

NOVA SCOTIA.

THE Legislature of this Province is summoned to meet for the despatch of business on the 4th February.

The Chief Justice, Brenton Halliburton, completed his 84th year on the 10th instant, and was waited upon by the bench and bar with complimentary addresses from both those bodies, to both of which he made suitable replies. All the Chief Justices of this Province arrived to a good old age before they were gathered to their fathers.

It is reported that Samuel Fairbanks, Esq., has been appointed Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, in the place of the Hon. James B. Uniacke. It is also reported that Alfred Whitman, Esq., Member for Annapolis Township, has been called to the Legislative Council. Moses Shaw, of Clements, is a candidate for Mr W.'s vacant seat. It is also rumoured, and believed, that the Earl of Mulgrave has been appointed Governor of this Province, and that he will assume the duties of his office early in the ensuing spring.

The papers report a most extraordinary mortality in a family named McNutt, living in the lower village of Truro. Six of them died of putrid sore throat, and nearly all at the same time.

The Hon. David Crichton, one of the Members of the Legislative Council, died at Pictou on the 7th instant.

It is confidently asserted that the Railroad from Halifax to Windsor will be opened before Christmas.

MISPECK ROAD MURDER.

WE are indebted to the Morning News, received by yesterday's mail, for the following further developments respecting this fearful tragedy. The elder Slavin was a monster in human shape; but he has suffered the penalty of his crimes, and is gone to give an account of them to an all-wise and beneficent Being, who will judge him aright:

"Another Horror.—Considerable excitement was created on Sunday evening by the news that the body of a man had been brought into town, which had been discovered about three miles from this city in the woods, hard frozen, with the head severed from the body, and lying some distance from it. Of course it was immediately surmised that another murder had been committed, and most people associated it with the recent horrid crimes. Yesterday (Monday) at two o'clock, a Coroner's Jury was assembled, and on proceeding to the Dead House a shocking spectacle awaited them. The dead man's skull and his tarpaulin hat lay on one table, and the frozen body with the legs crossed, as if he had quietly laid down to sleep, on another table. With considerable difficulty the clothes were detached from the chest and neck, of deceased. In one pocket was found tobacco and a farthing. The shirt round the neck was quite clear from blood or other stains. All round the neck had evidently been gnawed.—The lungs had been eaten by some small animal, which had been able to creep into the neck.—*Leader, Dec. 15.*"

"There was much excitement in the City Yesterday, in consequence of a confession having been made by young Slavin in the Penitentiary, touching the cause of the death of the man Stewart, above referred to. It appears that there was a fourth party concerned in the awful Tragedy. On account of certain suspicious circumstances young Slavin was questioned on Monday, and after some little hesitation he stated in substance as follows. That Stewart in company with the two Slavins and Breen, proceeded together on the night of the murder; and when within a short distance of the house, Breen suggested to him (Stewart) to conceal himself at the side of the road, and there remain watching, until the others should return. After the murder was committed the parties came along towards town, and on giving a signal to Stewart on the road, (by Breen's coughing) he came out from his place of concealment, and Breen handed him a tin box filled with something so heavy that the boy Slavin could scarcely lift it. Breen and Stewart then proceeded into town carrying the box between them alternately, and one or both of them stopped at Ramsay's house on the City Road near the brick yard. The elder Slavin was opposed from the beginning to Stewart's having any hand in the murder, or any knowledge of it, whether before or after. Stewart betook himself to the black River road on Sunday morning. Breen (no doubt incited by Slavin) felt that there were too many witnesses in the case, and therefore concluded to put Stewart out of the way. Accordingly on Sunday evening he proceeded towards Stewart's place of residence, and after plying him well with liquor and making him drunk, and getting him off the main road, he cut his throat with a knife, and left him dead. It appears from what has since transpired, that the old villain Slavin intended to kill Breen himself. When McKenzie was thrown into the cellar he wanted Breen to go down and rifle the pockets of the deceased, but Breen declined. Had

he gone, it was Slavin's intention to strike him with the axe as he came up, and so put him out of the way as well as Stewart. There would then have been but two witnesses in the bloody tragedy, Father and Son.

FAST TRADING.

THE London Weekly Times publishes the following developments respecting the system pursued by certain firms, and the results which naturally flowed from the prosecution of such vicious practices. They point out in a most forceable manner, the impropriety and dishonesty of persons indulging in a big trade, a big house, or a big any thing else, when that indulgence is procured at the cost of others, who have been unfortunately induced by false promises, or false appearances, to trust their money or their property to their keeping. Better far to "pursue the even tenor of their way," doing a safe, legitimate, and honorable business, than to resort to such trickery recorded below, to keep up appearances for a brief period, and then break down, involving themselves as well as their creditors and families, in distress and too frequently in ruin.

"There can be little doubt that the existing difficulty has its origin in over trading and over speculation. In America, the beginning of the panic, of which the injurious effects are so severely felt in this country, was attributable to stock exchange speculations, and to the injudicious advances of the banks on railway securities, for which no buyers could be found when the pressure came. The mania for gambling in shares had been so widely extended throughout the community, that the first check involved thousands in ruin. Then came the run on the banks, the suspension of specie payments, and a universal depression in every kind of property. As our transatlantic cousins are a much faster race than the English at home, the moment credit was shaken, commercial establishments began to topple down like houses of cards. The failures in the United States have been going on at the rate of three hundred a week, and it is impossible that such a commercial collapse could take place in that country without drawing in numerous houses here connected with the American trade. The gross liabilities of insolvent American firms is estimated at twenty millions sterling, and it is no matter of surprise that London, Liverpool, and Glasgow should suffer from the crash. In all such crises, the weak houses, trading on credit, without a sufficient basis of capital, go first. That there is a great deal too much over trading amongst ourselves is a patent fact.—We exposed one phase, in a rather humble walk last week, when commenting on the case of Sadgrove and Ragg. The reports of the Court of Bankruptcy in the present week supply another, which is by no means an uncommon example. Messrs. Syers, Walker, and Syers, entered into business as 'merchants' of London and Liverpool, in January, 1854, with a capital of four thousand pounds. Their trading in three years amounted to the enormous sum of a million sterling. Their debts are in proportion—nearly two hundred thousand pounds—and their assets will realise about 2s. in the pound. Of course the bankrupts, whose losses were at the rate of fifty thousand a year, lived in good style at the expense of their creditors. This class of merchants are sustained by discounts, and by obtaining advances on goods before they are paid for. One day they appear as millionaires, the next they fail for enormous sums, paying a contemptible dividend. These men are kept afloat, to a great extent, by the improvidence of the joint stock banks, and from the British Bank to the last smashes in Scotland, we find the system running through them all. A financial writer of great repute has, in reference to the present crisis, given a sketch of the nature of these banking transactions, as true as it is severe.

"A concern with eight millions of British capital entrusted to its care, has brought itself to bankruptcy by fostering a set of fraudulent traders to the damage of all legitimate merchants. The speculator in produce, without capital or talent, assuming to be a millionaire, certain of a large fortune if the market advances, and trusting to the fears of his banking accomplices to uphold him if his game goes wrong—the bank with its 'wealthy proprietor,' (irrespective of a score or two of widows and orphans) gambling by means of re-discounts to ten times the extent of its available resources, so as to make large dividends and surplus profits to cover the most disgraceful losses—the popular manager, to whom everything is entrusted, usually an upstart, proud of his power to crush the business of any respectable house by backing up with unlimited loans, a set of penniless protoges to counteract its operations—and the money firms who assist the process only so long as it is thoroughly safe; all alike are conscious that between them and the Bank Charter Act there can be no quarter.

"The worst of it is that merchants of the highest honor are brought down by a system which fosters a set of speculators without capital or honesty."

BANK OF ENGLAND.—The extensive American House which it was reported had received assistance to the amount of a million sterling is George Peabody & Co. Baring & Brothers, it is also said, received assistance to the same amount.

DISTRICT OF GASPE.

WE clip the following paragraphs from the Quebec Chronicle, as they contain information that may be interesting to our readers in the above-named District:

"A correspondent of the Canadien thus writes from Toronto on the 28th ult.

"You may announce that Messrs. Thompson and Deblois, ex Circuit Judges, one of them residing at New Carlisle, the other at Percé, and whose offices ceased to exist on the 24th instant, by the operation of the new Judicature Act, have obtained retiring pensions.—Mr Thompson of two-thirds, Mr. Deblois of one-third of their salary. The first was a judge for 27 years, the other during only 8 or 9 years. Their successors are not yet known, though their appointment cannot be delayed as the District is now without judges. All the other Circuit Judges will be immediately created Judges of the Superior Court, in virtue of the new Act. After which will follow the appointments of Prothonotaries, Sheriffs, &c., in the new Districts.—*Dec. 1.*"

"We gave insertion on Tuesday, to a statement of the Toronto correspondent of the Canadien, that two Judges for the district of Gaspé are about to be appointed immediately to replace Messrs. Thompson and Deblois, who have retired. We have heard that the judgeships in question were offered to the Hon. Mr Lemieux and Mr Dunbar Ross, who both declined to accept them. As to the appointments of Prothonotaries, Sheriffs, &c., about to be made, for the new Judicial Districts in this section of the Province, we hope to see that discrimination exercised which the importance of the offices demands. The Prothonotaries, especially, will require to be professional men, and would, certainly, be conducive to the selection of competent officers if, in every case, the choice were not confined merely to the newly constituted judicial districts, but extended to the division of Lower Canada in which such districts had been heretofore included."

LOCAL.

APPOINTMENTS.—The Gazette received on Saturday last, confirms the rumour of the appointments in this County mentioned in our last week's paper, of Richard Sotton, Esq., to the office of Deputy Treasurer for the Port of Newcastle, and of Samuel Thomson, Esq., as Clerk of the Peace for the County. The Gazette also contains the following:

"Andrew R. Wetmore, Esq., to be Clerk of the Crown in the Supreme Court, in the room of Andrew Barberie, Esq."

ELECTION.—Last week we noticed in a postscript, that the Sheriff had received the Writ for the election of a Member for this County, vacant by the resignation of Mr Sutton, consequent on his acceptance of the Office of Deputy Treasurer at Newcastle. No other Candidate except Mr S. is as yet in the field, and we do not think there will be, as in all likelihood the seat will be again vacant at an early day. At the winter Session of the Legislature, a bill passed the lower house, with a large majority, rendering all persons holding the Office of Deputy Treasurer, Clerk of the Peace, and several others of emolument under the Government, as ineligible to hold seats in the Assembly, but in consequence of the abrupt manner in which the business of the Legislature was brought to a close, no action was taken upon it by the Council. We presume this judicious and highly popular measure, will be again brought before the Legislature at the approaching Session, when it will in all likelihood meet with the sanction of the respective branches thereof and become Law. If our anticipations be correct, Mr Sutton, and several other gentlemen holding seats in the Assembly, will be compelled to retire or resign their offices; a contest therefore, under these circumstances, we think, would be injudicious and ill-timed.

POULTRY.—Judging from the large flocks of Geese we saw last summer while journeying in the Counties of Gloucester and Restigouche, we think they must have a few to spare. If some person of a speculative turn of mind, would bring on a load or two to this quarter, we think he would have a speedy sale, and realise something for his pains, notwithstanding the hard times. We have often wondered why our farmers—many of whom have every convenience for raising geese and ducks—do not make an effort to supply the market, instead of forcing persons to send the money out of the County to procure them. We do not mention Turkeys—such a thing is scarcely ever to be procured.

INQUEST.—An Inquest was held on Sunday last, 13th inst., at Keary's Hotel, in Chatham, before M. CRANNY, Esq., Coroner, on view of the body of JOHN HEFFERNAN, Tailor, who was found dead near Daniel McLaughlin's House. Verdict—Accidental Death. The Jury, from the evidence adduced, were of opinion that deceased was under the influence of liquor.

CURLING.—A number of persons indulged in this old-fashioned and interesting game on Thursday last, on the ice opposite to Chatham. The day was fine, and there were a great many spectators.

Persons finding our Stationery Store closed, will please enquire at the Printing Office, where a person will be prepared at all times to serve them.

Persons sending Communications or notices of Marriages and Deaths, are required to pay the postage, otherwise they will not receive attention.

GOOD TIMES COMING.

SUCH is the heading of the following article, which we copy with much pleasure from a late number of the New York Herald. We sincerely hope our neighbours have seen the worst of the crisis, and that the anticipations of the writer will be realised.

"The financial crisis seems to have exhausted itself, and we already see signs of a recovery of trade of all kinds from the preceding stagnation.

"There is also a marked improvement in all kinds of retail trade, and many manufacturing establishments have resumed operations. Wall street is much easier, and the banks have a comfortable specie basis of twenty-four millions, 'there or thereabouts.' The leading stocks have come up to their proper values, and the fancies sell for more than they are worth, as usual. Money begins to circulate more freely, collections are made with more facility, and the tax receiver is run down with the city debtors anxious to settle up. On a fine afternoon, like that of yesterday, you will see the Broadway bazaars crowded with ladies, who have now an opportunity to buy at fair prices. There are not so many long faces down town as there were three weeks ago; we hear nothing more from the unemployed laborers, the honest portion of them finding plenty of hard work and sure pay at the Central Park—and confidence, which is the basis of all mercantile operations, is returning more rapidly than could have been expected.

"It is quite evident, from all these indications, that with proper foresight and a little economy to prevent too sudden an inflation, and thereby bring about a relapse, we may soon stand as well as we did a year ago. We have, at any rate, broken the neck of the revulsion—have passed through the panic, and are recovering from the stagnation. At present, trade of all kinds is almost as active as it ever is at this season of the year, which is never a particularly lively one."

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

THE St. John Morning News contains the acknowledgment of Messrs. Ferguson, Baldwin, and McKenna, of the receipt of the sum of £102 6 0, subscribed in that City for the relief of the families of the Fishermen lost on our coast last summer. The Committee says:

"We rejoice to be able to say that we believe the funds placed at our disposal, will prove amply sufficient to relieve the most pressing necessities, and materially mitigate the sufferings of the parties for whose benefit it is designed during the present winter.

"At the termination of our labours, we propose to publish a detailed statement of the appropriation of this fund, with the names, circumstances, and amount of relief to each party, for the satisfaction of the contributors."

FREDERICTON MAIL.—The Gazette contains a Proclamation further proroguing the meeting of the General Assembly until the 14th January; but no mention is made of the dispatch of business.

For remainder of Editor's Department and Marriages and Deaths, see 2nd page.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

New York, Dec. 14, 1857.

"Europa" arrived this morning. Later dates from India reports arrival out of 15 troop ships with 6000 men. Mutineers defeated at Agra; forty-three guns captured; 1000 rebels killed. General Havelock remained at Lucknow; large forces of the enemy in the vicinity. King of Delhi to be tried by military commission; two more of his sons shot.

Some additional failures reported in England but matters generally look more favorable; demand for money diminishing. Gold flowing in steadily. Breadstuffs held at 6d. advance; Western Canal flour 2s. 6d. to 2s.; corn and wheat trifle more active; provisions dull.—Sugar 6d. to 1s. lower. Tea prices barely maintained; coffee dull.

To the Reading Room, Chatham.

Halifax, December 15, 1857.

Canada arrived. Parliament opened, and Queen's Speech referred chiefly to Bank of England and India. Indian affairs after recess. Heavy failures continue, but upon the whole. Money matters were improved. Funds 1-3 better. Gold had arrived, and demands at Bank not oppressive. At Hamburg there was great Commercial distress, in fact general prostration. Breadstuffs declined, on Wheat 2d to 3d, Flour 6d to 1s, Corn 6d. Several attempts to launch the Leviathan had been partially successful and expected to be accomplished in a few days.—The Engineers have every thing under perfect control. Nothing from India.