

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

Total Destruction of Covent-Garden Theatre by Fire.—The Royal Italian Opera House was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning. Not a vestige, either of the interior or the properties has been saved; and nothing but the bare outer walls remain of that magnificent temple, which, under the management of Mr Frederick Gye, had become world-famous as the seat of music and of song. The Theatre was let just previously to Christmas, to Mr Anderson, the 'Wizard of the North,' for a few weeks, for £2,000. It was intended to re-embellish the interior before the opera season of 1856, and the lessee had enormously heavy expenses to provide for. Mr Anderson, with a view to reimburse some of the losses he had incurred, announced a 'Carnival benefit,' as he termed it, to extend over two days, after a prevalent fashion in America, on Monday, terminating with a ball masque on Tuesday night. Mr Gye was in Paris when this announcement appeared, but when he became acquainted with the fact he put his veto upon it and forbade Mr Anderson to open the theatre for a masquerade. An earnest appeal was made to Mr Gye to reconsider his decision on this point; and it is understood, chiefly on the reverses attending Mr Anderson's speculation, he consented to do so. In an unfortunate moment he gave an unwilling permission for the masque to take place, and, while all this revel was proceeding, the calamity occurred which has robbed the musical world of its brightest shrine, and London one of its most magnificent architectural ornaments. The precautions adopted against fire in this theatre were necessarily of the most stringent nature; for subsequently to its re-erection after being burnt down in 1808, no insurance office would issue a policy upon it. To reassure the public against the alarm then created, the architect took pains to erect a tank on the roof of the theatre, calculated to hold 18 tons of water, which, by means of double mains on every floor, could be thrown upon any part of the building at a moment's notice. Four firemen were appointed to watch and guard the theatre against fire. It was their duty to go over every part of the building, and to see that the firemen were always accessible and always charged. This arrangement has continued up to the present time, and of the four men on duty on Tuesday night, one of them had been attached to the theatre for nearly forty years. With all these precautions, it may naturally be asked why such a calamity was permitted to take place? At twenty minutes to five o'clock the company had dwindled down to the last dregs. Not more than two hundred persons were assembled in front of the temporary orchestra, which, on this occasion, was thrown back to the extreme end of the stage. The last orgie was completed, and Mr Anderson, observing the flagging spirits of his guests, gave the signal to his master of the ceremonies to close the revels with the usual finale of 'God save the Queen.' At this moment a man who was engaged in conversation with Castles, the fireman, happened to look upwards, and observed a bright light shining through the chinks and crevices of the flooring to a carpenter's shop high over-head. On calling Castles attention to this, the latter instantly replied, in a low voice, 'Why, good God, she house is on fire!' In an instant both left the stage, and hastened up towards the point of danger. Neither their departure nor their errand had been observed, and the crowd below them still kept up their dance and giddy choruses to the music of the National Anthem. The carpenter's shop extended, with the single exception of a comparatively small space devoted to the scene-painters, from one end to the other of the building, and lies between the ornamental ceiling and the roof of the theatre. Through an open space in the floor of this atelier the central chandelier is lighted, and the place itself is generally filled with materials of the lightest and most combustible character. When the two men entered this place, they were nearly suffocated by dense black smoke before they had proceeded many yards. Castles threw himself on his hands and knees, and endeavoured to crawl towards a smouldering heap which he observed near the centre of the workshop. The smoke was, however, too much for him, and he was compelled to make a speedy retreat with out having been able to open the fire-mains in the floor. Descending to the next 'flies,' he succeeded in turning on the mains, but before he could fix the hose the descending fire from the workshop above overtook him, and drove him to the next 'flies.' The imminent peril was now evident to him. He saw the fire had obtained a mastery which could not be controlled, and his next step was to unhitch and cut away those parts of the scenery most likely to be affected by the increasing fire. The orchestra had not ceased playing the National Anthem when the sudden descent upon the stage of one of the beams round which the canvasses are rolled gave the first intimation of danger to the motley assemblage below. Immediate alarm was taken by the whole house—and that alarm was instantaneously increased by the pouring down of a shower of sparks upon the stage. 'The house is on fire!' resounded from Anderson's stentorian lungs, and 'Fire! fire!' was repeated by a hundred voices. The terror and tumult occasioned by this outcry may easily be imagined. The few remaining masquers rushed precipitately to the various entrances—of which the police, with ready presence of mind, took immediate possession, and was

there enabled to rescue from the selfish alarm of many of the stronger sex, the reeling and staggering forms of their terror-stricken partners. Several women were trampled on, and some were carried out in a fainting state; but none were seriously injured. There was something hideous in this sudden change from mad revelry to ghastly fear. Already the rush of air towards the roof had fanned the fire into brighter life and fiercer energy. Wreaths of white smoke, with here and there a lambent flame, began to curl from under the proscenium into the body of the theatre. The musicians leapt from their seats and fled, in many cases without even saving their cherished instruments.—The interior of the theatre was almost immediately cleared of the visitors. The officials were in terror, and totally at a loss what to do.—There was no time for thought or plan. The flames rushed forward, and whirling round the interior, made it at once their own. The ballet girls and minor characters of the Masque came flying from their dressing-rooms into the passages of the theatre, and were in many instances with difficulty led out into safety by the police. A body of officers took early possession of the various doors and entrances, and prevented the multitude from forcing their way readily into the burning house.

IRELAND.

Capture of a Riband Gang.—A letter from Roscommon announces the capture on the 7th inst. of a band of fifteen Ribandmen. They formed part of a gang who for some time past have been traversing the country, attacking houses, and demanding arms. Their arrest has caused great consternation among their associates yet at large, many of whom have fled the neighbourhood of their exploits.

The Sadleir Fraud.—Fresh discoveries in connexion with Irish branch of the Sadleir frauds are hourly coming to light. The Carlow Sentinel states, upon good authority, that some very stupid forgeries upon the Tipperary Bank have turned up. Whence this description of paper emanated no one can even conjecture, but it is certain that payment has been applied for by the Secretary of the Bank of Ireland. The forged documents appear to have been given as securities to the Bank of Ireland, and the parties who have received notice to pay them have repudiated all connexion with them. If such bills are really fictitious the truth or falsehood will be unavelled before the Master in Chancery. The trade report of the Freeman's Journal has the following:—Much is yet to be discovered and investigated. It is stated that Mr. John Sadleir has drawn £200,000, and there are assets £35,000. On the other side are—first, capital, stated to be £100,000, and liabilities, £430,000, leaving about £300,000, altogether unaccounted for. It is generally believed that Mr. James Sadleir has gone abroad, and it is at least evident he must have had more knowledge of the state of affairs than is alleged by the letters of his unhappy brother. It is now generally supposed that those shareholders who have retired within the three years, will have to be called on to contribute to those debts which were outstanding, and which are believed to be more considerable than appeared at first, although there is little doubt that the ultimate result has been long foreseen and some management used to relieve some of the parties from their liability. Not the least curious circumstance is the large addition of English shareholders (whether substantial or others remains to be seen) which took place during the past year, all, or nearly all, it is believed, through the same channel. Altogether, what is known is bad enough; but it seems pretty clear that what is only matter of conjecture, or wholly in the dark, will be worse.

RUSSIA.

Official Corruption in Russia.—A very remarkable letter of admonition has been issued by the Grand Duke Constantine, as High Admiral, to the various officials connected with the administration of the Marine, in which the necessity of sincerity and a love of truth in their connexions with the Government are inculcated. The letter is addressed to Vice-Admiral von Wrangel, and is dated November 25th (December 7), 1855. After alluding to the circumstances of difficulty in which Russia found herself at the time, and pointing out the causes that had led to them, the Grand Duke proceeds:—The immense variety of forms with us paralyses the elasticity of administrative action, and serves as a cloak of impunity for the official lie so common with us. Cast a glance at the annual reports and accounts, and you will find that everywhere the greatest possible amount of work has been executed, in every direction progress has been made, everywhere have the prescribed works advanced, if not with excessive haste, yet at least in due relation to the exigencies of the case. But when you come to look closer at the actual state of things, to examine into them, to divest them of all false colouring, to separate what really is from what only appears to be, to distinguish the true from the false, or only half true, there will seldom be left any positive and beneficial result,—on the surface speciousness, beneath it, corruption. Among the products of our official phraseology truth finds no place; it is concealed and stilled under diction, and where is the official reader who knows how to extract it?

I beg your excellency to communicate these truthful words to all the bureaux and all the employes of the Ministry of Marine, from whom we have to expect at the beginning of the new year their annual reports of what has taken place in the past, and repeat to them that in the aforesaid reports I do not look for encomiums, but the truth, and, above all, a frank

statement that goes to the pith of the matter, both as regards what may be inadequate in any branch of the administration, and of the errors that may have been committed in it. I request your excellency to communicate copies of this letter to all the bureaux and before-mentioned employes.

CONSTANTINE, High Admiral.

(By the Fredericton and Quebec Line.)

FURTHER NEWS BY THE ASIA.

New York, April 4.—The steamship Asia arrived at 2 o'clock, P. M., and brings dates from Liverpool to the 22nd March.

No news of the Pacific.

It is generally believed that the treaty of peace would be signed on Saturday, 22nd or Monday 24th. The tenth meeting of the Plenipotentiaries was held on Monday, the 18th, when the Prussian representatives took their seats. The eleventh meeting was to take place on Thursday the 20th. The actual business of the Conference is understood to be over. A committee of representatives, of each of the Powers, is engaged in getting up a treaty of peace the committee consists of Bourqueney, Lord Cowley, Count Buol, Baron Brunow, Count Cavour, and also Aali Pasha.

The papers are full of congratulatory paragraphs respecting the infant Bonaparte.

We have also a few editorials on the subject of American affairs.

The Austrian Correspondenz has the following, dated 10th and 14th:

Onar Pasha has arrived at Constantinople. Great mortality amongst the French in the Crimea. Health of the French at Constantinople was improving. Fortifications at Nicholiaeff are being strengthened. Gen. Luders had ordered officers on furlong to return.

A letter from Kertch says that the news of the armistice produced a profound sensation of joy along the shores of the Sea of Azoff, and business became suddenly active.

The Imperial foundry established on the left bank of the Don, has been closed, and this seems to confirm the intention manifested by the court of Russia to abandon all its maritime establishments on the Black Sea.

On the 17th all the ships and Allied batteries fired a salute in honor of the birth of the Emperor's son.

Letters from the camp in the Crimea extend from the 3d to the 17th of March, and are chiefly occupied with accounts of the weather.

General Codrington has issued general orders dated March 3, forbidding to fire upon the enemy until the expiration of the armistice on the 31st.

The line of the aqueduct running along the left bank of the Tchernaya is the line of separation between the English and Russian armies.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr Buchanan has introduced his successor, Mr Dallas, to the diplomatic corps, and on Monday, the 17th ult, transferred to him the charge of the Embassy. Mr Buchanan has gone to Paris, whence he will return in a few days, and will probably return home by the steamer of the 19th April.

There is a report from the Crimea that two divisions of the army—the Highlanders, and the 2nd and 4th Division, under Sir C. Campbell, will immediately proceed to Canada.

FRANCE.—The Emperor has been the recipient of numerous congratulating addresses on the birth of his son.

An amnesty is proclaimed to all political offenders, who will return and take the required oath of allegiance.

General Rauleon, Canrobert and Bosquet are raised to the rank of Marshals.

Seven Generals of Brigade have been promoted to the Generals of Division, and five Colonels have been made Generals of Brigade.

M. Fould and Admiral Hamelin have received crosses of the Legion of Honor.

Prince Jerome is recovering.

It is calculated, from statistical tables, that the number of children born on the 16th of March, to all of whom the Emperor and Empress is godfather and godmother, must be about 2500. Each child is to receive a gift of 300 francs. All the boys are to be named Louis Eugene; all the girls Eugene Louise.

SPAIN.—Carlist troubles anticipated.

LATEST.

Southampton, Friday Night.—Steamship Argo on route for Havre.

PARIS, Friday.—The Empress and young Prince continue to go on well.

The eleventh sitting of the Congress announced for Thursday, did not take place—it will take place to-morrow, 22nd.

LONDON, Saturday.—The City Article of the Daily News, dated Friday evening, says:—To-day being Good Friday, no transactions have taken place in funds and shares, nor is any list of prices published. The returns show a small increase in the stock of bullion in the Bank of England.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Initiation of Money Grants.—We have long been convinced that until the initiatory power in granting supplies for the public service was transferred from the House to the Executive, we could have no protection against the constant promiscuity of members to run the Province in debt. We felt especially anxious that this important change should be made before we entered into our contemplated railway expenditures. Early in the present session Mr. Hatheway, who is reputed for his earnest advocacy of liberal measures, laid on the table resolutions to effect this change. Immediately after, Mr. Connell, who, notwithstanding his late movement against the Government, has always advocated extreme liberal views, laid on the table

another resolution to delay the transfer of the initiative to the Executive, until Municipalities are generally established. This, it was feared, would defeat Mr. Hatheway's motion for the present. But we are happy to find that Mr. Connell's desire to see this great improvement, induced him not to press his motion, and he assisted Mr. Hatheway in the discussion which took place on Wednesday and Thursday last.—This is as it should be—our liberal members should always move together. If Mr. Connell had more carefully considered consequences, we hardly think that he would, even for the sake of a railroad to Woodstock, have allowed himself to oppose a Government which really carries out his own political views, and whose measures he has since continued to support.

Mr. Hatheway's resolution gave rise to a very lengthy debate, but was carried by a majority of three. Thus, this important question is settled. We congratulate Mr. H. on his success, as it will naturally benefit as well as shorten legislation hereafter.—*St. John Morning Courier.*



CROWN LAND NOTICE.

CROWN LAND NOTICE, April 1, 1856.

The undermentioned Lots of Crown Lands will be offered for sale by Public Auction on TUESDAY the Sixth day of MAY next, at noon, by the respective Deputes, at their Offices, agreeable to the Regulations of 18th May, 1843, and no sale or credit will be made to any person who is indebted to the crown for previous purchases.

(Not to interfere with the right to cut Timber or other Lumber under Licences applied for previous to the applications for the purchase of the Land.)
(No person is allowed to hold more than one hundred acres payable by instalments.)

RESTIGOUCHE.

By Deputy Sadler, at Dalhousie.

63 acres, lot 83, block 9, Jaquet River, J. Montgomery.

GLOUCESTER.

By Deputy Carruthers, at Bathurst.

100 acres, lot 41, block 7, Bar's River, W. H. Flowers.

50 acres, lot 41, block 42, New Eanden, Placid Boudreau, improved.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

By Deputy Peters at Chatham.

50 acres, west of Richibucto road, John Dorle, improved.

KENT.

[By Deputy Douglas, at Buctrechs.

100 acres, lot 15, Saint Anthony, Jade White, improved.

100 acres, lot 16, Saint Anthony, Peter White, improved.

50 acres, lot 44, block B, Wellington, Reuben Richard, improved.

110 acres, lot 94, block D, M'Dougald Settlement, Coll. M. Dougall.

JAMES BROWN, Ser. Gen.

Crown Land Office, April 2, 1856.

The right of Licence to cut and carry away Timber and Lumber until the first day of May 1856, from Berths applied for by the following persons in the undermentioned situations, will be offered for sale by Public Auction at this Office on Wednesday the Sixteenth day of APRIL next,—sale to commence at noon.

(Not to interfere with any Lots of Land located, or which may have been applied for within one year previous to the date of entry of the application for Licence.)

(In all cases of competition, the purchaser must immediately pay the amount of purchase money, or else the Berth will be again offered for sale, excluding bids from the defaulter.)

All Berths within ten miles of the proposed Lines of Rail Road will be subject to the prior right of the European and North American Railway Company to take Timber or other material for the construction of the Railway.

Name	Sq. Mil. s.	Situation.
Wm. H. Prize	3	New Canada.

JAMES BROWN, Ser. Gen.

Crown Land Office, April 1, 1856.

THE appointment of Deputy Peter Muzzall, as Local Deputy for the Sale of Crown Lands in the Northern District of the County of Kent, is discontinued.

JAMES BROWN, Ser. Gen.

Flour for Sale.

150 Barrels CANADA SUPERFINE, No 1 FLOUR an excellent article. Also A few Barrels Mess Pork, and FINEST BUTTER. The above will be sold either in wholesale or retail.

For particulars apply to the Subscriber ROBERT T. MILLAR, Douglstown, March 28, 1856.

SEED GRAIN & POTATOES

For Sale.

To be sold cheap for Cash or Due Bills on Messrs. Robin & Le Boulleliers, at the usual discount. 1500 BUSHELS OF GOOD SEED OATS. 400 do do do BARLEY. 60 do do do WHEAT. 400 Barrels POTATOES.

Apply to DANIEL BIRSON, Paspebiac, Paspebiac, 29th March, 1856.

NOTICE.

The Subscriber intending to close his present business, on or before the 1st of JULY next. All persons indebted to him will please call and have their Accounts Adjusted and Paid by that period, otherwise he will be obliged to place them in the hands of an Attorney for collection. The Subscriber trusts that were the parties unable to pay they will not-withstanding call at an early day and settle their Accounts, as he purposes leaving the County and is anxious to have his affairs settled before doing so.

WM. J. MILLAR.

Newcastle, March 31, 1856.