

the Basin of Mines, from which I made the journey by coach to a place called Sackville, at the head of Bedford Basin, and about ten miles from Halifax, the capital of the province. At various points along the road I saw the works in operation; and on arrival at Sackville a delay of an hour gave me an opportunity of inspecting the railway which is finished in the place. Across the river which here falls into the Basin, I found a box-girder malleable iron bridge, which would have done credit to any country. It is supported on massive stone pillars, of great height, and whether for beauty of design or solidity of construction, I have seldom seen anything superior. I was the more surprised at this, because I had been told that the engineer, Mr Forman, was a young man and a native of the province. The railroad from this place to Halifax follows the windings of the shore, presenting many beautiful points of view; but what interested me most was the skillful manner in which the engineering difficulties had been mastered. It was a sad disappointment to me; on my arrival at Halifax, to find that Mr Forman was absent, and would not return before my embarkation; but I confess it was with no little pride I learned that, although a native of Nova Scotia, he had been regularly educated and drilled in the old country, and in a school which has sent out some of the best practical railway engineers. Since my return to this country, I have had occasion to visit the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where Mr Forman was for many years employed in the construction and working of railways; and where he had established a character which amply justified the Government of Nova Scotia in placing their interests in his hands. "The railroads of Nova Scotia are being constructed entirely at the expense and risk of the province, under the superintendance of a board of commissioners, of which the Hon. Mr Howe is the chief. The funds are provided by the sale in England of bonds guaranteed by the province, which are now at a considerable premium; and there can be no doubt that the railways when completed, will greatly increase the prosperity of this valuable colony."

NOVA SCOTIA.

In our last publication, we gave a short account of the recent calamitous fire which took place in the city of Halifax, on the afternoon of New-Year's day; and to-day we give the full particulars from papers since received. This has been the most serious fire that has occurred in that place for many years, and it is to be hoped that it will have the effect of shewing the inhabitants the folly of persisting in erecting large wooden structures in the heart of their city.

It appears the fire broke out about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, as the Editor of the Sun says, "just as the citizens were in the midst of their calls on renewing the friendship of the new-year." It originated in the large building owned by Mr N. Vass, situate on the corner of Prince and Hollis streets. The flames soon spread, and crossed over to the building occupied by Mr Harrington as a grocery, situate on the corner of Prince and Granville streets, and on the lower side of the Province Building; and also communicated to St. Matthew's Church, immediately opposite on the upper side of the street, which was totally consumed, together with about twenty buildings, and thirteen partially so. The wind fortunately changed, and by this circumstance the premises of Mr Harrington were saved.

It appears that houses situate in three blocks were consumed, rendered tenantless, or pulled down. The Newspaper Proprietors suffered considerably, and we sincerely sympathize with them in their loss.

Under the Nova Scotia head will be found a long account of this disaster; and we copy below some additional items from the Sun.

"The *Colonist* building is reduced to almost a skeleton; but is insured for £300. The materials of the *Colonist* office were pretty well scattered—they were insured in the Hartford for a sum just sufficient to save the proprietor. It was rather unfortunate, for the *Colonist* of that morning appeared for the first time in an entirely new dress, looking quite creditable.—Mr Annand's new building, known as the Chronicle and Gazette office, had a very narrow escape, and if it had not been for the utmost care and exertion it must have fallen a victim to the 'devouring element.' We could not help admiring the coolness displayed in not removing everything out of the building—only a few cases of type were removed, so that the Chronicle made its appearance as usual yesterday morning. This establishment was insured.

The widow Studley's buildings, including 'Somerset House,' west of St. Matthew's Church, were burned to the ground. We are sorry to learn there was no insurance on either of the buildings. Mrs Studley had just succeeded in clearing off the incumbrances of the property.

The *Christian Messenger* building, recently fitted up by Mr Selden, between the one last

mentioned and that of Thomas Bently's, was pulled down, and the fire in this direction finally subdued. The building was insured at 9 o'clock the previous night for £400 in the Hartford. The type and presses were damaged. The houses on the opposite side of the street were, more or less damaged."

LIVERPOOL SHIP TRADE.

WE are indebted to the St. John Morning News for the following extract from Robert A. Munn & Co's. Circular, dated on the 19th December:—

"Fortune, 571 tons, built in Saint John, 1852, sold for £3,500. Negotiator, 1,017 tons, Miramichi, £10,500. Algeria, 554 tons, Bathurst, £4,700. Castillon, 1,063 tons, Dorchester, 1856, £9,800. The Circular remarks—The market for Ships, which has for several months been much depressed, owing to the high price of money and low freights generally current, has considerably improved, and during the past week we have to report a considerable demand for really good and well-finished ships, as witness the Zulieka, (Quebec vessel) which sold for £7 15 per ton, O. M. We now look for a gradual improvement in rates, owing in part to the greater ease in money matters."

LIVERPOOL TIMBER TRADE.

FROM Circulars to the 19th December we take the following extracts. The reports are not very satisfactory.

"The import from British America during the past fortnight has been much greater than usual at this period of the year. The total tonnage from 1st February, including Baltic, is 318,217 tons, against 305,313 tons last year. The continued large arrivals has still further depressed our market, and prices are lower for almost every article.

"*Spruce and Pine Deals.*—The supply of Deals since our last has been 443,805 pieces, against 108,784 pieces for same period in 1855; and the total import for the year is now 57,591 pieces in excess. There has been a fair consumption, but as the supply far exceeds the demand stocks are rapidly accumulating; most of the cargoes on arrival have been sold ex ship at a reduction on our last quotations.—To-day St John Deals are worth £8 5s. to £8 10s., and other sorts at proportionate rates.—*Farnworth and Jardine's Timber Circular.*

CANADA.

THE Legislature of Canada is summoned to meet for the Despatch of Business, on the 25th February.

A very large emigration of settlers from France, Belgium, is expected in Lower Canada next season.

LOCAL.

THIS has been a fruitful week in Chatham of Public Meetings. First we had the Parish Meeting for the appointment of Officers; then the Electric Telegraph Company for the settlement of their accounts, and the appointment of Office-bearers for the ensuing year; then the meeting of the Stockholders of the Gas Company, to receive the report of the Committee appointed to draw up a charter of Incorporation which is to be laid before the Legislature for its sanction, and the appointment of a Board of Directors to manage the affairs of the Company the present year; and last, though not least, the opening of the Lecture Season of the Mechanics' Institute.

PARISH MEETING.

Ever since the present Law has been in force we have had cause to complain of the disorderly manner in which the proceedings have been conducted. This was owing to the appearance at the meetings of a large number of persons who had no right to be present, who behaved in a manner anything but creditable to them. The Meeting on Tuesday last afforded a striking contrast to all the others that preceded it. This was, we think, in a great measure owing to the admirable arrangement entered into by the Town Clerk, who insisted that no person should be allowed to be present who could not produce his receipt at the hall door, or whose name did not appear on the Collector's list as having paid his rates. Another circumstance no doubt, helped to correct the evil—a larger portion of the more respectable of the Rate-payers attended than we ever witnessed at any previous meeting. It was held in the large Hall of the Sons of Temperance, and its ample area afforded comfortable sitting room for all the company.

The Meeting was presided over by Mr James A. Pierce, assisted by the Town Clerk, Mr David Gitchell.

The Accounts of the various Office-bearers were handed in, and audited by Committees—who reported thereon. They were all satisfactory, and some of them elicited high commendations from the Committees and the applause of the meeting. We think it unnecessary here to particularize, the Grand Jury, as it is their custom, no doubt, will furnish details.

A resolution was proposed and unanimously carried, thanking the Overseers of the Poor for the faithful manner in which they discharged the duties of their Office, thereby effecting a very large saving to the rate payers.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and George Kerr, Esq. being called thereto, the thanks of the Meeting were given to the Chairman for the able and impartial manner in which he discharged his duty.

The company then separated, all pleased and gratified with the manner in which it had passed over.

TELEGRAPH MEETING.

In the afternoon the Annual Meeting of the Miramichi and Richibucto Telegraph Company was held in the Hall of the Mechanics Institute. After the financial and other matters of the Company were arranged, the following Office-bearers were appointed for the present year:

President—William Wilkinson.
Directors—Caleb McCulley; John Cameron; Robert Johnston, Senr.; and William E. Samuel.

GAS COMPANY.

In the evening, at the same place, an adjourned meeting of the Shareholders of the Gas Company was held, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee appointed to frame an act of Incorporation, and to appoint Directors for the present year.

It had been previously arranged that a call of ten per cent. should be made on the Shareholders. This was cheerfully and promptly responded to, and a very large number of the company was present.

The Act of Incorporation, as reported, was agreed to, after some discussion. The company then proceeded, as provided by the Charter, to appoint by ballot, five Directors. The choice fell on the following gentlemen:

George Kerr,
W. J. Fraser,
George H. Russell,
Hugh Bain, and
John M. Johnson, Jr.

Mr Kerr having declined to act, the Shareholders decided on taking the next brightest name on the ballot, which was Mr John Bryson.

A resolution was thus passed, authorising the Directors to import all the articles necessary to proceed with the work, and that they would agree to meet such expenses by further advances on their shares. The proceedings of the meeting were very satisfactory, and augurs well for the future success of the company. The Stock List now amounts to £2,700.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The Institute was opened on Thursday evening, when Mr Caie delivered a most admirable Lecture to a crowded audience. His advice to the younger branches of the audience, contained much that deserved their serious attention, and if acted upon, would prove highly beneficial to them. His remarks, as well as those of the President, in reference to the little interest taken by the public in the prosperity of the Institute, and the small audiences that assembled to hear the Lecturers; were well-timed, and we hope will have the salutary effect of awaking a more lively feeling in its favour, more particularly among the Mechanics of the town. Lecturers will not be found until they are assured they will have to address something better than nearly empty benches. This is an evil which must be speedily remedied if vitality is to be imparted to the Institute.

SHIP NEWS.—Our English papers are crowded with accounts of disasters on the British coast, where a succession of gales have prevailed. Many lives have been lost as well as a large amount of property. Among the numerous vessels cast ashore, we perceive Messrs. Haws & Mitchell's new vessel, the Clarendon. This occurred off Whitehaven. No lives were lost. The Fire-Fly, Ellis, arrived at Liverpool in a run of 28 days, but the passage was an extremely rough one.

BOWSER'S HOTEL.

ARRIVALS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Joseph Doherty, Bactouche, James Bell, Kouchibouguac; William Mills, Richibucto; Robert Young, Caraquet; Mr Robichaud, Shippegan; James Hodnet, Bathurst; Thos. Hodnet, do.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday, 8th January, by the Rev. W. Henderson, Mr JOHN RUNDLE, Merchant, Newcastle, to Miss MARY WALTER, of the same place.

At New Carlisle, Canada East, by the Rev. Mr LaPoint, on the 1st January inst., WILLIAM MEAGHER, Eldest Son of Joseph Meagher, Esq., of Carlton, to ELIZABETH, Eldest Daughter of Mr Henry Cadwell, of New Carlisle.

At Anherst, N. S., on the 24th instant, by the Rev. George Townshend, JEREMIAH TRAVIS, Esq., merchant, of Restigouche, to MARY, second Daughter of R. K. Smith, Esq., J. P. of the former place.

DEATHS.

At Chatham, on Thursday night last, after a protracted illness, Mr THOMAS HARDY, aged 60 years, long a useful and worthy inhabitant of the town. His funeral will take place on Monday next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when the friends and acquaintance of the family are requested to attend.

At Napan, on the 18th ult. ALEXANDER, 4th Son of the late Mr William Gray, in the 22nd year of his age.

On Sunday 28th Dec., at the residence of John H. Harding, Esq., Parish of Lancaster, St. John, AMELIA, relict of the late William Spurr, Esq., of Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, in the 69th year of her age.

On Sunday morning last, at the residence of James Peters, Esq., Kingston, K. C., after a lingering illness of twenty-two months, Mrs Phoebe, relict of the late Jacob Powell, Esq., of Richibucto, in the 85th year of her age.

NEW GOODS.

The Subscribers have received by recent arrivals from Britain and the United States,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions,

which, with the Stock on hand they now offer for sale at a small advance over cost, consisting in part of:

BROAD CLOTH, in Black, Blue and Invisible Colors Mohair Cloth, in Black, Blue and Drab, Pilots, Whitneys, Beaver, and Hungarian Cloths, Ladies' Cape Cloth, in Black and Drab, Cassmeres, Doeskins, Tweeds, &c., Plain and Printed Moleskins, Drills, Denim, and Bed Ticks, Striped and Regatta Shirting, Linens, Casbans, and Silicas, Hollands, Osnaburgs, and Towellings, Grey and White Cottons, White, Scarlet, Blue, Green and Yellow Flannels, Salisbury and Swansdown do., A few pieces extra heavy Serge, Rose, Point and Medium Blankets, Madder, Lilac, Buff and Mourning Prints, Black and Colored Orleans, Coburgs & Circassians, Delanes, Cashmeres and Napier Cloths, Brocades, Lusters and Figured Coburgs, Saxony, Gala and Tartan Plaids, Hungarians, Derrys, and Gingham, Figured Lusters and Cotton Aprons, Black and Colored Silk Velvets, do do Cotton do, Jaconett, Swiss, Malls, Striped & Checked Muslins, Persians and Tartans, Fancy Nets, Laces, Edgings and Blonds, Ladies' Dress Caps, Wreathes and Flowers, Hair-nets and Head-dresses, Plush Bonnets and Feathers, Polka Jackets and Burlin Wool Sleeves, Boas, Muffs and Cuffs, Dress Trimmings, Gimps and Fringes, Sewed Chimesets, Habits and Collars, Hosiery, Gloves and Trimmings, Childrens' Hoods and Booties, Square and Long Wool Shawls, Handkerchiefs, &c. Indiana Silk and Wool Tissue do., Delane Shawls and Hdkfs. in variety, Knitting Cotton, Threads and Small Ware, Druggets and Carpeting, &c.,

CLOTHING.

Black Broad Cloth, Pilot, Whitney, Mohair and Canada Overcoats, Pilot, Beaver, Whitney & Mohair Reefing Jackets, Black Cloth Dress Coats, Jackets, Paletots and Shooting Coats, Doeskin, Tweed and Satinett do, Fancy Satin, Black and Blue Cloth, Doeskin and Satinett Vests, Black Cloth, Pilot, Beaver, Satinett, Moleskin, Tweed and Homespun Pants, Fancy Seal and Fur Coats, India Rubber and Oil Clothing, Gaernsey, Frocks, and Denim Overall, Flannel Shirts and Drawers, Lamb's Wool Shirts and Pants, Black, Drab and Brown Wool and Fur Hats, (newest style,) Fancy Regatta and Striped Shirts, Black and Coloured Silk Hdkfs., and Neck-ties, Wool Mufflers, Scarfs and Fancy Cravats, Umbrellas, Trunks, and Travelling Bags, Buffalo Robes, A Splendid assortment Fur, Plush, and Storm Caps.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

100 Pairs Mens' Domestic Manufactured Boots, 100 do. do., American do. do., 200 do. Boys' and Mens' Brogans, 400 do. Childrens' assorted Boots and Shoes, 100 do Womens' Calf Boots, 200 do Womens' and Girls' Jenny Lind's, 100 do do do., Grained Buskins, 100 do Womens' Slippers, 50 do do., Felt Boots, 100 do Ladies' and Misses Prunella and Cloth Boots, 200 do Mens' assorted Rubbers, 12 do Ladies' Long Rubber Boots, A few pair Gents' Over Socks, 70 Sides New York and Domestic Sole Leather.

GROCERIES, &c.

30 Chests Tea; 20 half do., 200 Boxes do., 20lb., 10lb., and 6lb each, 2 hds. Brown Sugar, 4 bbls. Crushed do., 20 Pouches, 20 lbs., and 20 bbls. Muscovada Molasses, 30 Boxes assorted Confections, 24 do Tobacco, 10 M. assorted Cigars, 50 do No. 1 Family Soap, 50 do. Candles, 40 do assorted Window Glass, 40 Kegs assorted Cat Nail, 30 doz. do Broom, 20 do do. Buckets, 60 Gross Matches, 250 bbls. Flour, 150 do Corn Meal, 10 do Oat Meal, 40 do Rye Flour, 30 do Labrador Herring, 100 Quintals Codfish, 6 Barrels Crackers, 5 do Onions, 2 do Dried Apples, Pork, Butter, Barley, Rice, Coffee, Ginger, Pistachio, Cassia, Nutmegs, Pepper, Starch, Salsaparilla, Raisins, Currants, Indigo, Castor Oil, Salts, Senne, Pain Killer, Mustard, Room Paper, Whips, Sleigh Bells, Door Mats, Sofas, Looking Glasses, Chairs, Earthen and Glass Ware, Letter and Wrapping Paper, Cotton Wool and Bating, Holland's Gla, Ram, Syrup, Port, Sherry, Madeira, and Champagne Wine, White Wine Vinegar, Rum Coloring, Tarpeatine, &c., with various other Goods.

BURKE & NOONAN.

Chatham and Newcastle, December 4, 1856. Pork, Butter, Domestic Homespun, Socks, Mittens, will be taken in exchange.