

board the new Governor, Sir C. A. Fitzroy, and family. A vessel, arrived at Sydney, had brought news from Tahiti, announcing that the French troops had surprised several of the posts established by the natives, but had themselves severely suffered in the encounter. The commander, M. Brea, was killed in the affray, and his aid-de-camp lost his legs. The natives reported their loss at five killed, and two wounded, and represented the French to have had one hundred killed, and nearly as many wounded.

On Wednesday, His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge received his appointment as commander of the forces in the Dublin garrison and district.

THE WEATHER.—For the last four nights, the metropolis has been visited by frost. On the night of Saturday it had become somewhat intense, and it has continued throughout Sunday, Monday and to this morning, with increased severity.

MR. ROWLAND HILL.—Mr. R. Hill, has been appointed Secretary to the Post Master General, at the salary of £1,200 a year. The appointment is a permanent one, but Colonel Maberly still continues to be Secretary to the Post Office. The office now filled by Mr. Rowland Hill is a new one, and has been created, as we understand, for the purpose of enabling him to carry into effect the remaining portions of his plan of Post Office reform. We have reason to believe that the Government has acted spontaneously in this matter, the restoration of Mr. Rowland Hill to office having been entirely unsolicited on his part.—*Morning Chronicle*.

OFFICIAL TRAVELLING.—The revenue authorities being of opinion, with reference to their minute of January last, that the regulations of that minute, by which superior officers are to be allowed first class railway carriage fare, should be held to apply to heads of departments only; but that as regards expense incurred by travelling by steam vessels, the classes of officers following, viz:—Principals of departments, clerks, searchers, landing and coast waiters, gaugers, and timber measurers, should be allowed first class cabin fare. Orders have been issued for the same to be observed in future accordingly, of which the several departments in London and throughout the kingdom have been apprised for their future government in the matter.

PROPOSED SMALL COINAGE OF HALFPENCE.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* proposes that the whole of our present cumbrous copper coinage should be called in, and replaced by a coinage of penny and halfpenny pieces, of much less weight and size. He suggests that penny pieces should be rather larger than sixpences, and the halfpennies than fourpences, but each thinner and with devices that would not admit of their being confounded with each other, or with the silver coins, if electrotyped. They should be fabricated of bronze, or some other metallic compound, at once hard, handsome and costing so nearly the circulating value of the coin, as to preclude falsifying.

NEW POLAR EXPEDITION.—At the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, it was announced by Sir J. H. Pelly, that the Hudson's Bay Company, had fitted out a well equipped expedition, for the purpose of surveying the unexplored portion of the coast on the north east angle of the American Continent. The expedition, consisting of eleven persons and two Esquimaux guides, started in two boats, on the 6th of July, under favourable circumstances, the ice having cleared away from the shores of the bay at an earlier period of the season than usual.—*Globe*.

THE SCHOLASTIC PROFESSION.—The first public examination for admission into the recently formed College of Preceptors, and for certificates of qualification, is appointed to take place in January. The examination is to be conducted by graduates in honor of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, and London, together with experienced and well known professors of the French and German languages. The candidates themselves are to select the branches of learning in which they desire to be examined.

The Admiralty have it in contemplation to train all the able-bodied men in the several dockyards, to the use of the long guns and musketry, and to form them into an available corps to man the batteries or the block ships, in cases of necessity.

Government has decided upon constructing some important works at the island of Alderney, the principal of which will be a breakwater for the protection of vessels of war. Strong defensive works are to be erected on land to command the harbour which will be formed by the breakwater.

Portsmouth is to be placed in as effective a state of defence as possible. The whole of the fortifications are to be furnished with the necessary guns, (32lbs.) as soon as the remaining portion of the carriages arrive from Woolwich. Charges of 10lbs. each, to the number of 700, have been made up, and are to be kept ready for immediate use in the magazine attached to the Queen's Bastion, in addition to which more powder is there deposited than at any time during the last year.

ECLIPSES IN 1847.—In the year 1847 there will happen four eclipses of the two great luminaries—two of the sun and two of the moon, one only of each of which will be visible in these parts. They will occur in the following order, viz:—1. A partial eclipse of the moon, March 31st, beginning 8h. 3m., and ending 10h. 9m., night. 2. A total eclipse of the sun, April 15th, invisible at Greenwich. 3. A partial eclipse of the moon, September 24th, invisible at Greenwich. 4. An annular eclipse of the sun, October 6th,

which will be visible, beginning at 6h. 6m., and ending 11h. 53m., morning.

EFFECTS OF SHOT ON IRON VESSELS.—A very alarming account has been brought by the officers of the Gorgon steam-vessel of the effect produced on the hulls of the Harpy and Lizard iron steam vessels by the shot from the batteries of Rosas, in the river La Plata, the result being quite different from that expected. Instead of a clean fracture, large splinters of iron flew about in all directions on the hull being struck, rendering the danger from this cause tenfold more imminent than that produced by the shot itself. Several splinters of this kind struck from the hull of the Harpy, have been brought home by the officers of the Gorgon, and amongst the rest, the splinters from the angle iron, which caused the death of Mr. Barnes, the clerk in charge. The results constitute a drawback against the use of iron for vessels of war.

In Scotland alone, from January, 1845, to January, 1846, sixteen editions of the Bible were printed, consisting of 312,000 copies.

UNEXPECTED ESCAPE.—At the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, Christopher Walker, a toll-collector, aged twenty eight, was indicted "for stealing 2,000 pence, 2,180 half pence, and other moneys, amounting to £13 12 8½, which he had received for and on account of the proprietors of Waterloo Bridge, his masters." The abstraction of the coin by the prisoner was established clearly enough; but none of the witnesses were armed with the company's act, or any proof that the company was incorporated. The Recorder said there was an end of the case. "It is shameful," he continued, "that a public company should not employ an attorney, who would have known that this document was essential. The prisoner must be acquitted, and I will not allow a farthing expenses." The prisoner left the court smiling, apparently elated by the "glorious uncertainty, &c."

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE issues of the Ladies' Benevolent Society will commence on Wednesday the 9th instant, at the Infant School, and will be continued daily, (Fridays excepted) at 3½ o'clock.

Tickets to be obtained at Mr. Beek's Bookstore.

December 5, 1846.

THE DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

THE next Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Church Society will be held at Saint John, in the National School House, on Wednesday the 6th of January, 1847.

EDWARD J. W. ROBERTS,

Secretary to the Executive Committee.

Kingsclear, December 8, 1846.

THE Clergy are requested to preach the semi-annual Sermon in behalf of the Society, on the first Sunday after Epiphany, 1847, or on some Sunday shortly following that day.

The collection to be forwarded to W. Bedell, Esquire, Treasurer, Fredericton.

J. FREDERICTON.

December 8, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE Property of Nehemiah Marks, Esquire, having been assessed on the 16th January, for Poor Rates, as a non-resident owner, in the Parish of Dumfries, for the year 1846, amounting to £14 12 6; and that unless the said Rates shall be paid within three months from the date hereof, and the charges of advertising the same, proceedings will be taken as the Law directs.

Dumfries, 10th November, 1846. MOSES DOW, Collector.

TOWN LOTS FOR SALE.

THE Property of the Honorable John S. Saunders, bounded by George, Charlotte, and Regent Streets, is offered for sale, in Building Lots.

Also several Lots in the neighbourhood of the Scottish Church, between George and Charlotte Streets.

A Plan will be exhibited at the Royal Gazette Office; and the conditions of sale will be stated on application to the Proprietor.

Fredericton, 3d February, 1846.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of Hugh Munro, Esquire, late of Somerset Vale, in the County of Gloucester, deceased, are requested to render their Accounts, duly attested, within three months from this date, to the undersigned Francis Ferguson, at his Office in Bathurst; and all Persons indebted to the said Estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the said Francis Ferguson. Dated the 16th day of October, 1846.—3m.

GEORGE A. MUNRO, }
FRANCIS FERGUSON, } Administrators.
ROBERT GORDON, }