

News of the Week.

UNITED STATES.

Terrible Conflagration.—The Steamboats Geo. Collier and Mayflower, were burnt on the 7th inst., near St. Louis, involving a loss of ten or twelve lives and \$250,000. We extract the following from the Memphis Daily Whig of the 7th inst.:

"The most mournful part of the disaster is the fact that some ten or twelve human lives are supposed to be lost, some of them by being burned and others by being drowned after jumping into the river. The George Collier had some forty cabin passengers, most of whom were asleep in their rooms, and in the hurry and confusion of the moment, hardly knew what they were about. Several of those who were saved are considerably injured from jumping off the boat. Many of the saved were taken to the Gayoso in their night clothes, where they were kindly provided for by the gentlemanly proprietors.

All the officers of the George Collier were saved, but neither passengers or officers saved any of their baggage—nothing but what they had on. Mr. Lackland, the first clerk, went to the safe when the alarm was first given, and took out the money and valuable packages, but lost a bag of gold and the letters while endeavouring to save the ladies. The books and papers of both the Collier and the Mayflower were lost, and but few of the officers on the latter boat saved anything except what they had on.

Amid the confusion and intense excitement last night, we were unable to get a list of those who were lost, or the names of any of them. Some five or six of the passengers, and two or three of the cabin boys of the Collier are known to be lost, and the assistant barkeeper and chambermaid of the Mayflower were missing.

The entire loss is estimated at not less than \$250,000. The Collier was valued at \$35,000, and insured for \$15,000. The Mayflower cost fully \$100,000, and was insured for about \$50,000. Wharf boat Mary Hart was valued at \$15,000, and Messrs. Duval, Algeo & Co., had a stock of goods amounting to some \$20,000 and had insured only \$15,000. A large portion of the insurance will fall upon offices at St. Louis, New Orleans, and elsewhere, and yet it is probable that the offices here will suffer materially on the cargo of the Collier.

The Grain Tide Turned.—The St. Louis Intelligence of the 12th inst. says:

"There hasn't been a day since the opening of navigation last spring, on which receipts of grain were as heavy as yesterday. The tow boats Alaquippa and Fayway came in from the Illinois river, having in tow 16 canal boats, 15 of them were loaded with grain in bulk, and the other with lumber. The 16 boats spoken of contained in the aggregate 73,568 bushels of grain. This grain is all from Chicago direct, and is put in sacks, and discharged on the landing. The Rochester Tribune says the cost of wheat now held by millers in that city, (in store and in transit,) is over \$1,000,000, and that the profits of the milling business for the past season already exceeds \$50,000."

NOVA SCOTIA.

The H. M. S. America, on her passage from Boston for Halifax and Liverpool, G. B., had one hundred and twenty-eight passengers, and three hundred and eight thousand one hundred and forty-nine dollars.—*Halifax Sun.*

Mr. Grinnell.—The New York Observer says: "Henry Grinnell, who fitted out the several Arctic expeditions from this country in quest of Sir John Franklin, expended in those enterprises about ten thousand dollars, the Government assuming the rest of the expense. The house of which he is a member, Grinnell, McInturn & Co., will clear the present season, three quarters of a million of dollars upon orders from the British Government for grain,—orders sent to that house by reason of Mr. Grinnell's connection with it."

Thus this merchant of princely benevolence, is finding the bread which he cast upon the waters, even before we might fairly say that many days had passed since his act of noble disinterestedness. The following beautiful sentiment, from a letter of the late Amos Lawrence, is in point here:—

"The good there is in riches lieth altogether in their use, like the woman's box of ointment; if it be not broken and the contents poured out for the refreshment of Jesus Christ in his distressed members, they lose their worth; the covetous man may therefore truly write upon his rusting heap, 'These are good for nothing.' He is not rich who lays up much, but he who lays out much; for it is all one, not to have, as not to use."—*Yarmouth Tribune.*

CANADA.

From the Quebec Morning Chronicle.

THE INTER-COLONIAL RAILWAY.

Sir,—As it is not my purpose to enter into any controversy, or to wound the feelings of any one, I will forbear discussing the reasons for which the Quebec and Halifax Railway has not been commenced. It must be evident to all, that the Grand Trunk will not be carried much beyond St. Thomas, and I would ask whether the present be not a desirable time for examining the advantages that would accrue, as well to the three Provinces as to the Imperial Government, if the undertaking of an Inter-Colonial Railway were decided on. No one who has read the elaborate report of old Col. Robinson can, for a moment, entertain a doubt

on the subject; and if I do not make any extracts from this well matured document, it is because I wish to keep the letter within bounds. A commencement has, however, been made in the right direction, by the Grand Trunk, and any one who has read the speech of Mr. Botsford, delivered at the entertainment given by Mr. Reekie, on the occasion of the line being opened to St. Thomas, must feel satisfied New Brunswick is ready for immediate and zealous co-operation. Arrangements, no doubt, of the most satisfactory kind, could be entered into with the Grand Trunk, for the joint and harmonious working of the two Roads, as the Inter-Colonial Railway will, in other respects, be entirely separate from the Grand Trunk. The distance from St. Thomas to Halifax is 600 miles, of which

124 miles are in Nova Scotia.
234 " " New Brunswick.
242 " " Canada.

And estimating the cost (the country being generally level,) at £7,000, the amount named by Col. Robinson, and allowing £200,000 for contingencies, the cost, in round numbers, may be called at one and a half million for each of the three Provinces. New Brunswick and Canada are much on a par as to the mileage, but it is evident that Nova Scotia will reap more than double the advantages of either, being, in fact, the terminus of the whole.—When money becomes more abundant in England, I have little doubt that it can be raised at 3 1-2 per cent. if the Imperial Government will guarantee the interest on the bonds to be issued by the Inter-Colonial Railway, and which would carry, as well, the liability of the Provinces jointly, each agreeing to make good its third of any annual deficiency which, for a few years, might, exist; although, looking to the coal fields of Nova Scotia and the boundless fisheries of the Gulf, I think the Road would soon be a paying one. As a Provincial undertaking, it is, however, of paramount importance, and, as Col. Robinson remarks, that the expenses of a war would be wonderfully increased, if we have no Railway, the Imperial Government will do well to weigh seriously the many arguments advanced in favor of it by the Colonel, and which, at the present moment, are most significant. In fact, till this Road shall have been built, England can never count, in winter, on a sure and ready access to all parts of her possessions in North America. To Canada, embarked as she now is in the welfare of the Grand Trunk, such an element of traffic is too plain to require any argument. Many contend that, in winter, the snow will be an obstacle; but, last year, I satisfied myself, when I saw the snow at the White Mountains equal in depth to what it was in this neighbourhood, that, with wider cuttings, to enable the snow plough to be used freely, nothing need be apprehended on this score. I must apologise for obtruding these letters on the public, but they are written in the hope that they may draw attention to matters of great import to the public welfare of these fine Provinces. I am, your obedient servant,

J. B. FORSYTH.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Melancholy Accident.—On Saturday afternoon last, while Mr. Charles Alline and Mr. Dakin, builders, were engaged in adjusting a skylight on the roof of an unfinished building, on Waterloo street, the bracket or support on which their feet rested gave way, and they were precipitated to the ground, falling about thirty feet. The injuries received by Mr. Dakin are dreadfully severe. Some of his limbs are broken, and a small hatchet which he held in his hand at the time of his fall, penetrated his side, immediately above the hip, inflicting a ghastly wound. It is the opinion of his medical attendant that he cannot survive. Mr. Alline although seriously, is not dangerously hurt. In falling he came in contact with a projecting board, which was shattered in pieces by the collision; this relieved his fall somewhat. When taken up he was perfectly insensible, and it was many hours before consciousness was restored. Mr. A.'s face is fearfully contused and disfigured.

On Friday night last, at 12 o'clock, a fire broke out in a large barn in rear of the Yorkshire Tavern, Carleton. There being a strong wind from the South-west at the time. The flames were communicated to the Bowling Alley, which was speedily consumed. The main building was saved by great exertions. There were consumed in the barn, four horses, three of which belonged to Mr. Nason, the tenant of the Yorkshire Tavern, and one to Mr. Plummer, two cows and two pigs. The buildings belonged to J. D. Lewin, Esq., and were partially insured. There was no insurance on the stock, the loss of which at this season of the year, must fall very heavy on Mr. Nason. It is not known exactly how the fire originated, but there are strong suspicions that it was the work of an incendiary.

The Mild Weather of the present season is a subject of general remark, and as an evidence of its extreme mildness, the Yarmouth (Nova Scotia) Herald of Thursday last states that Mr. Levi Wyman while ploughing in his field on the 3rd inst., found dandelions and buttercups in bloom—and, what is still more remarkable, saw a butterfly, which he endeavoured to capture, but it was too nimble for him, and escaped "on the wing."—*St. John's Courier.*

Fatal Occurrence.—Three young men who were lumbering on the border of the Nashwaakias stream, a few miles from this city, came to their end within the last few days in a storm awful manner. They had been for two or three days without any communication with their friends, when a horse in their employment

breaking loose, and coming out of the woods, excited suspicion. An immediate investigation followed, when their remains were found in the camp, the roof of which had taken fire and fallen upon them as they lay asleep. The inference is that they were suffocated before the fire reached them; but some rumours have been afloat respecting a track, which, it is said, has been traced in the light snow to the camp, and thence again in its own single foot-prints to another part of the settlement.

The names of the parties, were Frederic Williams, Alberi Grant, and—Hawkins.—They were all respectable young men; and one of them leaves a wife and child to lament this most painful bereavement.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

The Bazaar.—The Grand Bazaar at the Cathedral has proved as we anticipated, another great success, greater indeed in some respects than even the most sanguine could have anticipated. If there is any fault to be found it is that the ladies in their desire to excel have prepared too many articles of a valuable and expensive kind. Of the beauty, the richness, and the great value of the numberless articles exposed for sale, no description can convey any correct idea. The tables are over 300 feet in length, and are, or rather were, actually crowded with articles, rich, and rare, and beautiful.

One peculiarity of this Bazaar is worthy of notice, and it is that the rich embroidery, &c., is sold for little more than the cost of the material, "the market" being so overstocked that it would be useless to expect for these the usual extravagant prices paid at Fancy Fairs. At the head are the tables on which is exhibited the work from the school of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart and the school of the Immaculate Conception, presided over by the Sisters of Charity.

The Cathedral, is now in a very forward state is beautifully lit for the occasion with about 100 gas jets, elegantly arranged so as to diffuse a brilliant light all over the building; and jets at each end forming a cross. The appearance of the building itself, as well as the display on the tables, elicits the admiration of every visitor, and it is a remark constantly made, and on all sides, that the Catholics of St. John have just cause to be proud of having erected, in so short a time, so noble a structure.—*Freeman.*

EUROPE.

RUSSIAN OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.—Telegrams from Marseilles, of the 4th, received from the East per the Euphrates, state that Admiral Lyons' fleet continued to cruise close to the coast of the Crimea, in order to keep an incessant look-out upon the Point of Kertch, against which the Russians seemed to be preparing an attack to be effected during the winter.

The Russians were also foraging at Arbat, and concentrating in its neighbourhood about 30,000 men; whilst at the same time a corps of 15,000 men was directed on Genitchi. The movements were being undertaken with the object of re-establishing the communication between the Russian territory and main army under Prince Gortschakoff by the narrow slip of land between Arbat and Genitchi. The cannon of the Allies, however, both of the steam frigates and the floating batteries, would effectually command the entire length of the route, should they not be prevented from maintaining their position by the freezing of the Sea of Azoff.

MOVEMENTS OF OMAR PACHA.—The Monitor states that Omar Pacha was at Suggidi on the 13th ultimo, waiting for supplies before proceeding. Suggidi is only six miles beyond the Ingour. He has established communications with Redoubt Kale. A portion of his troops were marching on Kutais. A battle was expected half way on the road to the latter town.

Theatricals in the Crimea.—We hear that several of the regiments in the Crimea have written to London agents, to send out immediately books of plays and materials for decorating. This indicates that our brave fellows intend to make themselves happy during the approaching winter, to make amends for the wretchedness of the past. The Zouaves set the example some months since, and caused immense amusement by their performances.

Plum Puddings for the Crimea.—We understand that Mr Robert Feast has prepared and shipped, partly by the Ospray, and the remainder by other vessels, some 2,000 plum puddings for the army in the East, the whole of which will have ample time to arrive before Christmas.

Naval and Military Commands.—It is understood that the late visit of the Duke of Cambridge to Paris was principally in the nature of a military mission. Numerous communications have recently passed between the two governments on the subject of the naval and military commands. Our ally urges very forcibly the necessity of instituting an undivided command of the military forces in the Crimea, and, on the ground of the immense preponderance of the French army, proposes that a distinguished French officer should be appointed generalissimo. The Emperor on this condition is quite prepared to transfer the French fleets in the Black Sea and the Baltic to the command of British admirals. Of the practicability of carrying out this delicate proposal, it is premature to pretend to offer any remark; but it must be said that the honourable spirit in which it is submitted to the British Government entitles it to the most serious and favourable consideration.

Destruction fore in Stirling Castle.—On Sunday night about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in one of the rooms of what is called the Gover-

nors house—a very ancient building in Stirling Castle, in which also is situated the Douglas's room the well known historical tragedy.—The fire continued to gain ascendancy until 3 o'clock, when a portion of the roof fell in, at 5 o'clock, the remainder of the roof also fell.—Besides the total destruction of the building, not less than £1,000 of private property has been lost, belonging to the officers of the 90th Stirlingshire Militia, who occupied the apartments. A large portion, also, of the silver plate belonging to the officers' mess is also said to have been destroyed. The apartments now a heap of ruins—are among the most ancient in Scotland. A portion of the edifice is said to have been erected by the Picts in the 9th century. The fire was not completely subdued until 7 o'clock on Monday morning.—The building burnt down was in the immediate vicinity of the regimental and general powder magazines, in which are stored about 900 barrels of gunpowder. The cause of the conflagration, which was witnessed at its height for many miles around, has not yet been ascertained.

The Press in Prussia.—At Coblenz there is published a newspaper, called the Rhine and Moselle Herald. The conductors of this paper, in their issue of the 14th instant, informs their subscribers that the government had caused to be intimated to them its decided disapproval of the tone they had taken in discussing the events of the day, and had threatened them with strong measures. The committee of the paper announce that, as they cannot belie their principles, the journal will on the 31st of December next, cease to appear. A similar threat on the part of the government, not long since, destroyed the independence of the most influential newspaper published on the Rhine.

SOUTHERN MAIL.

THIS Mail did not arrive until half-past six o'clock last evening, being detained by the state of the roads. The news furnished by the papers received, is but scanty. We give a few items below:

UNITED STATES.

COSTA RICA.—It would seem, from accounts that Walker, the filibuster, is not in the firm position in Central America in which he has been represented, and that he has some work on his hands before he can be quite master of that country. It is stated that Costa Rica militia have been called forth, in consequence of his violent proceedings in Nicaragua, and that they are five thousand strong. It is also stated that the Republics of Guatemala, Salvador, and Honduras are all in arms to go and oppose the invaders. President Mora, of Costa Rica, has issued a decree to the effect that the republic, having never granted any part of its territory on the Atlantic Ocean, will consider at all times void and of no value, every act that may be executed on the right border of the river San Juan, and on the wild coasts of the Northern sea, from the mouth of said river up to the national limits with the Republic of New Granada without previous consent and legal sanction. Costa Rica being resolved on claiming and sustaining its right against every trespass on the territory of its frontier.

The next news from Central America will probably inform us how the above Republics have received the recognition of Walker's new Government in Grenada, made by our Minister resident, Mr. Wheeler. In the meantime it is a grave question what will be the course of our own and other government in relation to the matter.

Fortunate escape of One Hundred Children from Death by Fire.

PHILADELPHIA, December 20.—An attempt was made at an early hour this morning, to set fire to the Northern Temporary Home for Friendless Children in this City. The fire was kindled in the lower part of the building, but was fortunately speedily extinguished. One hundred children were in the upper portion of building.

No Speaker yet.—By latest accounts from Washington no Speaker had yet been elected in the House of Representatives. House then in Session 17 days.

Suicide in a Bridal Chamber.—Miss Clara Haskins was found dead in her bridal dress and chamber, near Natchez, Mississippi, on the 2d ultimo. After being dressed by her bridesmaids, she requested them to retire for a short time, and when they returned they found her lying lifeless upon her couch, with an empty vial, which had contained Prussic acid, still clasped in her hand. She had adopted the alternative of self destruction rather than marry a man she could not love in obedience to parental authority.—*Washington Intelligence.*

New York, December 20, 6 p.m.—Markets.—Flour—a better home trade and export demand for Flour; sales 14,000 bbls. at \$3 12 a 8 25 for common to good State; \$3 12 a 8 75 for mixed or fancy low grades, extra Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin; and \$9 75 a 10 25 for extra Genesee, closing quiet and less buoyant; 800 bbls. Canadian Flour sold at \$8 50 a 10; 300 bbls. Rye Flour sold at \$5 60 a 7; 200 bbls. New Jersey Corn Meal at \$4 25. Grain—Wheat quiet; small export inquiry; market heavy; 14,000 bushels sold at \$1 92 a 2 for red Tennessee; \$1 95 for red spring Chicago; \$2 18 1-2 for handsome white Canadian. Rye steady; 16,000 bushels sold at \$1 30 a 1 31. Barley heavy; 2,500 bushels prime four rowed State sold at \$1 25. Corn lower; sales 90,000 bushels at 89c. a 92 for new Southern yellow; 94 a 95c. in store, 93 a 97c. delivered, for Western mixed; and 92c. for Southern yellow, to arrive in January. Oats dull at 43 a 52c. for State and Western.