

proceeds from the far west. A correspondent informs us that, living in the midst of bogs, and receiving their daily food from the hands of public officers, the inhabitants of Belmullet have yet neglected, during a summer of such extraordinary dryness as that which he passed, to provide themselves with a stock of turf. It will not be denied that we have, from the outset, predicted the consequences of the alms system; but the catastrophe of Belmullet has arrived with rapidity which we confess we scarcely expected.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, Jan. 4, 1848.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

AGRICULTURAL CATTLE SHOW.

The Annual Cattle Show of the North-umbrian Agricultural Society is to come off on THURSDAY next. The Board of Directors are requested to meet at White's Hotel, at 10 o'clock forenoon.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

This Institute will open on THURSDAY evening, when the Revd Mr. MACBEAN, will deliver a Lecture. The Board of Directors are requested to meet at the Institute at 8 o'clock to-morrow evening. A punctual and full attendance is particularly requested.

POPULATION OF THE WORLD.—We copy the following from an exchange paper. The information it conveys may be of service as a reference.

According to the most recent and reliable authorities, the population of the earth now numbers about one billion, of which

Asia contains	535,000,000
Europe	235,000,000
Africa,	110,000,000
America,	50,000,000
Oceania	20,000,000

Total, 1,000,000,000

Of this billion of human beings now supposed to be in existence, it is estimated upon very probable data, that about

30,000,000 die every year	
90,000	day
3,000	hour
60	minute
1	second

How startling is the reflection that every click of the clock is but the death-knell of the departing spirit ushered by the ceaseless oscillation of the pendulum into the presence of Him who is of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look upon iniquity.

Of the thousand million human beings supposed now to inhabit the earth.

600,000,000 are heathen or Pagans	
140,000,000	Mahometans
10,000,000	Jews
250,000,000	Christians

Equivalent to the ratio of one Jew, fourteen Mahometans, twenty five Christians, and sixty Pagans in every hundred individuals of the human family, when apportioned according to religious sentiment. Of the two hundred and fifty million Christians, so called, there are embraced by the community of the

Roman Catholic church	130,000,000
Greek	55,000,000
Protestant Denominations	65,000,000

CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES POST OFFICE DIFFICULTIES.—A late number of the Quebec Mercury contains the following paragraph, the purport of which had created a good deal of feeling in Canada.

The Express which left Montreal on Monday last for the Boston steamer, was seized by the American authorities at Highgate. It contained many letters of importance.

The following is a copy of the letter of the Head of the Post Office Department in the United States to his subordinate near the lines, which led to the stoppage of the Express and the apprehension of the driver.

Post Office Department, December 2.

Sir—The course pursued by the British Government persisting to cease all matters conveyed to their shores in the United States line

of Mail Steamers to be charged with double postage, notwithstanding our earnest but friendly remonstrances, and in a spirit so very different from the liberal provision which we had made for conveying their mails over our routes between the Mother Country and her Provinces on this Continent, has, as you are aware, compelled us to avail ourselves of the privilege mutually reserved in the postal arrangements between the two countries, to terminate the arrangements.

Nevertheless, it had been confidently hoped on our part, that ere this, and in pursuance of our strenuous, recent, and persevering endeavours for the purpose, new postal arrangements would have been perfected between the two countries, or, if this were not done, that at least, the citizens of each country would have been content to let their respective mails take the course which they uniformly had taken previous to the existence of any postal arrangements between them.

In both respects, however our expectations, evidently so just and reasonable, have been disappointed. Not only is no postal arrangement yet agreed to by the British Government, but it seems that the people of her Canadian Province at least have determined on establishing a Mail Communication of their own with the Mother Country, by conveying their Mails through our territory, and across our Mail routes. By an advertisement in the Montreal Gazette, a copy of which is herewith sent you, it appears that an establishment called "Griggs's Boston Express," has been organized for the avowed purpose of conveying Canadian Mail matter across our Country to the B. M. steamer at Boston. It is true that the advertisement in question specifies only a single trip, which has already been performed, but these trips will doubtless be repeated as fresh Steamers depart.

An understanding of this kind, so illegal, unaccountable, and regardless of our national rights, cannot be tolerated by us for a moment, and the most prompt and energetic measures within the pale of the law, must be adopted to endeavouring to put it down.

You are accordingly enjoined to be vigilant in your endeavours to detect and thwart the further operations of either the above or any other Express attempting thus to set our laws at defiance. You will, if practicable, ascertain beforehand the day or days on which it will hereafter leave Montreal or arrive at Montreal, a description and the name or names of those having it in charge; and upon the arrival a Montpelier of any person or persons thus illegally conveying Mailable matter, Government will immediately cause him or them to be arrested and safely held for trial, for the offence thus committed. In every such case you will promptly make to me a full report of your proceedings, and of the facts and evidences upon which they are founded.

Your's respectfully,

C. JOHNSON.

The Montreal Gazette thus comments on the letter copied above.

We extract the following from the American papers. We were in hopes that the matter would have been arranged before now. We believe the English Government, which expends a very large sum in keeping up the Mail steam communication with this continent charges nothing on letters brought by American steamers, which does not charge on letters brought by its own subjects. Of the bad taste and feeling displayed in Mr. Johnson's letter, we need not say any thing.

A Montreal paper of a later date contains the following paragraphs.

We understand that the impounded letters by the Express, were returned by the United States Post Office.

The Express agent arrived in Montreal on Saturday last, with the whole of the letters, &c. which had been entrusted to his charge. The American government, however, did not release him until the very heavy bail of \$2000 had been exacted for his appearance on the 24th May next.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—In the absence of more important news, we have devoted a considerable space to extracts of a miscellaneous character from our late British papers.

MAIL FROM HALIFAX TO QUEBEC.—The Canada papers, state that contracts have been entered into for the conveyance of the British Mail express, between the above mentioned places, in four days.

CAPE RACE.—It is stated in several of our exchange papers, that it is the intention of the British Government to erect a Light House and Fog Bell at Cape Race Newfoundland. This step has been taken in consequence of the accidents which have recently occurred there. It will be remembered that two of the Mail Steamers had very narrow escapes from shipwreck on this spot.

THE SEASON.—We spoke last week of the seasonableness of the weather for some days previous to our publication.

There has been a marked change since then. The whole of last week was extremely mild, and New Year's day particularly so. The snow had disappeared from our highways and wheel carriages were in requisition. On the evening of the above named day, it rained for three or four hours in torrents. On Sunday morning we were enveloped in a dense fog, during which a heavy mist fell. It cleared up about noon. About two o'clock it commenced snowing, and continued so to do until dark. There being a slight frost during the night, we were gratified in the morning to perceive that sufficient snow remained on the ground to make good sleighing. Yesterday was a most delightful day, the sun shone out bright and warm, and numbers of Ladies and Gentlemen availed themselves of the favourable opportunity to enjoy a sleigh ride, and our town in consequence had a very animated appearance. To day is almost equally fine.

YESTERDAY'S MAIL.

This mail arrived about two o'clock this morning. From the papers that have come to hand we have made some selections, which we copy below.

It is a singular circumstance, that while the weather in the United States has been intensely cold, and large quantities of snow have fallen, the papers in the colonies all speak of the extraordinary mildness of the season and the absence of snow.

The Halifax Gas company have notified the publishers of the Sun that they purpose prosecuting them for Libel.

An Earthquake occurred at Port-au-Prince on the 20th November, which destroyed several houses.

JAMAICA. The following extracts are taken from the Jamaica Chronicle of December 8. They represent the state of the colony as far from satisfactory.

There is nothing in the proceedings of the last fortnight which call for particular notice or lengthened comment. The condition of the colony is the same as regards trade and commerce. Agricultural prospects are much more gloomy than they were, but no more so than might have been anticipated, considering the occurrences that have taken place in the mother country. The failure of so many there, largely interested in estates in this island, has had the effect of placing attorneys in the management of properties in a very unpleasant predicament, not only as regards returned bills of exchange but the means of keeping up the cultivation, and taking off the crops now on the ground.—How these latter are to be accomplished, is a question not easily solved. The Home Government has, it would seem, come to the rescue of the Mauritan planters. Will it come to the rescue of those of this and other West Indian colonies similarly circumstanced? Misfortune has followed misfortune in rapid succession, and difficulties thicken around the agriculturist to an extent which appals the stoutest heart. The train of events since the termination of the Apprenticeship has been such as to produce gloom and despondency in almost every mind, and lead to conclusions which it is perhaps better not to express. When they will reach their consummation, it is not easy to determine.

The Legislature continues in session, and there is reason to fear will not terminate its labours without coming into collision with the Government. The cause of this will be the disallowance of the Act of the last Session transferring certain items of parochial taxation to the public, and charging the amount of these items on the general revenue. To this transfer the Home Government object. A Committee of the Assembly, to whom the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies was referred, are determined to persist in it and have, in a report made to the House, recommended that the duty on Rum should be charged with the payment—or, in other words, that a clause or clauses should be introduced into the Rum Duty Bill, authorising the Public Treasurer to pay the transferred items out of such duty.—The report is to be considered on Thursday, the 9th inst., and should it be agreed to by the Assembly, the Bill, it is expected, will not receive the Governor's assent.

BRITISH MOVEMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—We understand that the British Government under certain pretexts, has seized upon St. Juan Nicaragua, a town situated at the mouth of the river Nicaragua, which flows from a lake of that name into the Atlantic. This town is claimed by the government of Guatemala, in opposition to the British.

This act of the British Government in that quarter of the world, may have been precipitated by the possession of the capital of Mexico by the victorious armies of the United States. At all events the authorities of Guatemala, or Central America, have entered into

an important correspondence with our Government at Washington, upon this subject, and we have every reason to believe that the American Government is determined to stand firmly upon the ground taken by Mr Monroe in his message of 1817, and subsequently reiterated by Mr Polk, not to permit any European Government to make any more Colonial settlements upon this continent.—New York Herald.

The Journal of Commerce makes the following remarks upon the Postmaster General's conduct relative to the postal difficulties with Great Britain:—

Mr Cave Johnson is certainly one of the great men of the age. He has one remedy for everything, and that is more illiberality. The way he worked John Bull about reciprocity, is a caution. John paid the U. S. Post office department some quarter of million of dollars annually, for taking the Canada mails across to the colonies. The postage, however was not paid until after the service was done, as all the mail serve of the country is paid. But Mr Johnson to be up with Bull for charging so much on the Washington's letters, and saving he would do so again, proclaimed that the postage on the colonial letters must be paid to our post office in advance. But did not choose to advance the money and so the letters are sent from Halifax through the colonies, and we get nothing at all, neither before nor after the work is performed. This is glorious retaliation. Soon the Canarders are to come to New York, and the Colonial postages would have been much increased: but Mr Johnson has brought it about that even the steamers bound to New York, must put in at Halifax, to deposit the Colonial mails. Besides, Mr Johnson is infested with Canadian ponies running through the country with letters. To smuggle the letters on board at Jersey City, in bales of Buffalo robes, would be just like these half-civilized Canadians. Mr Johnson cries out for more law! "My kingdom for a law!" It must be interesting to see a great man in a brow study over the adverse working of everything in this world. Change your policy, Mr Johnson. Be liberal. Seek to make the Post Office a great public accommodation to this country and all countries, and you will find things to go more smoothly.

ARRIVALS AT HEA'S HOTEL.

December 24th.—Gesner, Bactouche; Valentine Hicks, de; Thos. Ullock, sen.; Bay du Vin; Miss Ullock, do; Jas. McMaster, do; N Reeves, Kouchibouac. 27th—Wm. Parker, South West; Jas. Crocker do. 28th—H. N. Patten, Kouchibouac; Thos. Buckley, Bay du Vin. 29th—Burk Archibald, Ludlow. 30th—Alex. McDonald, Bay du Vin. 31st—A. Cameron, Black River; Donald McRae, Bay du Vin. July 3rd—H. Getchell, do; J. Holderness, Esq., Richibucto.

Marriages.

At Bartholomew's Mills, on the 9th ult., by the Rev. John Turnbull, Mr. WILLIAM HETHERINGTON, of the parish of Blackville, to Mrs. ELIZABETH CAIN, of the Parish of Nelson.

On the 25th ult., by the same, Mr PATRICK LONG, of the Parish of Ludlow, to Mrs. HANNAH MERSEREAU, of the parish of Blackville.

Deaths.

At Newcastle, on Thursday last, suddenly, ALLAN FOSTER, infant son of Mr Oliver Willard, aged 8 months.

At Newcastle on the morning of Saturday last CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, son of Dr. Thomson, aged 5 years 10 months.

LET ALL THOSE WHO ARE AFFLICTED WITH ASTHMA READ THE FOLLOWING LETTER.

Mr. Seth W. Fowle:—

Sir,—Having been afflicted more than thirty years with the asthma, at times so severely as to incapacitate me from attendance to business, and having adopted many medicines without any but temporary relief, I purchased, about three years since, of Mr. Edward Mason, your agent in this city, several bottles of Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, from the effects of which I obtained more relief than from all the medicine that I have ever taken for that distressing disorder. I have by the repeated use of your valuable Balsam, been more free of pressure for breath, and oppression on the lungs, than I had anticipated, and indeed conceive myself cured of this most disheartening malady.

I do most cheerfully tender this acknowledgment, which you will use as your judgment dictates.

Argus Office, Portland } G. D. MAYNARD.
March 26, 1846.

None genuine unless signed I. Butts on the wrapper.—For sale by

K. B. & W. FORBES, Chatham.

Total Abstinence.

The Monthly Meeting of the CHATHAM TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY, will be held in Mr. Fayle's School Room, on FRIDAY EVENING next, at half past seven o'clock, when all those who feel disposed, will have an opportunity of becoming Members of the Society.

S. THOMSON, Secretary
Chatham, January 3, 1848.