

GAS LIGHT.

WE are pleased to learn that some interest has been excited in the community in reference to this matter. We have been kindly furnished with the following extracts from a letter received by a gentleman residing in Chatham from a person in Pictou, connected with the Gas works in that town. It contains a good deal of useful information. We understand the undertaking pays a handsome dividend to the shareholders, and we feel persuaded the same result would follow should a similar work be undertaken in this town, besides the convenience and saving it would be to the consumers. The inhabitants of the village of New Glasgow, we understand, are making preparations to have that place lit up with Gas next summer.

“Mr G— called upon me last night and wished me to give what information I could, and in such a shape as might be distinctly understood. I have much pleasure, sir, in complying with this request, as I always rejoice to see improvements going on in every department of arts and science, but *light* above all, and for this reason—that it is an established fact that wherever gas has been introduced into any town, however small, an impetus has been given to all other improvements which nothing else seemed capable of communicating; and so I have no doubt will it prove in your town, unless it be already finished. You say the length of your main or leading pipe will require to be 1-2 miles, that is 2640 yards, this divided into 3 sections of different sizes, and viz.—5 4 and 3 inch pipes is what you will require; these are the sizes we have, and I find them to answer well. Taking this then for data, I shall give you what I conceive to be an excellent size of a work such as would answer you: First, then, your lot will require to be at least 100 by 110 feet, so as to have room for your buildings—viz., retort house, all of stone or brick, with iron roof completely fireproof; next, your purifying house—common wood house, well boarded and shingled outside, and lathed and plastered inside, filled up between the studs with sawdust or other substance, to render it frost-proof; lime and station meter houses the same; then your coal house and small smiths’ shop. The different sizes of these buildings will be given in your plan and specifications—and now to the apparatus:

“I would recommend a bench of 4 retorts, with 5 inch mains; D shaped retorts, 7 feet long, with a 12 inch hydrolic, with condensers of 3 pairs of pipes; wash vessel; 3 dry lime purifiers; station meter, with valves and governor; then the gas holders, 30 feet by 12, to contain about 8500 cubic feet, with its tank to be either stone, brick or cast iron as may be agreed on, with an octagon frame, single boarded and roof well boarded and shingled. This includes the whole of the principal sections of the work, but in addition to this a steam boiler is required in such cold latitudes as we have, in order to prevent the water from freezing through the works. And now for the expense.—Our work here cost £3250—but I think if you are prudently advised, you might have a similar work considerably below this figure. This, however, will depend upon the number of consumers, as you will at once perceive that the meter and service pipe for each consumer becomes a considerable item in first cost where there are a large number; here we have already 112, averaging 60 to 70 shillings each. Your pipes will require to be fully 3 1-2 feet under cover—and costs here for digging drains and filling them up, 8d. per yard, small and large all over head—so that you may say from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per yard for your pipes laid down. The pipes for house-fitting is a different concern and varies according to taste, so that you need not mind them until you finally agree to have the gas.

“You will perceive that this arrangement is formed under the impression that you will have over 100 consumers or 1000 jets, and is sufficient to supply double that number.”

EUROPEAN NEWS.

It will be seen by our Telegraph despatch, that the steamer Asia, after a rapid passage of ten days, arrived at Halifax early in the morning of Tuesday last.

The intelligence received by this arrival respecting the progress of the war, is very scant, and the rumours of peace vague and contradictory, having, apparently, but little foundation. We may speedily have a cessation of hostilities, but we doubt it, as we conceive the Russians are not yet sufficiently humbled.

We give in another place the telegraph and extracts from the papers.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Sunday evening last, Bowes Travis, a young man son of Mr David Travis, of Douglasfield, in attempting to cross the river on the ice, from Nelson to Beaubear’s Island, being unacquainted with the proper route, walked into an open place, and being alone and too late in the evening to be discovered from the shore, he was drowned. It was not known he was lost until next morning, when it was ascertained that he had left the Nelson side and had not arrived on the Island; this led to searching for his body by grappling in the open holes, in one of which it was found near the place where it is thought he fell in. An inquest was held on the body be-

fore Allan A. Davidson, Esq., one of the Coroners for the County, when a verdict of accidental death was found, and the Jurors in testimony of their esteem for deceased, and sympathy with his bereaved parents, presented their fees towards the expenses of his interment.

THE SEASON.—We are still without snow. The weather is truly delightful. The ice on the river is now perfectly safe, and horses have crossed on it.

Skating has been unusually good, and the lovers of that healthful exercise have freely indulged in it. On Thursday a number of persons had a game of Curling on the lake, in the vicinity of Chatham, which was warmly contested. The difficulty of travelling has produced a scarcity of firewood, and we hear complaints of this in all quarters. Snow is much wanted for all the business operations of the country.

Since the above was put in type, some snow has fallen, but barely sufficient to cover the ground.

Last week we omitted to mention the receipt of a letter from our Agent at Dalhousie.

Our volume will close with the present year. There are very many subscribers in arrears for the past year, and a long array owing from two years and upwards. We know that times are hard and money difficult to procure, but they should recollect we have our establishment to keep up, and material to procure, which incurs a heavy outlay, particularly at present, when all the necessaries of life have advanced in price. While this has occurred, we have not increased our charges, but on the contrary, the price of the paper has been considerably reduced.

We cannot afford to give so long a credit, or furnish our Journal for nothing; any subscriber, therefore, seeing that his paper is discontinued at the close of the volume, may rest assured we intend to make an effort, through the agency of the law, to recover what he has improperly withheld from us; and if he is put to trouble and expense he will have himself to blame.

We learn by Telegraph that the last English mail brought the Queen’s assent to the Prohibitory Liquor Law. Dated 21st Nov.

DEATHS.

At Chatham, on Saturday evening, ALICE ELIZABETH, third daughter of Mr John Kirkland, Chairmaker, in the 15th year of her age.

SOUTHERN MAIL.

THIS mail arrived about two o’clock yesterday afternoon. The delay, as usual, took place beyond the Bend, on the Nova Scotia portion of the line. We are informed a remonstrance has been made by the Government of this Province to that of our sister Province, which we have no doubt will have the effect of removing the complaint.

The British mail has come to hand, and puts us in possession of English papers to the 8th inst. We give some extracts below.

THE PEACE PROPOSITION.—Most of the papers during the week have been discussing the question whether we shall have peace before another campaign. All the accounts seem to warrant the conclusion that events have been proposed, but the acceptance of these terms by Russia depends upon circumstances into which the chapter of accidents must necessarily enter largely. A recent telegraph despatch from Berlin states that Prince Gortschakoff assured Count Buel that Russia was willing to concede largely on the Four Points; and the French minister at Vienna is declared to have informed the Austrian minister that the arrangements concluded by General Canrobert are equally satisfactory to Sweden and the Western Powers. There appears now to be no doubt that Sweden has entered into some formal compact with England and France, and such being the case, it will readily be conceived that Russia is willing to concede largely on the Four Points. This treaty between Sweden and the Allies is the most important compact which has been entered into since the war commenced.

The leading journal of yesterday touches upon the peace propositions, but not in a tone which will induce people to think that there is much in them. “What is it, then,” says our great contemporary, “which has sent up our funds, and led to the general belief that all our troubles are at an end? Simply this—that now, as in the month of December last year, we are favoured with the offer of the good services of Austria. This is but a sandy foundation on which to rest such towering hopes, and yet though the sand may be a quicksand, it may also cover a rock. Austria may at least have risen somewhat nearer to the level of her duties and her professions; she may at last have begun to feel that, though true to the letter, she has been false to the spirit of the Treaty of the 2nd of December, and weary of a position which is neither neutral, hostile, nor friendly, she may think the time has arrived to seek for herself a position at once more secure and more dignified. All is as yet uncertain; the past bids us be anything but sanguine, and the future, however bright it may be, is yet impetrateable.”

This, in all probability, is the present state of the question. All is uncertain, but the money market is sensitive, and the feeling of

the money market is of a pacific bearing. It is now stated that Parliament will meet on the 31st of January for the despatch of business.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.—There is a cessation of news from the Crimea, if total absence of incident will justify the phrase. Our correspondent, writing on the 24th November, says:—“There is really nothing to write about and no events have occurred worthy of notice since my last letter.” In short the armies have taken up their winter quarters, and there will be no more fighting for some four months to come, unless Prince Gortschakoff chooses to take the initiative by an attack on the allied lines. The French occupy a strong defensive position at Kamiesch, which they have rendered, if not impregnable, at least so strong that it is said to be capable of sustaining a siege as long as that of Sebastopol. The English have fortified all the approaches to Balaklava, while on the line of Tchernaya, the Sardinians occupy an entrenched camp protected by formidable redoubts. The French on the Baidor heights have also thrown up works to command the approaches and the Russians will find it very difficult to discover a crevice, should they attempt to break through. All the roads were finished at the last dates and the screech of a locomotive newly imported was heard on the railway. The weather up to the 24th ult. remained beautifully fine, and the health of the army was excellent, offering a gratifying contrast to the misery misery that prevailed at this time last year. The men, relieved from road-making were busy in providing shelter against the expected cold and rain. All over the camp new huts were in course of erection, and the old ones were being made weatherproof by outer coverings of rough masonry. We have so often blamed the tardiness and short sightedness of the War Office, that we feel peculiar satisfaction in noticing the provision of Lord Panmure is a matter most essential to the health and comfort of the troops. On the 21st ult. there was a general issue of new winter clothing, which is described as excellent in quality and abundant in quantity.

Our letters from Eupatoria only reach to the 20th of November, and there, as at Sebastopol, the year’s operations had drawn to a close. It was not expected that Gen. D’Altonville would attempt anything important with seventy thousand Russians in his near neighbourhood; and it was equally improbable that the enemy would attack the entrenchments defended by fifty thousand men, of whom nearly half are French. Our allies were busy hitting and preparing for winter, but our Light Cavalry Brigade suffered from cold and exposure. There seems to have been some mismanagement in not embarking the men and horses for the Bosphorus when there was no further need for their services at Eupatoria.

There is no direct news from Kertch; and in the camp there were rumours more than doubtful of Russian movements. Gen. Vivian had demanded reinforcements, and twelve thousand Turks were sent to him. The gunboats it was expected would command the Spit Arabat and the road from Genitchi, until the Sea of Azoff was frozen, but when the winter sets in the Russians will probably be able to re-establish their communications. Had the Allies occupied Kafka and Arabat as they might have done, this would have been impossible, and the enemy would have been cut off from an important source of supply. We draw from the German papers that the recent movements of General Wrangel in that quarter, which induced the English commander to ask for more troops, were not preliminary to an attack on the Allies, but intended for the defense of Arabat.

ENGLAND.—Monetary and Commercial.—The rumours of a new basis of negotiations for peace, recently so rife in the country, and which received some official support both in London and Paris, as having been proposed by Austria, with the sanction of Russia, to the Western Powers, and favourably received by them, are very likely to prove erroneous, and the opinion is again forcing itself generally into the public mind that we are as far from the attainment of peace as ever. The quarter from which the propositions emanated is certainly not one entitled to much respect from the allies, especially as it is very doubtful (having the result of the Vienna Conference before our eyes), whether they had been made by the sanction of Russia.

No material variation has taken place in the position of the Money market. In the early part of the week the demand at the discount houses for accommodation was heavy, and high rates were paid on the best bills. The calls on the Bank of England were also large. The engagements of the 4th of the month passed over satisfactorily, and it is understood that the number of acceptances unprovided for were fewer than usual. During the last few days there has been less tightness, and there are expectations that the Bank of England will shortly reduce the rates upon bills between 60 and 90 days, although no change is likely for some time in the *minimum* six per cent. for first class paper. In the Stock Exchange Money is worth 5 1-2 to 6 per cent. on Government Securities. No arrivals of gold have been reported this week, except the Phœnician from Sydney, with specie, valued at £64,000, long over due, and only about £300,000 of the large supply of last week is likely to remain in this country.

The Grain trade has been inactive since our last, and in the principal British and Irish markets prices have ruled easier for all descriptions. In Liverpool Wheat has experienced a slow inquiry, and holders have had to make a further concession of 1d. to 2d. per 70lbs. Flour has also been little dealt in, and prices must be noted the turn lower, say 6d. per barrel and sack. Indian Corn is still neglected, and mixed, which is the only description offering, has

again given way 6d. per quarter. Oats are 1s. per bushel, and Oatmeal 6d. to 1s. per low cheaper. Egyptian Beans, with a dull sale, are the turn easier to buy.

In the Provision market, there is no change to notice in Butter, which continues in heavy request, and the demand has been so very small that prices are merely nominal.

Trade in the manufacturing districts has not presented any material variation, transactions, being generally of an average character and prices little affected by the present high rates of discount. A tendency towards improvement is observable at Manchester, and in many cases both spinners and manufacturers ask higher rates, and the tone of the market is decidedly firm.

English securities have been daily marked by an advance in all descriptions, and an animated market. Consols have improved to the extent of fully 3-4 per cent. since our last. The range of fluctuation has been wider, but the advance has been steadily maintained, and under exciting circumstances there are no symptoms of any considerable reaction.

THE CABINET CHANGES.—The translation of the Duke of Argyll to the Post Office has led to some minor changes in the Cabinet. The sinecure office of Lord Privy Seal has been conferred on the Earl of Harrowby, who vacates the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Lord Stanley of Alderly has been admitted to the Cabinet without any change of office.—These movements make no substantial change as Lord Harrowby was placed in the Cabinet last session, and Lord Stanley of Alderly, on whom the honour is now conferred, is one of the respectable mediocrities already in the Government. An addition of some mark has been made to the Ministry in the person of Mr Baines, who succeeded to the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster with a seat in the Cabinet. This is decidedly the best appointment that Lord Palmerston has made, and the accession of Mr Baines will give stability to the Government.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL BRUAT.—Our readers are aware that the French Admiral Bruat was on his return to his native country. Unhappily, on reaching Messina, in Sicily, he died almost suddenly. The account of the melancholy event is given in a dispatch from Marselles, in which it is stated that the Ulm arrived at Toulon on the 25th ult. She brought the sad news of the death of Admiral Bruat, the French Admiral commanding-in-Chief. He died of gout in the stomach, says one account—of cholera, says another—while the French fleet was off Messina.

This event will excite the commiseration of all parties in France, and England, the gallant admiral being so near his native land, on a return from his arduous duties in the Black Sea.

POLAND.—By intelligence received from Hamburg, dated the 5th, we are informed that, by imperial command, a grand review had been held at Warsaw, to celebrate the anniversary of the victory of Russia over the Polish revolution.

ARRIVALS IN BRITAIN.

The following Ships have arrived in Britain:—Alma, Jones, Belfast, Nov. 30, Miramichi; Berlin, Litt, Donegal, December 2, Buetouche; Charles C. Fowler, Palmer, Grimby, Dec. 2, Buetouche; Concord, off Plymouth, Dec. 2, Dalhousie; Eliza Ann, Lockhead, Deal, Dec. 4, Bathurst; Faside, Walker, the Clyde, Dec. 1, Miramichi; Favourite, LeCourt, Naples, November 25; Gaspe; KaKa Pira, Belfast, Dec. 6, Miramichi; Lord Ashburton, Hunt, Deal, Dec. 6, Miramichi; Marianne, Beaumaris, Dec. 5, Miramichi; Rescue, Kerdall, Queens-town, Dec. 4, Dalhousie; St. Cloud, Liverpool, Dec. 4, Miramichi.

TIMBER TRADE.—The following is an extract from Farnworth and Jardine’s Circular, dated Liverpool, Dec. 6.

Pine Timber Quebec.—This article has been very saleable at full rates, which may be attributed to the very moderate import, prices have, however, now attained a point which induces importers to evince some anxiety to sell ex ship.

St. John.—The only sale in cargo is by auction, for arrival, ex “Carments,” when 80 logs, 18 inches average, sold at 22d per foot, and 429 logs, 13 1-4 inches, at an average of 16 1-4d per foot.

A parcel Miramichi of about 10,000 feet, 13 1-4 inch average, realised 15 1-4d per foot.

Spruce and Pine Deals.—Our stock is so exceedingly large that purchasers seem to have lost confidence in the article, consequently great dulness exists. The present value, about 12d per cubic foot, is so much below any other description of wood that it is only reasonable to expect Deals will go largely into consumption, and this probability, with the prospect of small supplies may, in the course of a few months, give a favorable turn to the article; meanwhile, there is great depression, and the present low value is only maintained by the firmness of holders. A cargo of St John ex “Westmoreland” consisting of 18,839 Spruce and 3203 Yellow Deals, yarded in July last, was last week disposed of by auction, the Spruce averaging £3 8s. 7d., Yellow £3 8s. 1d. and scantling £7 5s. per standard.

Two cargoes of Miramichi Pine and Spruce have been sold ex ships Golden Light at £8, and Northern Bride at £8 2s. 6d. per standard.

UNITED STATES.—The latest news from Washington report that the House of Representatives was still without a Speaker.

COLONIAL.—The Colonial papers contain nothing of importance.