

require an experienced shepherd to be continually looking after them until they are thoroughly cleaned.

Colonial News.

Novascotia.

Halifax Nova Scotian, Dec. 26.

Thanksgiving Day.—The General Thanksgiving, on Thursday last, was observed with the strictest decorum by all classes and creeds in this city and its vicinity. We doubt not, that all denominations throughout the Province, were equally unanimous in this particular. As far as the City is concerned, the manner in which the proclamation was responded to, is not only eminently creditable to us as a community—but also stamps the people of Halifax as being decidedly religious. True, we met with but few vinegar faces in going our rounds; on the contrary, an air of cheerfulness, the handmaid of hope, seemed to pervade all classes. The Churches generally, if not universally, were all opened for Divine Service. And thousands of cheerful worshippers went thither, to return thanks publicly for the great benefits received at the hands of the Most High.

The Weather.—The weather continues variable as ever. Our Thermometer during the week, has been fluctuating as the Stock market. On Wednesday morning, the mercury in the tube, fell to six, and yesterday at sunrise, was as high as forty two. The snow is now all gone, leaving the fields once more denuded of their winter covering. For a short time early Boreas was superseded by a warm westerly breeze, mild almost as a zephyr, and balmy as the whispering breath of Spring. We could not however at the same time say, that our ways were like those of wisdom, ways of pleasantness, as the streets were literally covered with a sort of semi-liquid mortar looking substance, which made the walking exceedingly muddy and disagreeable. In the afternoon, the wind chopped round to the North west—during the night there was a keen frost, and to day, the roads are hard and dry again.

Packet Brig Minerva.—This fine vessel arrived in port on Wednesday, making the run from New York, in little more than three days! By the advertisement in another column, it will be seen that the Minerva is to be continued on the line between Halifax and New York. This arrangement cannot fail to be advantageous to the public, as a vessel of the Minerva's character is much required between the two ports. She is admirably fitted for the accommodation of passengers, and her commander, John Delaney, a gentleman long well known in the Newfoundland Mail service is just the person to make his passengers comfortable, and pay attention to the interests of those whose names are on his manifest.

We are informed that the proceeds of the first days' sales, &c., at the Orphan Asylum Bazaar, amounted to the very large sum of £369.

A Large Tow.—The Albany and New York Steam-tug Oswego, arrived at N. York on the evening of the 28th ult., having forty one canal barges and boats in tow, and all deeply laden with produce of various kinds. This is the largest and perhaps the last tow of the season.

Newfoundland.

Halifax Sun, Dec. 24.

Row in St. John Newfoundland.—It appears that during the week previous to the sailing of the Falcon, from St. John N. F., there had been some disgraceful breaches of the peace in that Town.—“All we could learn of the matter,” says the Newfoundland, “was that some two or three soldiers had been maltreated lately by some of the idle scamps who infest the streets; and that a very lively *esprit de corps* sent some 35 or 40 soldiers forth after night, on a mission of vengeance. They appear to have thought all who came in their way fit subjects to wreak it on; and there are now several unoffending old men maimed and disfigured most seriously, in expiation of the wickedness of a few miscreants.”

New Brunswick.

St. John Observer, Dec. 25.

Gale.—The weather for some days past has been of a stormy character. On Saturday evening, a gale, or hurricane, of greater violence than has been experienced here for a number of years past, set in from the South East, and continued with tremendous fury from that quarter accompanied alternately with snow and rain, till about 5 o'clock on Sunday morn-

ing, when the wind veered to South West, and blew with equal violence from that quarter till Sunday afternoon, with occasional showers of snow—the outer harbor and bay presenting all the while a grand but terrific scene of furious billows and foam. Considerable damage was done on the land during the gale—an enclosed frame of a new cottage in course of erection by Mr A. Martin, on the East side of Courtenay Bay, was blown down, and also a large part of the rope walk on the Marsh, belonging to Messrs. W. Carvill and T. Wallace; sundry porches, fences, trees, &c., were damaged; and many of the houses in the City shook considerably during the gale. Two coasting schooners were driven on shore near Manawagonish, one from Shepody, is a total wreck, master's name Wells—no lives lost. A small schooner was driven on Navy Island.—Brig “Daring” for Barbadoes, which sailed on Saturday, put back to port yesterday; Brig “Belle,” which sailed at the same time, was in sight of the D. when she bore up. No intelligence of the other outward bound vessels.

Another southerly blow, with a mixture of snow and rain, commenced last night, and still continues.

Sad Accident.—We learn that the Halifax Mail coach, which left this City on Saturday afternoon, was overturned the same evening, four miles beyond Caldwell's, Norton, by the violence of the wind and the icy state of the road, and that the coach was dragged on its side several miles before the horses could be stopped, the driver having been thrown off. Mr Jardine, of Richibucto, who was on the box, had one of his wrists dislocated. The inside passengers were a Mrs Armstrong, and child of four months old—the child was killed, and the mother considerably injured; the others, S. Binney, Esq., Master Joseph Scammell, and two sons of the Hon. E. B. Chandler, escaped with slight bruises. These are all the particulars we have been able to learn.

Canada.

Quebec Courier.

Our Timber Trade.—The London Examiner thinks that we should entirely lose our timber trade in consequence of Annexation. We might probably do a little less business with England in that species of pine timber which is grown in the countries bordering on the Baltic, but white pine and masts and spars must still be obtained from this country, and various other descriptions of woods which can be got no where else so good. Added to this, our trade in timber with the rest of the States, Annexation being accomplished, would more than make up for our loss in that with England.—Moreover, we look forward, in that event to do an immense business of shipbuilding, for we know that we can build ships cheaper here in these North American Provinces of ours than they can be built anywhere in the world, and that will enable us to use up an immense quantity of timber, giving employment to thousands of native artisans, and afterwards to sell it, so worked up, at greater advantage than we now do the raw material. Besides all this we should like to know how long we are to enjoy protection on our timber, and whether it will not speedily follow after corn in the Free Trade system.

United States News.

New York Courier & Enquirer.

Mr Webster and the Hungarians.—Mr Webster being at the Astor House for a short time, the Hungarian exiles, now the free guests of that hospitable establishment, called upon the distinguished statesman, in a body at his rooms.

The venerable Ujhazy, late Governor of Comoro, with all his family suite, was introduced to Mr and Mrs Webster by Count Vass—another Hungarian exile, who in the course of four months, has learned to express himself in the English language, with perfect propriety. Ujhazy, addressed Mr Webster with much feeling, in the following words:—

“Sir—Strangers and in a strange land, in the midst of our misfortunes, we come to America to seek an asylum here.—Power cannot stretch its hand so far as to reach us, in this Western world.—Here we are safe, and we feel ourselves secure.

In one of your late speeches you expressed a sympathy for us in the midst of our distress, which has penetrated our hearts. We thank you. We pray you to encourage the same feeling to continue the same sympathy, and so to mitigate our sorrows.

We look to America for kindness and protection. We look to you, sir, for counsel and consolation; and that Power which sees all things, and governs all, will not fail in its reward to your generous mind.”

Mr Webster, taking the Governor by the hand, made the following reply:—

“I give you my hand with great pleasure. We are glad to see you and your friends. The effort which you have so gallantly made for Hungarian Nationality and Hungarian Liberty has won our hearts. We welcome you to these Western shores. We are honoured that you have sought an asylum here from the political misfortunes which you have suffered at home. Our sympathies are with you and for you, and for those objects of your affections which you have left behind you. The whole American people take an interest in your efforts for Liberty and independence. The blow of power which struck down your hopes fell heavily also on our hearts. In the midst of your misfortunes, you come far away to a land of strangers in search of safety. Here, you find it. Here, we assure it to you. No enemy's hand shall harm or touch you. Hungarians you are all welcome! You, who have come, and your friends who shall come, will all find here sympathy, protection and security. Again I say, Sir, your gallantry, your love of liberty, and your misfortunes, have made you welcome to all Americans.”

UJHAZY, when this speech was interpreted to him by Count Vass, was affected to tears, and desired the Count to say, that God would not forget such considerate and such generous sympathy.

COMMUNICATION.

BLISSFIELD, December 29, 1849.

Mr Pierce,—When in Newcastle a few days ago with a load of poultry, happening to be in company with a few brother officers, of the Second Battalion Northumberland Militia, our conversation turned (as is the case invariably when officers meet) on Militia affairs. One of the gentlemen present asked me if I had seen the government notice, published in the Royal Gazette, calling upon all officers to take out their commissions on or before the 1st of June next; and ordering the commanding officer of each Battalion, after the 15th of that month, to inform the government of those officers who did not comply. I informed him that I was not aware that such orders had been published. The conversation turned upon the motives that induced the government to issue such orders, and the consequence of disobedience on the part of the officers. We concluded that all who did not comply would be superseded. On inquiry, I found that every commission was granted subject to certain fees paid on receiving them. Now, Mr Pierce, I consider this a great hardship. The duty is imposed upon us without any remuneration. We are bound to appear equipped with sword and belt, and properly attired; if we appear otherwise, are liable to a fine of forty shillings; if we do not appear, are dismissed the service and reduced to the ranks. All these equipments are expensive, and cannot be procured without money, which you know is very scarce in this county. If the object of the government is to raise money, this mode will not replenish the Provincial chest; and the time selected for enforcing their orders is very ill-judged, as this Province has just merged from three years of direful famine, during which time we have had to use every exertion to procure bread for our families. If the object is to test our loyalty, in these days of annexationists, I can tell them that this government notice will not add one jot to our loyalty, did it cause the issue of every commission in the Province, or detract one iota from the hitherto boasted patriotism of this Province, (vide Sir John Harvey's speech on opening the first session of the Legislature on his arrival in the Province.) Neither will the non-compliance with the order, and our consequent dismissal, weaken our ties to the land of our Fathers. If the object of the government is that all officers should have their commissions in their possession, it would have been an easy matter to have caused their issue. The Provincial Secretary (from whose office, I am informed, they issue) is a well paid public officer, with three clerks, I am told, under his control, all paid out of the public chest; and I am emboldened to say that if the government, at this particular time, was so anxious about the matter, could have easily issued the commissions. On considering the affair since coming home, I have a strong opinion that the exaction of fees from militia officers is a very great hardship; nay, worse, it is an outrageous tax upon the people, and even if it is legal, measures should be taken to have it abolished. The Secretary is well paid by a salary, and his clerks are also well paid; the officers are bound to serve gratuitously, and why should they be taxed to pay out of their private funds an amount to swell the pockets of those already well paid to transact the public business. My reason for addressing you in this way is, that my brother officers throughout the Province, if they feel the exaction as a grievance, and look at it in the same light that I do, may arouse themselves, and by a simultaneous action, bring the question before the approaching session of the Legislature, and that the grievance may be cor-

rected. I am desirous of doing my duty, and do not wish to be superseded, the very circumstance of which is a stigma upon an officer's character; at the same time I am not prepared to pay the fees, and am sure that many in this Province are similarly situated. I have no wish that these plain remarks should give offence, as none is intended, or wound the feelings of any members of the government; and were they sensible that the exaction would press hard on the people, they would lend their assistance to correct the act.

I am, Mr Pierce, your obedient servant,
A SUBALTERN,
Of the 3d Battalion Northumberland Militia.

SECOND EDITION.

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1850.

POST OFFICE.—To prevent the possibility of disappointment in the mails reaching Halifax in time to be dispatched from Britain by the steamer from Boston, the mails will be dispatched from the Chatham Post Office at one o'clock on the afternoons of Tuesday the 8th January, 5th February, 5th March, and 2d April.

BRITISH NEWS.—The Mail Steamer Cambria arrived at Halifax on the morning of Friday last. The news she brings is not important, but we make a few selections from the papers, which we copy below.

The anniversary of the election of the President of the French Republic has passed over in profound tranquility, and with much apparent satisfaction to the people. Whether any real designs were entertained of making an *attentat* on the life of Louis Napoleon, if a grand review of the national troops had taken place, is now a matter of speculation; but the military spectacle having been abandoned, and a grand banquet and ball at the Hotel de Ville, and not at the Tuileries, having been substituted, the day passed over in perfect harmony and peace. One of the guests, in describing the appearance of Louis Napoleon, as he passed through the saloons to receive the acknowledgments of the company, says that he looked pale and worn out. Every foreign country was represented there by its official authorities; and they who remember the revolt of the French ladies in the early part of Napoleon's career, who refused to make obeisance to him standing up, may be interested in learning that all the ladies rose from their seats with great humility whenever the President approached them. The proceedings of the Legislative assembly have again relapsed into ordinary business.

The French Ministry appears to be gaining ground in public opinion, without, however, making any very great progress in the solution of the complicated question which still embarrasses the councils of the French Republic. A decisive majority in the Assembly has approved of the recent circular of the colonels of gendarmes.

Although we are not informed of the text of the notes which are passing between Austria and Prussia respecting the meeting of the German parliament at Erfurt, it is plain that Austria discounts any such assembly; whilst Prussia, through the tortuous policy of ultra democratic principles, seems to be aiming still at rendering the house of Hohenzollern supreme in Germany. The Prussian Minister, affecting to encourage the hopes of the Germans for an united empire, appears to be only making this feeling subservient to the real aggrandisement of Prussia. Owing to some unexplained cause, bodies of troops, with batteries and ammunition, seem to be moving from Austria towards Saxony, where a number of arrests have been made. It looks as if a military occupation was intended. There seems to be an uneasy feeling still prevailing at Vienna. Journals continue to be suppressed or suspended until the termination of the state of siege. From the Danish Duchies the news is still most unsatisfactory. The inhabitants are more unruly than ever. We have continually a revival of reports of the settlement of the dispute, but the truth is that the amicable adjustment of it is as remote as ever. Every thing is quiet at Rome.

A sinister report has been revived this week that Russia insists on the removal of Bem and the other renegades from the frontier, on their being excluded from active service, and to be kept and guarded as state prisoners. The Porte pleads that they have embraced the Mahomedan faith, and that the Sultan has exclusive jurisdiction over them. Count Tiroff further demands that Kossuth and the Polish refugees shall not only be removed but ‘expelled,’ and this be declared