

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

Charlotte Gazette, August 11.

On the 5th inst., about one o'clock, P. M., this Town was visited by a most terrific thunder storm, accompanied by the heaviest fall of rain, for the time it lasted, that we have witnessed for years. It continued, with short intervals for about two hours. The wind at the time was about North West. The peals of thunder were truly startling, and to estimate the distance at 3-2-8 seconds of time to the mile, between seeing the flash of lightning and hearing the report, all of the explosions must have been frightfully near. In one instance only have we heard of any damage being done, and in that but to a trifling extent. The electric fluid struck the house, owned by Mr. Samuel Getty, towards the South Eastern extremity of the Town, and entering through the roof, close to the chimney, descended by a rafter to the garret floor, from whence it sought its way down to the first floor of the building, shattering partitions, doors, fireplaces, and every thing that lay in its course. In this part of the building Miss Getty kept her school, and at the time there were, besides the tenants, a number of the children collected, yet with the exception of a few bruises, which one little girl in particular received, no personal injury was sustained. The broken panes of glass showed the imminence of their danger, and their escape may be considered almost miraculous.

Canada.

Quebec, August 4.—A gentleman who came up in the Lady Colborne, which returned last night from a pleasure trip to the Saguenay, reports that the Elizabeth & Sarah, Simpson, master, eight weeks from Killala, with passengers, has arrived off Basque Island, that she had lost forty-two of her passengers on her passage out, and the captain and two more passengers have died since her arrival off the Island and were buried there last Sunday. This dreadful mortality is attributed to the use of putrid water that they had on board. We learn that A. Buchanan, Esquire, Emigrant Agent at Quebec, sent down a steamer with a supply of fresh provisions. Dr. Nault also proceeded down in the steamer with a supply of medicines.

Aug. 7.—We are happy to learn that the number of deaths on board the Elizabeth and Sarah turn out to be much less than at first reported.—The steamer Canada which was sent down to her last Tuesday, by Mr. Buchanan, Emigrant Agent, with water and provisions for the use of the passengers, and with orders to tow her up to Gross-Isle, has returned; and we learn from a gentleman who went down in the Canada, that up to the time of their leaving the above vessel at Grosse-Isle Wednesday afternoon at 9 o'clock, there had been but 22 deaths on board of her, including the Captain, who it is said was unwell when he left Ireland. There were sixteen cases of fever on board, brought on, it is supposed, by the bad water on board, and the filthy state of the vessel. The passengers would be all landed at Grosse Isle, and the usual care taken of them.

Nova Scotia.

From the Halifax Sun.

Fire.—On Wednesday night, at about half-past ten o'clock, an alarm of fire was given,—and, almost immediately, much of the town was illuminated by the bursting of flames from the roof of a building, used as a Carpenter's shop on the Long Wharf. The engines were speedily at the scene of danger, and great efforts were made to check the devouring element.

The scene, soon after the bursting forth of the conflagration, was distressingly and terrifically grand. The volumes of flames arising from very combustible materials, lighted up the Dartmouth shore,—then the atmosphere beyond, causing the shore to subside into melancholy darkness;—the waters of the harbour appeared of a black hue, and the rising hazy moon seemed dim and ominous. Fragments of burning materials floated on the water,—several vessels put out from the wharves, and moved eastward, under a gentle press from the south west. The wharves to the east and south east, were crowded with busy and gazing multitudes, and the Unicorn, and other large vessels, appeared in bold and picturesque prominence in the destroying glare. The scene was one of city vastness and tumult,—reminding of pictures by Madra in which art and nature in

imposing forms combine to produce great tho' painful effects.

The fire companies as usual made desperate exertions to conquer the conflagration;—they were nobly aided by parties of the military and navy. The former were observed at posts of danger, and much labour toiling as if life and death depended on the struggle.

Store buildings to the west and north and south greatly aided the operations of the working parties—and much better than was feared at first, the fire was confined to the wharf on which it originated and that to the southward;—several stores and work-shops were destroyed, and a quantity of stock of various kinds lost or injured. The loss may be estimated, probably as under £3000.

European News.

Arrival of the First August Mail

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, July 25.

The Government is now fairly involved in the meshes of the Sugar question. Lord John propounded his measures on Monday last, and the discussion on its merits was to have commenced in the House of Commons last night, but in consequence of the death of his brother it has been postponed until Monday. The debate will extend over several nights, and the result cannot be known until the next packet.

It is a bold and comprehensive plan—bold, because it annihilates at once the foolish and uncandid distinction between slave and free labour sugar—comprehensive, because it includes every sugar-growing country in its grasp. But already there are breakers ahead. Lord George Bentinck has given notice of an amendment condemnatory of the admission of slave-grown sugar, and the 'Saints,' anxious to assist the Protectionists, will make common cause against the Minister.

STATE OF THE CROPS.

Since the sailing of the Hibernia the weather has been rather variable. There have been numerous showers of rain, and although the atmosphere has been cool, we believe it has not been unfavorable to the ripening of the crops, which in this neighbourhood look well and promise to be very abundant. Mention is made in the journals from nearly every district of Ireland, that the potato rot has appeared in this year's crop; and many of them express the most gloomy apprehensions of the result. A correspondent of the Cork Reporter says—"The potato crop is entirely destroyed in Crookhaven, and around for miles. The people are in an absolute state of bewilderment. The blast has been nearly universal; and such is the effect that the stalks and stems thus blasted break off quite rotten like, and the young potatoes—where found—are mostly black. All the change has taken place within the last fortnight; until then, everything seemed promising."

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

By the last Overland Mail, which reached London on the 20th instant, intelligence has been received from Bombay to May 30; Calcutta June 4; and China May 24. The political news is not of an important character.

We learn from the *Delhi Gazette* of the 20th of May, that up to the 14th of that month the Kote Kangra had not surrendered notwithstanding the representations of Dewan Deena, who had been endeavouring to induce the chief who holds the fortress to give it up. The guns to breach the place had not arrived, but when they were placed in position it was expected the garrison would not long hold out.

A fearful accident had occurred during a hurricane at Loodianah on the 20th of May. The barracks there were blown down, and 84 men, women and children of her Majesty's 50th Regiment had perished; 135 have been wounded, and four privates are missing.

A proclamation had been issued by the Emperor of China, announcing that Chusan was to be immediately evacuated; and a notification of that had been made by Governor Davis, dated May 18. Mr Elmslie was to be the bearer of the imperial assent to England for the ratification of her Majesty.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—One of the chief topics which now engage the attention of the press is the result of the forthcoming elections. The Opposition seem confident of a majority in the capital, and the same prospect exists in all the large cities at

Rouen, at Bourdeaux, at Toulouse, at Marseilles, at Lille, and, perhaps, even at Lyons, where the President of the Chamber, M. Sauzet, has regained his chance of being returned. But the ministry will have the advantage in all the smaller towns, where knowledge is less diffused, political opinion less active, and the electors less numerous. The government are busy in making a fresh promotion of functionaries from among the deputies prior to the commencement of the new elections. The latest accounts from Paris would lead us to the conclusion that the Opposition has no chance of improving its position. The *Revue des deux Mondes*, though a staunch supporter of M. Thiers imagines, and not without some appearance of reason, that the danger the ministry runs is that of having too strong a party in the new legislature. It thinks that the consequence will be that the cabinet, relying on its enormous strength, will venture upon measures which will render it unpopular in the country and disgust the chambers. This however is a species of danger which is not very alarming to a minister, and it is one which, we have no doubt, M. Guizot's moderation and good sense will enable him to avoid.

The latest accounts from Paris inform us that, about four o'clock on the evening of the 18th, at the moment of a heavy shower, a portion of the tunnel of the Amiens and Boulogne railway, situate in front of the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, suddenly fell in. The accident has been attributed to various causes. No loss of life attended the accident.

From Wilmer & Smith's European Times, from July 26 to August 4.
PRINCE ALBERT'S VISIT.

We have given elsewhere a sketchy account of the festivities in Liverpool, consequent on the visit of Prince Albert. The visit, in every point of view, was opportune, and has left behind recollections of the most pleasing and gratifying character. The popular consort of a popular Queen coming to assist in the performance of a work of charity—the foundation of a 'Home' for the sailor, was an occasion, in a great commercial mart, the best calculated of all others to make royalty respected, and to call forth the warm and generous sympathies of an intelligent people.

The opening of the Albert Dock, heralded by the salvos of artillery, and followed by a magnificent *dejeuner*, may be expressed in a word—it was the poetry of commerce. The practical business of life gave way on the occasion to one of those brilliant scenes that once witnessed are ever remembered, that live in the memory like the realisation of the magic scenes which rise at the enchanter's wand, and then sink, like Prospero's power, deeper than plummet ever sounded.

The banquet at the Town-hall showed how wealthy merchants are able to entertain princes—showed that while commerce is the handmaid of civilization, she brings in her train the refinements, the delicacies, the luxuries of life. All that wealth the most unbounded could supply, all that taste the most critical could suggest, all that fancy the most imaginative could realize, was there—spread in profusion, and offered without ostentation. It was a banquet fit to feast kings—worthy of Britain's merchant-princes.

The procession—how shall we describe it,—to what shall we liken it? We have heard royalty proclaimed at Charing Cross—seen it anointed in Westminster Abbey. But to our taste there was more feeling in the bluff hearty cheers of English artisans, each bearing the emblem of his craft, that fell on the Prince's ear on the morning of Friday last, in that long procession, which would have extended for miles in a direct line—more soul, more sympathy, than the congratulations, more polite, it may be, certainly not more earnest, which the proudest aristocracy in the world offered to the Mistress of the Seas when she ascended the throne of her fathers.

COMMERCIAL.

The weather since our last has been variable. Several brilliant days there have been, succeeded by thunder storms and showers, and by the latter the crops in several parts of the country have been beaten down and injured.

The new wheat crop in the west districts has been cut, but it is described as being less heavy than previous calculations led us to anticipate. The quality of the wheat is good, but no general result can as yet be satisfactorily arrived at. In the meantime, large quantities of wheat and flour continue to arrive from the United States and Canada, which

keep down prices and render the trade inactive.

The Money market has fluctuated but little since the sailing of the last packet, still less since the division in the House of Commons on the subject of the sugar duties.

There is not much briskness in the manufacturing districts. The business has been so unprofitable, that some of the manufacturers had serious notions of working short time, when the intelligence arrived that the House of Representatives had passed the tariff. This gave a fillip to the desponding, but it yet remains to be seen whether the same success will attend the measure in the Senate. Trade here will revive if the tariff pass in its integrity.

Owing to the tariff having passed the more popular branch of Congress, the value of iron has risen in anticipation of a large export to the United States.

DOMESTIC.

As we anticipated, the accession of the Whigs has produced disruption in Ireland. O'Connell and the O'Brien section of the Repealers are at loggerheads. Conciliation Hall has belied its baptismal soubriquet; it has been the scene of angry recrimination and personal malevolence. The "row" extended over two or three days and terminated in the withdrawal of Mr. Smith O'Brien and the intellect of the Nation—the newspaper, we must be understood to mean, of that name.

The young Irishmen are too fast for the more matured views and adroit policy of Mr. O'Connell. They desire to cut the cable which binds them to the British connexion by force—by the sword. The Liberator, on the contrary, is for taking matters more coolly—getting what he can for his country, and clamouring in the supremacy of his "moral power," for the remainder. The distinction is, that O'Connell is more politic—the Young Irishmen more patriotic.

The proceedings in the British Parliament since our last have been barren of interest. The dull monotony of a long session, now drawing rapidly to a close has been relieved by two nights discussion on the Sugar Duties. The Government scheme has triumphed by a majority of 265 to 135, nearly two to one. This result virtually abrogates the monopoly and places sugar in the same category as corn—by an easy declension on the high road to Free-trade. Sir Robert Peel gave the Ministers measure a generous support, and the greatness of the majority may be traced to that circumstance. Of course all fears of an immediate dissolution are at an end. The session will be wound up with eclat by the Whigs; and in the present temper of parties they may go to the poll before Parliament meets again with a fair chance of success, and a long continuance of office.

RUSSIA.—The following account of the war between Russia and the Caucasus, is taken from the *St. Petersburg Gazette*:—Schamyl, in no wise daunted by his late failure in Kabardia, had assembled new troops on the Sounja. On the 24th May a gallant action took place between 82 cossacks; commanded by seven officers and Colonel Sousloff. They were surrounded by 1500 mountaineers, and had the option of dishonourable flight or an honourable death. The cossacks alighted from their steeds, stabbed them, and formed themselves a rampart with the carcasses. They repulsed numerous charges of the infuriated mountaineers, keeping up a murderous fire. This unequal contest lasted for two hours, and some Russian troops came up just as their ammunition was failing them, and they had determined on selling their lives dearly with their daggers. Three days later a considerable body of Circassians, with two pieces of cannon, attacked the 8th battalion of the Daghestan regiment whilst marching from the fort of Kasak-Ritchou to Temir-Khau-Choura, but they were driven back, with loss, beyond the Sounja. Different other attacks of the mountaineers were made at various points, but with no effect.

Russia is desirous to establish at Kiakhta, on the frontier of Chinese Tartary, a considerable depot of merchandize, from which the Chinese may at all times draw the supplies they want, and hopes to obtain from the celestial government a treaty of commerce, securing to her the free admission, through that part of the frontier, of all Russian merchandize, and more-over the monopoly of certain articles which the English and Americans were beginning to import.

GREECE.—The Greek Government had discovered a conspiracy, in which were implicated several well-known agents to the Opposition, who had been lately engaged in organising bands on the Turkish territory for the invasion of Greece. The