left Woolwich for New Zealand; but they are expected to embark in a few days; and the company has been withdrawn from its term of foreign service, which would have been to proceed in about a fortnight hence to Halifax, Nova Scotia. There is reason to believe the whole company will proceed to New Zealand, although they may not all embark in the same vessel.

The Governors of the Charter house met, last week, to appoint two new Governors, in the places of Earl Grey and Lord Canterbury. Their choice fell on the Duke of Buccleuch and Earl Devon.

The British Museum.—Thursday, by order of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, the whole of the eastern wing of the British Museum, comprising several tons of lead and the entire brick work, was disposed of by auction, in order to be removed for the erection of the new stone wing, to correspond with that on the western side, recently finished. Among the mass of building which will be taken down, will be the old lantern formed house, abutting in Great Russell street. The foundation for the intended wing has been laid some weeks; but it is expected to be two years before it will be completed.

Polytechnic Institution.—Dr. Ryan has during the last week, been delivering instructive lectures on a number of experiments lately exhibited by Professor Bouigny, on the spheroidal state of bodies, and its application to steam boilers, and on the freezing of water in red hot vessels. The learned lecturer first proceeded to show that a drop of water projected on a red hot plate, does not touch it, but that a repulsive action is exerted between the plate and the fluid, which keeps the latter in a rapid state of vibration. At a white heat this repulsion acts with the greatest energy, whilst it ceases and the ordinary process of evaporation takes place at a brown red heat. The temperature of the water whilst in the spheroidal state is found to be only 96 degrees, and this temperature is maintained so long as the heat of the plate is kept up. To bring this water to the boiling point (212 degrees) it is, therefore, necessary to cool the plate. Dr. Ryan gave several experiments in proof of this necessary cooling to produce ebullition. The bursting of steam boilers came next under consideration, and it was shown that many serious explosions may be referred to the phenomena under consideration. In a great many cases the explosions have occurred during the cooling of the boilers after the withdrawal of the fire. These experiments the Doctor informed his auditors were not new, as they had been exhibited at Paris fifteen years since by Mons. Pouillet, and also in America in proof of steam boiler explosions, and in this country, many years ago, by Professor Farady and others. The concluding experiment excited great interest. The production of ice in a vessel, at a glowing red heat, was a result so anomalous that every one seemed desirous of witnessing the phenomenon. Dr. Ryan said this experiment was quite new; it was performed in the following manner:—A deep platinum capsule was brought at a glowing red heat, and at the same moment liquid sulphureous acid, which had been preserved in the liquid state by a freezing mixture, and some water, were poured into the vessel. The rapid evaporation of the volatile sulphureous acid, which enters into ebullition at the freezing point produced such an intense degree of cold, that a large lump of ice was immediately formed, and being thrown out of the red hot vessel, was handed round to the audience who expressed their approbation by continued applause.

Danger to St. Peter's at Rome.—A letter from Rome contains the following:—One of the most splendid monuments

of Catholic art, the Dome of St. Peter's, at Rome, inspires serious alarm in the minds of the architects of this city. For a long time past the cupola has been cracked in many places, iron, weighing 60,000 kilogrammes, have been placed so as to prevent its fall. It has just been discovered that the lanternino, above which rises the cross which crowns the edifice, is cracked through and through. The numerous lightning conductors which had been erected by Pope Pius VII. for the protection of the edifice, remove all idea of this mischief having been the effect of a thunder-storm. The lanternino is being surrounded by heavy iron chains, to prevent the cracks from extending. The restoration of the ancient Basilic of St. Paul, on the Ostia-road, and which was destroyed by fire some years since is almost completed. An English company has just made a proposition to the Papal government for deepening the Tiber. It demands neither payment nor indemnity, hoping to repay itself by the monuments of antiquity which it expects to find in the bed of the river. If the Pontifical government accede to this offer, it is thought at Rome that the company will have an excellent bargain.—*Galignani.*

A Deaf Juror.—During one of the law cases tried at Bridgwater, on Monday week, the crier informed Mr. Baron Platt that one of the Jurymen in waiting wished to be excused on the plea of deafness. His Lordship ordered the deaf gentleman to stand up, which he did, with his left hand up to his ear. His Lordship, who was sitting at some distance from him, inquired, in a voice much below his usual tone, "How long have you been deaf, Sir?" The Juror promptly answered, "Two months." "How did it come on by?" asked his Lordship, dropping his voice to a still lower key. "Through a cold, Sir," again promptly replied the Jurymen. "Are you not better of your deafness?" said the Judge, falling his voice to a whisper. "No, Sir," said the deaf gentleman. "Well," said his Lordship, "I think you'll do." This was the only remark of his Lordship's that the Juror did not hear distinctly. The Court was convulsed with laughter as the Juror took his seat.

Miraculous Escape.—Burdleigh Salterton has been the scene of a most thrilling incident. Six infant children, on Wednesday morning, got into a boat on the beach, and a mischievous boy shoved it off. The boat drifted away to sea before the children were missed. Terrible was the agony of the mothers when they knew it. Daylight returned, and still no tidings of the helpless children. A Plymouth trawler, fishing yesterday morning, saw something at a distance; he bore down to it, and discovered it to be a boat, and in the bottom the six children, all cuddled in like a nest of birds, fast asleep. Five of these children were under five years of age, the sixth is but nine years old.—*Western (England) Times.*

United States News.

Important from the Society Islands.—The following is an extract of a letter published in the Hartford Times, dated Oahita, March 15:—

"There is a war going on here between the French and natives. There was an engagement between them a few days since, in which the French lost 400 men, and the natives about 80. There is now an army of natives 8000 strong in sight. They are waiting for some movements of the English and Americans, when they will attack the town now in possession of the French. It is thought that the French, who are much to be blamed for coming here and starving the peaceable natives, driving them from their towns, will get the worst of it. I was on shore yesterday, and saw a great many of the French soldiers who were wounded in the last battle. Queen Pomare has left the island and gone to another. She restrains the natives of the other isles for the sake of peace, but they will soon rebel against her orders; they are strong, and will assist their brethren to rid their islands of the French usurped authority. The Brandywine and two English frigates are daily expected. The French have a frigate and steamer here; and the English have one steamer, but the Frenchmen will not let her depart, because she will not salute their flag. They have threatened to fire into her if she does not. Some music is expected between the English and French, when an additional English force arrives."

From the Boston Post.

Bitten by a Rat—Extraordinary case. A few evenings ago, a young man named Hays, an assistant in the provision store of Mr Bancroft, on the corner of Purchase

and Federal streets, went home to his house, and, putting his hand into a closet in the dark, felt it seized sharply. Upon withdrawing it, he found a large rat adhering to it so firmly that he could not shake the creature off till he had killed it. The wound left was inconsiderable, and Mr Hays thought nothing of the matter till his hand began to swell. Upon calling in medical aid, it was found that the virus had spread through his system, and he now lies in a very dangerous state. In the opinion of the physician amputation would be useless, and he can live but a short time. The swelling in the hand has now subsided, and it appears as if withered.

Fires, Loss of Life, and Destruction of Property in Philadelphia.—At 1 o'clock on Saturday morning last, a serious fire broke out in the Steam Sugar Refinery of Messrs Roudet and Canet, in the rear of second st. above Arch, a few doors above the Mt. Vernon House. The whole building, which was three stories high, was entirely destroyed, and two or three adjoining houses were considerably injured.—Loss \$25,000. The Mt. Vernon House at one time, was in great danger, and the inmates, after removing their property, lost a great portion.

During the above fire one of a more calamitous character occurred in Broad-st. It commenced in the rear of James Clarke's Hotel, near the corner of Broad and Cherry, which spread with great rapidity, destroying the extensive Commission Houses of Craig, Bell & Co. J. Stauffer & Co. Siter, Jarvis & Co. and several others whose names I do not recollect. The total loss is put down at \$300,000.—Among the property consumed was 2000 barrels of flour, besides an immense quantity of grain.

In the stables of Clarke were ten fine horses used for the purpose of drawing the cars to the Inclined Plane, all of which were burned to death.

But the most serious casualty was the loss of life and limb by several active members of the Fire Department. One man was taken out of the ruins dead; his name I did not learn. At the hospital, Daniel Brown lies in a serious condition. He will no doubt die.—He has his knee broken, in three places—his shoulder broken, and injured and burned.

John Rubins, a member of the Globe Engine had his right leg and shoulder broken, and lies at the hospital in a doubtful situation.

Mr James was badly burned; taken to the Hospital, but went home.

The walls of the Broad st. fire have fallen and buried a small boy in the ruins. Also, a member of the Waccacoe.

From the Bangor Courier.

Destruction of the Iron Steamer "Bangor" by Fire.—The new Iron propeller "Bangor," was burnt at about four o'clock, on Sunday afternoon. She was on her passage from Boston to that city, with thirty two passengers, and filled with freight. When in sight of Castine, a fire broke out, near the smoke pipe, in the vicinity of the hose pipe, and rendering it useless for the emergency. When first discovered the fire appeared little larger than a man's hand, but immediately and instantaneously spread. The course of the ship was changed and she run into Dark Harbour, on Long Island, in the town of Islesboro, where she was entirely consumed, together with all her freight. The passengers and crew were all landed in safety and taken to Castine.

Much credit is due to Lieutenant Foss, of the Revenue service, and to the Captain and owners of the schr Pembroke, of Castine, for their worthy exertions in proceeding to the scene of destruction, and rendering aid to the passengers and others.—Many other citizens of Castine were out promptly with their boats, and ready to render any service in their power.

The cry of distress was raised in behalf of one woman, who could not make her escape. Mr Jerome made two desperate efforts to reach her, but was driven back by the suffocating smoke. She was at length rescued from her perilous situation by being drawn out from the after part of the cabin. The progress of the flames was so great, that of two boats on the deck of the steamship, they were unable to launch but one of them.

It is thought that the fear of an explosion, and of the effects of portions of the freight, such as spirits, oils, &c. led to less exertions in saving freight than might have been effective. On opening the hatches to get at the freight, the work was abandoned.

She was filled with valuable freight, but it is not known to what extent the goods may be insured. We regret to learn that probably only a small part of the goods are insured, and that there is no insurance upon the ship.

We have no special information, as to the origin of the fire, but it is stated that her deck beams rested upon the boilers, and were fitted to them! If this was the case, there is no mystery about her taking fire, for no fact is better established than that iron may be heated by steam sufficiently high to set wood on fire.

From the Bellville (Illinois) Advocate.

Distressing Occurrence.—The Hall of Bridal Festivities converted into a house of Mourning:—The Bride, the Mother, two sisters, and a female friend, all in the habiliments of bridal festivities, hurried into the arms of Death.

"On Helles' stream there is a voice of wail,
And woman's eye is wet—man's cheek is pale."

Thursday last, July 11th, was distinguished by a calamity, in this county, which, in all its circumstances is unparalleled in fearful horror by any accident within our recollection. This day, at 7 o'clock, A. M., was appointed for the marriage of Charlea H. Kettles, Esq., of Prairie du Long, Monroe county, to Miss Rosalie Huelberg, of Dutch Hill, in this county, about ten miles distant, on the east side of Kaskaskia river. Intervening about half way, is the river, which then was very high, and had overspread its banks.

The wedding party was assembled and waiting at Mr. Kettles'. The house was decorated most richly for the joyful occasion.—"Music arose with its voluptuous swell," and from the house-top a flag-staff was reared, down which the flag hung motionless. "Your flag droops," says one. It is a sign." The hour passed without the bride. The sun crossed the meridian, and no news from her or any of her people. Evening was fast waning when a messenger arrived with the dreadful tidings that all, except the father and son, were drowned on their way to the wedding.—Five women—the mother, the bride, two sisters, and a young female friend in their company, had met their deaths! In the waters of the Kaskaskia all were engulfed, when life to them was full of promise and joyful anticipation. The bridegroom hastened to the river and on its bank met the distracted aged father, fell into his arms: "They are all—all drowned!" said he.

The corpses were before them, dressed in the habiliments of festivity, dripping with water. Death had set his iron seal upon those features, and no more should love and joy light up those eyes, or mantle those white cheeks.

—"which, but an hour ago
Blush'd at the praise of their own loveliness."

Each corpse was taken up and placed upon a bier, and the sad procession, by 7 o'clock in the evening, had reached the house of feasting—thus suddenly changed to a house of mourning. The feeling of this wedding party—of the aged father—whose gray hairs are going down in sorrow to the grave, for a family thus annihilated, of a brother who mourns for his mother and all his sisters, thus struck down together in his presence, of a lover whose heart is riven with a thunderbolt—the feelings and emotions of these can neither be imagined or described.

On the next day one grave was dug for five persons—and side by side were they laid—the mother with her three daughters, and their young friend and companion, Miss Dressell:

"There the youthful and the old,
—There the matron and the maid
In one silent bed are laid.
Earth shall keep his sullen trust,
Earth to earth, and dust to dust."

The funeral was attended by a vast assemblage of the neighbouring country, and the funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. A. Dony, Lutheran preacher of Bellville, who had attended for a very different service.—Tears—burning tears coursed down the face of both preacher and auditory during its delivery, and the hearts of all were impressed by the affecting scene. "What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue."

Mr. Huelburgh, the father, had risen early on the day before, and with his family started for the place of their graves. They were all cheerful and happy and bounding with hope. One carriage contained them, and as they approached the river, where the ferry was awaiting them, and were crossing the bottom on the road which was covered with water, the horses were turned off, oversetting the carriage and its passengers into a deep slough or ravine. The water was running rapidly. The farther clung to the vehicle—the son to a cluster of bushes. One girl—the youngest daughter, was floating with a trunk. "Hold fast, daughter," cried the father. "I will," said she. Another girl was between the struggling and drowning horses. The rest had sunk to the bottom. Two had