

TESTIMONIAL TO HON. J. W. JOHNSTON.—On Monday last, a Committee of gentlemen appointed by a number of the friends of the Hon. Mr. Johnston, waited upon him with a highly complimentary Address, accompanied by a Cheque for Seven Thousand Dollars, as a token of their high appreciation of his public character and services. The address was read by His Worship the Mayor of Halifax. The Address with the Reply of the honorable gentleman, are published in the tri-weekly papers.

Emancipation in the United States.

The late measure of President Lincoln for the "initiation of emancipation" has created quite a favorable impression in Britain. Of course there is a great variety of opinion with regard to the motives which induced him to make the proposal. It would not be difficult to discover objections and to present some things which may interfere with its practical application. The following from the London *Freeman* will shew the importance attached to this measure.

It is with Mr. Lincoln a proposal to convert all the great Border States into Free States—to do it constitutionally—that is by not interfering with their liberty to free their slaves or not—still, to make emancipation so desirable, that it seems hardly possible those States should not gladly accept the offer. Of these States, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, are already in the hands of the Federals, and the only remaining one, Virginia, has partly given its adhesion, voluntarily, to the North, while the rest of it is now threatened by the Federal arms on three sides.—the Southern President confessing, in his message to his Congress, that this wide circle of defence is too much for Southern arms. In these States, also, the white population and in most of them men of Union sentiments, largely predominate. The numbers stood thus in 1860:—

Maryland—Whites.....	646,183;	Slaves.....	85,382
Virginia ".....	1,097,373;	".....	495,826
Kentucky ".....	933,707;	".....	225,902
Missouri ".....	1,081,590;	".....	115,619
Tennessee ".....	859,528;	".....	287,112
	4,622,181		1,239,841

In the Slave States which remain, those which early united in Confederation, the blacks on the contrary, either nearly equal or in some of them exceed the whites. Emancipation ought to be, therefore, comparatively easy work in the Border States. The number of slaves not unmanagably large; their value, if the war continues, must be very much reduced; and Mr. Lincoln can pertinently suggest that the pecuniary consideration tendered may, "in the present state of affairs, be of more value than the institution, and the property in it, both to States and to private persons."

Mr. Lincoln, whatever his personal feelings may be in regard to the sin and immorality of slavery, deals with it, in this document, simply as a statesman and a commander-in-chief. He does not conceal his object—it is, he says, to destroy, in the minds of thorough Slave States, all hope of ever obtaining the final accession of the Border States to their confederation. Formerly the hope was that "King Cotton" would soon bring the manufacturing countries of Europe to aid. That hope is gone. Now, they believe that if they can, as the result of the war, form a Confederacy of six or seven States only, the Border States, when the Union was once broken up, would quickly join them. Mr. Lincoln openly says, Let us destroy this last hope; let us offer to co-operate with any State, which is willing, in the emancipation of its slaves at a fair valuation, and the remainder will then know that they are too poor and feeble to form a nation. One great recommendation of the proposal is, in Mr. Lincoln's view, its being thoroughly constitutional. No State is coerced. A fair pecuniary offer is made; the Federal Government will aid, not compel.

This is the first time, we believe, that the Federal Government has proposed to deal with slavery in any way but that of "compromise," which always meant strengthening its position. First the infamous clause in the Constitution which pollutes the whole, and has now almost shattered it; then the one which gives votes in Congress in proportion, nearly, to the number of slaves, as well as of freemen; then the creation and admission of one Slave State after another; then the Missouri compromise; then that consummation of legal iniquities, the Fugitive Slave Law; and lastly the Dred Scott decision—these "bids" to Slave States have all been of one character, all aimed at rendering yet more sure the bondage of the slave. The *Times* would reduce this proposal also to a mere "bid" to the South, and it is so, but one the reverse of all the preceding, it is a bid for emancipation. Up to the last moment we have seen the President shy of emancipation. He has laboured in every way to keep clear of it. In his last message, indeed, he adverted to colonisation, as the only possible mode of dealing with free Africans if numerous; now, however, he boldly faces the question; he avows his conviction that gradual emancipation is the interest both of the States and of the general Government, too, and that it points to the easiest mode of bringing the rebellion to an end.

May we hope that the end of the war is beginning? Desperate Southern resistance is still quite a possibility. The politicians who began the war have all at stake; but assuredly, according to all appearances, to use the expressive Yankee phrase, the rebellion seems to be "caving in."

News Summary.

The news by the English Steamer, which is up to the 5th inst., brings us nothing of particular interest. The action between the iron-clad Steamers *Merrimac* and *Monitor*, in the Hampton roads, has created much excitement in England, both in and out of Parliament, as throwing great doubt upon the question, how far it is expedient to build ships or construct forts, which may be rendered wholly inefficient and useless, when attacked by iron-cased ships which are impervious to shot or shell. It is now almost taken for granted, that an entire revolution in the construction of ships of war, must at once take place, not only in England but throughout Europe and America. The only English vessels now considered capable of encountering such a ship as the *Merrimac* are the iron-cased Frigates *Warrior* and *Black Prince*.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has brought forward his Budget, or Estimate of receipts and expenditures for the coming year. A deficiency in the past year's revenue to no very great amount has occurred. It is wholly attributable to the American troubles, and the interruption of trade with that country. The large deficit that has actually occurred from this cause, has, however, been largely met by the increase of trade with France under the commercial Treaty of 1860.

We are still without any very definite accounts of the great battle of Pittsburg in Tennessee, which was fought on Sunday and Monday, the 6th and 7th inst., or of its real results. The contest was most obstinate and sanguinary, and lasted many hours. Both parties claim the victory, and indeed both were successful at different periods of the fight. The Confederates gained the decided advantage on the first day, and took many guns and prisoners. On the second, however, after both parties had received large reinforcements, they appear to have been repulsed with heavy loss. The number of killed and wounded was great on both sides, although we have seen no estimate of the amount which may be fully relied on. In other parts of the field of warfare the Federals are gaining ground. The Confederates are burning their cotton on the border States, to prevent it falling into the hands of their enemies.

The last week has been remarkable for the spring or rather summerlike weather that has prevailed. Should it continue, there will yet be an early spring, notwithstanding the great quantity of snow with which the woods are still filled, and the most unusual quantities of ice that have enveloped our Eastern coasts and the whole of Newfoundland.

The only active operations of the season as yet commenced, are those of our Gold diggers, who have begun in earnest their search for the precious ore. East and West the eagles are gathering together. We hope the eagerness to acquire the coveted bullion, will not seriously interfere with the more safe and profitable labours of our farmers,—a consequence much to be feared.

Notices, &c.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the N. S. Baptist Education Society, at the College Library, on Wednesday the 7th of May, at 2 o'clock. As important business will be before the Committee, a full and punctual attendance is therefore requested.

A. S. HUNT.

Rev. Augustus Shields requests us to notify that his Post Office address for a time, will be North Sydney, C. B.

Acadia Athenaeum.

POSTPONEMENT OF LECTURE.

The Lecture advertised to have been delivered by Charles Tupper, Esq., M. D., at Wolfville, on the 11th, was unavoidably postponed to Friday Evening, the 25th inst.

Subject.—"THE POLITICAL CONDITION OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA."

Doors open at 6½ o'clock. Tickets to be had at George V. Rand's, and at the door.

D. A. STRELE, Cor. Sec.

Acadia College, March 29th.

"The Horse and his diseases" and "The Family Doctor."

These works, advertised in another column, if sent for to the *Christian Messenger* Office, will be supplied on the same terms, soon as received from Philadelphia.

Letters Received.

Rev. W. McPhee, 4th. H. E. Fitch, Esq. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 10th. E. J. Whitman, 9th. 23s. Rev. W. Burton.—We send all the "Articles" we have on hand. If you need more now, will print some, otherwise it may be better to wait and see if the Associations make any revision, before doing so. Rev. A. S. Hunt. Rev. Jas. L. Read, 15th. Rev. S. T. Rand, 17th. Rev. P. F. Murray, 10th. 1 sub. 23s. Rev. E. M. Saunders. Rev. T. H. Porter.—Yes, Barnes on Isaiah 2 vols. \$2.50, on Job 2 vols. \$2.50, on Daniel 1 vol. \$1.25. Rev. A. Shields. Jas. W. Stevens, Esq. W. H. Harris, Esq., 14th. 20s. Rev. Levi H. Marshall, 10th. 10s. Francis Parker, Esq., 17th. Rev. Jas. Parker, 20s. T. H. Rand, 18th.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

WINE HARBOUR AND SHERBROOK GOLD DIGGINGS.

The following very sensible letter will be read with interest both by those acquainted with the writer and others.

Wine Harbour, April 15th, 1862.

Mr. Editor,—Having seen something of what Gold Mining is, I embrace this opportunity to pen a few remarks to you for publication, if they may be thought worthy. The harbour is a beautiful sheet of water about a mile long, almost enclosed by the land, inaccessible by vessels on account of a bar making across the entrance. This will be removed, if the diggings prove very good. Everything at present is very scarce here, but supplies are coming, and no doubt in a few weeks' time there will be plenty of everything, at reasonable prices.

Visitors are coming every day,—some to see for themselves, others offering to hire for from \$10 to \$15 a month. It is thought that wages will be low all the summer. It is not of much use for young men to come here with less than £30 or £40 in their pocket. You cannot get a claim from Government, where it has been tried; and to buy a share in other claims of any value, they ask from £25 to £40 a 1-10 share, and a few on what is called the Hatty lead, (or properly the Smith lead,) they ask £200. In one of the claims such a value is set on it that a share cannot be bought. I do not see much prospect for men that have farms; they had better cultivate them well and then gold will be surer. The mines are not fully explored yet, nor the extent of discovery made; but new leads are found almost every week. Doubtless before the summer is over, a great sound will go forth from Nova Scotia equalling Australia. The miners are in good spirits generally, but some have left on account of being discouraged. They are like many others who will come,—know but little of what it is to sling the hammer and pick for weeks, and that down a shaft of solid rock,—from 10ft. to 40ft. the latter is the greatest depth any have yet been sunk.

Wine Harbour Diggings are good. More gold has been taken from them than from any. Sherbrooke diggings is an interesting place at present; more are centering there than here. Country Harbour is also coming into repute. Activity is manifest there in building Hotels, &c., which are very much wanted here. A stranger has no suitable place to stop; this, doubtless, will be remedied.

£30 and £40 have been taken out of one or two pits a day,—that is in the richest lead. Some others will doubtless do as well. There is no crusher in operation here yet, but two are expected in a month or two. A meeting-house is in contemplation. The timber is even contracted for; when lumber can be got it will, I think, be speedily made ready to hold meetings in. About three miles either to St. Mary's or Indian Harbour takes us to Mr. Eagles' meeting house, where he preaches two or three Sundays of a month to a very kind, good and christian people, which is not saying too much of them.

Mr. Editor, this is the first time that I have written to you. If you can make use of anything it contains, it will encourage me again. I hope to have better arranged thought in future. I am hardly settled yet, but hope I am in a way to do well. I want you to send me the *Messenger* from April 1st. I feel the need of it very much.

I am yours, &c.,
OTIS EATON.

THE OVENS AND BRIDGEWATER.

Active preparations are going on at the "Ovens." A large number of buildings are being erected. Persons are arriving there daily from all parts. Prospects still encouraging. The Crusher will be ready and commence operations about the first of May,—tis said to be a superior machine. There are good signs of gold in several places above the village of Bridgewater, on the banks of the LaHave River. A Company will doubtless be formed in the village to test the thing as soon as practicable. Some very good looking quartz has already been taken out. Prospectors would do well to stop and examine the grounds on their way to the "Ovens."

QUICK WORK.—One of our Dry Goods Merchants received several bales of Goods by the ship *Roseneath*, thirty-four days after the order for them left this city, per Cunard steamer.

A GOOD SHOT.—A few days ago one of the Sergeants of the Chebucto Greys shot a loon through the head, while swimming in the water, with a ball from his rifle, at a distance of eight hundred yards—the rifle being sighted for that distance.

Death has again made an inroad upon our ranks, and the next victim of the last enemy is the Rev. Dr. James Shreve, the Rector of Dartmouth. Our lamented brother, after a protracted sickness has gone to rest; and another parish has been deprived of its Pastor. Of his zeal and diligence in the ministry, abundant proofs are to be found in the town of Chester, and the surrounding settlements, in which mission he fulfilled his work for many years, until finding the increasing duties too much for him he removed to the parish of Dartmouth, when this health gradually declined, and he has now finished his course, and the ministry which he received from the Lord Jesus Christ, to testify the grace of God. He departed his life in the full assurance of faith, and the peace of God.—*Church Record.*

We have been informed that the snow banks at Mount Thom reach up to the telegraph wire.—There was one snow bank in the neighborhood of the town 20 feet high.—*Sun.*

FIRES.—On Monday evening last a Saloon near the Railway Depot, occupied by Mr. McLennan, was burnt to the ground.

Early on Tuesday morning also an alarm was sounded when it was found that a building belonging to Mr. Letson, near the Common, was on fire. Considerable damage was done, but the house was not entirely destroyed.

ASPY BAY, CAPE NORTH, 10th April.—From Sunday night, up to this morning, we had a heavy snow storm, with a gale of wind from the North East. To-day weather is dull. But little ice North; none in the Bay. Quite a number of seals were taken at Bay St. Lawrence yesterday.—*C. B. News.*

The *Royal Gazette* of Wednesday last contained a long list of appointments. With the exception of the following, we have been obliged to defer their insertion till next week.

To be Chief Gold Commissioner—The Hon. Samuel Creelman.

To be Notaries Public—Adams G. Archibald, Jonathan McCully, Stewart Campbell, Hiram Blanchard, Hugh McDonald and Alex. C. McDonald.

MAP OF HALIFAX COUNTY, &c.—Mr. Chase of Portland, is about perfecting a map of Halifax County, showing all our roads, streams, ponds, bays, harbors, and even all the dwellings, churches, mills, manufactories, &c., as they stand on the roads, with the citizens' name at his place of residence; also a plan, on a large scale, of the city of Halifax, showing the streets, wharves, public buildings, residences and stores generally over the entire city. The price of these maps will be \$5 each. The Legislature has ordered 100 copies.

THE ARMY WORM.—A lively specimen of the army worm has been left at our office. From his size, he must have been of last year's hatch. He was picked up in a garden, in a dormant state, having hibernated on the side of a lath lying on the surface of the ground, which says a good deal for his constitution. This is not likely to be the sole survivor, and the pest is not unlikely to make its appearance at a much earlier period this season, and possibly in increased numbers as the season advances. Farmers should consider twice before putting in any considerable breadth of cereals. Potatoes, turnips and clover appear less obnoxious to the attack of these insects.—*Chronicle.*

Newfoundland.

In consequence of the Steamer *Ospray* being detained in the ice for such a length of time on her last trip to Newfoundland, the schr. *Matilda Hopewell* was engaged by Messrs. S. Cunard & Co., to carry the mails, &c.

She left here March 25th. On 29th fell in with large quantities of ice 150 miles, S. W. of Cape Race—had to go to the East as far as Long. 51.06 N., lat. 46.35 W. Passing through large quantities of ice on 1st April got off St. John harbor, but was not able to get nearer than 15 miles to the shore. Remained on the coast until the 6th, during which time saw about 50 vessels in the ice, with sails all furled—some of them sealers and some merchant vessels. On the 8th the wind increasing to a gale, bore up for Halifax, where she arrived on the 15th inst.

New Brunswick.

The great debate of the Session—the "Molasses" debate called forth a good deal of bitterness and seems to have left not a little sourness on the minds of some of our N. B. contemporaries. The Government carried the measure to put an additional tax of two cents per gallon on that article, together with an increase of duty on some other articles.

POLITICAL MATTERS.—The *Visitor* says:—"Our Provincial matters are going on from bad to worse, no attempt is made to improve them, and their wretched condition is justified on the ground that other places are as badly, if not worse governed, and that these evils have had a long existence! Monstrous! Is this the end to which Liberalism and reform have come after a seven years' lease of unexampled power and control?"

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—On Monday afternoon a little boy named Casey, about three years of age, swallowed a copper nail and died within five minutes after.—*Fun.*

Canada.

Diphtheria prevails to an alarming extent at Gaspé, Lower Canada. Seven members of one family had died of it.

Canada: Why we Live in it, and why we like it, is the name of a new English volume.

A New Jersey soldier sent to a friend in Canada a rebel bombshell, stating that the load had been withdrawn. The shell was placed in a hotel window, and the guests threw lighted matches into it. On being put into it, a tremendous explosion occurred, killing Charles Hamell and wounding R. Ackley so that he lived but two hours after, and causing great damage to the hotel.

West Indies.

FIRE IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA.—There was a great fire in Kingston, Jamaica, on the 31st of March. The entire property bounded by Church, King, and Harbor streets and the harbor, including Port Royal and Little Port Royal streets and temple Lane, was destroyed. Loss £300,000 sterling.