

United States News.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

United States Congress.—The resolution offered by Mr. Miller, calling on the President for any instructions to our Minister to Spain, and its correspondence between him and the Spanish Government, relative to the purchase of Cuba by the United States, came up to day, and its passage was opposed on the ground that it would interfere with the President's prerogative, &c.; and advocated on the ground that the public mind was much agitated on the subject, and that it was necessary to give it repose. The subject was passed over. There has probably been some offer from our Government to negotiate on the subject, and refused by Spain.

The bill to admit the articles of the growth and production of Canada into the United States free of duty, upon the condition that like articles of the growth and production of the United States be admitted into Canada free of duty, is before the Senate. It passed the house last session, and, as the business of last session was continued over at the same stage where it was left, it will become a law as soon as the Senate pass it and the President approves it.

It is important that the bill should pass soon, because the parliament of Canada is about to meet, and must act on the subject.

From the New York Sun.

Important Action of the Government in reference to the Gold Region.

Washington, 12th Dec., 1848.

Gents.—It is rumoured, and I have every reason to believe the rumour is true—that the Government in Cabinet Council, on Saturday last, decided to send immediately a number of small vessels of war, brigs and schooners, to enforce an embargo upon all merchant vessels going into the harbor of Monterey, San Francisco, and other ports on the coast of California, requiring them to come under bonds not to receive on board for transportation, any part or parcel of the Gold ore dug from the public land or mines on the Sacramento, or other parts of the gold region in Alta California.

This decision has been come to, doubtless, to prevent European vessels as well as those of South America, from transporting vast quantities of the gold ore to be coined in foreign mints, without paying the rightful tax of percentage to the government of the United States.

The opinion of all intelligent men here is, that we must have a railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific at once, and that the building of it can be readily accomplished within five years, if we strike now, while the iron is hot.

A Mine of black diamonds, in the shape of a coal bed has been discovered in the town of Weston, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. In digging a trench, pieces of coal were thrown up which, upon examination, proved to be bituminous, burning as freely as Cannel coal. The region in the vicinity is mountainous and favorable to mining operations. If this discovery should turn out as is hoped it may, it will prove to the factories and furnaces of the old Bay State, richer than the diamonds of Brazil, or the gold of India. Every nation which has developed abundance of coal and iron, to the exclusion of abundance of gold and silver, has become rich, prosperous and happy. Britain, Sweden and the United States are evidences! Success to the black diamonds—these will promote industry, build rail roads, steamers, foundries, furnaces and factories, and make their possessors vigorous, rich and powerful.

From the New York Sun.

California Gold.—Baltimore, Dec. 13.—A letter from the Director of the Philadelphia Mint, published in the Washington Union of Wednesday, says that the California gold had been tested, and was found to yield ninety eight and two thirds per cent. pure gold. It is within six dollars of the thousand of the mint Standard.

Expeditions for California are organizing at Boston, Salem, Newburyport, Providence, Bristol, Hartford, New Haven, Albany, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington and New Orleans. There is scarcely a town in New England that will not send out one or more representatives to the gold region. Many of the Companies organizing east and north of New York will take passage at this port.

The Cholera at New York.—The report of the Quarantine Physician on Saturday last is as follows:—Three cases of Cholera and three deaths have occurred at the Marine Hospital since my report yesterday. One of the deaths was that of a Frenchman from Paris.—This, with one other, a child, are the only cases among the passengers of the New York that have not been Germans from Havre. The present number in the hospital is seventeen.

The resident physician reports that no case of cholera had occurred within the bounds of the city since his last report.

The ship *Silas Richardson*, arrived at Baltimore from Rotterdam, on the 5th inst. has been ordered to quarantine, in consequence of a number of cases of Cholera having occurred on the passage. The mate, one seaman and a passenger died. The captain had been attacked, but recovered. The last case occurred on the 13th ult. and on the 28th all were well.

Churches in New York City.—There are

two hundred and thirty eight places of worship in the city of New York, according to the new Directory:—Protestant Episcopal, forty two; Baptist, thirty eight; Presbyterian, thirty four; Methodist Episcopal, thirty one; Roman Catholic, eighteen; Dutch Reformed, sixteen; Jews' Synagogues, ten; Congregational, nine; Lutheran, five; Universalist, four; Unitarian, two, &c.

New York, December 23.

Horrid Tragedy.—It appears that a Frenchman named M. Geiger, at 118 Cedar street, formerly kept a beautiful French girl, as a mistress, but quarrelled with her. She then left him, and has lived for some time with a Jew named Frederick W. Marks. A few days since Marks and his mistress came to live in the second story of the house in which yesterday's tragedy took place. Marks was a tailor, and worked at his trade in the house. Early yesterday morning, Geiger called and wished the girl to go with him, but she refused, and he left the place. At about 11 o'clock he rode up in one of the eastern Broadway stages and entered the house. In a few moments afterwards a desperate and deadly struggle commenced between Marks and Geiger. Marks was rather small. Geiger is a large muscular man, thirty years of age; both in the prime of life. One was armed with a short dirk and the other with a dirk knife, and both fought desperately. A young man named Chase, who was passing at the time, opened the door, and on the stairs met Marks covered with blood; one wrist cut nearly off, the ligaments of the other arm cut dreadfully, and numerous deadly wounds in his body. Marks never spoke; on being laid down he expired in a few minutes. On entering the room, Mr Chase found Geiger wounded in several places and in the agonies of death, and the woman in another corner with a wound in her breast and another under her left arm. Geiger was seen by persons in the back yard in the act of stabbing her. Whether he was killed by the hand of Marks, or whether he stabbed Marks and the woman and then himself, is unknown. The two men died in a few minutes; the woman was carried to the hospital, but there are no hopes of saving her life.

It is reported that Marie Roebnie, the female stabbed in the murderous affray yesterday, died in the city hospital.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 1849.

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.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

We have much satisfaction in laying before our readers, the proceedings of a public meeting held last evening, on the subject of an Electric Telegraph, which the British North American Association, are desirous of constructing from Quebec to Halifax, to pass through the Counties of Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent and Westmoreland. This, it appears is the wish of the Association, but our Legislature, by a law passed last session, compels them to take a circuitous route, from the Miramichi to Fredericton, thence to St. John, to the province line, cutting off Kent and a large portion of Westmoreland. As an equivalent for this deviation from the direct route, the province promises to give the Association a bonus, when the line is in working order, of £2,500; but this is poor compensation to them, as its construction will entail on them an extra expense of more than double that amount, for the erection of the telegraph, besides a large yearly expense for keeping up officers, and other incidental charges, which of necessity must ensue from such an extended line.

We hope our friends in Gloucester, Restigouche, Kent and Westmoreland, will follow the example of the people of this county, and make a spirited remonstrance against, what we cannot otherwise designate, a piece of selfish Legislation. The inhabitants of Kent and Westmoreland are more particularly interested in this undertaking, and we sincerely hope they will promptly act in the matter.

Agreeably to a notice published in the Gleaner on Friday last, a meeting was held in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, in Chatham, last evening, which was respectfully attended, to take some action to obtain for the British North American Association, established at Quebec, the right of way, direct, through this Province, to connect that city with Halifax, by Electric Telegraph.

The Hon. JOSEPH CUNARD, was called to

the Chair, and JAMES A. PIERCE, was appointed Secretary.

Several Gentlemen addressed the meeting, among them William Carman, Esq. who explained the Law passed at the last meeting of the Legislature, and furnished some interesting information relating to the missions of Messrs. Stewart and Gisborne to the Legislature, and the conversations held with them by the committee on railroads, on the subject of the Telegraph.

The following Resolution was moved by George Kerr, Esq. and seconded by James Johnson, Esq. and carried unanimously—

Resolved, That this meeting approve of the route from the St. Lawrence, through Miramichi, and thence to the Bend of Petitcodiac, and to Halifax, for the line of the British North American Electric Magnetic Telegraph. And in order that the Association may be enabled to adopt that line, further Resolved, that a Petition to the Legislature be prepared, praying that such alterations may be made in the Act of Incorporation, as will enable the Association to adopt such direct line, instead of that described in the Act.

James Johnson, George Kerr, and William Fraser, were appointed a Committee to draw up a Petition, predicated on the above Resolution, to be laid before the Legislature; the same to be presented for approval, at a public meeting to be convened for that purpose.

It was moved by Mr. John Macdougall, and seconded by Mr. George Johnston, and

Resolved, That J. M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., be appointed Honorary Secretary, with power to call meetings from time to time; and that he correspond with the company in Quebec on all matters likely to promote the interests of the Electric Telegraph, and also with the towns on the line of Telegraph, North and South.

It was agreed that the Adjourned Meeting should take place on MONDAY Evening next, at Seven o'clock, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, when the committee will submit the Petition for approval.

WEST INDIES.—The Halifax Sun says: Accounts received from the West Indies state that the Sugar crop in Barbadoes for 1849 will be an abundant one. The Indian Corn and Yam Crops, however, are unfavourable. The Yellow Fever rages at Barbadoes, chiefly among the troops. The number of deaths is said to be immense. Fifty cases were in hospital. All the Officers of the 66th regiment but three, were down with the disease. One, says the Globe of the 23d, was buried yesterday afternoon, and we hear two more will be buried this afternoon. The Yam crop at St. Vincent had entirely failed.

MOROCCO.—Late English papers report that Sir Charles Napier was expected to sail on the 16th December for the Mediterranean with his fleet, where he will be joined by the Polyphemus, in consequence of the daring piracies committed on the coast of Morocco, and the seizure of the British merchant vessel Three Sisters, recaptured by the Polyphemus. Sir Charles has been instructed to visit Tangier for the purpose of demanding satisfaction from the Emperor of Morocco.

CANADA.—The papers state that the works on the Railway to connect Montreal with Portland, in the state of Maine, is rapidly progressing. The following late intelligence is copied from the Quebec Gazette:

The first trip on this road, from the Saint Lawrence terminus, at Longueuil, to the village of Saint Hyacinthe, a distance of thirty miles, was to be made yesterday (the 26th December) when shareholders and representatives of the press were politely invited to accompany the Directors. From and after this day (the 27th) the road is to be open to the public, and parties will be permitted to store goods intended to go by this line, at the Longueuil terminus, free of charge. We congratulate the Canadian company on the success that has so far attended their enterprise. It was the intention of the Directors to celebrate the opening of the Railroad by a demonstration suitable to the importance of the undertaking; but in consequence of the advanced state the season, the celebration has been postponed to a more favorable opportunity.

The American company have been equally active and successful at their end of the road, as will be seen by the following extract:

"Portland, December 1.—This has been a proud day for Maine. To-day, for the first time, the Railroad cars have been run from the shores of the Casco to the Androscoggin, and Lewiston Falls is connected by Railroad with Portland Harbour. The Portland and Montreal Railroad is finished on its way towards the Saint Lawrence, 27½ miles, and at that point it branches, and another railroad takes up its line towards Waterville and Bangor.

At 11 o'clock this morning, a train, consisting of three broad gauge cars, left the depot, containing the Directors and Officers of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic railroad, and the members of the city government of Portland, and a number of invited guests, the whole constituting a party of about 300, for Danville and Lewiston Falls. The road has been run to North Yarmouth, a distance of twelve miles, and to-day has been opened 21½ further, a

distance of 33½ miles in all. From the point of embranchment in Danville, the Montreal Railway turns to the north-west, and is in rapid progress to Paris, 47 miles from Portland; the Androscoggin and Kenebec railroad turning to the east, passes to Lewiston Falls, thence to Waterville, on its way to Bangor, and is rapidly progressing as far as Waterville, 82 miles from Portland.

FREDERICTON.—The Reporter furnishes the pleasing intelligence that the Small Pox which has been raging in this city with some severity, was nearly extinct. There were no new cases reported, and the old ones were principally confined to the hospital.

SAINT JOHN.—The Morning News furnishes the following report of a most disgraceful scene which occurred in the City Council, while discussing the subject of a new Charter for the city:

The City Charter was the subject of debate in continuation from the former day. Assistant Keans was the first to address the Board, and supported the fundamental alterations in the Charter. He was followed by Assistant Haggerty, whose arguments were based chiefly upon the Charter as it at present stands. Assistant McAvity advocated reform. Alderman Bond next took the floor on the same side with Assistant Haggerty, but said more upon the principles of "protection" and "free trade" than upon the subject before the Board, giving his opinions directly in opposition to the free trader. The old Charter found more favour than opposition in this gentleman.

As soon as Alderman Bond had finished, he being the last speaker, the Mayor stated that there was a motion before the Board which only allowed a member to speak once upon the subject; whereupon Alderman Needham jumped up and stated that according to his original motion, he had a right to reply—which motion was to the effect that the Report of the Committee be adopted; and while Alderman Needham was yet speaking, the Mayor interrupted him as follows—

Mayor—I call you to order, Sir.

Needham—I'm in order, and you've no right, Sir, to call me to order unless I'm out of order.

Mayor, (in a tremendous passion)—I'll put you down.

Needham—Sir, you or no other man shall put me down, so long as I'm in order. (He then called upon the Clerk to read over the minutes, which he did, and Alderman Needham's motion appeared to be as it was stated by him.) Now, I'm in order Sir, and I shall proceed.

Mayor—I'll not submit to your dictation, (and jumping up) Officer Stockford, take Alderman Needham into custody. I'll dissolve the Council.

Needham—I defy you, or any other man in the city of St. John to take me into custody.

[Now there was a general shout throughout the room among the spectators, "Right Needham—right—hurra!"—and a clapping and stamping which were truly terrific to weak nerves; the Council were all on their feet at the same time, and it appeared at this moment as if the fate of the Charter was to be decided by physical, rather than mental force.]

Needham, (addressing himself to the Board) If you are men stay where you are, and I'll send for the Recorder to take the chair.

Ald. Vanborne—I move an adjournment, (which motion was seconded and carried amidst great sensation.)

Ald. Lockhart—I most solemnly protest against this motion, and this course of conduct. Assistant Keans—And so do I.

Needham, (addressing himself to the Mayor) I shall petition the Government for your removal Sir, (and turning to the people) will you assist me in this work?

The People—"We will—we will—yea—yea."

And thus ended the discussion of the City Charter in a most contemptible farce. The Council was adjourned, *sine die*.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The Lecture season of this Institution was opened on Thursday evening last. JAMES CAIE, Esq. delivered a most admirable address, which was listened to with marked attention throughout; and when he sat down the audience testified their satisfaction by loud acclamation. The number of persons present, we are sorry to say, was unusually small; this may be accounted for by the extreme severity of the weather. On Thursday evening next, John M. Johnson jun., Esq. will lecture.

FIRE.—The Dwelling House occupied by Mr. Donald M'Beath, at Black river, was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of Saturday, the 30th ult. Our readers will remember it was a cold boisterous night.

THE SEASON.—The weather during the week was extremely cold, but clear of storms, affording a striking contrast to the week preceding.

MORE SONS.—On Tuesday evening, the 3d inst., a Division of the Sons of Temperance was organized in Douglas-town, under the title of the Caledonian Division, No. 41, when the following were elected and installed as officers for the present term:—John Alexander, W.