

nel course, east by south, and at a quarter to ten the land was made a-head, the helm was put a-port; and on coming round, owing to the heavy sea then running, the ship went ashore. In a few minutes, out of one hundred and ten human beings, passengers and crew, ninety one perished, among whom were the captain and the second mate. The persons who were saved lost all their property, and were left nearly naked. Every exertion was made, but owing to the wild cliff on which the vessel struck, and the darkness of the night, it was impossible to make any effort to save any part of the ship or cargo."

This document was signed by the mate, two of the crew, and John Limerick, Esq., a local magistrate.

#### NEW LIGHT HOUSE APPARATUS.

A new Light House apparatus, constructed by Mr. Alexandre Gordon, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, by order of the Trinity Corporation, was exhibited lately at Messrs. De Ville & Co's, of 367, Strand. Mr. Gordon has for many years directed his talents and attention to Light Houses, and, after extensive experience in fitting and improving the Lights, has at length produced, under the highest auspices, a system of Lights so powerfully concentrated as to promise in their adoption a very great advantage to Ocean and River Navigation.

In soliciting attention to his Beam of Light, (before sending his apparatus to the Trinity Board, to whose liberality its construction is due,) Mr. Gordon requests attention to the following observations:—

"About the year 1792, glass refractors, five inches thick and twenty inches in diameter, were substituted for reflectors, the focal point being nineteen inches distant; and they were to be seen in an English Light House as late as the year 1832. Buffon had proposed to reduce such a refractor in thickness, by cutting the lens into steps, so as to absorb less light. In 1811 it occurred to Sir David Brewster that a lens, or a set of lenses, might be built of separate pieces of glass. In 1819 the late M. Fresnel proposed that the generating sections of the rings not only ought not to have the same centre, but the different centres should not be situated on the same axis of the lens. A few years afterwards, M. Fresnel engaged M. Soliel to construct eight such lenses for the Light Houses of Corduan. In 1827 the Trinity Board witnessed some experiments with a lens of this kind, which had been made by Mr. Gilbert, under the direction of Sir David Brewster. In 1828 that Board imported a lens from France. In 1833 I introduced a polygonal arrangement, (both *dioptric* and *catoptric*), constructed by M. Maritz, of the Hague. And, subsequently, the Trinity Board, and particularly the Commissioners of Northern Lights, at the instance of Mr. Alan Stevenson, introduced the French system extensively in England and Scotland. In 1840 I constructed a Revolving Light for Jamaica, with Huldart's reflectors, and without refractors. In 1843 my Bermuda Light House Tower had Fresnel's system mounted upon it, contrary to my recommendation in favour of very large prolate reflectors. In 1846 I constructed a Fixed Light for Point de Galle, with very prolate reflectors."

Light Houses and Lights have been the prolific subject of imposition on the country in erection, as they have been the source of most vexatious annoyances to the shipowners and steam navigation companies. The cause of this is very easily seen and understood. There never was any responsible management of them. Some Light Houses are managed by the Colonial Department, some by the Admiralty, others by the Ordnance Department, and a great many, and a portion of all, by the Trinity Corporation. Colonial Lights have been specially neglected, and most of those which have been attended to have been erected at an extravagant cost, and are kept up at a very expensive rate, and yet remain very defective. The Jamaica Light House, for instance, constructed of iron and imported from this country, has, in fitting and keeping it up, cost about double the money it ought to have been established for, and the Bermuda iron Light House, although erected at much smaller cost, was, with Fresnel's system mounted on it, so defective, that the naval authorities complained of its general obscurity to the home government. The Ceylon Light House, with very prolate reflectors, by Mr. Gordon, now in course of erection, bids fair to show a marked improvement in every respect. Upon the success of this Light Mr. Gordon brought the whole subject of Colonial Lights before Sir Robert Peel, and the Admiralty having reported favourably on it, Mr. Gordon introduced the matter to the Earl of Auckland, with such effect that the subject at present occupies the attention of the three departments of the government which are more immediately connected with the Lights and the ways and means provided for them. Mr. Hume, M. P., and others, have interested themselves most warmly in the matter; and we have reason to believe that the whole business of Light Houses and Lights will shortly be referred to a commission.

This new system of Lights by Mr. Gordon is a following out of his prolate reflectors, as applied to the Ceylon Light House, by saving the radiated light which formerly escaped past the lips of the reflector. The latter portion of the light, which was formerly lost, is now bent down and thrown into the beam.

The specimen light exhibited on Monday was a single one of great concentrated power; and although the light was about an inch in diameter from a common Argand lamp, its dazzling bril-

liancy was scarcely subdued at a distance of fifty yards. Mr. Gordon says he combines a very prolate reflector and the refractor of Sir David Brewster deprived of its central portion; and by this system, says he, "I am enabled to throw into a beam nearly twenty-seven twenty-eighths of the whole light generated by an Argand lamp." The parabolic or conic reflector fixed horizontally opened at 13½ inches from the light (which was inserted at the top of the cone), at a distance of 15½ inches, and at 13 inches from the mouth of the reflector were fixed glass zones used as the refractors, being composed of four circles, varying in size and thickness, the inside of an even face, but on the outside the glass was cut away into curved steps, so as to prevent useless portions from absorbing any of the light.

Mr. Gordon proposes to use these new "systems" in some Light Houses immediately. For Revolving Lights—To use one or more of these systems, each furnished with an Argand burner, on one or more revolving faces, according to the size of the required beam. For Fixed Lights—To use such a number of these systems as will light the circle (of 300 deg.) or any required portions of the circle; twenty four systems, each with its own lamp, for the whole circle, and twelve systems for the half circle, and so on: one system to 15 deg. For Flashing or Intermittent Lights—Such combination of these systems as the situation may require. For Steamship Lights, or Railway Lights—A similar but a smaller system. The source of light being any that is known and convenient for the required purpose.

During the two days in which the light has been exhibited it has been inspected by many official and scientific men, and of the illuminati we may mention Dr. Ure, Mr. Scanlon, Major Hyslop, of the Madras Artillery; General Fanshawe, R. E. of the fortification department of the Board of Ordnance; Captain Fanshaw, Mr. Brand, of the Treasury, Mr. Peacock, of the East India House; Commander Miles; R. N., of the Hydrographers' Office, &c. The system has been delivered to the Trinity Corporation, who will exhibit it for trial at Purfleet.

It is stated that in the event of nothing being heard of Sir John Franklin next year, the Government will fit out three separate expeditions very early, to be despatched different routes in quest of him. Dr. King has offered his services to Government to go in search of Sir John and his gallant crew, whom he supposes to have been shipwrecked.

*Death of Mendelssohn, the Composer.*—We regret to announce the death of Mendelssohn, the great composer. "On the evening of the 4th inst." says a letter from Leipzig, "the musical world suffered a deplorable loss by the death of John Mendelssohn Bartholdy."

#### LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

AS the period is approaching for the recommencement of the issues at the Infant School, contributions are solicited at the earliest period, to enable the necessary supplies for the Winter to be laid in.

"It should be understood that the operations of the Society are not intended to interfere with the exercise of private benevolence towards objects with whose cases parties may be well acquainted and whom they may deem deserving of their more enlarged bounty, but rather to protect the community against the influx of persons belonging to other Parishes, and to guard against misdirected charity to the undeserving, whereby the means of relief to the deserving are diminished; and to give relief in that form which prevents the possibility of misapplication which is too frequently attendant on donations in money. For this purpose the Ticket system has been adopted—one place of issue selected—and a Register kept of all parties relieved,—thereby making Subscribers the dispensers of their own charity, preventing imposition by bringing all to one place for relief, and enabling a reference at any moment to each case, and the means of further investigation, if required.

"It is hoped that the benefits of such a system will be so apparent as to induce general support in a community which is much exposed to the influx of persons having no just claims upon it, while it affords the fullest security that no one will be sent away unrelieved, as far as their immediate necessities require."

The Register kept daily at the place of issue exhibits the name of the applicant relieved, the number of the applicant's family, the party recommending, and the amount of relief afforded, with such remarks as any particular case may call for; and is open for inspection.

Contributions of Clothing, Potatoes, Meal, &c., received at the Infant School; and of Money, by the Secretary Mrs. Kerr, the Rev. Mr. Ketchum, Mr. Wolhaupter, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Reade, and Miss Fayerweather, and at Beek's Book Store, where Tickets may be procured.

Frederickton, December, 1847.

#### LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE issues of the Ladies' Benevolent Society will commence on Saturday the 18th instant, at the Infant School, and will be continued daily, (Fridays excepted,) at 3½ o'clock.

December, 1847.

All Letters must be Post-paid.

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Wednesday, December 15, 1847.