

villages our neighbours have availed themselves to some extent. Contemporaneously with this boon we have to direct you to the facilities now offered for classification in the Bureau Veritas or French Lloyd's, that society having formed a branch here, and appointed a surveyor for the port who combines with thorough knowledge as much painstaking consideration as is consistent with his please-no-one duties.

"The number of ships that have changed hands in the year is 601, equal to 277,595 tons, against 730—380,000 tons in 1854. Of these 84 are British, equal to 37,062 tons, against 83, equal to 31,386 tons in 1854, and 23 are foreign, equal to 16,835 tons.

"The number of new Colonial vessels that have arrived in Liverpool and been registered, or are in course of registration, is 102, equal to 70,911 tons, against 133—128,994 in 1853, showing a decrease of 21 ships, or 58,083 tons, on the return of last year, and making the average of each vessel 685 tons.

"Screw steamers of all sizes, being in good working order, are much demanded, and but few offering.

"Colonial built ships may now be quoted as follows:—Very superior St. John's, Miramichi, and Quebec, to class 7 years A 1, at £7 10 to £8 5; ordinary £7 to £7 10s; those classing 4 years £6 10s; inferior £5 to £5 10s.

"Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia—some few have sold remarkably well—say from £6 10 to £7; the majority are worth from £4 to £5 15 per ton.

"We are obliged to direct the attention of the Quebec and Richibucto builders to the half-finished, half tree-nailed condition in which many of their ships are turned out of hand, not only in the hull, but also in the masting, which in the majority of cases is so defective as to cause them to be either condemned, or subjected to such large alterations as vastly increases the cost of classing. In all details the majority of the St. John's and Miramichi are superior. This arises, probably, from the fact that Lloyds have issued no rules for "masting," merely "requiring,"—that they shall be, as well as the rigging, "in good order," both may be in good order, but deficient in size, which is much too often the case. To take advantage of this is bad policy, and acts against themselves, both in the prices their ships bring, and by injuring the sale of really good vessels, entitled only to similar class, besides which, it leads to many misunderstandings between the sellers and the purchasers when they are sold with a guarantee of class.

"To Pictou and Prince Edward Island built the same remarks apply. Many of them come here with old rigging and old ground tackle. It appears almost hopeless to remonstrate with these builders, who continue to send here for sale vessels, that seem to be modelled without any object, indifferent in finish, of low class materials, and unfitted for the only trade their size and class will suit; some half dozen making a happy exception to the general rule, have sold quickly and at good prices, as high as £7 for 4 year class, which should satisfy these gentlemen how much they compromise their own interests by this continued slop style of work.

"The total number of ships in course of construction in our North American Colonies, and which may be looked for in all this year, is as under (not including Coasters, of which there is a considerable number expected from P. E. Island, Pictou, &c.):—At Quebec, 17—17,850 tons; St. John's, 19—20,600; Miramichi, Restigouche, &c., 14—14,190—making a total of 50 large ships, equal to 49,550.

"The return of ships in the employment of government up to the first of August, including steam and sailing vessels, is 208, equal to 207,589 tons.

"The provisions of the New Registry Act (part 2 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854), which came into operation on the 1st of May last, have for the time, and may continue until parties become more acquainted with the changes introduced, to affect our transactions. It is not now compulsory for ships to be registered anew on an entire change of ownership; and registry anew cannot be granted on such change except at the existing port of registry, without going through the complicated process of transferring their registry from one port to another.

"In the Colonial vessels, it was found necessary to appeal to the Board of Trade for time to be allowed to enable parties who were now prepared with the document required by the new Act to dispose of the ships in hand; and, therefore, it may be advisable to remind those engaged in the Colonial trade, that it is essential in the case of such vessels coming over for sale; and which had not been registered here, that the builder's certificate be endorsed with a pass signed by the Governor, or his lieutenant, and when registered there, that in order to obtain registry anew in this country, they be accompanied by a certificate of sale, or statutory power of Attorney, which being an official document, and exhibiting the true ownership and interest, is thus designed to afford to purchasers the most perfect security.—The same way the document will be found very useful in facilitating the sale of British registered vessels abroad.

The new mode of measurement has considerably decreased the tonnage of vessels to which it has been applied, the average being, about 7 per cent. We believe the prospects for the year are good, that prices may become more remunerative to the builders, especially for those of from 700 to 1000 tons, which at all times sell better and more quickly than overgrown ships

off from 1400 to 2000 tons, which cannot hold their fastenings when staggering under a weight of cargo that would sorely try the best hardwood ship that can be built."

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

The following is from Farnworth & Jardine's Circular of January 3, 1856:

"Pine Timber.—Quebec.—The import of this article is closed for the season, the last cargo having just arrived. Although the import is so much less than previous years, and the stock known to be very light, sales cannot be effected unless at a considerable reduction on prices current in the early part of December,—several cargoes are now being stored by the importers.

"Saint John Pine.—The stock accumulates, and, with a prospect of further arrivals, the article is dull of sale. No sale in cargo to report.

"Spruce and Pine Deals.—The import for the past fortnight has been more moderate, and prices here being much below import cost, at present high rate of freight and insurance, many cargoes are diverted to other markets. The stock is, however, much in excess of any previous year, and this prevents any improvement in price.

"The sales for the fortnight are—
"Tippee, from St. John, Spruce £8 15s;
Pine, 4th Spruce and Scantling, £8, less £45.
And from the lower ports several parcels at £7 10s. to £8 per standard."

The following is from Edmiston and Mitchell's Circular, dated Glasgow, 31st December.

"From the subjoined Table of Imports it will be seen that the tonnage employed in conveying Lumber into Clyde from British North America in 1854 was 120,004; while this year is only amount to 85,028, showing a decrease of 33,976 tons.

"The import of Quebec Pine Timber shows a decrease of 14,774 logs. The stock is unusually light, and holders are firm, under the impression that it will be only adequate to meet the wants of consumers until next season's importations.

"The import of Pine Timber from St. John N. B., and other low ports amount to 18,106 logs, against 28,265 last year, showing a decrease of 10,159 logs.

"The importation of Hardwood in 1854 was 13,835 logs, against 10,787 this year, showing a decrease of 3,048 logs. The supply of Oak and Elm is ample to meet the requirements of consumers; but Birch forms an exemption, which is scarce and in demand at our quotations for good fresh parcels.

"The imports of Deals and Battens show a decrease of 166,178 pieces compared with last year; yet, notwithstanding this great falling off in the supplies of Sawed Lumber, prices have not participated in the gradual advance which has taken place in Square Timber. The few cargoes, however, now in first hands, will likely meet with a ready sale, at improved rates early in spring."

UNITED STATES.

THE latest news from Washington, which is to the 9th of this month, reports that the House of Representatives had not made choice of a Speaker.

The Correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Washington on the 9th instant, communicates the following important information respecting Mr Crampton and the British Consuls:

"Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1856.—A decisive step has been relative to British Enlistment. The long correspondence on this subject between the two governments has been closed by an elaborate and conclusive despatch to Mr. Buchanan, sent last Saturday, requiring the British Government to recall Mr. Crampton, or leaving the alternative of the Administration giving him his passports here. The same paper signifies distinctly the revocation of the exequatours of Consuls Barclay, at New York, Mathew at Philadelphia, and Rayerat at Cincinnati, who were implicated in the enlistment. England is indirectly prepared for this contingency by previous negotiations, but still the present demand may excite a temporary feeling and lead to some difficulty in the recognition of Mr Buchanan's successor. It may also embrace Lord Palmerston's official tenure. From positive developments this course is inevitable, and must be sustained.—If England makes it the cause of exemptions in settling the Central American question the responsibility will be her own."

On the subject of the present apparent misunderstanding, the Editor of the New York Tribune makes the following significant remarks. We are inclined to indorse his views:

"The recently published documents on the Clayton-Bulwer treaty are of such extensive dimensions as to lead to the supposition that matter of such magnitude must contain something of vital consequence. Especially is this the case considering the grave tone of the President's Message on that topic. But we can assure our readers that all the interminable discussions, past, present and future, on this question, like Gen. Cass's five-hundred-times repeated declaration on the Oregon question, that "War with England is inevitable," will come to naught. Mr Polk at that time stood on the ground of "51 20 or 80," but came down to 49 the moment it was found best to accede to that line. It will be just so now.—

All the talk about the violation of the Clayton Bulwer treaty, the application of the Monroe doctrine to the colonization of the Island of Ruatan by England, will evaporate like the breath of the utterers. We may, and doubtless shall, for the twentieth time ruffle our national feathers and strut proudly before the universe, and we shall imitate the example of the bird from whom we derive the example of such an exhibition of pluck—quickly douse them when anything really serious threatens. Yet the country must have been struck by the singularly unanimous tone, of the senate the other day, when the message was read, in backing up its apparently warlike demonstrations. Various gentlemen expressed their opinion of its lofty tone touching our foreign affairs. It received the endorsement of the Privileged Class in the warm plaudits of Mr Toombs of Georgia, who aims to be the exemplar and spokesman of the peculiar institution. Mr Seward, too, not to be outdone in patriotism—for no man is a truer patriot than he—declared himself with equal distinctness for the execution of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and for the assertion of the Monroe doctrine. On their face these demonstrations seem belligerent, but they are really the most harmless of proceedings. Mr Seward has not yet told us whether he deems the failure to relinquish the Mosquito protectorate by England an infraction of the treaty; neither has he told us whether, in his judgment, the occupation of Ruatan can be taken to be a violation of the Monroe doctrine. The point in that question is, whether its occupation did not precede the assertion of that celebrated dictum. Yet Mr Seward and the party represents will go as far as the farthest in maintaining the honor and the just pretensions of the country—further, indeed, than any representative of the slaveholding interest will go, when the action is in the direction of provoking the hostility of a powerful foreign nation. But we are at present in no danger from a war with any but weak powers without allies, and for this best of reasons—that the Privileged Class will not permit it. The slave holders have not the least fancy for a war with England, and their efforts still the crack of doom will be to avert such a catastrophe. They do not want to lose their chattles at present. They have the Administration and one branch of Congress, and pretty nearly, if not quite, a controlling influence in the other. Let nobody lose any sleep therefore, in the vain apprehension that this or any other Administration of a similar kidney will be really in earnest in provoking an actual collision with England or any other first-rate power. They know better."

THE LIQUOR LAW.

It will be seen by the following extracts, which we copy from the St. John Courier, that the inhabitants of Fredericton have, in an orderly and becoming manner, expressed their hostility to the Prohibitory Liquor Law. It would be far more becoming, and evince a more manly and British spirit, if all those who are opposed to this Law would adopt a similar course, instead of setting the Law at defiance, creating disturbance by assaulting the officers of justice, burning informers in effigy, &c. If the law is unpopular, let the inhabitants in a peaceable manner, inform their Representatives that it is so, and demand of them its repeal, but do not let us bring disgrace on ourselves and lose our good name as a law-abiding people, by creating disturbances and setting the authorities at defiance.

"A public meeting was held at Head Quarters on Friday evening last, by requisition to W. H. Needham, Esq., Mayor, for the purpose of giving expression to public opinion, in reference to the Prohibitory Liquor Law (so called.)

"A telegraphic despatch to the News Room on Saturday says that from one thousand to fifteen hundred persons were present—most orderly and well conducted. The Mayor in the chair. Speakers—Messrs. Street, End, J. T. Smith, Rev. Mr. Gunter, Botsford, M. Ausland, J. C. Allen, Provincial Secretary, C. Macpherson.

"The following resolution passed by a majority of five to one—(some say much larger.) All ended harmoniously and in good feeling, with three cheers for Her Majesty.

"Resolution.—While this meeting readily admits the necessity of legislation to prevent the abuse and to regulate the sale of alcoholic liquors, it most unqualifiedly deprecates coercive enactments against the use thereof, as arbitrary and unwise, and altogether inconsistent with the inherent and natural rights of the people of every civilized community.

"Therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, the Act of the last Session, commonly called "The Prohibition Law," is incongruous to the spirits and feelings, and insulting to the character of the people of this Province, and fraught with serious evils to the social and political well-being of society.

"Amendment.—That this meeting is not prepared to censure or condemn an Act which has passed the Legislature of this Province, received the sanction of the Lieutenant Governor and the assent of Her Majesty the Queen, until that law has at least a fair trial. Lost by some majority.

"Resolved, That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to the several Representatives of this County for their consideration, and that the whole proceedings be published in the Head Quarters and Reporter newspapers."

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of this highly useful Society, was held in Bower's Hotel, Chatham, on Thursday last. The following gentlemen were appointed Office Bearers for the present year:

President—John M. Johnson, Esq.
Vice-Presidents—James Johnson, and Michael Searle.
Treasurer—George Kerr, Esq.
Secretary—James Caie.
Directors—Daniel Weatherall, Alexander Jessemine, John Nicholson, William Russell, Richard Stapledon, Donald McKay, (N. Bk.), Richard Sutton, J. M. Johnson, Jr., Peter Mitchell, James Fish, John Porter, Alexander Loudoun, and Richard Coulhard.

THE ANGLO SAXON.—This is the title of a new paper just published, under the Editorial management of Dr Bartlett, many years Editor and Proprietor of the New York Albion. We have received the first number of this journal, which shows unmistakable evidence that it is in the hands of an individual fully competent to furnish its readers with an ably conducted Journal.

ST. JOHN OBSERVER.—This long established Journal comes to us in an entirely new dress, it has also changed its title to the Observer and Literary Gazette. Its first number promises well, having a number of original literary articles, a good selection of literary and other articles, and a summary of the news. It is a well filled sheet, and merits public patronage.

HUNTER'S MEDICAL SPECIALIST.—We have obtained several numbers of this paper which is well filled with highly useful and instructive matter relative to the "various ills that flesh is heir to." They can be seen at the office.

FLOUR AND FLOUR.—Those two highly necessary articles, we are pleased to observe by our American papers, are gradually falling in price. A Correspondent of the Boston Traveler, writing from Cincinnati, says, that Hogs which, at the commencement of the season sold at \$7 per hundred, have declined to \$5 15, at which price sales have been made. Flour is plenty at \$7 per barrel.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSIONS.—We understand that the Sessions have decided on establishing two Agencies in the County under the Prohibitory Liquor Law—one in Newcastle and the other in Chatham, Mr D. McLaren, Druggist, of the firm of D. McLaren & Co. is appointed for Chatham, and Mr D. McGruar, for Newcastle.

The Sessions have been frequently in session of late, and as they must have passed many Resolutions in which the inhabitants of the County feel an interest, we shall cheerfully publish them if the Clerk will furnish us with a copy.

CANADA.—The Legislature of this Province, has been summoned to meet for the Despatch of business on the 15th of February.

ERRATA.—In the last communication of Mercator, make the following corrections.—Third line—on the body of a man (named Philip Anglehart) this is omitted. It gnaws are very vitals—our very vitals. Anglehart and unprincipled men, should be—unprincipled men exist. Fourth line from the end, in place of profit is consummate, read—profit is commensurate.

FIRE.—A small building situate opposite the Chatham Saw Mill, was totally consumed this morning.

One or two anonymous Correspondents writing from Kent in the St. John papers, doubt our report that the recent appointment of the Hon. Mr. WARK to the Executive Council, has given very general satisfaction to the inhabitants of that County. Will the writers please name the person whose appointment will give greater satisfaction. They evidently have some person in view—will they name him, so that the people be able to judge between us.

BOWSER'S HOTEL.

ARRIVALS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Thomas Jardine, Richibucto; Thomas Hicquiol, Jersey; Thomas Wathen, Richibucto; Thomas Armstrong, Bathurst; Wm. Armstrong, do.; Gilbert Wallerberry, do.; M. Flannery, do.; Mr Went, Restigouche.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday last, by the Revd. Richard Venker, Mr JOHN GORDAN, to Miss MARY KERR, both of the Parish of Chatham.

TEACHER WANTED.

For a School in the Parish of Durham, County of Restigouche. He is required to be qualified to teach (satisfactorily) English Grammar, Book Keeping, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, &c. £24 per annum guaranteed by the inhabitants of the District. A good class teacher is preferred.

WM. McDONALD, New Mills.
Durham, December, 30th 1855.