

United States News.

From the Gulf.—Appalling Disaster.—
Loss of the Brig of War Somers.—
From the Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—7 o'clock P. M.
The barque Morgan, Dix, arrived at
New Orleans, Dec. 21, brings dates from
the Squadron off Antonio Lizardo, the
13th inst.

Full particulars have been received of
the total wreck of the U. S. brig Somers
and the great loss of life which accom-
panied it. The Somers was maintaining
the blockade off the harbour of Vera
Cruz. On the evening of the 7th, she
had taken shelter under Green Island,
there being every indication of an ap-
proaching northerly gale.

On the morning of the 8th, a sail be-
ing reported from aloft, she was got un-
der way and stood out for several miles,
when the approaching vessel was ascer-
tained to be the John Adams, on her re-
turn from Tampico.—Her appearance
caused great satisfaction to the officers
of the Somers, as Com. Perry had in-
formed them that she was to relieve them
from maintaining the blockade as soon
as she came in.

As the Somers was approaching her
anchorage, on her return, another sail
was discovered standing for Vera Cruz
apparently with the intention of running
the blockade in. She immediately made
all sail to intercept her, and in the effort
to avoid falling on the reefs to the lee-
ward she was struck by the norther and
thrown upon her beam ends. The
strange vessel came rapidly down, but
showed no colours and tacked when
near Pajordas reef.—Lieut. Parker had
reported the appearance of squalls, and
the particulars are fully detailed in the
New Orleans papers.

The Somers continued careening over
with great rapidity, and in about half an
hour afterwards sunk.

The Norther continued until the tenth,
and fears are entertained for other vessels.
The frigate John Adams, and the steam-
er Mississippi, Vixen, Peterel, and Boston
were off Vera Cruz, last from Tampico.

A letter received from on board the
Raritan, dated the 13th, states that eight
men belonging to the Somers had been
picked up by the Mexicans on the beach
near Anton Lizardo, whither she had
been driven by the gale, clinging to hen
coops. They were held at Vera Cruz
as prisoners of war: one had since died.

This makes 44 saved out of 80 souls
on board. The effort of the crews of
French and English vessels to save the
lives of the crew of the Somers, are spo-
ken of with warm commendation. The
accounts of the wreck occupy three col-
umns in the Picayune.

Midshipman Rogers, of the Somers,
was taken prisoner while he was in a
most daring manner making a reconnois-
sance in the neighbourhood of the pow-
der magazine of Vera Cruz, five days
before that vessel was lost. We have also
a few items of news from Monterey.
General Taylor had arrived from Saltillo
on the 23d, escorted by a squad of Col.
May's horse.

The General had succeeded in captu-
ring 100 pack mules and their loads, con-
sisting of substance and stores for Santa
Anna's army at San Luis Potosi. Another
Squadron had been left in pursuit of
400 mules loaded with army stores for
same destination.

Col. May had a severe fall at Saltillo
by his horse tripping on the pavement,
but he was doing well, and would be
ready for duty in a few days. Santa
Anna is said to have 30,000 volunteers
at San Luis besides the regulars, but the
reports are conflicting. A volunteer by
the name of Forrest was shot dead at
Monterey on the 29th ult., by a hotel
keeper named Armstrong.

Two Frenchmen had been arrested
for tampering with our soldiers and of-
fering inducements for them to desert.

The trial of the Alcade, his son and
others, for tampering with our men, was
set down for the 2d December. It has
been clearly ascertained that many of
the principal men at Monterey had a fin-
ger in the pie. Many of the first fami-
lies had left. The 7th regiment station-
ed there had lost many by desertion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—10 o'clock P.
M.—Eight more of the crew of the Som-
ers, were picked up by the British tri-
gate Endymion.

Additional particulars of the loss of
the Somers.—Many of the officers and
men of the Somers refused to go in the
first boat that put off from the wreck,
to give their chance to those who
could not swim. Midshipman Hynson,
Capt. Semmes, Lieut. Parker, Lieut.
Chainorne, and acting master Clemens,
all refused to go in the first boat. Sey-
mour the cook, being a large man, was

requested to return and make room for
two. He complied, but as he could not
swim, he was permitted to go in the
boat. A boy named Nuiten offered his
place to Hynson. Soon after the boat
got off, the Somers commenced sinking.
Capt. Semmes ordered all hands to save
themselves, and all simultaneously plun-
ged into the water and grasped the posts,
gratings, spars coops and other floating
objects at hand. Many must have gone
down from the want of any support
whatever; others struggled on frail floats
to be finally drifted on the reefs and
dashed to pieces. Some were driven to
sea to be heard of no more, others en-
countered the worst fate that could be
apprehended in being devoured by
sharks. Of nearly sixty who plunged
from the wreck, only seventeen escaped.

Through all this appalling scene, the
greatest composure was observed by men
and officers. There was no appearance
of panic, no exhibition of selfishness.
Those who could not swim were particu-
larly enjoined to go in the boat. Capt.
Semmes and Lieut. Parker were picked
up by Mr. Clarke from a grating and
Jacob Hazard, yeoman, was rescued
swimming near them. Those who sur-
vived have told of many instances of
heroic self devotion. The acting mas-
ter, Henry A. Clemens, was struggling on
a small steering sail boom with five
others who could not swim. He found
that all could not be supported and he
left and struck out alone and unsupported.
He was seen for the last time upon
a skielight and probably perished in the
surf. The five men he left were saved,
the two who could not swim being sup-
ported by their comrades, Amos Colson,
and John Williams. The daring and
devoted exertions of the foreign men of
war, commanded admiration and grate-
tude from all. There was lying at Sacri-
ficious, about two miles to leeward of
the wreck, H. B. M. ships Endymion
and Alarm, and the brig Daring, com-
manded respectively by Capt. Lambert,
Franklin, and Matson; the French brigs
Bylade and Mercure, Capt. Dibut and
LaVoyaire; and the Spanish Corvette
Louisa Fernando, Capt. Puente. The
crew of the Endymion, to the number of
two hundred, came aft and volunteered.
There was the most noble emulation as
to which vessel should use the great-
est expedition and perseverance in the
most strenuous exertions. The vio-
lence of the gale was such at that time,
that none of the boats could pull against
it, and it was with the deepest regret
that Capt. Lambert and others, in au-
thority, felt it to be their duty to make
signals recalling their boats. An hour
or two afterwards, when there was a
slight abatement of the gale, they again
put forth at the peril of their lives, and
succeeded in saving fourteen persons,
and bringing from Green Island those
who landed there. The first Lieutenant
of the Endymion, Mr. Tarleton, rescued
the first Lieutenant of the Somers from
Pajordas reef, which he succeeded by a
miracle in reaching safely, but where
his situation was most critical. The
most gallant and well directed effort was
made by the officer and the crew in the
boat of the Mercure. She rescued ten
men to leeward on a spar. One hardly
knew which to admire most, the fore-
thought or daring of this noble adventure.
The risk was incalculable. Five boats,
representing each of the foreign vessels,
reached the island, and took off 23 per-
sons to their respective vessels, where
they were received with inexpressible
kindness and delicate consideration. Lt.
Wood and the gunner of the Endymion,
and Midshipman Saliz, of the Bylade are
mentioned for their conspicuous exertions.
The strange vessel proved to be the
Abrasia, bound for the squadron at
Antonio Lizardo. She passed very near
the Somers, but the catastrophe was so
sudden she failed to discover it.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

St. John New Brunswick, Jan. 5.

Loss of the Bowyer Smith.—The Bark
Bowyer Smith, Capt. Olive, from Liver-
pool for this port, with a cargo of coals,
out 49 days, ran ashore on the North-
West side of Grand Manan, about 2
o'clock on the morning of the 26th Dec.,
during a thick storm, and became a total
wreck. Crew and materials saved.
The crew suffered severely from cold and
fatigue, after reaching the shore, as they
had to walk 5 miles along the beach, be-
fore they found a place of refuge. The
Bowyer Smith was owned by Messrs.
George Thomas and Stephen Geory, of
this City and Isaac Olive, Esq., of Carle-
ton, and was insured for £24000.

Ship Richard Anderson, at Baltimore
from Liverpool, reports that on the 15th
ult., in lat. 42 45, lon. 62 20, made a
brig to leeward, lying with her ensign
(English) union down: run down for her
when she proved to be the brig Mary
Sheil, of Yarmouth, N. S., 87 days out
from Liverpool, bound to Halifax: the
captain reported having encountered ve-
ry severe weather, his vessel leaked bad-
ly, rudder gone, spars and sails much
crippled, out of provisions, and otherwise
in distress, and requested to be taken off.
The R. A. accordingly put her large
boats in the water (the brig's boats be-
ing stove and it blowing a gale from
N.W. at the time) and took off the cap-
tain and crew, 7 in all,—they reported
leaving Liverpool on the 19th Septem-
ber, and 100 days having elapsed, no
doubt their friends think them lost.

From the St. John Courier.

Fire.—The building at the Ship Yard
of the late Mr Geo. Thompson, in Port-
land, known as the "Old Ship House,"
was destroyed by fire at an early hour
on Thursday morning. It was occupied
by several families, who saved most of
their effects. The fire communicated to
one of the sheds connected with the Yard,
which is now occupied by Mr. John Ow-
ens, and in which a large Ship has re-
cently been commenced, but its progress
was soon stopped. The military engines
were taken over from the city, but in
consequence of the distance, and the hea-
vy travelling, the flames were under con-
trol before they reached the scene of
danger.—The Portland engine was early
out, and was worked with much effect.
—The erections destroyed belonged to
Messrs. R. Rankin & Co.

Novascotia.

From the Yarmouth Courier.

Loss of the brig Britannia.—The brig
Britannia, Capt. Porter, from St. Tho-
mas, bound into this port, stood in from
sea on Saturday evening last, about 8
o'clock, the weather being squally ac-
companied with snow. In coming
round Cat Rock, at the mouth of the
Sound, she was boarded by a heavy sea
which carried away or injured her rudder,
rendering it useless. Her anchors
were at once let go, but the wind blowing
a gale, the vessel was driven with
much violence amongst the rocks on
Sunday Point, and went to pieces almost
immediately. One of the crew, named
Sweeney—whose parents live at Cran-
berry Head—a young man about eigh-
teen years of age, was unfortunately
drowned: the Captain and rest of the
crew reached the shore in safety, but
saved only the clothes in which they stood.
The Britannia had a few hogsheads of
molasses and barrels of sugar on board,
which were of course, lost. We also
learn that the returns for her outward
cargo, which were in Bills of Exchange,
were also lost. The Britannia was owned
by Messrs. John (ann and others, of
this place, and we learn was not insured.
We have seldom had to record a more
melancholy shipwreck, occurring as it
did, within a few miles of home, and
when the crew of the ill-fated vessel,
elated by the sight of their destined port,
which they expected to reach in a few
minutes. Truly "they who go down to
the sea in ships" see the wonders of the
Lord, and experience in a remarkable
degree, his mercies.

The body of the unfortunate young
man drowned was recovered on Sunday
morning.

Halifax Nova Scotian, January 6.

A Tragedy.—A melancholy affair oc-
curred last week among some men and
lads calling themselves "Christmas
Boys." The Recorder thus briefly notes
it:

A man, well known by the appellation
of 'Cunard's Cooper,' has been commit-
ted to Jail, for wounding a boy named
Kelley, in the head with a sword, on
Wednesday evening last. The boy, died
to-day. He belonged to a gang of row-
dies, calling themselves 'Christmas
Boys,' who annoyed Power so much,
that in the height of provocation, he un-
happily made use of a deadly weapon to
repel lawless aggression, and the conse-
quence has been fatal to one of the offen-
ders, and ruin to the avenger.

It would appear that Power had made
himself conspicuous in a melee the pre-
vious evening, and had secreted in his
house at the time of the occurrence some
of the 'rowdies' upon whom others wish-
ed to avenge themselves; and upon these
attempting to enter his house, he inflicted
the fatal blow, besides stabbing and
much injuring another, and cutting off
an ear of a third.

An Inquest was held on Saturday and
Monday, before Jas. F. Gray, Esq. Coroner,
and after a patient investigation Mr

Gray recommended the Jury to give a
verdict of manslaughter, who after mature
deliberation, returned a verdict of "mere
manslaughter."

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We have received
our usual files of papers by the Unicorn,
which contain but very little of interest.

The trial of Timothy Ryan for murder
took place on the 16th ult., when he was
acquitted by the Jury on the ground of
being insane at the time of committing
the crime.

Six Thousand Pounds had been voted
by the Assembly for the purpose of
relieving the fishermen from the destitu-
tion created by the late storm. The
Executive opposed the vote, on the
ground that £1500 was enough, and His
Honour the Administrator of the Govern-
ment communicated this opinion to the
House by message, but it was carried
despite the opposition of the Government.

An address to the Imperial Parliament
on the subject of the Fisheries of the
Colony, with reference to the detriment
they are sustaining from the unjust con-
cessions made by the Parent Government
to Foreigners, has been introduced by
Mr Morris into the Assembly.

SOUTH AMERICA.

From Honduras.—The brig Elizabeth
Porter, at New York, brought dates
from Honduras to the 2d of December.

There has been a serious outbreak and
attempted rebellion in the State of San
Salvador, which, at one time, threatened
to revolutionize the whole of Central
America.

It appears that Malespin, who, for some
time has been hiding in Honduras, sud-
denly made his appearance in the State of
San Salvador, at the head of a large body
of men, with the intention of revolution-
izing the State, assisting Bishop Viteri
in his plans of opposition to the General
Government, and finally, it is supposed,
to place himself at the head of the gov-
ernment.

Two years only have elapsed since Vi-
teri excommunicated, Malespin, and cur-
sed, by bell, book and candle, all that
should aid or abet him. The Bishop,
however, got himself into trouble a short
time ago, with the authorities of San
Salvador, for assisting in some revolu-
tionary movements, and was in conse-
quence, confined to his house under a
guard.

Malespin, by some means or other,
opened a communication with him, and
by way of reciprocation, the bishop had
taken off the ban of excommunication,
and received him back again into the
church.

On his route to the city of San Salva-
dor, Malespin commenced levying contri-
butions on the people going to the fairs
of San Miguel, or in other words robbing
them.

The authorities of that department,
having been preparing for his reception,
sent out a body of troops. A battle en-
sued, in which the revolutionists were
defeated with great loss, and Malespin
fell, fighting with the ferocity of a tiger.

The death of this desperate man, will,
it is thought, prove a blessing to the peo-
ple of the Central American States, as
he has, without exception, been by far
the greatest enemy to the peace and
prosperity of the country. He only
sought his own and his followers' ag-
grandizement, and was perfectly reckless
as to the results of his numerous attempt-
ed revolutions.

From the Society Islands.—The New
York Journal of Commerce publishes
the following extract of a letter from Tahiti:—

Valparaiso, July 28, 1846.—I left Tahiti
on the 9th of June. On the 5th a
severe engagement took place at Bona-
via, between the French and Natives,
in which the French were defeated with
the loss of the commander-in-chief of
the troops, one captain and three or four
ensigns, &c., and some fifty men, and
as many more wounded. The French
force numbered some 1200 men, opposed
to which were some 100 Natives, who
had fortified a difficult pass in the Bona-
via Valley when the French attacked
them.

Martial law still prevails in the town,
and no person is allowed to go out of
his house after six o'clock in the evening.

The French have expended immense
sums of money on the Island, and they
are now determined to carry on a war of
extermination.

CARD.

SAMUEL THOMSON, Attorney at
Law,

Respectfully announces that he has
opened an Office, adjoining the residence
of John T. Williston, Esq.