

BY CABLE.

Latest from our London Commissioner.

Arrival of British Fleet at Constantinople.

PRANKS OF THE SAILORS---THEY PULL THE SULTAN'S NOSE.

AN INDIA RUBBER FOR- TIFICATION.

American Gold to be Manufactured into Watch Keys.

The Queen to speak on Temperance.

LONDON, Feb'y 23rd, 2 a. m.

Specials from the seat of war state that the English fleet have arrived in safety, though they were several minor collisions which will probably cost the Government several hundred thousand pounds. The sailors of the fleet landed in Constantinople, and after viewing the scenery, which they did not appear to admire, they began wrenching of door knockers, and making selections from tin signs. The Sultan remonstrated with them for their conduct, and they pulled the old fellow's nose so hard, that it took the united efforts of all the ladies of the harem half an hour to get it back into its place.

The Sultan has had several very novel instruments of war presented to him for inspection by aspiring politicians, among them an india-rubber fortification.

The principal on which the machine is constructed is very peculiar. After it has been placed in the field, a large 15 pounder, which worked on a swivel, is placed in the interior, and worked by their men. The enemy, as a matter of course, fire a volley at it, but instead of piercing the india rubber, the shot immediately rebounds, and kills those who fired. There is considerable excitement in the 'change caused by the report, that the Bland's Silver bill has passed, and your commissioner heard it stated, that as the United States Government has no further use for gold, it is proposed by the Rothschild's to buy up all the American gold they can find, and have it manufactured into watch keys for the use of the American Indians.

It is rumored that the Queen will speak on Temperance, at the meeting of the Blue Ribbon Band, a new temperance organization.

This is what Gen. Sherman said on the Army bill: ————!!———!!———!!! And now Secretary John is beginning to fear that he is not the champion after all.

THE PENNY DIP.

St. John, N. B., February 22, 1878.

THE OLD VICTORIA HOTEL.

The *Religious Intelligencer*, speaking of the prospects of rebuilding the Victoria Hotel on the corner of King and Charlotte streets, thus discourseth on the old establishment:

St. John can get along well enough without such a place as the burned Victoria was. Indeed, it cannot afford to have another such place, perhaps. St. John never had an establishment more injurious to some of its citizens, especially young men, than the Victoria is said to have been. Not a few young men of considerable promise took their first lessons in wrong-doing there; and some of them are to-day mere wrecks of what they might have been but for the vicious influences of the great hotel. If report be true, the glitter of the place covered a world of iniquity. Who was responsible for the real character of the place, we do not pretend to say. It is quite probable that the good name of its proprietors, who perhaps had very little if anything to do with its management, shielded it from exposure.

Let Trinity Church remain true to the purpose it is said to have formed; and may the day never come when St. John shall have another hotel of the character of the old Victoria.

The editor of the *Religious Intelligencer* is about right when he thus speaks of the old Victoria, for we much doubt if a place bearing the reputation it did could again exist in St. John. Liquor selling was the least of the many vices it is said to have harbored, judging from the great change that Mr. Edwards underwent while manager of the concern.

The new Chief Engineer.

When Mr. Smith was appointed Chief Engineer of the Fire department, his duties to the general public were somewhat visionary, but the following bill, which was adopted by the Council, somewhat explains matters:—

First. That the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in addition to the authority given him by the present law may, from time to time call out the departments, or any part thereof, on the Eastern side of the harbor for drill or exercise at his discretion; that the Chief Engineer shall order the purchase of all stores required by the department.

Second. That the duties of the storekeeper of the department shall be—He to take charge of all stock and property and stores of the department, and keep account of the same: obtain orders from the Chief Engineer for the purchase of all stores required by the department, and purchase the same: take charge of all spare hose and apparatus not in use, and report the condition of the stores and other property of the department to the Chief Engineer from time to time, as may be necessary.

Third. By repealing such parts of the Fire department bye-law as conflict with the existing law relating to the construction of buildings, and the examination and use of the hot air furnaces in the city.

If Mr. Smith does not make a good Chief, there will certainly be no one to blame but himself.

COASTING.

Everyone who has ever been a boy knows with how much pleasure he used to play truant from school in order to sufficiently enjoy the pleasurable sensation of coasting down hill and dragging his sled up again. All aged people know how a boy who has such a sore back that he cannot saw wood or attend to other little necessary household jobs, has still sufficient vitality left to coast for several hours. But there is nothing strange about this love for coasting in small boys, as we have known in our own personal experience that some very old boys have such a desire for coasting that they actually sit up to the small hours in order that their craving for the enjoyment of their youth may be satisfied. It was only last week that a promising young physician of this city, in company with a beautiful being of the opposite sex, went out to enjoy himself after the manner of the small boy. They coasted down and walked up, murmuring to each other the sentiments which naturally rise in the minds of two young people of opposite sexes whose thoughts flow in the one channel. But to every pleasure there comes an end: and on their return home they came down Gallows Hill, and were complimenting each other on the pleasurable time they had enjoyed, when the gentleman was accosted by a long man wearing the brass buttons of a guardian of the

peace, who demanded that the man of saws and bones should go along with him, or deliver up the sled. A long consultation ensued, and after the case had been viewed and argued in every conceivable way, the policeman who had obtained possession of the sled strode proudly off, leaving the young medical man and the lady to walk home. Thus ended the experience of the man of medicine in coasting, but woe be to the policeman if he should ever succeed in getting his skull fractured and be taken to the hospital to have it dressed.

WEATHER REPORT.

The weather report given below is not a statement of "probabilities," but may be relied upon as being far from mere probability; and, besides, instead of only giving the probabilities for to-day or to-morrow, it prognosticates definitely the weather for the next week. Special arrangements with the "clerk of the weather" enable us to give reports so decided and definite.

MONDAY.—Blue edged and gold weather, half calf, may be expected Monday. Young ladies may don white petticoats, and dispense with rubbers when promenading King and Charlotte streets. Gentlemen may put on last spring's overcoat for the time being, and order a new one. Dry goods people may display spring goods, and the tailors may hang out their highly-colored and festive spring fashion-plates.

TUESDAY.—A good day for stove dealers. Housekeepers had best start the hall stove, and look after the coal supply. Heavy boots, top coats, fur caps and mufflers will be in great demand.

NOTE.—Notwithstanding this sudden change a telegram from the weather bureau says that the sun will rise in the east as usual.

WEDNESDAY.—It may rain, or it may snow—perhaps it may be fine; but, at all events, prepare for some one of these changes. The wind, says the clerk of the weather, will blow from some point of the compass, but has not yet decided which. (This is rather indefinite, but it is the fault of the wind, not ours.)

THURSDAY.—Windy. Look out for falling bricks, and see that your roofs are properly secured.

FRIDAY.—Still windy. High tides, and a "bore" may be expected in the newspaper offices.

SATURDAY.—More gold and blue weather. Lots of promenading and good clothes. No wind, though quite a breeze is expected when the DIP comes out.

A Promise that was never Fulfilled.

On that terrible day in the history of St. John, June 20th, when the greater part of the city was in flames, and people were flying hither and thither, hardly knowing what to do, there were some brave men who stood at their posts and did their duty in protecting parts of the city from the devouring element. One of the very weakest points in the whole line of the fire was the rear end of Maher's alley, where there are a large number of wooden shanties and barns which are surrounded by high brick buildings. Had these shanties caught it is hard to say where the fire would have stopped; though one thing is certain, that block in which they were situated would have been totally destroyed: but through the efforts of Joseph Cook they were saved. During the entire afternoon and night, until daybreak next morning, this man fought off the flames, a great part of the time unaided, and as yet has never received one cent of compensation, though the clothes which he wore were burned almost to a crisp by the intense heat.

Early in the forenoon, the police magistrate, in company with Mr. Samuel Gardner, both of whom had heard of his efforts to stop the fire, sought him out, and found him in C. Phillips' bar-room on Germain street, over which establishment he lives; and after thanking him for his efforts, they said he was instrumental in saving the rest of the city, and told him that they would present his name to the Council in order to obtain for him some reward for his services.

As yet, however, Mr. Cook has never obtained any reward, nor, to our knowledge, has his name ever been presented to the Council. If the affair has slipped the memory of the magistrate, he should do as he promised at once,

AN ELOPEMENT

A Coachman Weds his Master's daughter.

A STIR IN SOCIAL CIRCLES.

HOW IT WAS DONE.

THE MORAL.

It is a well known fact that when a young lady sets her heart upon a young man, or a young man sets his heart upon a young lady, that they are bound to have each other for life, notwithstanding the efforts of their parents, who may not deem the match a proper one. The fathers and mothers of St. John do not as a rule have much to say about those things. In St. John, though there are several old English families, the heads of which still persist in directing who their sons or daughters shall marry.

On Wellington Row there lives an aged and respectable couple, who have in their family several daughters, who have not succeeded in finding suitable helpmates, and when one at last arrived, which the young lady considered eligible, the father objected, as he did not consider the young man a fit companion for his daughter, as he held a much lower position in the social circle than she did. The fact of the matter is that the young man was the father's coachman, but despite the father's efforts to point out the young man's failings, the young lady determined she would have him, as she explained

SHE WAS GROWING OLD.

Nothing more was said about it for some time, and the parent was priding himself that his daughter had given up the hope of wedding him. Such, however, was not the case, and the young lady went on preparing for the marriage festivities, by getting everything in readiness for a sudden departure. Her sisters noticed her behaviour to be rather strange, but as maids (we will not say old), are sometimes eccentric, they paid no further attention to her conduct. Her trunks were next confided to the care of her lover, who contrived to get them conveyed to a place of safety, without the knowledge of the family.

THE LICENSE WAS PROCURED,

and everything went along smoothly for some few days, until at last finding no hope of obtaining her father's consent, the young lady determined upon a way of getting married. The lover was consulted, and together they determined to leave the house together, and wend their way to the residence of a clergyman, and get the fatal knot tied.

THE ELOPEMENT

was conducted very quietly. They proceeded on their way to the house of a clergyman on Waterloo street, and were married, after which they left for parts unknown, where they are no doubt spending a happy honeymoon.

The moral of this story should be for all fathers and mothers to allow their sons and daughters to pick out for themselves a man or woman suitable to their taste, and not stir up Mrs. Grundy with the news of an elopement.