

Pictou for Boston, which vessel was abandoned in a sinking state in lat. 42° 30', long. 65° 20'.

I cannot too highly praise the Mates and Crew of the *Emigrant*, for their noble conduct and unflinching perseverance in rescuing so many of their fellow beings from their perilous situation.

W. B. TABER,
Master of Ship Emigrant.

BLAIR, THE AUTHOR OF "THE GRAVE."—Better late than never; Robert Blair, the author of "The Grave," died exactly 100 years ago, and it is now proposed to erect a monument to him in the churchyard of Athelstaneford, East Lothian, of which he was Parish Minister, and in which capacity he was succeeded by the celebrated John Home, author of *Douglas*. Poor Blair could not get his poem published during his lifetime, as none of the booksellers to whom Isaac Watts offered it would have anything to do with it; but it was brought out after his death, and at once took its place as an English classic. Soon afterwards, however, appeared Gray's "Elegy;" and the subject being the same, and the measure more popular, "The Grave" was superseded by "The Elegy," so far as familiar quotation was concerned, although the former had a vitality, despite of occasional homeliness, which no rival lines could consign to forgetfulness. Blair was not only a man of talent himself, but was great as to sire and son; his grandfather was Robert Blair, the celebrated Covenanted divine, and his son was Lord Blair, President of the Court of Session. Dr. Hugh Blair was also a branch of the same family.

THE JOHN WESLEY MISSIONARY SHIP.—A new and beautiful brig of 180 tons, named the John Wesley, Commander Buck, left Southampton docks at nine, A. M., on Thursday for Sydney and New Zealand, and other missionary stations in the South Sea Islands. Twenty missionaries went out in the John Wesley; and previous to their departure from this port, they, together with their friends, partook of a farewell dinner on Wednesday evening, at Radley's Railway Hotel. Owing, however, to a heavy gale, the Wesley was obliged to put back, and will not leave her anchorage until the storm has abated.

GUN COTTON.—We find in the Lowell, Mass. Courier, a long and interesting communication from S. L. Dana, relative to the explosive and projective powers of the new discovered gun-cotton. The principal experiments were made in blasting. Two holes were drilled in a rock of perpendicular face of nine feet, and in each were placed ten ounces of cotton. The mass of rock moved by the explosion was 1125 cubic feet, and weighed about 70 tons. To have removed the same would have required ten to twelve pounds of common powder. Several other experiments were made and all equally satisfactory.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT WITH GUN COTTON.—On Sunday evening, a serious accident occurred to James Richardson, a young gentleman residing in Besborough terrace, Pimlico, whilst making experiments with gun cotton. It appears that, at about seven o'clock on Sunday evening Richardson and several other young men were in the kitchen of the house, and having a quantity of gun cotton, they were trying experiments with a pistol, and endeavouring to force the ball through a board fixed for the purpose at the other end of the room. The force with which the board was struck caused it to fall down upon the table, and it capsized the candle upon the gun cotton. The whole instantly exploded, and blew out the windows, and when a light was procured, Richardson was found lying on the floor, with his face frightfully burned. A surgeon was immediately sent for, and he pronounced the sight of Richardson's right eye to be totally destroyed. The other parties present were more frightened than hurt.

THE WRECK OF THE STEAMER ATLANTIC.—Persons who have recently visited the wreck at Fisher's Island, inform us that portions of bodies, such as arms, legs, or other parts, have been in a number of instances found. Nothing indicates to whom they had belonged. A large quantity of the Atlantic's bedding, such as mattresses, pillows, blankets, &c., has been brought up to Norwich, but its value cannot be very great. As heretofore remarked, it is improbable, that property to a very considerable amount will be saved from the wreck. The only part of the boat which is likely to be rescued, is the engine, the original cost of which was \$50,000. That it will be found considerably damaged, is probable; and how soon it will be got out of the water is doubtful. It is the opinion of a number of experienced men with whom we have conversed, that it will not be practicable to get it out before spring, except at a very heavy expense. We learn that the \$8,000 worth of lace belonging to Mr. Cunningham, was but a small part of the whole amount of that article on board the Atlantic when she went ashore. There was one consignment of laces on board, on which there was, we understand, some \$35,000 insurance. Of these laces, five or six cases—one of which was worth some \$3,000—have been saved, some of them, we believe, are but slightly injured.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint the Honorable John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice, to be Deputy Governor, within that part of the Province formerly Upper Canada, and in that capacity to exercise all and every the powers in any wise concerning the Administering the Oaths of Office to any person or persons appointed to Her Majesty's Executive Council for the Province of Canada.—*Quebec Mercury*.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—The Saint John Local Com-

mittee of the Church Society, held their annual Meeting on Tuesday last. The subscriptions for the present year were reported to amount to nearly £300. Dr. Botsford, and F. A. Wiggins, Esquire, were nominated lay Deputies, to represent this Parish at the Anniversary Meeting to be held in this city, in January next; L. H. Waterhouse, was appointed Treasurer to the Committee, and George Wheeler, Esquire, was re-appointed Secretary. The Meeting was well attended and the discussion of various matters relating to the Parish business, excited a considerable degree of interest.—*Saint John Chronicle*.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—According to announcement, our Mechanics' Institute was opened to the public on the evening of Thursday, when James Caie, Esquire, delivered a very excellent address on the use, progress and utility of these Institutions. The audience was large. At the termination of the address, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed by the audience, expressive of the obligations under which they laboured, to Mr. Caie, for the entertainment he had afforded them, and for the very able manner in which he had elucidated his subject. The President, the Hon. Joseph Cunard, then spoke at some length—pointing out the advantage which must result from the formation of such an institution in the place.—*Gleaner*.

We have much pleasure in publishing the following document, received by the English Mail, on Friday night, under cover to Lieut. Col. B. L. Peters, Commandant of the Saint John City Militia.—*Chronicle*.

DUM DUM, near CALCUTTA, 5th October, 1846.

To the Commanding Officers, Field and other Officers, of the Militia of the City and County of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick, British North America:

GENTLEMEN,—I have had the high gratification, on my arrival in this country, to receive the very kind and flattering Address which you have done me the honor to forward me, congratulating me on my recent promotion to a Lieutenant Colonelcy in Her Majesty's 24th Regiment. It is with stronger emotions than I can possibly express, that I request you to except my grateful and heartfelt thanks for this testimony of your continued regard and esteem, and undiminished warmth of feeling towards me, after the lapse of so many years since the interruption of our intercourse. I assure you, I deeply appreciate this valued tribute, proceeding as it does, from a body of gentlemen distinguished for devoted loyalty to our Sovereign, and attachment to the British Crown; and I shall ever cherish the recollection of it with pride and pleasure.

I cannot but feel that your partial kindness has over-estimated my humble exertions in aiding to promote the efficiency of the New Brunswick Militia, at the period to which you refer, but I recall with satisfaction the good spirit with which my efforts, such as they were, were met and encouraged by you, the harmony and cordiality which prevailed between Her Majesty's troops under my command, and the Militia Force, and the full confidence I felt in the valuable support it would have rendered, had our combined services been called for, as then appeared not improbable, in the cause of our common country. It now only remains for me, gentlemen, to offer you the earnest assurance, that I respond in sincerity to your kind sentiments, and that wherever my future destiny may be cast, or the duties of my profession call me, I shall ever bear with me the remembrance of your kindness, and breathe forth wishes for your welfare and happiness.

I have the honor to be Gentlemen,

With sentiments of grateful regard,

Your very faithful and obedient humble servant,

ROBT. BROOKES,
Lieutenant Colonel 24th Regiment.

[From the Head Quarters.]

The semi-annual examination of the Baptist Seminary, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Spurden, took place on the 17th and 18th inst. The audience was not so numerous as on some former occasions, but on the Bench of Examiners were the Government Commissioners, the Hon. the Solicitor General, and the Rev. Messrs. Pope and Elder. The examination was chiefly conducted by the Principal and the Rev. Mr. Brooke.

We were unavoidably prevented from attending, but have understood that great satisfaction was expressed with the result of the studies since the last public examination, and have to thank a friend present for the following remarks:—

"Among the exercises in the Classics, the translation of passages selected from large portions of Tacitus and Virgil, which had been mastered, were considered very creditable, particularly that from Virgil, in which the literal translation was given without reading the Latin, and the idiom of both languages was fully kept in view. This practice is now very generally adopted in the best schools in England, and affords an excellent opportunity of testing the pupil's apprehension of the meaning of the author; and when combined with critical parsing, appears to preclude the possibility of the mind being exclusively occupied by words, as is much too frequently the case in this branch of education.

Many of the Composition exercises were excellent. As these are conducted on what may be termed a new system, and the advantages of the daily practice, were quite perceptible, I will no-