

Portland has ceased to make food for the newspapers, or wonderment to the morning inquirer as to what deed of blood took place "last night" in the neighbouring Parish. Under the able superintendence of Jacob Allan, Esquire, its stringent enactments continue to be enforced, and where a few months since all was fear and confusion, as well to the inhabitants of that district as to the transient pedestrian, the utmost quiet and good order now exists at all times.

In his charge to the Grand Jury, Judge Street was pleased to advert to this happy change both in the City and in the Parish, with an earnest hope of its continuance; and a number of the Officers of the Court having expressed a desire to visit and inspect the Parish Police Establishment, they were waited upon by Mr. Allan, who promptly gave the gentlemen every information, by inspection of the books, lock-up houses, fire arms, &c. &c. They declared themselves much gratified with the efficient state in which they found the whole establishment, of justice to offenders. Certainly nothing short of the like stringent enactments could put a stop to the crimes which were nightly committed in this locality; and carried out with vigour, as in the present case, by an active Police Magistrate, must be productive of the best results to the peace and quiet of the whole community.—*Chronicle*.

INGENIOUS INVENTION.—There is now to be seen at the Watchmaker's Shop of Mr. W. N. Venning, in Dock Street, the model of a very ingenious Fog Bell, invented and patented by Mr. Thomas Robson, of Westmorland, who has devoted many years to the projecting and completing of a plan for ringing a bell independent of human agency; and this model is now submitted for inspection, as the most simple and yet the most efficient Fog Bell ever invented. By an ingenious arrangement a series of wheels is put in motion by a very gentle current of air from any point of the compass, and the bell is struck by a hammer, in a manner very similar to that employed in clockwork. The inventor, who has had much experience in the coasting trade, assures us that he never knew of a fog unaccompanied by a sufficient wind to put and keep in motion the machinery which rings the bell. Another novel and very ingenious feature in this bell is the attachment of an apparatus stated by the inventor to be so constructed on scientific principles, and by means of which the machinery is so modified as to cause the bell to ring only in foggy weather—this, in some situations, would be a very important object.

The Commissioners of Light Houses, several of our leading merchants, and a number of gentlemen of scientific attainments have inspected this model, and have expressed the highest opinion of its merits. We understand that Mr. R. has submitted to the Commissioners of Light Houses a proposition to erect a bell of this description on Partridge Island, to be completed about the first of November, and we trust every inducement will be held out to encourage him in his undertaking, as, we conceive, such a bell placed upon the many dangerous places in the Bay of Fundy, would materially lessen the risk now attending the navigation, owing to the dense fogs which so generally prevail on our coast.—*Ibid*.

A respectable meeting of the Friends of Presbyterianism took place on Tuesday evening last, in Saint Stephen's Hall. W. Millar, Esquire, M. D., occupied the Chair. The object of the meeting, as stated by the chairman, was to consider the necessity that exists for establishing a Theological Institute for the training of a native ministry. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Jack, Stewart, Irvine, and others, upon the subject, and resolutions approving of the object passed unanimously. The proposition of the Colonial Missionary Committee, with whom originated the scheme, is, that they, the Committee, will establish a

Theological Institute at Halifax, N. S., and support two Professors of Divinity for four years; provided, that the Presbyterians of the Lower Colonies will raise, during that period, a sum of money, the interest of which will be sufficient to support the Institution after the expiration of that term. The Rev. Mr. Stewart shewed in a clear and effective manner the feasibility of the scheme, and the urgent necessity there is for the adoption of such a measure by Presbyterians.

The number of Presbyterians in the Lower Colonies, according to the Rev. Gentleman's statistics, is—Newfoundland, 1000; Cape Breton, 25,000; Prince Edward Island, 13,000; Presbytery of Pictou, 16,000; Presbytery of Halifax, 11,000; New Brunswick, 30,000; making a total of 96,000 souls. To supply the spiritual wants of that vast number of people there is not more than twenty six or twenty eight ministers!—when, at least, allowing one thousand for a charge, ninety six ministers are required. That spiritual destitution, he contended, would never be supplied so long as they remained dependent upon Scotland or Ireland for ministers. To meet the urgent wants of the colonies a *native ministry* must be reared—they had the materials amongst them—the young men of the Colonies were equal, in point of mental qualification, to the young men of the mother country, all that they required was equal opportunity, and, after all, he was convinced there was nothing better than "domestic manufacture," by that means only could an efficient ministry be established throughout the colonies. To raise the sum required to meet the offer of the Colonial Committee an appeal would be made to the Christian community generally. Ten thousand families (which, averaging five for a family, would not amount to more than 50,000 persons) subscribing one dollar per year for four years, would realise a sufficient sum to carry out the project.

Upon the platform we were happy to observe ministers of different denominations belonging to the City. The amount subscribed at the meeting, towards the scheme, was £30 per annum.—*News*.

A DREADFULLY DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—We were on Monday last visited in St. Andrews with one of those appalling occurrences, by which, at one fell swoop, the labour of years of toil and incessant application, are at once, and forever annihilated, and parties, who, in the early part of the day, could securely enjoy all the comforts which a competence aided by industry could afford, were before night rendered all but destitute.

It was between two and three o'clock P. M., that a dense column of smoke was seen to ascend from the southeastern end of the town, which, the wind being at the time, from that point—gradually spread over the whole place, and some distance into the country, scattering burning cinders in its threatening course. Immediately the Alarm-Bell tolled the peal, which is never disregarded in Saint Andrews, calling the people to the rescue, and, in this instance, it was, as usual, responded to by every Inhabitant of the place, and by many from the country round. All rushed to the point of disaster, where the scene that presented itself was terrific in the extreme. The whole of Messrs. J. & R. Jarvis' extensive Ropewalk, and Sail-loft, were one mass of living flame, rushing onward with a rapidity which threatened to baffle all efforts to arrest its fearful progress. The Ship-yard in the immediate neighbourhood, with its surface of sun-dried chips, was speedily in a blaze, which enveloping a splendid new Ship that stood on the Stocks there, of 700 tons, all finished to the caulking, soon added her costly hull, staging, Mechanics' tools, and every thing in and about her, with the closely adjoining Carpenter and Boat-building Sheds, and Blacksmith Shop, to the victims of this sweeping conflagration.

In other quarters the flames from the Ropewalk had communicated—on one side, to the house owned and occupied by Mr. William Jarvis, and the Grist-Kiln-