

General Articles.

NEW-YORK, MAY 27.

GREAT FIRE.—Last evening, about half past six o'clock, a fire broke out in the livery stable of Mr. Chambers, in Bayard street near the corner of the Bowery. The building was of wood, and the wind blowing fresh, from the S. W., the flames spread with great rapidity. Several of the adjoining houses, which were mostly of wood, were immediately on fire, and when the firemen arrived with their engines, it was already too late to save them. Twelve horses were in the stable, of these two only were saved, the rest shared the fate of the building. The flames were driven by wind full upon the Bowery Theatre. No apprehensions were entertained for its safety, as the side wall was fire proof, and the windows were guarded with iron shutters. No precautions were taken to remove the scenery and decorations, nor the wardrobes of the performers. At length, however, in less than an hour from the first alarm, the wooden cornice of the theatre took fire, and the flames, seizing the ends of the rafters, were driven, with great violence, into the interior of the building. So rapid were their progress, that the persons within and on the roof escaped with difficulty. Two men were taken out of an upper window almost suffocated, and another, who was on the roof at the time it took fire, was seen retreating before the volumes of smoke and flames till he came to the ridge, where, finding no other method of escape, he slid down to a chimney that stood against the north side of the roof, and thence let himself drop upon the roof of another building about 20 feet below. In a quarter of an hour from the time that the fire was communicated to the eaves, the whole roof of this immense edifice was wrapped in flames, and shortly after the lead with which it was covered, melted with the heat and fell in. A pyramid of flame rose from the burning roof to an immense height with a dazzling intensity of brightness and heat that drove back the bye standers, and shed over the city a light like day. At length the roof fell in, which was followed by the chimneys, one after the other, and by the wall at the west end of the theatre. The terrible element continued to rage within, until every thing but the front and the side walls was consumed. The fire raged about three hours before it was at length got under by the exertions of the firemen.

The play of the Gambler's Fate was to have been performed on that evening for the benefit of Mrs. Gillert, the wife of the Manager, and a full house was expected. The performers were dressing for their parts when the fire broke out. It was fortunate the alarm was given before the house began to fill.

It is said that the insurance had been effected on the Theatre, to the amount of \$60,000 in different offices. The other property, and scenery, &c. is said to have been but partly insured.

YORK ASSIZES.

Conviction and Execution of a Father and Son for Murder.—On Monday last William Dyon, aged 45, and his son, John Dyon, aged 23, were arraigned at the York assizes for the murder of John Dyon, the brother of the first named prisoner, on the 16th of February. After a trial which occupied the Court during the whole day, the jury returned a verdict of GUILTY against the prisoners, who were sentenced to be hanged on Wednesday. On Monday evening the wife and daughter of the elder prisoner took their farewell of their wretched relations, but no peculiar emotion was manifested by them. The conduct of William Dyon, the father, was most callous up to the very last moment of his existence. On the morning that the execution took place, the elder gave Willis two notes to give to his son John, both of which were intercepted, and were to this effect, that he was to hold his tongue and say little. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the door of the elder was opened, in order to put the culprits together, when he inquired of the turnkey whether they were going to hang them directly? At twelve o'clock, they were conducted to the fatal platform; the young man came on first; he looked pale and distressed in mind; the father followed, and cast a careless look upon the crowd congregated to witness the awful scene. The Ordinary commenced reading prayers in which the young man joined most earnestly, but his father was indifferent, and turned round to look at the suspended halters. The young man repeated aloud the Lord's Prayer, and

continued crying "Lord have mercy on me!" Just before the caps were placed over their faces the under-sheriff went to the young culprit, who in answer to an inquiry, said that THEY WERE GUILTY. The old man appeared to desire to prevent this conversation, but was kept back. The father witnessed, most intensely, the executioner adjust the rope round the neck of his unfortunate son, place the cap over his face, &c. without the least indication of parental feeling, contrition or remorse. The same ceremony having been performed for himself, he kept thrusting up his cap, in order that he might see something. At ten minutes past twelve they were launched into eternity amidst at least 10,000 spectators. They were both dreadfully convulsed. The father was dead in three minutes, but life was not extinct in the son for five minutes. After hanging the usual time, their bodies were cut down and given to the surgeons for dissection.

THERRY'S LIFE OF CANNING.

The following parallel between six of the greatest of Britain's Parliamentary Orators, is taken from the above:—

Thus endowed as a statesman, Mr. Canning was the most consummate orator of his country and age. He had cultivated eloquence as a liberal art—with the zeal of a student—and became one of its classical masters. Some may have exceeded him in particular qualities or powers—but he possessed an assemblage of endowments and acquirements which left all rivalry at a distance. He combined the free movement, spirit, and reality of British Parliamentary debate, with the elaborate perfection of the *forum* and the *agora*—and the necessary accomplishments and graces of ancient and modern literature. Chatham can be esteemed only by tradition and his effects—in the absence of all genuine remains. He must have possessed fervour, fancy, a superior reason, and great popular effect; but he exercised an air which he had himself created, and in which he had no rival of the first rank. His theatric delivery, and the mimic lightnings of his eye, astonished and frightened country gentlemen and noble lords, to whom eloquence was a novelty, and talent alarming. His dramatic appeal to the "frowning ancestor" in the tapestry, and his pantomimic exhibition of his crutch, would fall powerless—or worse, on modern opposition. Fox, with the impetuous ardour of liberty, humanity, and his temperament—with the muscular vigour of his dialectics—simple and unadorned—would be the first orator in the assembly of a free people. Pitt, with his high-sounding amplifications, lofty sarcasms, and imposing manner, was supreme in dictating to a drilled majority or subservient council—and in imposing his authority upon the common order of minds.—Burke has bequeathed the eloquence of his meditations, and the oracles of his philosophy, to sages and to posterity. But give Canning "audience meet"—the select representatives of a civilized free people—men capable of feeling deliberate eloquence as a cultivated liberal art—and he brought into the field an assemblage of qualities beyond all single rivalry. Fire and imagination, like Chatham, with a severer judgement and less artificial delivery—vigorous dialects, like Fox, with more of wit and fancy—dignity and manner, and measured declamation like Pitt, with a livelier and lighter tone of pliantry and sarcasm—much of the philosophy of Burke, with less prolixity, and a more scrupulous taste, these are among the qualities which determine Mr. Canning's place in the first order of orators.

Death of Mungo Park's son.—Extract of a private letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Lumley, to Mr. Secretary Hay, dated Cape Coast Castle, December 4, 1827:—"I am sorry to inform you that a fine young man, son of the celebrated Mungo Park, died in the Akinbo country, a little to the S. E. of Accoa, about seven weeks ago. He arrived on this coast in July last, for the purpose of penetrating into the S. W. interior of Africa, having resolved to complete those discoveries which his father's death had left unaccomplished. Whilst at Akinbo (where he remained for some time to acquire a competent knowledge of the language before he advanced farther into the interior,) the annual Yam custom took place, i. e. Festival. The natives were assembled in a large plain, in which stood a Fetish Tree, which is never approached except by the priests. Mr. Park mounted this tree, "considered sacred," for the purpose of taking a sketch of the group assembled. The King, perceiving his intention, en-

deavoured to persuade him from this act, assuring him, if he were guilty of such profanation he could not live long. Mr. Park was not to be dissuaded from his intention, and he was a corpse in two days after. The Fetish men, no doubt, fearing their power and character would be shaken, if this impiety could be done with impunity, hastened Mr. Park's death by poison."

Colonial.

DISTRESSED STATE OF THE SHIP *SUPERB* WHEN LAST SEEN.

We have obtained from Capt. Cain the following particulars relative to the *Superb* from Bristol, for this port, and for whose safety doubts are felt.

The *Superb* of 501 tons, Capt. Cain, built at Prince Edward's Island, sailed from Bristol for Quebec, consigned to the firm of W. & G. Pemberton, on the 27th of March, with a cargo of salt, iron, tin, sugar, &c. &c. On the 11th April, while lying to, a heavy sea broke on board her, which did considerable damage, and from that time to the 21st the salt had sunk five feet, and the ship made a great deal of water. On the 22d in lat. 40, 20 N. long. 52 W. fell in with ice, but observing a clear passage ahead steered for it—when within her own length a large neck of sunken ice was seen on which the ship immediately struck, and carried away her fore gripe and cut-water. She then rose forward and falling on a large piece that was floating under her larboard bow, got clear, but had sprung a leak. On the 24th found the leak gaining fast; at six P. M., a schooner hove in sight, manned the jolly boat and sent the boatswain with hands to her, the Mate having giving up his duty that day, and the 2nd Mate not to be found at the time. The boatswain returned without a satisfactory answer. Capt. Cain then put off for the schooner, but in attempting to board her the boat was stove in, and filling immediately it was with great difficulty the hands got on board. Capt. C. then ordered the schooner to wear, and in going round the *Superb's* stern desired the Mate to hoist sail and keep with the schooner, telling him the boat was stove, and urging the necessity of keeping the pumps going. The crew answered that she was gaining water fast, and appeared to be going down. To the view of those on board the schooner she then appeared three feet deeper than when they first saw her. The schooner were frequently—the last time the pumps were not heard. At midnight the lights on board the ship disappeared, it was then blowing a heavy gale from N. N. E. At day light next morning nothing farther of her could be seen.

Capt. Cain and four seamen were afterwards taken on board of the *Wallsend*, and arrived here yesterday afternoon. 18 men, including officers, remained on board the vessel. There were no passengers.—*Quebec Star*.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUICIDE.

Last week has been remarkable for the number of premature deaths that occurred in this town and neighbourhood. A Cooper named Campbell committed suicide by cutting his throat with his own drawing knife at Hogg's Mills Young Street. A soldier in the Garrison was sent to destroy some damaged gunpowder, and having put ten rounds of the best in his bosom, put a match to the rest; but unfortunately a spark communicating with that in his breast, it blew up, and caused his death in two or three days.—On Saturday, a young man named Burgess, who came from England as servant with the Hon. Peter Robinson, and Master Vaughan, son to Mr. Vaughan of York Theatre, went out together in a small canoe to fish—but by some accident the canoe upset, and both were unhappily drowned at the mouth of the river Don. Both their funerals went out together on Monday, numerous attended, and the mournful spectacle threw a shade of grief over every countenance that beheld it. Both were youths highly esteemed by their acquaintance.—*Canadian Freeman*.

Prince Edward's Island.

Enormous Pig.—There is at present in Charlotte Town, a Pig of the following size; length 9 feet 6 inches; girth round the body, 7 feet 4 inches; round the neck, 5 feet; height 3 feet 11 inches, and weight upwards of 1600 lbs. It is the largest and finest looking animal of the kind ever seen in this Island, or perhaps in North America. It was raised on the Island from a breed originally from Ireland, and is now about to be shipped to Halifax.