

Communications.

Mr. PIERCE, Editor and Proprietor of the Gleaner,

SIR,

The Hon. Elizabeth St. Leger, was the only female who was ever initiated into the ancient mystery of Freemasonry. How she obtained this honor I shall lay before your readers, having obtained the only genuine information lately from the best sources.

Lord Doneraile, Miss St. Leger's father, a very zealous mason, held a warrant, and occasionally opened Lodge at Doneraile House, his sons and some intimate friends assisting; and it is said that never were the masonic duties more rigidly performed than by the brethren of No. 150, the number of their warrant.

It appears that previous to the initiation of a gentleman to the first steps of masonry, Miss St. Leger, who was a young girl, happened to be in an apartment adjoining the room generally used as a lodge room; but whether the young lady was there by design or accident, cannot confidently be stated. This room at the time, was undergoing some alteration, amongst other things the wall was considerably reduced in one part, for the purpose of making a saloon.

The young lady having heard the voices of the Freemasons, and prompted by the curiosity natural to all, to see this Mystery so long and so secretly locked up from view, she had the courage to pick a brick from the wall with her scissors, and witnessed the ceremony through the first two steps. Curiosity gratified, fear at once took possession of her mind; and these who understand this passage will know what the feelings of any person must be who could unlawfully behold that ceremony. Let them then judge what the feelings of a young girl under such extraordinary circumstances.

Here was no mode of escape except through the very room where the concluding part of the second step was still being solemnised; and that being at the far end, and the room a very large one, she had resolution sufficient to attempt her escape that way, and with light but trembling steps glided along unobserved, laid her hand on the handle of the door, and gently opened it, before her stood, to her dismay, a grim sturdy tiler, with his long sword unheathed.

A shriek that pierced through the apartment, alarmed the members of the Lodge, who all rushing to the door, and finding that Miss St. Leger had been in the room during the ceremony. In the first paroxysm of their rage, it is said, her death was resolved upon; but from the moving and earnest supplication of her younger brother, her life was spared on condition of her going through the two steps of the solemn ceremony she had unlawfully witnessed.

This she consented to do, and they conducted the beautiful and terrified young lady through those trials which are sometimes more than enough for masculine resolution, little thinking they were taking into the bosom of their craft a member that would afterwards reflect lustre on the annals of masonry.

Miss St. Leger was directly descended from Sir Robert De St. Leger, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England, and was of that high repute, that he, with his own hand, supported that prince when he first went out of his ship to land in Sussex.

Miss St. Leger was cousin to Sir Anthony St. Leger, Governor of St. Lucia, who instituted the interesting race, and the celebrated Doncaster St. Leger Stakes.

Miss St. Leger married Richard Aldworth, Esq., of Newmarket, a member of a highly honourable and ancient family, long celebrated for their hospitality and other virtues. Whenever a benefit was given in the theatres of Dublin or Cork, for the masonic Orphan Asylum, she walked at the head of the Freemasons, with her apron and other insignia of Freemasonry, and sat in the front row of the stage box. The House was always crowded on those occasions. The portrait of this estimable woman is in the Lodge room of almost every Lodge in Ireland.

DAVID P. HORNE.

Miramichi, October 15, 1854.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

The business heretofore carried on by the Subscriber, on the Richibucto River, under the style of Hector McDonald & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, all persons having claims against the said firm, will present the same for payment to Mr. McDonald, and those indebted to them will make immediate payment to him, as he is authorised to settle and receive all accounts due by or to the said concern.

HECTOR McDONALD,
JAMES CAMERON.

Richibucto, 16th September, 1854.

NOTICE.

The Co-Partnership existing between the Subscribers under the firm of GOODFELLOWS & MALBY, was this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons having demands against the firm will render their accounts for payment to Alexander and David Goodfellow, and all persons indebted to the firm will make payment to them, as by the terms of dissolution they are to receive and pay all debts to or by the partnership.

ALEXANDER GOODFELLOW,
DAVID GOODFELLOW,
JOHN MALBY.

Miramichi, 11th October, 1854.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s 6d in advance, or 17s 6d at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

V. B. PALMER, the American Newspaper Agent is the only authorized Agent for this paper, in the Cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the same rates as required by us. His receipts will be regarded as payments. His Office is—

BOSTON.—Scollay's Building.
NEW YORK.—Tribune Building.
PHILADELPHIA.—N. W. Cor. Third & Chestnut Streets.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pill and Ointment Establishment, 244, Strand, London, where advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

UNITED STATES.

THERE is much uneasiness and considerable depression among commercial men in the United States, the effect of over trading and speculation. We are indebted to the New Brunswick for the following remarks on the subject:—

"We learn from the American papers, that business is in a very depressed state in the United States, and money very tight. The imports are falling off rapidly, especially of Dry Goods. The Boston Post says that failures continue to occur, and the 'weak spots' of necessity must be less and less numerous. Diminished imports, mercantile failures and business contractions of all kinds, must work us out of our monetary troubles; but for the moment it must be owned that the money market is in a blue condition. Specie is going out from New York with some rapidity though not in larger amounts than were anticipated. Last week's export was \$1,240,148. The New York banks, therefore are again contracting, and money is altogether tighter in New York than it was a week ago. The very best paper is not taken below 12 per cent., and good names go at 15. The Wall Street people, however, seem to be easy enough, and loans on call are readily obtained at low rates, if the security be unexceptionable.

"In Boston there has been a little easier feeling since Thursday, but money is yet very scarce, and paper sells at high rates, especially when the names are often seen in the street, or are held by New York owners. Nothing has been done recently, we suspect, below 12 per cent. and a commission, and we hear of particular notes of houses interested in navigation, selling at 15 and 18 per cent. on New York account. Still, the market is not so nervous and active as it was. The demand is less feverish and pressing, and the banks are doing somewhat more than they have done, for a fortnight. A duller and slightly easier state of the market may be anticipated, as October goes on, but as long as the large specie shipments continue, no considerable relief can be expected. Those who live by borrowing will have a hard life of it. Business is from fair to very good and the country trade pays up pretty well. Nevertheless, money is tight among dealers of all sorts.

"The New York Shipping List states, as an illustration of the depressed condition of the carrying trade, that a merchant extensively engaged in the shipping business states, that he has just had a first class ship offered to him for twelve months' voyage GRATIS—nothing being required by the owner but a guarantee that the vessel should be returned to him at the expiration of that period, in as good condition as when she was taken. It is alleged that the rates now current are scarcely sufficient to pay the expenses of sailing the vessel."

The New York Herald furnishes the following contrast of the state of affairs in the United States and Great Britain. The picture is not very flattering to the former.

"A singular contrast in truth between the continent of Europe, plunged as it is in war, and that of America, reposing calmly in peace. A striking refutation of the old theory of prosperity. Europe went to war under very trying circumstance. Bread was dear, and famine had already made its appearance on the continent. Discontent and apprehension clouded the horizon. But the first gun was no sooner fired than gloomy prospects disappeared. The necessities of life were cheapened: trade flourished; no monetary difficulties occurred: the people forgot party and national rivalries and grew loyal; the funds rose; and outwardly, everything flourished. On the other hand the news of war came upon us in the midst of an overflowing tide of prosperity, which foreign disputes, it was said, were sure to enhance. A few months have passed, and we have been visited in turn by all the calamities the direst war could have inflicted. Our crops are straitened. Our commercial

world is threatened with the want of means to pay for our exports. Our financial credit is shaken by stupendous frauds. Our securities, one after another have fallen in price; bankruptcy staring our greatest enterprises in the face. The necessities of life have risen. Cholera has terrified us; and when it disappears the yellow fever takes its place. Tornadoes spread destruction and dismay at the west. A general distrust of the future paralyzes every mind.—What war could be worse than this?"

CANADA LUMBER TRADE.

It will be seen by the annexed paragraph copied from the Quebec Chronicle, that the Lumbermen in Canada have come to the sensible resolution of curtailing their business the approaching winter. The same class of operatives in New Brunswick would display their wisdom by adopting a similar judicious course.

"The Ottawa Citizen is informed that lumbering operations will not be carried on upon so large a scale during the approaching season as usual. Several of the largest firms have resolved to curtail their business, and it is supposed that some others will follow in their wake. The reasons are very probably the prospects of low prices next year; and perhaps the fact that there are now from three to four millions of feet ready made and laid up awaiting the opening of the market, to be added to the stock in Quebec, may have some effect."

SEVERE GALES.

It appears that from the 6th to the 13th inst., tremendous gales and hurricanes were experienced on the Atlantic. From the 6th to the 9th they raged in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coast of the Southern States, and then swept towards Europe. The American papers contain long lists of shipwrecks and all kinds of marine disasters caused by the fury of the gales. The steamship Atlantic, which arrived at New York on the 19th from Liverpool, had a tremendous hurricane from 10th to 13th, and starboard paddle-box, cut-water &c., carried away. In three days she made 115 miles.

AMHERST FEMALE ACADEMY.

THE following highly favourable notice of the above-named establishment, which has been advertised in our columns for some weeks past, is copied from a late number of the Halifax Church Times.

"We call the attention of our readers to the new advertisement in our columns, respecting the excellent Seminary of Mrs. Ratchford and Miss Yates, which has for several years been in successful operation at Amherst. During our late visit in that quarter we were favored with a transient look at the Establishment, and were much pleased with all we saw, and on every side we heard satisfactory evidence of the character of the Institution. The pupils appeared to be very contented, and seemed as one happy family affectionately attached to their head.—We cordially wish success to the Institution."

CATTLE SHOW,

AT KINGSTON, RICHIBUCTO.

THE Annual Show of the Kingston, (Kent) Agricultural Society, was held on the 28th ult., upon the premises of John W. Holderness, Esq., Kingston.

The quantity of stock shown was not large, the quality, however, was excellent; and, in this aspect, the show afforded pleasing evidence that the indifference which has too long prevailed in regard to the improvement of stock, is now giving way to a better and wiser spirit.

The premiums were awarded as follows:

HORSES.

For the best Brood Mare, Mr. Anthony McNarin, Galloway, £1 0 0
For the best Colt, foaled in 1854, do., do., 10 0
For the best two year old Colt, Mr. James Girvan, do., 15 0
For the best Year old Colt, Mr. John Clark, St. Nicholas River, 12 6

CATTLE.

Best Cow, Mr. William Scott, Galloway, 12 6
Second Best do., John Carruthers, Main River, 10 0
Best Heifer, two years old, do. do., 10 0
Second best do., do., Hon. D. Wark, Richibucto, 7 6
Best Heifer, one year old, Mr. John Carruthers, Main River, 7 6
Second best do., do., James Girvan, Galloway, 5 0
Best Heifer Calf, Hon. D. Wark, Richibucto, 7 6
Second best do., J. W. Holderness, Esq., Kingston, 5 0
Best Bull, three years old, Hon. D. Wark, Richibucto, 15 0
Second best do., Mr. Thomas Girvan, Galloway, 10 0

Best Bull, two years old, Mr. Andrew Dixon, Main River, 12 6
Best Bull, one year old, do. do., 7 6
Best Bull calf, Mr. John Glendenning, Galloway, 5 0

SHEEP.

Best Ewe, Mr. John Carruthers, Main River, 7 6
Second best do., Robert Lawson, do., 5 0
Best Ram, Mr. John Carruthers, do., 7 6
Best Ewe Lamb, Mr. Alexander Robertson, St. Nicholas River, 5 0
Best Ram Lamb, Samuel Girvan, Galloway, 5 0

HOGS.

Best Brood Sow, Mr. James Girvan, Galloway, 7 6
Second best do., J. W. Holderness, Esq., Kingston, 5 0

A Ploughing Match was held at the same time and place, under the auspices of the Society, but open to public competition. Only three candidates appeared, and the following premiums were awarded them:

First Prize, Mr. Thomas Dixon, Main River, £1 10 0
Second best do., John Smith, Jr., Kingston, 1 6 0
Third best do., James Coil, St. Nicholas River, 1 0 0

JUDGES.—Messrs. David Wright, John Power, and James Graham.

JOHN BRAIT.

Secretary K. R. Agricultural Society.

THE ARCTIC STEAMER.

WE have devoted considerable space to the particulars of the melancholy loss of this steamer. A telegraph report received at St. John, states, that Captain Luce was saved, with several passengers by the ship Cambria, from Glasgow and taken to Quebec. His son was unfortunately killed. The following is the Captain's statement of his miraculous escape.

"When Capt. Luce felt that the Arctic must go down, he with the passengers (for all the seamen had gone in the life boats, the second officer excepted,) lost no time in lashing spars together to form a raft. Only one life-boat was left, and to construct the raft it was necessary to get this into the water; but the oars were left in the Arctic to prevent its being carried away. Capt. Luce helped to get the women and children in the remaining boat, but the alarm was given that the ship was sinking when the life-boat was taken off hurriedly without oars or anything else to help themselves with. When the boat had got off about an eighth of a mile the Arctic sunk. This was about a quarter to 5 P. M. Capt. Luce took farewell of Mrs. Collins, son and daughter just as the ship was going down. He found himself soon after on the surface with his own child in his arms, but found himself immediately impelled downwards. When he reached the surface a second time, he was so exhausted that he almost gave up all hope, and nearly lost the grasp of his child. Immediately after a large piece of paddle box came up beside him with awful force grazing his head and struck with all force on the breast of his dear child. In a moment after he saw his child a corpse on the water. Capt. Luce, with eleven others, got on the top of this piece of the paddle-box, but finding it to sink some of them got on another piece of wreck. They were up to their necks in the water and suffered severely from cold. They were in this position about 50 hours. On the morning of the 29th, at daybreak, they saw the light of a vessel, and summoned up all their remaining strength to hail her. The mist had not cleared off and they were not noticed. Early on the same day the mist cleared quickly away, and they saw a vessel far away. This vessel proved to be the Cambria, bound from Glasgow to Montreal. The mate of the Cambria, at a little distance from his vessel saw a man on a raft and plunged overboard with a rope to the man, who was Frenchman, and had come alone. He gave an account of the wreck, and after 5 o'clock that afternoon, Capt. Luce and his party were taken on board of the Cambria.

"Of the party who arrived here, J. F. Allan, of the Novelty Works, New York; Mr. Smith of Jackson County; and a young German, named Ferdinand Hayes, were passengers by the Arctic. The others belonged to the French steamer."

The New York Journals report that the Arctic was built in New York in 1850, by Wm. H. Brown, and was considered as staunch a vessel as was ever constructed. She measured 3,500 tons register, and cost \$700,000. The ship and machinery were insured for \$540,000 by various American Insurance Companies, and it was understood that they were also insured in England, but to what amount is not generally known. The cargo was insured for over \$300,000, principally in Wall Street.

"The cargo of the Arctic amounted to about 150 tons of costly dry goods and French goods, together with jewelry.

"The Arctic was insured in England for £60,000, and in this country for \$310,000—making a total of \$600,000—the valuation of the ship. She was provided with boats sufficient for 500 persons."