

sides of Union, except Goold & Co.'s coach factory, which may be saved,) down Hudson to the Basin, along the Pier, to the Cut—an immense space, densely crowded with houses.

More than five hundred buildings—a large proportion of them very valuable, are consumed.

Our Insurance Companies will probably be overwhelmed. The property destroyed, will have to be counted by millions. Albany never suffered so severely before.

ORIGIN OF THE ALBANY FIRE.—The destructive fire at Albany is stated to have originated in a very singular manner. It appears that while a woman was washing, a spark set fire to her bonnet. Without a moment's thought, she jerked it from her head, and threw it she knew not where; unfortunately it alighted in the stable of Mr. William Johnston, which in a moment almost, was enveloped in flames.

THE NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—We cannot resist, says the *Philadelphia North American*, the inclination to give publicity to the following thrilling adventure, which is extracted from a letter to a friend in this city, from C. Ellett, Jr., the bold architect of the Wheeling and Niagara Suspension Bridges, which, for a feat of calm, cool daring, we think it would be difficult to excel:—

“NIAGARA FALLS, July 29.

“This morning I laid the last plank of my *foot bridge* on the Canada side, and then drove over and back again in a buggy. Five hundred feet of the bridge was without railing on either side. My horse though spirited, went along quietly, touched up occasionally with my whip, just to show him that he was in command, and give him courage.

On returning I directed one of the drivers to bring on his team—a two horse closed carriage, weighing altogether over a ton and a half. I took his place on the box and drove over and back. The horses went quietly. The flooring is but eight feet wide, 220 feet high, 762 feet long, and without railing over such a torrent as you never saw, and never will see any where else.”

CURRENT—GULF STREAM.—“This was thrown from Her Britannic Majesty's sloop *Electro*, on the 18th day of March, 1848, when on the passage from Sacrificios to Cat Island. The Light-house at the South East Pass of the Mississippi, bearing W. S. W. about 18 miles.”

“A. W.”

The above slip, observes the *Galveston News* of the 27th ult. was yesterday picked up on the beach within a mile of this city, securely enclosed in a bottle. It must have drifted ashore within a day or two. The point where it was thrown into the Gulf Stream is probably about three hundred miles to the East of this place, so that it has been carried to the West by the current during the past four months, at the rate of nearly three miles per day. This, we suppose, is the point wanted to be determined.

CROSSE'S PATENT FOR TURNING SALT WATER INTO FRESH BY ELECTRICITY.—We have just had the pleasure of drinking a goblet of water taken from the Sea at Margate, as sparkling and agreeable as if drawn from the best pump in London; indeed it was impossible to tell the difference. The water had been previously distilled in the usual way and then treated by the simple galvanic process, as patented by Mr. Crosse. This invention of the great galvanist is hardly to be surpassed in usefulness by any of the important discoveries of this wonderful age, and for emigrant ships, and others on long voyages, it will be invaluable. *The Emigrant.*

THE GREAT LAKES.—The Great Lakes of North America, which may justly be considered Inland Seas, are the following:—Champlain, Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, Iroquois, Superior. These Lakes are of great depth, as well as of great extent. The entire line of Lake coast embraces about 5000 miles, about 2000 miles of which constitute the coast of the British portion of the Lakes.

Lake Champlain is	105 miles long
Its greatest width	12 miles
Its average width	8 miles
Lake Ontario is	180 miles long
Its greatest width	52 miles
Its average width	40 miles
Lake Erie is	240 miles long
Its greatest width	57 miles
Its average width	38 miles
Lake St. Clair is	18 miles long
Its greatest width	25 miles
Its average width	12 miles
Lake Huron is	270 miles long
Its greatest width (not including the extensive bay of Georgian, itself 120 miles long, and averaging 45 wide) is	105 miles
Its average width	70 miles
Lake Michigan is	340 miles long
Its greatest width	83 miles
Its average width	58 miles
Lake Superior is	420 miles long
Its greatest width	135 miles
Its average width	100 miles

On Lake Ontario, the preponderance of commercial tonnage is vastly in favour of the British. The British superiority on this lake partly arises from the very great attention which has been bestowed on its harbours on the Canada side, and the comparative neglect on the American side. The Americans claim a preponderance of the commercial tonnage on the lakes above the Falls of Niagara.

FIRE AT MOUNT HOPE.—On the 20th inst. between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, a most destructive Fire broke out at Mount Hope, situated on the Pennyack stream, and distant about nine miles from Fredericton, by which the whole of the fine new buildings recently erected for a country residence, by Oliver Smith, Esq., merchant in this City, were consumed with their contents. It appears that the Fire originated in an upper apartment usually occupied as a sleeping room for the men servants belonging to the establishment, and it is strongly suspected that the accident occurred from parties using tobacco pipes in that apartment, in the early part of the forenoon. So sudden was the bursting out of the flames that the whole of the costly furniture in the dwelling house, including a valuable library, with the exception of a portrait of the proprietor, and another of his late wife, was consumed: these the old housekeeper seized and carried out, when retreating before the flames. Every implement of husbandry, as well as carriages and harness, were also destroyed, and one horse and a number of pigs shared the same fate; another horse was rescued after being much injured by the flames. We are informed that not a single vestige, unless the ashes of this tastefully fitted up establishment, in which its owner took great delight, now remains, and that the loss cannot be less than £1500, and no insurance. It is probable, however, that the much respected owner will never know of the loss of his fine property, as he now lies at his town residence in a state which forbids any such communication being made to him at present, and their is not, we believe, the most remote hope of his recovery.

SPEED THE PLOUGH.

At a Meeting of the Committee of Management of the York County Agricultural Society, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, That the following Premiums be offered for competition at the Agricultural Show, to be held in Messrs. Taylor's grounds, in rear of St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, at 12 o'clock, on Tuesday the 10th day of October next, and open only to such Members as shall have paid the current year's subscription to an Officer of the Society, not less than fifteen days previously, viz:—

For the best Brood Mare, with a Colt at her side, or proof that she has bred,

£2 0 0