

adaption, but all the arrangements of interior economy resulting from necessity of appropriating a certain space for steam-engines, and boilers and the requisite coal. If the calorific engines succeed, steam-engines, the vessels using them, become at once as much to the purpose of an old stage-coach with its four thorough-breds on a railroad.

WEDNESDAY'S MAIL.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SIR CHARLES LYELL.—This distinguished geologist left New-York last week, in the steamer for England, accompanied by Lady Lyell.

The object of this third visit of Sir Charles Lyell to America, was to deliver a second course of lectures at the Lowell Institute, Boston, and to examine some interesting localities in the north-eastern portion of America. It will be remembered, that Sir Charles and Lady Lyell were fellow passengers from England last summer, with Sir Edmund and Lady Head. On landing at Halifax, Lady Lyell accompanied our Lieutenant Governor and his lady, to Fredericton, while Sir Charles made a geological tour in Nova Scotia and this Province. From Halifax, he first proceeded to the coal mines at the South Joggins in Cumberland, for the purpose of making a close examination of the remarkably perfect coast section at that place, with the view of determining some important points in relation to the mode of formation of coal, and the fossil vegetation of the carboniferous period, upon which some difference of opinion has arisen among men of science. At the Joggins, Sir Charles spent four days, during which he was enabled to collect many new facts, eminently calculated to advance the progress of geological knowledge, and extend the reputation of these Provinces, as an interesting field for scientific enquiry. The discovery of several fossil reptiles in the fossil trees and vegetables at the Joggins, will not be among the least curious of the new facts to be presented with reference to that locality.

From the Joggins, Sir Charles proceeded to the mines at Hillsborough, on the Petitcodiac, solely however for scientific purposes, and without any intention of entering into the points in litigation between the parties interested in that valuable deposit. Thence he proceeded to Fredericton, and passing this City with Lady Lyell, went to Boston in the "Admiral."

In his lectures before the Lowell Institute, Sir Charles has taken occasion, frequently, to make favorable mention of the mineral wealth of New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia.

We observe that the American and other papers speak of Sir Charles, as *Professor Lyell*.—This is a mistake. Sir Charles is not connected with any collegiate or other institution. He is a gentleman of fortune, who devotes his time, his talents, and his means, to scientific pursuits, chiefly in connection with the "wonders of geology." His first visit to these Colonies was of immense service in clearing up some obscure points in their geology, and facilitating the labours of those engaged in studying their natural history. This last visit will doubtless be equally advantageous, and tend to advance us in the knowledge of our country, and its mineral resources.—*St. John New-Brunswicker*.

TRADE WITH ST. JOHN.—Only imagine five packets finding good employment in the packet trade between St. John and our country! Until this last year the trade hardly supported one packet.—*Charlotte Gazette*.

The Ground plan of the Catholic Cathedral was received a few days ago and submitted to the Building Committee at its last meeting. It is universally admired for its great beauty and of itself affords ample proof of the great professional talent of the Architect, Mr Anderson. The remaining plans, specifications, &c., it is expected will soon be received.—*St. John Freeman*.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—We regret to state, that the Coach with the Eastern Mail was upset last Wednesday afternoon, at Groom's Bridge, a few miles this side of Hampton Ferry. The driver, Crabbe, who is well known on this route, has received a very serious injury of the spine, and it is said he cannot recover. The coach was filled, inside and out, with youths from Sackville Academy, returning home for the Christmas holidays. None of those inside the coach were hurt, but two of those outside, Master David Travis, and Master Parker Tuck, both of Indian Town, are severely but not dangerously injured, and as yet are unable to be brought to their homes. We refrain from mentioning the alleged cause of the accident, as the matter will probably undergo investigation.

Steamer Baltic, Capt. Comstock, sailed from New York on Saturday for Liverpool with \$255,500 in specie (other accounts say half a million), and sixty one passengers, among the latter H. Tuckerman, Esq., bearer of despatches to London. In going down

the harbour in a thick fog got ashore near Governor's Island, when steamers Achilles and Ajax were sent to her assistance. She was got off without damage on Sunday morning, and proceeded on her voyage.

THE LAW COMMISSION.—A meeting of the Law Commission took place at Fredericton recently, and we understand the Commissioners are proceeding rapidly with their labours. It is expected that on the meeting of the Legislature, they will be prepared to submit their revision of the whole of the Statute Law of the Province. The simplification of our Laws has been long demanded, and we doubt not that the ability and carefulness displayed by the Law Commission, will cause their labours to be highly esteemed by the people of New Brunswick.—*St. John New Brunswicker*.

UNITED STATES.

HORRORS OF SLAVERY.—A German paper in New York publishes a letter from a correspondent in Georgia, in regard to the hanging of a negress in that State. "The master of the negress told her that he had sold her four children to a man to whom they were to be delivered next day. The purchaser was known through the neighbourhood as a tyrant and miser, who not only half starved his slaves, but beat them brutally at every opportunity. The mother, who tenderly loved her children, was overcome with grief at the thought of having them sold to such a monster. She begged her master on her knees to keep the children, or if they must be sold, to let them go to a more humane master. But all her efforts proved vain, and being driven to desperation, she, on the following night, murdered the children. This was the crime for which she was hung."

ALBANY, Dec. 13.—A seminary at Richmondville was destroyed by fire this morning. When the fire broke out there were upwards of 300 pupils in the building asleep. All escaped, however.

Silver change has become more scarce than ever throughout the United States.—Hotel keepers issue tickets representing fractional parts of a dollar, and on the Hudson River many of the merchants have issued shin plaster for the same purpose.

THE EARTHQUAKE.—The shock of an earthquake was felt here on Saturday evening week, at thirty-five minutes after eleven o'clock. The shock here was not severe. We were standing near a stove at the time, and did not perceive any jar, but only heard a sound as of a carriage passing over hard ground, and was not satisfied but that it arose from some such cause, until on going to the door we still heard the noise rumbling off in the distance in a westerly direction, and no apparent cause visible. The night was clear, the moon bright, and the air still.—*Portsmouth, (U. S.) Journal*.

From the correspondent of the Portland Watchman.—The Rev. J. C. Lovejoy has taken the stump against the (Liquor) Law, and report says he receives the handsome sum of \$30 a lecture,—*thirty pieces of Silver!* Pretty good pay; whether he will make the same use of the money that his distinguished prototype did, remains to be seen.

Capital, hit him again. We very much fear that this thirty pieces would go a short way towards buying a field large enough to bury the victim of the trade he defends. It is to be hoped, however, that he will limit his discipleship to receiving the money, for the hanging part of the business is behind the times.

CALIFORNIA.

The fire at Sacramento and loss of over ten millions is confirmed. Contributions were opened in the principal towns. San Francisco raised in ten days \$30,000.

The loss of Marysville is estimated at \$100,000. The loss of San Francisco was not over \$100,000—small amount in goods.

Eight or ten lives were lost by the Sacramento fire;—1,600 buildings were burnt. The wind was blowing a gale at the time, and the fire spread with fearful rapidity. Every public building in the city except the court house, was burnt. Three hundred and fifty buildings, many of them being brick, were erected within nine days, and hundreds of others were rapidly going up.

A rumour was current that a sick lady was consumed in the Crescent City Hotel.

A gambler named Dart had a rencontre with pistols in front of the ruins of the El Dorado on the 15th, and shot a man named Haney, dead.

A villain was shot dead on 9th street, on Tuesday evening, in the attempt to fire a building.

Fires had occurred at Stockton and Sonora under suspicious circumstances.

P. E. ISLAND.

Dr McGregor who left P. E. Island in the fall of 1851 for California, where he arrived safely, it appears from Island papers has been murdered at Sonora.

"On the night of the 20th September,"

says Hazard's Gazette, "he was induced to leave his home, in consequence of a requisition from three persons, calling on him to visit a woman sick in the city. After having gone some short distance from his home in an alley, he received a wound by a stab in the breast, which must have caused instant death. The body was found the next morning. The perpetrators of this brutal murder, and the inducement to commit it, are unknown; but it was conjectured, that jealousy at Dr. McGregor's having obtained the situation of Medical Attendant to the Hospital, led to the commission of the crime."

"Dr. McGregor was well known and much respected on the Island. He had been a member of the Provincial Parliament. As a medical man, he gave much of his time and services gratuitously."

CANADA.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—The rumour of Mr. Hincks being on the point of retiring from the political arena, has been again revived, and is this time very generally believed to be correct. It is stated that the Hon. Inspector-General will be at once appointed managing director of the Grand Trunk Railway, with an allowance of some two thousand per annum.

The withdrawal of Mr. Hincks from the Administration will undoubtedly be followed by a reconstruction of the Cabinet.

The persevering activity of Mr. Hincks as a politician is at length, it seems, to receive its reward in the respectable competence of private life. Ever since Mr. Hincks has been in the present cabinet, even his opponents has given him credit for the gift of keen calculation, his exit will by no means diminish this prevailing impression.—*Quebec Mercury*.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1852

THE FISHERIES.

This is a subject which is deservedly claiming a large share of the attention of the Colonies. It appears that the inhabitants of St. John are taking alarm at the tone of the Ministerial remarks in Parliament, as well as those expressed by the President in his Message to Congress.

The Courier of Saturday contains the following Requisition to the High Sheriff, who has called a meeting on Thursday, the 23rd instant:

We the undersigned, inhabitants of the City and County of St. John, having learned from the speech of Her Most Gracious Majesty, at the opening of the Imperial Parliament, that negotiations are now pending between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States, respecting the North American Fisheries, and looking upon any arrangements made concerning them to be of vast importance to this Colony for all time to come—

We therefore request that you will be pleased to call a Public Meeting of the inhabitants of this City and County, at an early day, to consider the propriety of memorialising Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and to protest against any negotiations being completed with the United States without concurrence and approval of the Colonies.

We have no doubt the people on the other side of the Province, are somewhat astonished at the apparent apathy which the inhabitants of the North-eastern Counties have manifested on this subject.—They should have been up and doing long ere this, and we hope they will no longer delay in informing the Government at home, of the large stake they too have in the valuable Fisheries of the Gulf.

The following sensible remarks on this subject we clip from the Fredericton Reporter of Friday:

Monday next is the day appointed for the discussion of the Reciprocity question in the American House of Representatives. The Executive Council here has also been in session for a considerable time, and no doubt they are engaged on the same subject with reference to the Fisheries. We would beg leave to remind the Government, that reciprocal trade is one thing—the ownership of the Fisheries another; and if we are to purchase reciprocity by the giving away our best raw material—our *bona fide* property—then indeed we pay dearly for our whistle. The Fisheries are as much ours by every legal and moral right as are our Crown lands and minerals; and we know no reason why we should be called upon to sacrifice either for the mere permission to trade with the Americans; but should we be called upon to make such a dear bargain, henceforth let no person of mature age call the arrangement *reciprocal free Trade*.

ST. JOHN.—The New Brunswicker in an article on "City Affairs," furnishes the following unsatisfactory account of the [fi-

nanacial affairs of the corporation, and suggests some measures for their relief:

There are certain things quite clear and indisputable, namely; that the City owes a debt amounting to more than £120,000;—that the City is bound to pay six per cent interest on this debt, but is unable to pay more than five per cent;—that the debt is therefore increasing year by year;—that a Chancery suit is pending between the citizens of Carleton, and the citizens on the opposite side of the harbour, which has been carried on vigorously for several years, at a monstrous expense, and is still going on without limit as to cost, and with no prospect of its termination by "due course of law."

POST OFFICE, CANADA.—We obtained the following Communication on Wednesday, from the Postmaster at Cross Point.

CROSS POINT POST OFFICE, CANADA, 13th December, 1852.

Sir,—I notice in the Gleaner of the 4th instant, the following remarks under the "Editorial Department" viz: "We receive frequent complaints of irregularity in the receipt of the Gleaner by Subscribers residing on the Canada side of the Bay Chaleur, they are traced to the frontier office of Canada and then disappear. There are some matters in this department requiring adjustment."

The Post Office at Cross Point, being the office in the District of Gaspé, Canada, where the Mails from New Brunswick are received, is understood to be the "frontier office of Canada," pointed out by you in the Gleaner of the said 4th December, instant, as recited above.

Now, Sir, as Post Master of the Cross Point Post Office, I deny the correctness of your charge against that office, as contained in the above recited sentence; and I call on you to produce the evidence or proof on which you have preferred the said charge of irregularity, &c., &c.

I am Sir, your most obedient Servant,

J. FRANK.

J. A. Pierce, Esq., Editor of the Gleaner.

We are at a loss to comprehend how the Postmaster at Cross Point, puts the construction he does, on our remarks. We do not say, neither do we wish it to be understood, that all or any of the irregularities, occur at his office; all we wish to say is, that it is on the Canada side, and not in New Brunswick, where our papers go astray, but how, or in what office, we are not prepared to say.

Since we penned that paragraph, a correspondent at New Carlisle has written to us, complaining of the irregular manner in which the Gleaner is received; and a gentleman residing at Paspélinac, a short time since, wished us to call the attention of the Post Office authorities to the same matter. It is far from our desire to saddle any functionary with a neglect of duty, or to charge him with malpractices in his office, for we know from long experience, how difficult a task it is to give general satisfaction to the public; but when our subscribers do not receive their papers regularly, they have a right to complain, and it is our duty as well as interest, to notice the complaint; so that it may be removed.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.—A Correspondent in this County writes us to say, that the new Bark Mermaid proceeded to sea on the 6th inst. This fine vessel was built by J. Woolner, Esq., at his yard at Medisco, in this County, and was launched on the 15th November last. She is clipper built, copper fastened, of the burthen of 600 tons, and is reported to be a very substantial and superior built vessel.

DOMESTIC NEWS.—The Lecture season at the Mechanics' Institute in Chatham, commenced on Thursday evening last, when John M. Johnson, Jun. Esq., addressed the audience. The Institute at Douglastown opens on Monday evening, and the one at Newcastle on the Friday following. James Cate, Esq. delivers the first Lecture at both these places.

We have had a full share of cold, frosty weather during the week; and considerable snow fell on Thursday night and yesterday.

P. E. ISLAND.—Hazard's Gazette of the 14th instant contains a long editorial on the prosperous state of this Island, from which we clip the following extract relative to the improvements in Charlottetown:

The state of the metropolis of a country so peculiarly constituted as is the Island, will afford abundant proof of its prosperity, or the reverse. And it is with pride that we look on the improved state of the stores, the cheapness and the great variety of articles now exposed for sale;—nay, we hail the plate glass windows as evidences of the Colony having got over the state of infancy which, in common with all the other old northern Colonies of America, it was necessary to surmount, before anything vigorous could be attempted. It is true, that this period has been with us more protracted than with our neighbours; and when we get a set of men into the Administration who have not and will not pledge themselves to become bondsmen to the absent proprietors,