

yesterday, at the Hall of the Clyde Trustees. The meeting was pretty numerously attended, and amongst those present we observed the Lord Provost and the other members of the River Trust, Mr. Gray the Vice-Chairman of the Trust, Mr. M. Lellan, Mr. Bremner, the Engineer, the two Harbour Masters, Mr. Hutcheson, and Mr. Bell were examined, and much interesting information was elicited. The Commission adjourned a little after four o'clock, to meet again to-day, for the purpose of prosecuting their inquiries. We shall give some particulars of the evidence in our next.

Trades' House.—The annual election of Deacon-Convener of the Trades' House took place on Wednesday, when Mr. John Stuart cooper, and Mr. John M'Callum, hammerman, were put in nomination. On the votes of the House (which was a very full one) being taken, they were found to be equal, and M'Callum has been elected by the casting vote of the Chairman. A protest has, however, been tabled against the legality of the return, in consequence of one of Mr. M'Callum's voters being out of occupancy, and resident furth of the Kingdom of Scotland.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING.

The wide spread habit of smoking has not yet had the medical attention paid to it and its consequences. It is only by two or three years' observation that Dr. Laycock had become fully aware of the great changes induced in the system by the abuse of tobacco, and of the varied and obscure forms of disease, to which especially excessive smoking gave origin. He proceeded to state some of them as they were met with in the pharyngeal mucous membrane, the stomach, the lungs, the heart, the brain, and the nervous system. The tobacco consumed by habitual smokers varied from half an ounce to twelve ounces per week, the usual quantity from two to three ounces. Inveterate cigar smokers will consume from four to five dozen per week.

The first morbid result is an inflammatory condition of the mucous membrane of the lips and tongue; then the tonsils and pharynx suffer,—the mucous membrane becoming dry and congested. If the thorax be examined well, it will be found slightly swollen, with congested veins meandering over the surface, and here and there a streak of mucous. Action ascends upwards into the posterior nares, and there is a discharge from the upper part of the pharynx, and irritation is felt by the anterior nares. The eye becomes affected with heat, slight redness, lacrymation, and a peculiar spasmodic action of the orbicularis muscle, experienced together with intolerance of light on awaking from sleep in the morning. The frontal sinuses do not escape, but there is a heavy dull ache in their region.

Descending down the alimentary canal we come to the stomach, where the results, in extreme cases, are symptoms of gastritis. Pain, tenderness, and a constant sensation of sickness and to expectorate, belong to this affection.

The action of the heart and lungs is impaired by the influence of the narcotic on the nervous system; but a morbid state of the larynx, trachea, and lungs results from the direct action of the smoke. The voice is observed to be rendered hoarser, and with a deeper tone. Sometimes a short cough results; and a case of ulceration of the cartilages of the larynx came under the doctor's notice. The patient was such a slave to the habit, that he hardly ever had the pipe out of his mouth. Similar sufferings have been caused by similar practices in other instances.

Another form is a slight tickling low down in the pharynx or trachea; and the patient coughs, or rather hawks up, a grumous-looking blood. It is so alarming as to be mistakeable for pulmonary hæmoptysis.

The action of tobacco-smoking on the heart is depressing; and some individuals who feel it in this organ more than others, complain of an uneasy sensation about the left nipple—a distressing feeling, not amounting to faintness, but allied to it. The action of the heart is observed to be feeble and irregular. An uneasy feeling is also experienced in or beneath the pectoral muscles, and oftener on the right side than on the left.

On the brain the use of tobacco appears to diminish the rapidity of cerebral action, and check the flow of ideas through the mind. It differs from opium and henbane, and rather excites a wakefulness, like green tea, than composes to sleep—induces a dreaminess which leaves no impression on the memory, leaving a great susceptibility, indicated by a trembling of the hands and an irritability of temper. Such are secondary results of smoking. So are the blackness of the teeth and gum-boils; there is also a sallow paleness of the complexion, an irresoluteness of disposition, and a want of life and energy, and, in constant smokers who do not drink, a tendency to pulmonary phthisis.

Dr. Wright of Birmingham, in a communication to the author, fully corroborates his opinions, and both agree that smoking produces gastric disorders, coughs, and inflammatory affections of the larynx and pharynx, diseases of the heart, and lowness of spirits; and, in short, is very injurious to the respiratory, circulating, alimentary, and nervous systems.

[From the Saint John Courier, December 5.]

LOSS OF THE STEAMER NORTH AMERICA IN THE GALE OF THE 25TH AND 26TH NOVEMBER.—The Steamer North America, Captain Brown, which left Saint John on Tuesday, 24th ult., for Eastport and Boston, proceeded on her passage from Eastport at nine o'clock on the morning of Wednesday the 25th, with a pilot,

and kept on her course on the outside for Boston, the wind continuing to increase to a gale during the night, with a heavy sea. About 9, p. m., on the 25th, the sea made repeated breaches into the cabin windows, and the wheel ropes broke several times, the steamer labouring very hard. About 1, a. m., on the 26th, the steam-pipe bursted, and the engine was thereby rendered useless. The jib was then set to keep the steamer before the wind, but the vessel became unmanageable, and, lying in the trough of the sea, was making water very fast. The pumps were then manned by the passengers and crew, and some were employed in passing the water up in buckets. At 4, a. m., she shipped a sea, which carried away all her bulwarks. An attempt was then made to set the mizen, but the sail was blown away as fast as hoisted. It was now discovered that the larboard boiler had shifted, and that there was three feet of water in the hold. Another heavy sea struck her with such violence that it was feared she had struck a rock. Land was now seen, and fears were entertained by some of those on board that in a few minutes they would be all hurried into eternity. The upper deck was occupied by the desponding and greatly alarmed passengers, in prayer to Almighty God for deliverance from their perilous situation. The anchors were soon let go, and all the chain run out, with a turn round the foremast. The pumps and buckets were then manned again, there being now four feet of water in the hold. About six o'clock, the steamer being sinking fast, preparations were made for running her ashore, to endeavour to save the lives of the passengers and crew, and a hawser having been bent on the chain outside of the hawser pipe, her head was canted to the northward, and the chain cut; she then went about four lengths of herself, when she struck amidships, on what proved to be the South East end of Long Island, near Mount Desert, and her larboard boiler came out of the side. Every exertion was now made to save the lives of those on board, by means of spars, ropes, &c., from the steamer to the beach, and they were all safely landed, with some difficulty, with the exception of a fireman, named Wm. M'Gaghey, who lost his hold on the spars, and was drowned. His body was found on the beach and interred. The women were got to land by means of ropes tied round their waists. The baggage, cargo, &c., were mostly all lost; a few articles of wearing apparel, &c., were picked up on the beach, much damaged.

The steamer went to pieces soon after she struck. One of the crew, who, with Capt. Brown, was the last on board, states that he went into the cabin, and saw the middle boiler in the gentlemen's cabin—he then hurried on shore as quick as possible, and in less than a quarter of an hour he thinks she was in forty pieces—her false bow and machinery being nearly all that was to be seen where she grounded.

There were about sixty passengers on board, including ten or twelve females, making with the officers and crew, about seventy five in all.—Some of them suffered severely from cold, and from fatigue and bruises. They remained on the Island nearly three days, and were generally well treated by the inhabitants, whose means were very limited.—Capt. Brown's conduct is high spoken of.

It is expected that the engines, &c., will be saved, but in a damaged state, and as there was but little or no insurance on the steamer, the loss to her owner, (Mr. James Whitney, of this City,) will be very heavy.

The steamer Portland, Capt. Rogers, which left Eastport on the 25th ult., (two hours after the North America) arrived at Boston on the 29th.—Captain Rogers reports that at dark on the 25th, it commenced snowing very fast, and blowing hard—made a harbour at Mount Desert, wind N. E., which soon hauled S. E. and S., blowing a perfect hurricane. One brig and seven schooners went ashore at Cranberry Island, and S. W. Harbour, in sight of the Portland. Four schooners and one sloop ashore at Bass Harbour, a schooner ashore at Deer Island, and a large schooner at Fox Island.

Six vessels were driven ashore from their moorings, East Chop, Holmes' Hole, in a gale from the N. W. on the 23d ult.—Among them were the brig Tweed, M'Donald, from New York, for Saint John's, with a cargo of flour, pork, coffee, &c., and the brig Wanderer, Holmes, from New York, for Halifax, with a cargo of corn, bread, &c.

THE LATE STORM.—Intelligence hourly reaches us of some additional disaster by the late gale. Passengers by the Southern stage give most melancholy accounts of its ravages in the Bay of Fundy and Newfoundland Straits. They report that the Bay de Verte Packet was cast away on a ledge of rocks off Sackville, and all hands are supposed to have perished. The bodies of an infant and a grown up person were cast ashore.—*Gleaner.*

At Shediac the public wharf was almost entirely destroyed, and several small vessels were driven ashore.

The Cocaigne bridge is also stated to have suffered, and to be rendered unfit for travelling.

[From the Boston Evening Gazette.]

SAD DISASTER IN THE SOUND!—Total loss of the splendid Steamer *Atlantic*, Captain *Dustan*, and between 30 or 40 Passengers.—By the accounts of this distressing disaster from various sources, we gather the following concerning the ill fated Steamer. We learn that the *Atlantic* left Allyne's Point for New York, on Wednesday evening last, having on board about 75 passengers, but owing to