

know further that he was a firm friend of legislative prohibition, having seen the mischief effected in Ireland by the continuance of the licensed traffic, despite his wonderful and unparalleled labours fifteen years ago.

Forever green will be the sod over his grave, if the tearful sympathies of myriads can impart unfading verdure to the grass of the earth. Better than this, his reward is both on earth and on high, and unborn nations will be blessed by his self-denying life. A noble simplicity—the sign manual of true greatness—marked all his actions.

A week to-day, the abstaining students of five dissenting colleges held a soiree at the new College, St. John's Wood, to inaugurate a temperance union. Rev. Newman Hall, L. L. B., minister of the Surrey Chapel, (where Rowland Hill once laboured,) was in the Chair, and various stirring addresses were delivered by other friends. In these colleges about 50 students are abstainers, being I suppose about one-third of the whole number. Mr. Hall is holding monthly meetings in his own large chapel, and with the happiest effects. Were all the clergy of all denominations like him, the moral state of London would undergo a speedy reformation. At whose door but theirs must be the absence of this result?

Foreign Affairs are not blooming, wintery, rather, like the season. Our Indian expedition to Herat has sailed, and has now either succeeded or failed. Herat is no doubt an important place to keep out of Russian hands, but the fears for our Indian empire are ridiculous, and would be so if Russia were 500 miles nearer its frontier than Herat is. The Emperor of France is reading the Swiss Confederation a lecture on behalf of the King of Prussia in reference to Neuchâtel, for which neither he nor the king will get many thanks from the Swiss or ourselves. The King of Naples has narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of a private soldier—will the lesson make him wiser? The soldier boasted of numerous confederates. If tyrants ever saw the sword of Democles hanging over their heads, fear would make them less cruel and rapacious.

The Atlantic has been swept of late by awful storms. The non-arrival of the "America" will have been a source of much anxiety to you, not yet relieved. The "Hermes" has also been compelled to put back into Southampton. Several of the Oriental and Peninsular steamers has also been much shattered by these tempests. Bad as the sea is, so is the sea of human affairs—and He who stills the waves can subdue the raging of the people. Happy they whose hearts are kept in that "perfect peace" which is the possession of those who make the God and Spirit of Peace their refuge, through Him who has been "made peace for us." Reconciled to heaven, the children of man will not be long ere they are reconciled to one another. They can only meet in love by assembling with one heart around the throne of the heavenly grace.

Canada Correspondence.

MONTREAL, C. E., Dec. 24, 1856.

MR. EDITOR.—Our winter has set in right earnestly, after an open and pleasant fall. The poor—God help them!—are enduring the rigors of a Canadian frost, and many wander from door to door pleading for charity. To the benevolent who have leisure at command and the means and heart to afford seasonable relief, Montreal opens up a large field at this period of the year for active effort. It cannot be judicious to give indiscriminately to beggars, neither is it right to assume that all are impostors. Many give a trifle to be rid of a distressed object; others are credulous, and believe every tale; but how few comparatively aim at the real benefit of the poor. It has been customary in this city to provide relief for the winter: and the public have been recommended to send their contributions to the Relief Rooms, where the case of every applicant will be investigated, and the hope is expressed that nothing will be given at the door; but each applicant kindly directed to those who have the management of this business. In addition to this it would be well, so far as means and opportunity allow, to note occasional personal investigations. This delighted charity-dispensing is less satisfactory than where the charity is given with the consciousness, acquired by personal examination, that the recipients are worthy. The sympathies are enlisted more strongly than when the gift goes to a common fund, and is thence dispersed, however wisely. The mode of giving, as well as the gift, possesses influence. There is less gratitude evoked by a society than by an individual. The individual can come in contact with the finer feelings of the recipient: the society cannot.

One of the most noted Romish ecclesiastics in Upper Canada is Father Bruyere, of Toronto. Whatever others may do in the way of private communications, that is not Father B's way. At every new phase of affairs affecting the Roman Catholic Church, we have a long communication bearing his signature. His last production is an attack upon Dr. Ryerson, the Superintendent of schools for Upper Canada, who recently recommended the municipalities to appropriate the Clergy Reserve fund to the purchase of books, maps &c., for the common schools, and pointed out the advantage of this course inasmuch as the law allow him to add an equal sum from the provincial chest to any such appropriation. This disposal did not meet the views of the priest. Many are his denunciations, and terrible is his wrath; but he indirectly pays the worthy Superintendent a compliment which leaves nothing to add. It merits quotation:—"Our worthy Clerk Superintendent sees but one thing—his schools; he thinks of nothing but his schools. During the day all his thoughts are taken up with his schools. In the silence of the night the success and prosperity of his schools, interrupt his peace and slumbers, and rise up before his vision."—Such is the Chief Superintendent of schools, an enemy being the judge! It is to be hoped he will abate nothing of his energy and application while he holds the office, and that his successors may be worthy of similar eulogy.

From an appeal on behalf of a Juvenile Reformation School by the city Missionary of the Montreal Young Men's Christian Association, some facts may be gathered and thrown together. Since December, 1855, three hundred youths of both sexes under 18 years of age have been com-

mitted to the Montreal common jail. One hundred and twenty-nine of these could neither read nor write. Out of the three hundred, only thirty-six were Protestants. Such is the arrangement of the jail that the most innocent are compelled to associate with the more depraved, and thus the restoration of an offender becomes almost impossible. For very many years remonstrances have been presented in every imaginable shape; but all to no purpose, one source of evil is that the control lies with the general government. The city pays to support the jail, but exercises no control. I had an opportunity of passing through its cells some months since; and by the politeness of the keeper was made acquainted with its management. No one is more anxious for reform than he; but his instructions leave him no choice. This is to be lamented—it is to be reformed, we have lamented enough—it is time to work.

The New England Society held its anniversary on the 22d inst. I had the pleasure of listening to the oration, which was very interesting and presented an excellent summing up of the spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers. Had it been spoken rather than read I should have felt more; and I fancy it would have accorded better with the practice of those whose memory it helped to cherish. New Englanders were welcomed to Canada, and called upon to contend not for forms of government, but principles. Young New York correspondents will doubtless give your readers some interesting reflections upon the day and the pilgrims; therefore I spare them the indication of mine; albeit I have the honor of descending from the men who invited all to follow them as they followed Christ.

The Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JAN. 9, 1857.

Bible Society Meeting.

The regular Annual Meeting of the New Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society, was held in the Hall of the Mechanics Institute on Wednesday evening. This spacious building, capable of seating about 1,500 persons, was densely filled, many persons standing in the aisles. At 7 o'clock the meeting was opened by singing, the Harmonic Society having kindly volunteered to perform this part of the duties of the evening. Mr. Card presided at the organ. The singing was followed by an excellent address from the President of the Society, Judge Parker. He briefly alluded to the improved accommodation which the enlargement of the Hall afforded the public on the occasion of these meetings; after which he particularly referred to the labours of Mr. Smith the late agent of this Society. This gentleman most faithfully performed the duties intrusted to him, and succeeded in organizing two Auxiliaries, and twenty-two Branch Societies, besides distributing about 1,000 copies of the Scriptures, and putting 450 in local depositories. Mr. Smith's agency was eminently successful, and liberal contributions have been made from several Branches to the Auxiliary in this city. The President also alluded to the foreign operations of the parent institution, and congratulated the friends of the Bible on the success of the society. Next followed the reading of the fifty-second chapter of Isaiah, by the Rev. Dr. Gray, when the Secretary, Dr. Peterson, presented the Annual Report. Only an abstract of this was read—it is a most interesting document, and we recommend our readers to procure and read it for themselves when published.

It contains a brief narrative of the progress of the Bible throughout the world. The Report being disposed of, a number of resolutions were moved and spoken to by the following gentlemen:—Rev. I. E. Ball, Rev. Charles Stewart, Rev. G. M. Armstrong, H. W. Frith, Esq., Rev. James Bennett, — Grant, Esq., Rev. E. McLeod, Hon. S. L. Tilley, Dr. Botsford, and E. H. Duval. A collection was taken up amounting to about \$21. During the time of the collection an anthem was sung, a hymn also followed, and the performances of the Harmonic Society, and at the organ were interesting and appropriate. The meeting closed at 11 o'clock by the singing of the doxology. The utmost patience prevailed throughout, and their is evidently a strong feeling in the community against the suppression of the word of God. All the denominations in the city were, we believe represented by their ministers on the platform, besides a large number of others, and we congratulate the friends of religion on the state of feeling which these annual meetings indicate in the community.

Sacrilege.

One of the most diabolical acts that we have ever known to be perpetrated on property in this city, was perpetrated on the Stone Church and Sunday School room adjoining, on Sunday night last. One hundred and fifty-nine panes of glass were broken in the two buildings. What would induce an act of this kind it is impossible to divine. The minister of that church—Rev. G. M. Armstrong—is well known in this city for his Christian philanthropy. Fifty pounds reward has been offered by the Vestry, and it is earnestly hoped that the perpetrator of so infamous an act will be detected.

Business and Missionary Meetings.

Interesting business and missionary meetings were held in the vestry of the Free Baptist Meeting-house, Waterloo street, on Tuesday. Elders S. Hart, E. Wayman, J. Noble, G. A. Hartly, J. G. McKenzie, E. McLeod and W. M. Knollin were present, with several lay brethren. The missionary agent made a report of his success; Elder Hart also related his labours since the last Conference which was highly satisfactory. Elders Hart and Hartly left St. John on Thursday morning intending to proceed direct to Westmorland, on a visit to the long neglected churches there.

Several communications received for publication this week and which appear in our columns to-day, have rendered it necessary for us to omit our usual editorial matter in order to make room for them.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—I—W—, "Lines composed on the Death" &c. we would be glad to insert, but the composition is quite too imperfect.

Letter on Christian Liberty.

VICTORIA, Dec. 27th.

MR. EDITOR.—The interesting and appropriate address made to your numerous readers in the *Intelligencer* of Dec. 5th, has awakened my mind again to a subject on which a few weeks since I intended to have written a few lines for publication, but which I then deferred.

I now submit the following crude thoughts. When we reflect that the inhabitants of this really free and Christian country are living in the most enlightened age that the world ever knew; that the means for the acquisition of useful information are far more abundant and easy of attainment than at any past period, you might naturally suppose that all those, at least who are the heads of families, and professed Christians, and some of whom hold prominent and responsible places in the church, would be practically acquainted with their plain duties to their fellow men.

If, however, I may be allowed to form an opinion based on the reception which Elder Noble received on his late visit to this place as a missionary from the General Conference, and who ably advocated some of the most judicious means for the dissemination of Gospel truths, I must confess, however contrary to what I would wish, that many of us are still in spite of all our advantages, either ignorant of the obligations which we as professed children of one common parent owe to Him and to one another, or if not, are culpably remiss in their performance. I presume that no rational being in possession of the ordinary powers of observation and reflection, who has in the least profited by anything like a judicious choice and application of the numerous and appropriate helps to mental and moral development which we of the present favoured age enjoy can for a moment hesitate to admit, that we all in every possible station and relation of life, are debtors to our fellow men; that every individual be his position however elevated by birth in the scale of humanity, is indebted to a great extent to a dependent helpless creature, and to a world of co-sufferers through life.

With but little reflection we will all, I think, cordially confess that under God we are immeasurably indebted to the laborious self-denying exertions of the patriotic, learned, wise, and good men of the past and present, for the social, moral, and religious position we enjoy, above the great majority of the human family.

How utterly regardless then of the true position which he should occupy in society,—or culpably remiss in the performance of the obligations which he justly owes his fellow men is that narrow contracted and selfish soul, that realizing his dependence and indebtedness can contentedly day by day drag out his miserable existence, vainly endeavouring to live solely for himself, regardless of the wants of his fellow mortals.

How much to be pitied is the man who can without remorse endeavor to appropriate to his own, or to his household's sole use, the means of enjoyment—who passes away his life without making some exertion to benefit others, or to sustain those who devote their all to maintain that freedom of speech and action from which his originated the knowledge, liberty of conscience, parity of worship, and equity of administration, justice, &c., which many of us I fear enjoy with unbecoming indifference; scarcely giving them a serious thought, much less truly considering that they owe their origin, growth, and maturity to a soil that has again and again been fertilized by human blood.

History and observation teach us that human means when judiciously applied for the promotion of truth and knowledge are blessed of God, and have been since the early ages of the Christian church down to the present, the principal instruments in disseminating the inspired Word.

What a palpable proof of our fallen state, that in the midst of all the Christian privileges by which we are on every side compassed, and individual can be found so ingrateful as to be indifferent to the benevolent exertions made whether singly, or in social combinations, that have done and are still doing so much in behalf of suffering humanity, dispelling superstitious idolatry, and ignorance.

Is there, I would ask, in the human family a mind, however cultivated and blessed by nature, so expansive as to grasp at full comprehension in all the minutiae of detail, the priceless advantages which we enjoy in the social and moral elevation of which the Bible, and the Bible only, is the forerunner and inseparable companion?

When we reflect on the great and salutary changes effected through the instrumentality of Bible Societies, Missionary Societies, Tract Societies, and their kindred institutions within the last century, among millions previously sitting in the shadow of death, can we do less than blush for humanity, and cry shame on those who little consider, realize, or seemingly care for the difference between their own condition and that of many myriads who are still in spite of all the efforts yet made, beyond the sphere of such influences; who are still groping their weary and hopeless way through thick foaming clouds of mental darkness, differing but little from the beasts of the fields, except in the suffering which their imaginary terrors create in the present life, and the endless woe which awaits them in the next.

How lost to the nobler feelings of humanity, and regardless of the divine command to love our neighbour as ourselves, must that individual be who can refuse to contribute his mite for the advancement of the Word of God, a copy of which 600 years ago could not be purchased in England for less than the unintermitted labour of a man for upwards of 15 years, but can now be had in a far more convenient form for less than a shilling sterling? That blessed Book which is adopted by all times, places and minds, in which a balm may be found for every wound of the soul, be its length, breadth, or depth what it may.

Who would not wish to participate in that delightful gratification which forms a part of the reward of those benevolent minds who have invested a just portion of the worldly goods which has been lent them, in such a way as to be the means of opening some benighted mind to a true

knowledge of God and himself,—of man's greatness, and insignificance—greatness compared to everything destitute of a never dying principle, but insignificance when contrasted with the incomprehensible perfections of Him who is without beginning, and who by his word created all things?

If this article, which I fear has been extended beyond due limits, should either directly or otherwise be the means of arousing to a practical sense of their duty any of those whom I will suppose to be only asleep to performance of their obligations, and induce them to set before their families and neighbors a more Christian example in liberality and care for others I shall be infinitely more than compensated for my trouble in writing it.

H. M.

Benevolent Hall Sabbath School.

MR. PETERSON.—Knowing the willingness with which you, at all times, throw open your columns for the purpose of noticing any philanthropic movement, I take the liberty of sending you the following, hoping it may have the effect of drawing, more fully, the minds as well as the exertions of the members of the Church of Christ towards this important portion of the Lord's vineyard.

A few Sabbaths ago I was invited to visit a Sabbath School held in a building in Waterloo Street, called the Benevolent Hall, which, I learn, took its name from a society, composed of ladies of the Wesleyan body, which has been in existence but a few years, yet have accomplished much good. Their visitation among the poor in the vicinity of Waterloo and Brussels Streets having brought them in contact with families who never entered a Sabbath School or place of worship, and, even, if so disposed, were not able to go, owing to the want of necessary clothing, &c., they at once formed the idea of establishing a school in that vicinity, and owing to the benevolent and munificent offer of the husband of one of the ladies, viz: the erection of a suitable building, they were enabled in a short time, to open a Sabbath School which was quickly filled with children, the majority of whom were clothed by the Society. It has been, I believe about two years in operation, and owing to the increasing number of children that attended from week to week, they were much inconvenienced for want of room, when, again, this liberal gentleman stepped forward and removed the difficulty by enlarging the building which now presents a fine appearance, it is something like a cross in form, finished in the Gothic style. The school now numbers about 240 scholars, and the change wrought in these children in the comparatively short space of time they have attended the school is surprising. I was at one stroke, on entering the school, with the order and attention that prevailed throughout the classes, the bright eyes and upturned faces of the children towards their teachers, evidenced how much they were interested in the studies in which they were engaged. The most interesting part of the school, however, was the infant class held in the room of the second story, here were a large number of little children of both sexes seated on benches, raised one above another, so that all could see the teacher, as he pointed out texts of Scripture in large printed cards placed before them, and then catechised them in a simple way on the texts referred to; and then to end the exercises, they all marched round the room, in two deep, singing some beautiful Sunday School Hymn, such as, "Rejoice, Rejoice, the promised time is coming," they sang remarkably well, and I assure you I would not envy the feelings of any person that could look upon such a scene unmoved. The teacher is a young man and deserves much credit for the tact and perseverance with which he manages this department of the school. After the lessons of the day were gone through the bell was rung by the Superintendent, when all the exercises of the school ceased, while the children composing the infant class were brought down to the School-room, when a short and interesting address was delivered by a gentleman visiting, after which the whole school joined in singing for a short time, when the services closed with prayer. They have lately received from the States a large and powerful toned-organ, and with the assistance of this beautiful instrument, presided at by the fair superintendent for I forgot to mention, Mr. Editor, that the superintendent and a large majority of the teachers are ladies, they discoursed such music as I have rarely heard equalled in a Sabbath School. On referring to the books of the Secretary, I was pleased to find the teachers so regular in their attendance, a school most flourish where this is the case. I also learned from one of the officers that some of the scholars had given decided evidence of a change of heart, and that an interesting little girl, whose death occurred a short time ago, seemed to possess the faith and confidence of an old Christian.

These are evidences that the Lord of Hosts is with them. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon those who, with untiring zeal, are toiling on week after week, in the work of faith, and labour of love, and may they have abundant proof that their efforts are not in vain in the Lord, nor need they fear as they still "go forth weeping, bearing precious seed," whatever may be their transient discouragements, "they will, doubtless, return again, rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them."

BREXAN.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 27th, 1856.

Monday evening, Elder C. J. Oram addressed a large congregation from Deuteronomy 5th, 15th verse. Many were much engaged in the evening—union and fellowship prevailed; the meeting broke up at a late hour, and we left the place with feelings something like the Psalmist, when he said, "Behold how good, and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" May it increase more and more, till the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ. Amen.

DAVID ORAM.

Rev. Dr. Livingston's Return.

This distinguished African explorer and missionary has returned to England, after an absence of nearly seventeen years. We intend giving our readers, next week, an account of some of the public meetings in England to welcome him, and to bear a relation of some of his discoveries. We copy the following notice from the New York *Observer*:

He was a passenger from Alexandria in the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's ship "Candia," which encountered very severe weather after leaving Malta, and which, during a calm which succeeded, narrowly escaped being drifted on the rocks near the Isle of Zimara. When within a mile of certain destruction, a breeze providentially sprung up and carried the vessel past, and she was towed into the Bay of Tunis by one of the Bey's steamers. A part of the passengers, including Dr. Livingston, proceeded to Marseilles in a small steamer kindly granted by the Bey.

The great traveller is in good health, although his left arm is broken and partly useless, it having been torn by a lion.

When he was taken on board her Majesty's ship, the "Frolic," on the Mozambique coast, he had great difficulty in speaking a sentence of English, having disused it so long while travelling in Africa. He had with him a native from the interior of Africa. This man, when he got to the Mauritius, was so excited with the steamers and various wonders of civilization that he went mad, and jumped into the sea and was drowned.

Dr. Livingston has been absent from England seventeen years. He crossed the great African continent almost in the centre, from west to east, has been where no civilized being has been before, and has made many notable discoveries of great value. He travelled in the two-fold character of missionary and physician, having obtained a medical diploma. He is rather a short man, with a pleasing and serious countenance, which betokens the most determined resolution. During the voyage home, he continued to wear the cap which he wore while performing his wonderful travels. On board the *Candia* he was remarkable for his modesty and unassuming manners. He never spoke of his travels, except in answer to questions. The injury to his arm was sustained in the desert while travelling with a friendly tribe of Africans. A herd of lions broke into their camp at night and carried off some of their cattle. The natives, in their alarm believed that a neighbouring tribe had bewitched them.—Livingston taunted them with suffering their losses through cowardice, and they then turned out to face the enemy. The doctor

shot a lion, which dropped, wounded. It afterwards sprang on him and caught him by the arm, and, after wounding two natives who drew it off him, it fell down dead. The wounded arm was not set properly, and Dr. Livingston suffered excruciating agony in consequence. Great honours await the doctor in England, it is said.

THE RUSSIAN WAR.—Part 13 of this work is now before us, containing a beautiful engraved portrait of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, also an engraving of the fleet in the Baltic. From an examination of this work, as the numbers are forwarded, we believe it to be an authentic and excellent history of the memorable war in the East.

THE PICTORIAL SUNDAY BOOK.—Part 20 of this interesting and elegant work is received. The engraving in this number represents the raising of Lazarus, and the geography of the Holy Land is concluded in this part.

Both of the above works are from the London Printing and Publishing Company, and for sale by Roger Hunter, Agent, No. 9, Market Square, St. John.

Early Closing Association.

The Early Closing Association of this city hold their first Public Meeting at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute on Tuesday evening next. Chair to be taken by Hon. S. L. Tilley at eight o'clock. Rev. Dr. Gray is to deliver an Address. The Choir of the German Street Baptist Church have kindly consented to sing a few favourite pieces, accompanied by Mr. Card on the Organ.

We expect this will be one of the most interesting public gatherings of the season, and as the price of admission is only three pence, it is thus placed within reach of all.

WE have received the Prospectus of a proposed new monthly journal to be called the *FREEMAN'S MONTHLY MONITOR*; Edward Willis Proprietor. Price five shillings in advance; office 21 Prince Wharf.

REVELL.—We learn with pleasure that Brother C. Doucet has been labouring at Ward's Creek, Sussex, for some time, and that fourteen have professed conversion, and been baptized by him.

DOMESTIC.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—A Proclamation, published in Wednesday's *Gazette*, prorogues the Assembly "to Thursday, the twelfth day of February next, then to meet at Fredericton, for the dispatch of business.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.—It is stated by the Toronto Colonist and Montreal Herald that Parliament will meet for the despatch of business on the 25th of February next.

The Provincial Assembly of Nova Scotia meets for the despatch of business on the 5th February.

The General Assembly of Newfoundland will meet for the despatch of business on the 28th inst.

THE RAILROAD.—By Telegram from the Bend, Jan. 2.—To the Hon. J. H. Gray.—Railroad opened from Humphrey's Mill, near the Bend, to Shediac, 30 minutes. From Shediac back to the Bend 35 minutes including stoppages. Distance ran 17 miles. ALEX. L. LEIGHT.

NEW CROWN LAND REGULATIONS.—The *Acadian Recorder* seems, on the whole, to condemn, reluctantly, the new scheme. It says, "In Nova Scotia, a settler may select a lot of Crown Land of as good quality as the average of what he can find in New Brunswick, and of any extent up to 500 acres, and obtain a title to it unconditionally upon the payment of a price per acre a little less than that which he must pay in New Brunswick for land subject to the conditions which we shall presently mention. In Canada, under the new Government scheme of that Province, he may obtain it for nothing, subject to conditions less difficult to fulfil than those which the New Brunswick Government requires."

What do our British American Emigration Schemers think of this! "In order to encourage emigration to Mexico, nearly 50,000 acres of land, between Vera Cruz and Jalapa, have been set apart by the Mexican government. The emigrants are to form four colonies. 100 acres are to be given to each emigrant for cultivation, and also enough land to build a residence. For the first three years the emigrant is to pay no taxes, and he can introduce, free of duty, all kinds of grain, field and agricultural implements, and what ever is necessary for personal use. All emigrants are to be conveyed from Vera Cruz to their place of residence at the expense of the government, and to receive a present of a much cow each. The soil between Vera Cruz and Jalapa is described as most fertile and salubrious.—*Liverpool* processes Times.

ROBBERY AT FREDERICTON.—We learn that the store of Mr. George Grosvenor, at Fredericton, was entered by burglars last week, and a box containing £70 in cash, together with all his valuable papers, was carried away by the robbers. No clue has yet been obtained of the thieves.—*Nfld.*

We are requested to give notice that the annual meeting of the subscribers of the St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum will be held on Monday, the 12th inst, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at the Grammar School, German Street—*Id.*

GREAT FIRE AT HALIFAX.

On Thursday the 1st inst., at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out in Vass's buildings, at the corner of Hollis and Prince streets. It extended south to the residence of Dr. Allan, crossing Hollis street, and burning nearly the whole block thence to Grand street. Twenty buildings have been consumed, among them St. Mathew's church. Thirteen buildings are partially destroyed, two entire blocks from Bedford Row to Barrington street are gutted. The scene is described as of a most desolatory character, and streets filled with goods and furniture hastily smelted from the threatened destruction. Several persons were seriously injured, but no lives are ascertained to have been lost. The damage is estimated roughly, at £250,000. We have not yet heard what amount of insurance is insured.