

from Picton to Cocaigne, with Coals, was compelled to run in for shelter with loss of sails. We have just conversed with Mr. Ness, of Bedeque, P. E. Island who arrived here on Tuesday, and he states that the Schooner Maria, of Pogwash, Pitt, master, chartered by him and others for Miramichi, was forced through stress of weather, and when within 20 miles of their destination to stretch across the Bay in order if possible, to make the harbour of Shediac, and at last succeeded in running into Cocaigne. About 4, A. M. the Maria parted from her anchors, and as the last resource, and protection for their lives, were forced to let her run ashore where she now lies without a prospect or probability of getting her off. We understand that the cargo is safe and has received no injury. It is impossible for us yet to ascertain the extent of damages sustained by the late storm, but are very apprehensive that the whole line of coast from Escuminac to Canso, must have felt its fatal effects. The loss of our Public wharf is much to be regretted, as being of the greatest convenience and utility to the Shipping and Merchantile departments, as well as a general accommodation to the travelling portion of the community. We hope that at the next meeting of the legislature, ways and means will be devised and provided, towards its re-erection. The outward block still remains, and also a considerable portion of the inner landing. Since writing the above, we have been further informed that the Cocaigne bridge has also suffered in the late gale, and is now unsafe for travelling.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—By the following extracts which we take from a Speech delivered by the Hon. Daniel Webster, at Faneuil Hall, Boston, on the 6th ultimo, our readers may form a knowledge of the history and progress of the unprovoked and aggressive war which the rulers of the United States are now waging against Mexico; which, from all appearance, is destined to entail on their assailants a heavy national debt, and to confer but little honor on their arms:—

'The Mexican War is I take it, now universally odious throughout the United States, and we have yet to find any Sempronius who will raise his voice for it.'

'[Here some one in the gallery cried out, 'who voted for it?'] After a moment's pause, in which the audience remained silent, under the sudden interruption, Mr. Webster replied:— 'It was not voted for by any body; the President made it without any vote at all. Tremendous applause.'

'And that leads me to say that this war, in its origin, is a Presidential war. But the constitution declares that Congress alone should have the power of declaring war; and I beg to know where, when, and how they so declared it. The first we hear of it in Congress is from the President's communication declaring that 'War does exist.' Every one knows that our army was ordered, by the President, to advance from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, thereby invading a foreign territory. And because the Mexicans resisted this encroachment on their soil, we have next the declaration of the President, that war exists between Mexico and the United States. The declaration of the President stated explicitly.

'But gentlemen, there is another question here. Texas had become a part of this Union. We had received her as a State, and had assumed her boundary—the Nueces. Why should we not treat with Mexico for that beyond? Why, when all new territory of the United States, was bounded by the Nueces, and every thing beyond that was claimed by Mexico, and in the actual possession of Mexico—why, then, I say, should the President of the U. States have ordered the army south of the Nueces, to take possession of the Mexican land? That was the origin of the war, and that was against the Spirit of the Constitution of the United States. [Vehement applause.] Congress alone has the power to declare war, and yet it is obvious, under the present construction, that if the President is resolved to involve the country in a war, he may do it. This, I say, is a great misjudgment on the part of the President; it is a clear violation of his duty; in my judgment it is an impeachable offence. [Great cheering.]

'And the deep foundation of objection to this war is, that it is illegal in its origin. There has been a great violation of duty on the part of the President. He has plunged the country into war, whereas, unless in case of invasion of our actual limits, he has no right so to do. In the case of such invasion, the power does exist in the President to take measures to repel aggression. But to go out of our limits, and declare war for a foreign occupation of what does not belong to us, is no part of the power invested in our President by our Constitution.'

'So much for the origin of the war.'

[Here there was a slight interruption from questions from the gallery, which Mr. Webster rebuked by saying: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak with all soberness in this respect, and I would say nothing here, to night, which I would not say in my place in Congress, or before the whole world.]

'He then proceeded: the question now is for what purposes, and to what ends is this present war to be prosecuted. And in speaking of this, let me, in the first place, put my right before you, the country, and the world. Individually I have little or no respect for the government of Mexico. The people of that country are the worst governed on the face of the earth. They are subject wholly to mili-

tary despotism, and it matters not whether Parades, Almonte, Santa Anna, Ampudia, or any one else wields the supreme power. They are only successful military commanders for the moment.

'And I say, also, that Mexico should have come to terms with us before. The United States have well founded claims against Mexico. Some of them settled and liquidated, and some which should have been settled and liquidated long ago. There is no doubt of that. And I have as little doubt, and as little hesitation in saying that Mexico has behaved most wrongfully towards us. She has acted ruinously for her own interests, and injuriously for her own character, in all respects. I do not, therefore, justify or excuse Mexico. But I pity her people.'

'Mexico is a republic professedly formed in our own model. I could wish—we all wish—that she could find amongst her sons another Washington. But the truth must be told. And the truth is, that all the republics founded on the fragments of the Spanish dominions in America, with perhaps one or two exceptions, have been most miserable failures. Mexico, especially, has no principle of free government about her at all.'

'But to indulge these considerations is not to discharge our own duty of enquiry in the objects and ends of this war, and how they are to be obtained. Who knows any thing about the war, except that our armies have reached to Monterey, and will reach to Mexico if they can? [Applause.] And what then? Is the whole country to be fortified—taken possession of as an American territory—a territory equal to the formation of forty new States? These are questions which it is time for us to put with sobriety and seriousness, and which will be put to the government at the ensuing session of Congress. It is time for us to know what are the objects and designs of our government.'

'The natural justice of war, it is, perhaps, not an American habit to consider. But it is an American habit to count the cost, and since the expenses of the war have not been calculated, and its objects are not avowed, it may be permitted us to indulge ourselves in some calculations as to what the speculation is to cost.'

ATLANTIC STEAMERS.—The Great Western arrived at New York on the evening of the 17th November, after a very boisterous passage of 16½ days. She brought out 100 passengers, and £30,000 in specie. The Royal Mail steamer Acadia arrived at Boston on Tuesday last, after a passage of 12½ days. The Boston papers say that this is the quickest passage for the season ever made, beating the Great Western 3½ days.

It is reported that the proprietors of the Royal Mail steamers purpose making Jersey city their depot for the steam ships which they intend to run between Liverpool and New York. Mr. Cunard, it is said, has presented a memorial to the proper authorities, requesting exclusive water privileges at that place. He has also presented a plan of the improvements which the company purpose making, which embraces a building 200 feet in length, substantial piers, and other works, which it is estimated will cost the company £10,000.

The French Company, it is also reported, have decided on making the same place the depot for their line of steam ships between Havre and New York.

Jersey City is situated on the Hudson, or as it is commonly called, the North River, immediately opposite New York.

AMERICAN FLOUR MARKET.—Flour has declined very considerably in the United States. There were large stocks on hand, and since the arrival of the steamers Great Western and Acadia the markets are completely stagnated.

ATTACK ON ALVARADO.—It appears by the following extract from the New Orleans Picayune, that the American squadron has made another attack on this place with as little success as the former one:—

'Don Thomas Marin, one of the most accomplished officers in the Mexican Navy, commanded the fortifications of Alvarado. The paper containing his report of the attack is in the usual style of Mexican reports. He declares that he is ready for us again at any moment, and this probably is true. The Commodore, from his position in advance of the Vixen, discovered another Mexican work half a mile farther up the river, or lagoon, as it may more properly be called, where three guns were mounted in battery, and supported by a gun brig and two gun boats, serving as water batteries. Perhaps it was the discovery of these additional means of defence which influenced the Commodore not to persist in his attack without the support of more of his force.'

In the report of Senor Marin, the loss of the Mexicans is not mentioned; but he speaks of the loss of one Mexican officer who was not on duty, but in the streets of the town half a mile from the fort. He was a captain in the army, and was struck by a shell from the Mississippi.'

THE GREAT BRITAIN.—We are indebted to the New Brunswick for the following additional information respecting the stranding of this noble ship, which the Editor of that paper has condensed from late American journals:—

'One of the passengers of this unfortunate vessel has recently arrived at New York, and informed the editor of the 'True Sun,' that not only have the underwriters refused to pay the insurance on that unfortunate vessel, but that a resolution to insure no ocean steamer which may be placed under the command of Capt. Hoskin, has been passed by the underwriters at Lloyd's, and communicated to the Great Western Company. The ground for this resolution, we understand, to be the alleged incompetency of Capt. Hoskin for duties and responsibilities of the station of commander of such vessels. Notwithstanding his hitherto eminently successful career as commander of the Great Western and the Great Britain, up to the time of the unfortunate stranding of the "monster ship," the reputation of Capt. Hoskin in this department of nautical command is totally prostrated at home, as far as it is in the power of the underwriters to destroy it; and we observe that they are not without the support of some powerful English presses. It also appears that with the fall of Capt. Hoskin's reputation that of Captain Mathews has proportionably risen; and the popular commander of the Great Western now stands at the head of the class of British ocean steamer captains.'

'In relation to the allegation which has been brought through some religious prints by American clergymen who were among the sufferers by the Great Britain's disaster, that Capt. Hoskin was under the influence of intoxicating drinks at the time of her great disaster, our informant assures us that nothing could be farther from the truth. At all events, an official investigation, instituted by the Admiralty Board, into the causes of, and all the facts and circumstances connected with the stranding of the Great Britain, is to take place; and through this investigation we shall probably have a correct and decisive report, in which not only the habits and alleged frailty, but the disputed question of the fitness and capacity of Captain Hoskin for so important a command, will be definitively settled.'

THE SEASON.—Since the publication of our last number, the weather has been very unsettled, and several days cold and boisterous. Yesterday the wind blew with considerable violence during the forenoon from the North East, and in the afternoon from the North West, and a considerable quantity of ice formed in the river. All the square-rigged vessels have taken their departure, with the exception of the bark Mary Ann Peters, which vessel received considerable damage while ashore on the bar, outward bound, and had to return to port to undergo repairs, and will winter here. The schooner Elizabeth, Harding, from Halifax, passed up yesterday forenoon; and the schooner Miscou, from Quebec, arrived in the afternoon. There are several schooners expected with provisions and other necessary commodities, whose arrival are anxiously looked for. There is sufficient snow on the ground to make good sleighing.

FIRE IN ST. JOHN.—A slip from the office of the Morning News, bearing date the morning of Wednesday last, Nov. 25, furnishes us with the distressing intelligence that a fire occurred in that city the previous night, which destroyed six dwelling houses:—

A fire broke out last evening, about 10 o'clock, (shortly after our paper had gone to Press,) in Brussels Street, on the lower side, in the house owned and occupied by Mr. Edward Gallagher. We learn that the family had retired to rest, and shortly afterwards were alarmed by the house having caught fire in the upper story, as is supposed, from a defect in the chimney; the wind at the time was blowing hard from the North West; and when we reached the ground, we found but little chance of the devouring element being stayed, until all the houses in the range would be destroyed. Our prediction, we regret to say, was verified. There appeared to be a great scarcity of water—the engines most of the time, were idle for want of it.—The principal supply was obtained from the Company's Plug, at the corner of Union and Brussels streets—a quarter of a mile off, perhaps.

The following are the buildings that were destroyed—we gathered the particulars upon the spot, as well as we could, amidst the confusion.

Houses destroyed.—The house, in which the fire originated—owned by Edward Gallagher, 2 stories high, occupied by three families, lost almost every article of furniture, &c.

The second, owned by Mr. Garrett, 3 stories high, occupied by 4 families, very little of the furniture saved.

The third, owned by Mr. Moran—3 stories—occupied by 6 families.

The fourth, owned by Mr. Beard—3 stories—occupied by 3 families.

The fifth, owned by Mr. Rogers—2 stories—occupied by 3 families.

The sixth, and last in the range—owned and occupied by Mr. Wright, Ship-builder.

The buildings were chiefly occupied by industrious hard-working people; and their loss in furniture, &c. is very severe. Had there been fifty houses in the range, we believe they would all have been consumed. By this disaster upwards of Twenty Families have been rendered houseless—just upon the eve too, of a long and angry winter.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.—The following vessels have been launched from the building yard of the Hon. Joseph Cunard, in Bathurst during the past season.

June 27—Brig Sobraon, 256 tons.

August 15—Barque Hydapsis, 595 tons.

October 3—barque Pakenham, 660 tons.

November 3—barque Sutlej, 659 tons.

The aggregate tonnage of these four new vessels amount, to two thousand one hundred and eighty tons.

HALIFAX.—A Rifleman, named Williams has been tried for an assault and attempt to commit a rape on a girl about 12 or 13 years of age. Found guilty of an assault. On the following day the trial of Quarter Master Sergeant Harbison took place for a similar offence on the person of a girl under 10 years of age. The jury found him guilty of an assault. The last named prisoner, it is reported, had served 21 years, and bore an unblemished character, and it is said, that since his imprisonment, an Ensigns commission was received for him from England.

UNION OF THE PROVINCES.—A late number of the Washington Union, contains the following important piece of intelligence:

The opinion is rapidly gaining ground in the Canadas (as we learn by the Kingston British Whig) that the Home Government have it in serious contemplation to unite the whole of the North American British Provinces under one Government, having at its head a Viceroy, instead of a Governor General. Quebec is said to be the seat of Government, and Governors are to be appointed at Toronto, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John's (N. F.) and Charlottetown, (P. E.) to administer the laws of each Province separately, until the whole are consolidated into one statue-book, when other arrangements will be made. It is also said that the detention of Lord Elgin in England is occasioned by the necessity of his continual presence at the Colonial Office, where Mr. Buller has charged himself with the details and working plans of this very comprehensive scheme.

It is further said that the Ministry have it in contemplation to consolidate the whole of the remaining British Possessions in America, under another Viceroy, the seat of whose Government is to be at Jamaica, with local administrators at all the other West India Islands, including the Bermudas; and some say, also, the territory on the main land, Demerara and Berbice.

THE LATE STORM.—Intelligence hourly reaches us of some additional disaster by the late gale. Passengers by the southern stage give most melancholy accounts of its ravages in the Bay of Fundy and the Northumberland straits. They report that the Bay de Vert packet was cast away on a ledge of rocks off Sackville, and all hands are supposed to have perished. The bodies of an infant and a grown up person were cast ashore.

FLOUR MARKET.—The latest news.—A New York paper of November 25, says:—Flour, no sales \$5 25 cents is talked of as the price.

The receipts of Flour down the Hudson last week were 185,609 barrels.—The lowest sale was of 1000 bbls. mixed Michigan at \$5,12½, to be delivered on Monday.—Rye Flour sold at \$3,75 to \$4. Corn Meal has become heavy and will not bring \$4, though there have been no sales at less.—Sales of Wheat have been large at from 105 to 120 cents per bushel.