

United States News.

From the New York Herald.

Most disastrous Fire in Brooklyn.—The property destroyed by this disastrous conflagration is estimated at various sums. The nearest we could reach, by a comparison of all the estimates, is nine hundred thousand dollars. The number of buildings destroyed varies from two hundred and fifty to three hundred, and the families that have been thus suddenly deprived of shelter, will number two hundred. Allowing three to each family, the number of persons rendered homeless in one night by the destructive element, makes six hundred. The area over which the fire extended is about ten acres.

Many of the buildings destroyed were of the finest description, being five and six stories in height, and erected within the last two years with all the modern improvements. When the flames got beyond the power of the fire department in Brooklyn, a requisition was made on the fireman of New York, and with their accustomed promptitude, a number of our engines crossed over; but the deficiency of water was a serious impediment to their exertions.

The thieving fraternity were on the spot in great numbers. Enough of them to fill the Brooklyn jail were captured in the act of stealing, and many others, for whom there was no room, were taken to New York, where they were safely locked up in the Tombs, to answer for their offence.

The spectacle is represented as awfully magnificent at one o'clock on Sunday morning. Persons who at the junction of Fulton and Maine streets, and looked towards the south, say that it was one of the most sublime, and at the same time, melancholy sights they ever saw. The wind blew hard, and the flames shot up into the sky a great height, and were accompanied with a noise similar to what is heard from a blast furnace. In the most distant parts of the city, people could see distinctly ordinary sized print. Sparks of a large size and pieces of burning wood, were carried over all parts of the city by the wind, and deposited on shingle roofed houses, causing great momentary fear and anxiety that other parts of the city would be destroyed likewise. Happily, no such catastrophe occurred owing to the exertions of the occupants, who ascended the roofs of their dwellings and extinguished the sparks as rapidly as they alighted.

The loss of life is not so great as was at first represented.

The appearance of the city next morning, in the neighbourhood of the conflagration, would melt the heart of any one. The churches and church-yards were filled with furniture, embracing every household article, from a teapot to a sofa—from a child's chair to a massive bureau. The streets were covered with broken glass, legs of chairs and tables, fragments of alabaster Washingtons, Clays, Franklins, and Taylors, and choked with carpets, mattresses, feather beds, and crockery. The sufferers were searching the more fortunate parts of the city for apartments to which to remove their families, and such portions of their goods as escaped destruction. Carmen were busy loading and taking away goods from every corner; parents were looking for their children, and children for their parents; firemen, weak and exhausted from over labour, were wending their way homewards, drunken rowdies and thieves were bawling and blaspheming; in short such a scene was presented in unfortunate Brooklyn last Sunday morning, was not presented since the memorable great fire in New York.

New American Republic.—There can be no doubt but an attempt is being made to form a new Republic to the west of Texas, which in due time will be gently absorbed in the vertex of the great North American polypus. The range of mountains called the Sierra Madre, from which the new Republic is to take its name, is that portion of the great range of the Rocky Mountains, which extends from the river Gila southward to the neighbourhood of the city of Mexico, whence it branches out in various directions, chiefly towards the west, and afterwards forms the great mountain range which extends along the shores of the Pacific, through Central America, into the Isthmus of Darien, and thence into the Cordilleras of the Andes. The Sierra Madre lies about the centre between the Rio Bravo del Norte or Grande on the east, and the Gulf of California on the west, and embraces many of the great mining districts of Mexico. As far as we can judge, the projected Republic may be expected to extend from the river

Gila, or the southern boundary lately ceded to, or, as we ought to say, *plundered* by the United States from Mexico, as far south as 150 or 200 miles of the city of Mexico, and from the Gulf of Florida with Tampico as its principal seaport on the east, to the Gulf of California, with the port of Mazatlan and perhaps San Blas on the west.

If such be the object of the new Republican speculators now organized under the name of the 'Buffalo Hunt,' it will result in the extension of the sway of the United States to the above limits, and ultimately to the 'annexation' or absorption of the whole of Mexico. Even if their object be limited to the country between the Gulf of Florida and the ridge of Sierra Madre, it will prove a 'capital haul.'

No one will believe that the United States Executive are ignorant or indifferent as to the project. Extension of territory is their object, and whether it be done *per fas aut nefas*, they do not care a rush.

From the New York Herald.

Emigration.—The tide of emigration continues to flow as rapidly as ever. Every part of the Old World is contributing its quota to swell the current; and if the settled state of affairs in Europe continue for some time longer, there is no doubt but the population of this country is destined to receive still larger accessions.

According to our ship news report, over 1800 emigrants arrived at this port from Europe between sun-rise and noon on Friday, and during the afternoon 950 more came in, making the number of arrivals from Europe, 2,750. They are hale and hearty, having experienced no sickness while on the passage. The greater portion of these people are from Great Britain. Since the first day of 1848 a number of immigrants arrived at this port from abroad, was 110,404. In the eight previous months, or from the 5th of May to the 31st December, the number was 129,082, being 239,486 in the last fifteen months. It appears that from May to December, 1847, there were 53,180 Germans, and 52,496 natives of Ireland; but from December to August, 1848 the number from Ireland has exceeded by some thousands that from Germany. The war between Denmark and Germany has doubtless operated to prevent these numbers from running on *pari passu*, but it is expected that as soon as there is free egress from the German ports, the same ratio will continue, if the numbers be not larger on the side of Germany. The number arrived in July, 1848, was 24,622, of which 7,963 were from Germany: 11,740 from Ireland: 2,235 England: 1,566 Scotland: 106 France: 34 Holland: 129 Switzerland: 63 Spain: 114 Wales: 493 Norway: 85 Sweden: 91 West Indies: 1 Denmark: 3 South America: 1 Poland.

The emigration during last month from England and Scotland, has been greater, we believe than at any previous corresponding period. There is room enough, however for all that choose to come, if they only make up their minds not to remain in the seaports but to push back to the West, and earnestly apply themselves to honest industry. Difficulties may no doubt, beset their progress until they are properly settled; but if they can summon up courage to struggle with them as they arise, success will follow, and they will very soon attain a position of competence, if not of independence.

Colonial News.

Canada.

Quebec Gas Works.—We mentioned a short time ago that these works were advancing rapidly towards completion, and the main pipes were being laid down along the principal streets of the city. The works are now very nearly complete. The Mercury thus describes them in their present state of forwardness:—

'We this day visited the site of the Gas Works, and found them to be in an advanced state. This site has been reclaimed from the bed of the river St. Charles: indeed where an extensive pile of buildings are now erected, schooners and small trading crafts last summer floated at anchor. The foundation of the building, artificially formed, is twenty one feet in depth, and the area of the works is about two hundred by one hundred and thirty seven feet.

'The building was planned by P. Peebles, Esq., the talented manager of the company, and constructed by Messrs. Wilson & Peter, the contractors. They are of brick and substantially erected, and will be covered with tin; the roof-

ing now on being of that material. On the east we have the offices of the company, with a light and spacious show-room overhead, adjoining are the work shops and coal sheds, lofty buildings. On the centre of the north wall is the retort house, extending into the yard 65 feet by 55. The chimney, the foundation of which is without the wall, will be a circular one. The necessary materials for its construction are daily expected. On the west side of the square we find the building for the condensers, purifiers, lime-house, and station-meter-house, and at the south-west corner is the gas-meter house, which also contains the tank. The tank is fifty one feet nine inches, within, in diameter, by twenty six feet deep;—it is wholly finished, and the columns for suspending the gasholder are also set up. The gasholder itself, it is expected, will be finished in a fortnight or three weeks. Its diameter will be 50 feet, depth 16 feet, and it will be capable of containing about 31,416 cubic feet of gas.

'With respect to the operations of the company beyond the works proper, the main pipes have been laid through the following streets:—St Paul, St Peter, Sault au Matelot, Champlain (to the Cul de Sac), Notre Dame,—in the Lower Town, ascending Mountain Street to the Upper Town, where the following streets have been laid; Palace, St John, Fabrique, Buade and Fort, turning into the place d'Armes, facing the St George Hotel. In St Roch's, the pipe lying in Desfosses and Bridge Streets, will be completed within a fortnight.

'This is a brief but comprehensive outline of the operations of the company since its first working. The time is now at hand when the public will have to co-operate. The city council are to pay for a certain number of lamps, but we understand that but few applications have as yet been made by tradesmen for a supply of gas for their shops.

'A propos to this subject, Mr Peebles is about to open his collection of lustres, pendants, &c.

The Potato Rot.—The Montreal Gazette notes the appearance of the potato rot in the counties of Montreal, Terrebonne, Beauharnois, and Richelieu, and adds—'for the next season, the potato, if attainable at all, will only be attainable as a luxury.'

PROGRESS OF THE CHOLERA.

We are in possession of advices from Trebizonde to the 6th Constantinople to the 5th and Smyrna to the 7th of August by which we find that at the former city although the greater part of its inhabitants had fled to the surrounding villages the daily deaths numbered seventy to eighty. Among these is noticed the wife of an American missionary. So great was the panic, that even street-porters were not to be found to transport merchandise to the marine for embarkation, and consequently the peninsular and Oriental company's steamer Erin as well as the Liverpool and Levant company's screw steamer the Osmanli, have necessarily had to meet with delay in getting loaded. Both vessels continue running notwithstanding the cholera. At Constantinople the disease after having been so many months stationary, had in some degree increased, and the daily deaths were from fifty to sixty, not merely confined to the lower orders, for several persons of distinction among the Ottomans had fallen victims to it. At Smyrna for such a population, the attacks (about fifty *per diem*) are very few, but the mortality is fifty per cent. on the attacks. At Odessa it is on the decline; but some of the neighbouring villages have suffered most awfully, the deaths amounting to one-fifth of the population. In the Tartar villages of the Crimea, the disease is also very virulent. At Chisme there have been 300 deaths in 1000 attacks, the population being 10,000. At Angora the deaths were 30 *per diem*. Akiolou, Toulcha, Varna, Choumla, Adrianople, Sivas, Salonica, Angora, Kutaja, Enos, and Aleppo, are all more or less suffering from the scourge.

In Egypt the disease first manifested itself in Bolacco and in old Cairo, and about the same time it attacked and made sad havoc among a caravan of black slaves at the fair of Tanta, which fair was accordingly broken up; and such was the panic that came over the 300,000 attending the same, that what with bad food, the overpowering heat, and the heavy losses which the merchants and dealers had starting them in the face after travelling thousands of miles with their goods, that in three days the disease spread so universally that 2000 souls were carried off by it. The survivors fled to surrounding towns and villages, disseminating the pestilence in every di-

rection; and on the 6th August, at Cairo alone, the deaths numbered 300 daily. Running through Lower Egypt, it manifested itself in Alexandria on the 22nd July, in a person returning from the fair, who fell a victim to it on the same day.

Letters from Odessa, of the 1st August mention that of the 14,000 troops who crossed the Pruth, full 3000 have fallen victims to cholera.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

By this mail we obtained British papers to the 9th instant, by the Royal Mail Steamer Acadia, which vessel arrived at Halifax early on the morning of Friday last, in a passage of 12½ days. The intelligence thus furnished respecting the trade of Britain, the state of the weather, and the affairs of Europe, generally, is much more satisfactory than any previous advices obtained for some time past. We have devoted all our available space to extracts, which are copied from Willmer & Smith's admirable news-sheet the European Times of the 9th September:

It is with inexpressible feelings of satisfaction and gratitude that we announce that the late plague of immoderate rain and waters has mercifully been relieved by the present seasonable and blessed change of weather, which has now continued nearly a fortnight, and certainly more propitious weather for the final gathering in of the harvest, could scarcely have supervened. From all parts of the kingdom the most satisfactory reports reach us, and however light the crops of wheat may be in some localities, nevertheless taking the breadth of land cultivated and everything into consideration, we do not despair of eventually finding that the harvest will nearly prove an average one. In Ireland the tone of despair has ceased. Some little despondency prevails in the distant western and southern districts; but the almost unintermitting fine weather will, it is to be hoped, not only check the fatal effects of the potato disease, but will enable the husbandman to reap an abundant harvest of cereal produce. Our copious corn market reports, which will be found elsewhere, show that the prices of grain and flour have declined almost to the entire extent of the recent advance; and thus the greatest calamity which could have befallen us as a nation, a dearth, with all its accompanying political and social miseries, has, we earnestly hope, been averted. A few weeks continuance of the present splendid weather, will confer incalculable benefit upon the country, and we trust the approaching winter will bring with it a general pacification throughout Europe, so that revived industry, with increased employment and prosperity, may gladden the hearts of our long suffering population.

At length the protracted session of Parliament has been brought to a close. The Queen on Tuesday prorogued the two houses in person by a speech from the throne, recapitulating the chief events of the session, and immediately after took her departure for Scotland. Thus has terminated a session of nearly ten months' duration. During this term 41 public committees have sat, with an average of 15 members each, besides 28 election committees, 14 groups of railway and 17 groups of private bills, together with 112 other committees on private bills. The number of petitions presented has been 18,450.

With a view to expedite the business of the House in future, a committee of the House of Commons has been sitting, and has examined M. Guizot with reference to the practice in France, and also Mr Curtis, of New York, four years a member of Congress.

The Parliament stands prorogued to the 24 day of November next.

Ireland continues in a state of profound tranquillity. The visit of Lord John Russell to Earl Clarendon, seems to furnish almost the only theme for speculation among the Irish politicians. The Premier landed at Kingstown on the afternoon of the 1st instant, and was received with a certain degree of deference and respect. Demonstrations by applause or disapprobation, seem both to have failed. His Lordship, with the exception of occasional carriage recreation, and a day's visit to the Duke of Bedford's estate at Ardsallagh, in Meagh county, has lived in the greatest seclusion within the precincts of the castle; and an unrestricted personal intercourse with Lord Clarendon seems to have been the sole immediate object of his Lordship's visit. All the speculations of an amnesty, of payment to the Irish clergy, and all the various schemes which have been ascribed as the cause of the Premier's visit, have successfully been laid aside, and we must wait the natural course of events before the state reasons which have influenced his lordship to take this novel step shall be fully revealed.

We are assured from good authority, although we cannot vouch for the fact, that Mr. John O'Connell himself, whilst in Ireland, was watched very narrowly at Cork by the Government agents; and was upon an intimation of this surveillance that he removed to England, in order that he might no longer remain within the power of Suspension Act. The injudicious excitement raised in the United States only tends to increase the peril in which the imprisoned Confederate now stands.