MISSIONARY BOARD.

The Free Baptist Board of Missions will hold their regular Quarterly Meeting at the Meeting House, in Little River, Hampstead, Q. C., on Tuesday evening, the 5th day of January next, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

The public are invited to attend.

A private Meeting of the Board will be held on the same day at the same place, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

S. McLeod, Secretary.

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING.

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Managers appointed by the last Free Baptist General Conference, will take place in the Meeting House, Little River, Hampstead, Q. C., on Tuesday, the 5th day of January next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

It is particularly requested that the public will be present at this meeting, as important statements will be made, and reasons assigned for the change in the management of the *Intelligencer*; further deliberations relative to the Paper will also occupy the meeting.

An exclusive meeting of the Board will be held at the same place, commencing at 9 o'clock, A. M.—All the members of the Board are particularly requested to be present.

William Peters, *Secretary.*

Opening of a New Meeting House.—Sale of Pews.

The New Free Baptist Meeting House recently completed in the Parish of Gagetown, near Mr. Wm Ebbitts, will be dedicated for the Worship of God, by appropriate services, on Sabbath, the 3rd of January next. First service to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M. Messrs Gunter, Perry, and other ministering brethren are requested to attend. The seats will be free.

On Monday, the 4th instant, the Pews will be sold, and the public are invited to be present.

James Copeethwaite, *Secretary.*

The Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DEC. 25, 1857.

Past and Future.

This number closes the present volume of the "Intelligencer," and is also the last issue for the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven. The term for which many of our friends subscribed expires with this number. A great many have already renewed; and others are constantly coming in, with a very respectable addition of *new subscribers*. We trust the "Intelligencer" has been a welcome visitor in the numerous families to which it has been sent, and we should be very sorry if anything had appeared in its columns which should afford just cause for its future rejection. Conscious, as we are, of the many defects in the discharge of our duties as editor, we have, nevertheless, studied to approve ourselves unto God, believing that to be the best course to obtain the approval of all wise and good men.

We now ask our subscribers to renew their subscriptions as soon as they can, we are giving them a paper for a mere trifle, in which is contained all the news of importance, and which is in fact a weekly record of such current events as are desirable for all to know. In addition to this we furnish a rich selection of religious reading for the family, of such a character as cannot fail to exert a healthy influence on the morals and intelligence of the people.

The course we have so far followed in conducting this paper, we shall continue to pursue, condemning vice, commending virtue, and making no compromise with Anti-Christ. Though some things have occurred during the year just closing, calculated to render our situation somewhat unpleasant, yet we desire to render thanksgiving to the Giver of all Good for His mercies; and feeling that our business is to labour for God, and seek to please Him, we therefore shall again "gird up our loins" and address ourselves to the duties, labours, and toils of another year. Patrons and Friends send us in your subscriptions as soon as possible.

Close of the Year.

The close of the year is a proper time for sober reflection. It is a period in which we ought to look upon the past, call it up and review it, deplore and forsake that which is wrong, and resolve to improve for the future. Past mercies ought especially to call forth great gratitude, and instead of causing us to forget God, should lead us to humiliation and self-abasement.

In the commercial world the year just closing has been an eventful one. Many who esteemed themselves as "rich," and were so esteemed by others, have had their wealth swept away suddenly, and in thousands of cases the prosperity of men have been turned into the keenest adversity. Important lessons have been given on the instability of earthly possessions—whether those lessons will be received with profit or otherwise, remains to be seen. In all the large cities of both Europe and America, there now exists a great degree of destitution among the operative and poor classes, caused by the unhealthy state of trade, brought on by the madness and folly of some hasting to be rich, and of others living beyond their means.

In religion the year has not been prosperous. No very great accessions have been made to the church of Christ any where; while the events in India have startled the world, and atrocities the most cruel and diabolical will forever stain the historical pages of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven. Every properly reflecting mind will, in reviewing the past, see abundant cause for deep contrition and abasement. A lack of consecration in the church is too evident, the folly and wickedness of which is well expressed in the subjoined paragraph from that invaluable work, "The Saint and His Saviour," which we commend to all for prayerful reflection at the close of the year:—

"The professing Church has many in its midst who, if they have ever given themselves to Christ, appear to be very oblivious of their solemn obligation. They can scarce afford a farthing of their wealth for the Master's cause; their time is wasted, or employed in any service but that of Jesus; their talents are absorbed in worldly pursuits; and the very first refuse of their influence is thought to be an abundant satisfaction of all the claims of Heaven. Can such men be honest in their professions of attachment to the Lamb? Was their dedication a sincere one? Do they not afford grave suspicion of hypocrisy? Could they live in such a fashion if their hearts were right with God? Can they have any just idea of the Saviour's deservings? Are their hearts really renewed? We leave them to answer for themselves; but we must extract them also to ponder the following questions, as they shall have one day to render an account to their Judge. Doth not God abhor the lying lip? And is it not lying against God to profess that which we do not carry out? Doth not the Saviour loathe those who are neither cold nor hot? And are not those most truly in that case who serve God with half a heart? What must be the doom of those who have insulted Heaven with empty vows? Will not a false profession entail a fearful punishment upon the soul for ever? And is he not false who serves not the Lord with all his might? Is it a little thing to be branded as a robber of God? Is it a trifle to break our vows with the Almighty? Shall a man mock his Maker and go unpunished? And how shall he abide the day of the wrath of God?

May God make us ever careful that, by his Holy Spirit's aid, we may be able to live unto him as those that are alive from the dead; and since in many things we fall short of his perfect will, let us humble ourselves, and devoutly seek the moulding of his hand to renew us day by day. We ought ever to desire a perfect life as the result of full consecration, even though we shall often groan that it is not yet attained. Our prayer shall be—

"Take my soul and body's powers;
Take my memory, mind, and will;
All my goods, and all my hours;
All I know, and all I feel;
All I think, or speak, or do;
Take my heart—but make it new."

"He is not ashamed to call them Brethren."

The Apostle Paul, with his accustomed profound views, in treating of the adaptation of the gospel to human nature, affirms, in the second chapter of his epistle to the Hebrews, that in saving the lost race God found it not only expedient, but strictly according to the nature of his government and man's weakness, to make the captain of our salvation perfect through sufferings. Whatever other qualifications the commander of the expedition to the earth had, cold and dead by reason of sin, in search, not of a lost man, but a lost race, he would absolutely fail in the undertaking, unless, in addition to all other equipments, he had the advantage that arises from experiencing the afflictions of those whom he was seeking to save. This must be, or the preparation is fundamentally defective. In Christ's case this was added to complete his character as a Saviour; "for both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one." The one who saves must have a oneness with the saved. That oneness, as well as the necessity for it, the Apostle proves to his Hebrew brethren, from their own Scriptures. This oneness he shows pertains to a common family relation arising from having one father, "for this cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren;" between him and them there is oneness in worship; oneness in trust and therefore in a limited nature; oneness in having that limited nature clothed with flesh and blood and subject to the temptations thereof: Surely it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren in all things; not to have the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham. Friend, follow out this profound train of thought and rejoice, that after all it is but a bare statement of facts in relation to God's desire and plan to save you.

To the first point in which there is oneness between Christ and us,—the relation to God as father, "He is not ashamed to call us brethren"—we ask attention a moment.

If Christ calls us brethren, he knows, without doubt our name. It is not the cold relation in which we speak of the race as brethren, alone is meant. It includes that, it is true, but it adds to that the domestic—the home feeling arising from dwelling under one father's roof. It is affecting that he knows his Redeemed one by name. These names so dwell in his mind that he speaks of them as written upon his memory as in the Lamb's book. Cyrus the great could call all his soldiers by name, and no wonder they were ready to die in his cause. And now mind brethren to have our captain call us by name.

The calling us by name as brethren implies that fulness of the home affection dwells in Christ's bosom for us. Is not this thought alone enough to make the coldest heart melt?

It means that he knows us thus intimately and with such a completeness of affection, not only, but that, being the same yesterday and to-day and forever, he will never allow the aristocratic feeling to come up in his heart. A brother, in the ordinary sense, sometimes raised to wealth and distinction, ignores his poor relatives. He does not wish them to claim kindred and protection at his hand. But as the heart of Joseph yearned over the unconscious Benjamin, so yearns Christ over his brethren. He is not ashamed to call them brethren in the courts of heaven, as Joseph was not ashamed to speak to Pharaoh of his brethren.

One reflection more, and would God, the Holy Spirit would press it upon your heart. "Christ says, "go work in my vineyard." He says this not to a church, not to a denomination, not to a country, but to you as an *individual and immortal*. God grant that you may not be ashamed to respond to his call so that he will not be ashamed of you before his Father.

G.

Religious Items.

Union Prayer Meetings are being held in New York for a revival of religion. A number of persons meet daily at noon to unite in prayer. A very few commenced it, but the number has greatly increased. House visitation is practised. Persons willing to engage in this duty give their names to their Pastor, who assigns to each a district, and by this means a general visitation is made.

The Wesleyan Methodist Society of England has resolved to send out ten additional Missionaries to India, as soon as means are provided. The Feegee Islands where the Methodists have extensive Missionary stations, are sending earnest calls for more labourers. Numbers of towns have abandoned their heathenism, and ask for Christian teachers.

A Minister in Texas, the Rev. Thomas Donegan, accused of tampering with slaves, with a view, we suppose, to induce them to escape, was sentenced by a mob to receive five hundred lashes, which was inflicted in the public square of the town.

At a Meeting recently held in London, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and a number of other prelates were present, a proposition was officially made to double the number of Church Missionaries to India, to found new, and strengthen existing missions in the Presidential and other principal cities, where there may seem to be the best opening, and to promote, by every available means, the education, training, and ordination of native converts to the work of the ministry. There had been £2,000 already subscribed toward these objects. Several Bishops and gentlemen addressed the meeting.

The Free Church of Scotland recently held a meeting in Edinburgh in which the plains of India as a Missionary field was illustrated by Dr. Tweedie. He stated that there was some probability of Dr. Duff's return to Scotland if his health would permit it. The object of his visit will be to explain the position and enforce the claims of British India. Three young men recently offered themselves as missionaries, but the want of funds prevented them from being accepted.

An English Correspondent to an American paper says, that the Baptists in England are making a powerful impression on the public mind, especially in the large cities and towns. Those who predicted Mr. Spurgeon's downfall, are now mystified and puzzled, some are ashamed, while others have become his zealous admirers. Certain it is that he draws the ungodly to hear him in vast crowds, while thousands of them make a religious profession, and are promising members of Christian churches.

A Mr. Grosvenor recently died in New York leaving by his will to different religious, educational, and benevolent institutions, the enormous sum of $190,000, besides large bequest to numerous relations and friends. The American Bible Society, the American Tract Society, and the American Sunday School Union, receive $1,000 each. A Mr. High recently deceased in Chicago has left $16,000 to the Boards of the Presbyterian Church, and $20,000 to other benevolent objects.

It is said that the experiment of erecting iron churches is now being made in London. One can be erected to hold 1,000 persons, at the cost of about $5,000. The same thing is recommended by a Presbyterian Synod in the United States, who also suggests that "churches may as well be carried to India as ice?"

Baptist Seminary.—The examination of the pupils in the Baptist Seminary, Fredericton, under the charge of the Rev. Isaiah Wallace, and Mr. Day, as assistant, took place on Friday evening last. A large number of persons were present, including the Attorney General, Rev. Dr. Brooke, and others, interested in the cause of Education. The pupils went through their usual half yearly exercises with much credit, the recitations being both original and selected. Mr. C. H. Gilberson, who has been attending this institution a few months, repeated an Essay written by himself on "the powers of the mind," which we find commended by a Fredericton contemporary. Addresses were delivered by several gentlemen, and at the close a number of both students and visitors partook of supper together provided by the principal of the Seminary, Mr. Wallace.

Business Meeting at Hampstead.—Our friends will observe that a Public Meeting of the Board of Managers is appointed for the 3rd of January at Hampstead. We of course suppose the travelling on snow, and by ice, will be good by that time. Should it however prove otherwise, and so prevent the meeting on that day, it will take place as soon as possible afterwards.

Ordination.—Mr. A. H. Munroe, formerly assistant teacher in the Baptist Seminary, at Fredericton, was recently ordained to the work of the christian ministry over the Baptist church at Digby, N. S.

To Subscribers.—We shall send the *Intelligencer* to all of our subscribers until after the business meeting at Hampstead.

Sabbath Schools.—A communication on Sabbath Schools, and suggesting conventions has been on hand some days, and will be attended to shortly.

Agent.—Mr. Stephen D. Ross, of Grand Lake, is agent for the "Religious Intelligencer" in his vicinity.

Letter from Rev. G. A. Hartley.

Woodstock, Dec., 22nd, 1857.

Dear Brother:—In the last "Intelligencer" I noticed a paragraph speaking of a revival which had commenced in Jacksontown. Perhaps it may be well for me to pen you a few words more in reference to this good work. I am very glad indeed to be able to say to you and the many readers of the "Intelligencer" that God had again visited Lower Jacksontown in mercy. For many years we have had a church in that place and in times past it was greatly blessed. It is quite common now to hear the old members whilst speaking of the goodness of God refer to the times enjoyed in "the little old school house in Jacksontown," but during latter years the brethren there have had a very hard time to live. They have met many things that have had a tendency to scatter and weaken. But thanks be to God there have been a few who have tried to hold on their way, and I am aware it will be pleasing to many to know that God has remembered them in mercy. I went out and met with them and have been labouring there between two and three weeks—Our congregations were very large. It was in this place, that I a few years ago in great weakness made a start to engage in the service of God. Well do I remember the first evening I there came forward to be prayed for. Little did I then think that I should in the same house in so short a time try to preach the gospel before so large a congregation, many of whom were then present, and some of whom knelt by my side as penitents. I with many others will never forget seasons I spent in that house. I have frequently with much trembling been led to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?"

The brethren and sisters have been much encouraged, a number of backsliders reclaimed and sinners have been converted, and many others pricked to their hearts, I have baptized eight. A number have experienced religion who have not yet been baptized. We hope yet to see the good work advance. I have an appointment to-night to attend on the Third tier. Want of time prevents me from writing more at present. Perhaps you may hear from me again soon.

Yours in the gospel,

G. A. Hartley.

(*From our Canada Correspondent.*)

Cobourg, Canada, 11th Dec., 1857.

"Don't read the Canada Correspondence this week, please, for of course it is all about the elections—and who wants to hear of them?" Can't help it, dear reader of the "Intelligencer," I must not ignore the Elections, even although you give such advice to others from an impression of the probabilities of the case. We Canadians are a great people, and *our* elections are of a piece with ourselves. We can return as great blockheads to Parliament as you can in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia,—I presume not to say *greater*—men just as desirous of looking out for number one, and quite as capable of absorbing and devouring the Loaves and Fishes. We crave a hearing them, in our political excitement, and shall have but a poor respect for your judgment if you refuse to hear us. We have this satisfaction, at all events, we were once notorious—I mean famous, when we resisted the tyranny of our irresponsible rulers; and you may thank us for your Responsible Government. If we had not "raised a breeze" your fog would have continued to the present in all its murkiness and asthmatic qualities. If we had not drawn our sharp instruments, *red-tape* would have been about your limbs yet, and the family compact would have continued to tie the knots. Be grateful then, and recognize the services we have rendered you, and give us a benefactor's privilege,—the selection of our own topic and as much time as we choose to discuss it.

It is said that we have no very grave political questions upon which the election turns. This seems to be true. There are subjects of importance, but no one absorbing question. The choice therefore hinges upon the qualifications of the candidates. If they are honest, opposed to class legislation, and averse to priestly rule, the constituencies may safely elect them, provided they possess sufficient tact and talent. Our greatest difficulty is to get men with firmness sufficient to resist the demands of popery, after they have discovered their exorbitance. Popery is to us what slavery is to the citizens of the United States. A section of our Province is thoroughly committed to Romanism, and although numbering fewer adherents, they are more united than Protestants. The minority, therefore, by securing the co-operation of a few recreant Protestants, manage matters pretty much after their own desires. The South rules the United States, and the East rules Canada. The sway in both cases is not omnipotent, but it is powerful and injurious. In one respect, however, we have the advantage. In the East a portion of the press is as fearless in its denunciations of popery as any in the West; and the shadow of Romanism cannot prevent some light from penetrating the darkness.

In Toronto, more the ordinary excitement prevails, in consequence of a new candidate for the honor of representing the Western capital, in the person of George Brown. In Canada nobody [illegible] proprietor and chief editor of the "Globe," a newspaper with an immense circulation, and has been among the ablest opponents of the ministry, both in Parliament and out of it. The contest will be severe, and his prospect of success is not very great. He will have the support of that portion of the Orangemen whose connexion with the Society arises from a belief that it is a valuable means of checking Popery; but the leaders and very many of the Orange members are Mr. Brown's violent opponents. Joined with these will be the Romish party—are, too, can have such combinations—and this makes the contest doubtful. There is no doubt of his securing a seat in Parliament, however, as he stands for another constituency where his return may be safely predicted. It will be a great triumph over the Government if Toronto chooses him as one of its representatives.

The St. Patrick's Society in Montreal has nominated a candidate for that city, Mr. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, another editor. Truly Editors are ambitious men! This society is not only Irish as it name indicates, but Popish, no Protestant being permitted to become a member. Mr. McGee is a recent arrival, a man of talent, whose contests with Archbishop Hughes in efforts to form a distinct Irish party in the United States, were unsuccessful, and sent him to Canada. It does not appear that he is the favorite candidate of the priesthood; and certainly he does not come out under the patronage of the ministry, whose position with respect to the Orange and Common School questions he pledges himself to oppose with violence. His prospects of return are small.

We have some thorough Reformers: some unpurchaseable journals, and these are marking their tickets in plain characters; although for the most part it is difficult to determine any definite policy from the writings or addresses of the majority of the candidates and their supporters. The style of writing just now is racy. The Saxon words predominate. From one of the journals—the "Canadian Statesman"—we give the following extract:—"In every constituency heard from there are good men in the field. We have given the leading ones, except Montreal, and there coalition is the only marketable article. They'll get their fill before long. The country is cursed with mongrel coalitionists. The issue at the ensuing election will be Protestantism against Popery—British rule against that of the Papist's God, the Pope of Rome. No Religious Grants! No Separate Schools!! No Ecclesiastical Corporations!!! and Representation based on Population!!!! must be obtained."—East Durham.—Jas. South, the pandering sycophant, is again on the field, and so is Burton. We hope that neither of them will be elected." "Peterboro.—Thomas Short, a noble and true man, is in the field, opposed by that traitor to Protestant and Reform interests—Mr. Conger. We hope to see Short returned." "North Ontario.—Jos. Gould, a true Reformer, is opposed by that canting hypocrite, Ogle R. Gowan. We do hope that Gould will be elected."—Let this suffice for the election.

Business continues very dull indeed. Wheat was quoted at from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per bushel, and Flour $4 to $5 per barrel, in Toronto, Dec. 5th. Wheat at seventy cents per bushel is a low figure. The supply of the poor is occupying the thoughts of the benevolent. Undoubtedly much privation is before them during the coming winter. "God help the poor," is an appropriate petition, where it is accompanied by the judicious aid rendered to the full. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive: and he shall be blessed upon the earth."

The weather continues mild, although more inclined to frost than during the early part of the week.

A. B.

(*From our New York Correspondent.*)

The Struggle for Liberty in Kansas—The Mormons.

New York, Dec. 15th, '57.

Mr Editor:—In my last I intimated I would in this bring up an account of affairs in Kansas by way of preparing the reader to understand the action of Congress, which assembled a week ago to-day.

The old legislature which, as you are informed, was elected, Missourians provided for a new election this fall. That election recently occurred, and to the astonishment of the border ruffians, the free-state men carried everything before them, despite all the Missourians they brought over to help the cause of oppression. When this fact was apparent the ruffians made returns from Oxford of nearly a thousand votes, enough to change the entire result. It turned out when Governor Walker and his Secretary visited Oxford, they found only a score or so of inhabitants and on further examination it appeared the ruffians had taken the names of their pretended voters from an old Cincinnati Directory, and that among the names was seen that of "S. P. Chase," the present Republican Governor of Ohio, a resident of Cincinnati. These returns were thrown out by Walker and Secretary Stanton, though they had before acted with the pro slavery party, and for this single act of decency on their part, the whole South set up a howl, and these officers lost favour with the President.

The same old legislature provided for an election a year ago, of delegates to a convention to form a constitution for Kansas. Nobody attended the election but a few hundred out of the 20,000 voters; the thing was considered so illegal and absurd that few pro-slavery men even had the face to give it any countenance. But the delegates were elected, and a few weeks ago they formed a constitution. In this constitution it is provided that the slaves already in Kansas be undisturbed in their present relation as property. This of course makes Kansas a slave state, if it becomes the constitution. This constitution the convention provides for Congress to force upon the people without their vote, only in the following way, viz., vote the constitution with slavery, or the constitution without slavery. Now if they vote with slavery, the state is a slave state, of course, and if they vote without slavery, the infamous provisions above stated relative to the slaves already there are adopted, and the state is slave of course. Yet this infamous dodge is approved by the administration in power and is to be made a party test.

To lead off this scheme, Secretary Stanton, acting governor of Kansas in the absence of Walker, was called upon by the people on a delegated convention, and the largest and most representative ever held in Kansas, to assemble by proclamation the newly elected legislature.

The legislature was accordingly assembled a week ago to-day, and Secretary Stanton, in his message, recommended the measures of safety needed. News reached Washington by telegraph on Tuesday or Wednesday, and Mr. Stanton's successor was recommended by the Senate the day following. This shows, as well as the President's message, the determination of the party in power to make Kansas a slave state, and fetter the people with hindrances to constitutional amendments for years to come. Mr. Walker, the governor, had come on to Washington for the sake of being here at the assembling of Congress, and left his secretary to act in his place, and as we have seen, the President has since deposed him, (the Secretary) and Walker himself is given to understand he will be deposed the moment he starts back to Kansas. So we have in effect already the fifth governor of that unhappy country.

But the legislature is lawfully assembled, and its acts will be carried by more than two-thirds, so they will become law despite any veto, and besides the governor (that now is) has no power to prorogue. So it may be that liberty, as limping as she almost always is, has got one step the start of oppression.

Another thing worth notice in this relation is the present position of Senator Douglas, of Illinois, the father of the infamous Nebraska law, which has brought on all our Kansas troubles. He is in a free state, and fears his own party will repudiate him, if he follows up this iniquity of the present administration. For this reason, or a better, he has taken the position of bold hostility to the Lecompton Constitution, that is, the constitution with the dodge in it; and he has already given notice that he will introduce a bill to empower the formation of a constitution, the whole of which must be submitted to the fair vote of the people. Mr. Douglas has already made a speech of great power against the virtual recommendations of the President. There is hope from present appearance that the President will not be able to get the Lecompton Constitution through Congress, and that Mr. Douglas's or some other measure, may give the people their liberty from the disgraceful oppression, and that without further bloodshed.

Your readers shall hear of the different steps as they come along.

The Mormons, it seems, have at last resolved upon taking up arms against the government, and that the government has determined to bring them to submission at whatever cost. If the Mormons are really in earnest, such is their power to incite the Indian tribes to hostilities, and such the advantages of their position, that it will require a large force to subdue them.

Yours, G.

The Rev. William Arms rong delivered a very interesting lecture at the Mechanics' Institute, on Monday evening, on the incidents of a journey across South America.—*Church Witness.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The result of the inquest on the body of Henry Stewart was a verdict of wilful murder against Hugh Breen. This wretched man has already gone to his account, and thus there is an end to this horrid Maspeck tragedy.—We have learned from it to detest Popery more strongly than ever, to pity its deluded votaries, and to become more earnest in our efforts and to exhibit the truth as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—*Church Witness.*

Mr. Robert S. Bennison was elected yesterday Councillor of Wellington Ward, in the room of Mr. T. Martin, resigned. The votes polled were—for Mr. Bennison, 53; for Mr. Hooper, 50.—*Ib.*

Railway Progress.—Tenders were received last week, by the Railway Commissioners, for the construction of twenty four miles of Railway, from Groom's Bridge, near Hampton Ferry, to Sussex Vale; and for seventeen miles of railway from the Bend towards St. John. The portion from Groom's Bridge to the Valley is divided into three sections of eight miles each, the first of these, from Groom's Bridge to Norton, has been taken by Messrs. Blackie & Henderson of Nova Scotia, contractors on the Halifax and Windsor railway. The next section of eight miles, in Norton and Studholm, has been taken by Mr. Dilon P. Myers of the United States, the contractor near Lawlor's Lake. The third section of eight miles, in Studholm and Sussex, has been taken by Mr. King, of the well known firm of King Brothers, mail contractors.

At the other end of the line, the first ten miles from the Bend to Nixon's, have been taken by Messrs. McKean & M'Donald of Nova Scotia, late contractors on the Halifax and Windsor line;—the next section of seven miles, from Nixon's along the Petitcodiac into Salisbury, has been taken by Messrs. Thomas and Charles Walker, of Quebec, who at present are executing portions of the railway at either end.

The sections of railway now let, are to be completed by the several contractors in September, 1859, at which time, if the work is faithfully performed, we may expect to visit the beautiful vale of Sussex by railway from this city. The only part of the whole line from St. John to Shediac, not yet under contract is from Sussex Vale (at or near Shock's) to Salisbury, a distance of about thirty miles, which if all goes well, may be put under contract next year. Then, to meet the railway through Nova Scotia from Halifax, a section of only twenty six miles will be required from Shediac to the boundary at Baie Verte. If Nova Scotia makes equal railway progress with New Brunswick in the next two years, we may expect to pass by railway from this City to Halifax in 1860.—*Nbkr.*

We understand the Government have received letters from Messrs. Barings by the last English Mail which contain assurances that there will be no lack of funds forthcoming to carry on the Railway works throughout the ensuing summer; there can be no doubt therefore the Railway from St. John to Moncton will be pushed rapidly forward to completion.—*Leader.*

Serious Loss by Fire.—We are informed by Mr. A. B. Calhoun, of Hopewell, that he has recently met with a heavy loss. A barn completely fitted up, containing a large quantity of lumber and other materials, and a large two story house, 56 feet in length, nearly finished, with all the materials for its completion; were wholly destroyed by fire on the evening of the 14th. The fire was occasioned by a stove standing near the plastered wall, and was not discovered until it had burnt through the chamber floor. In 30 minutes after the flames first appeared, the buildings were in ashes, nothing could stay the progress of the raging element.

Value of property destroyed £450. No insurance.—*Visitor.*

A Terrible Curse.—What a fearful curse is rum! And what is most strange and unaccountable is, that men of reason, and common sense should tolerate it in their midst for a single day. What are its fruits but poverty, demoralization, crime, misery and death! Everywhere it is preying on the peace, the order, the prosperity, and nearest interest of all classes, with the rapacity and cruelty of a fiend. And if we are not greatly mistaken, in spite of all that has been done, and is being done to stay the ravages of this unparalleled destroyer, they are rapidly on the increase. It is fearful to contemplate. No one can pass through this city with his eyes open, and not be appalled and shocked by the evidences of drunkenness, debauchery, and squalid wretchedness, which prevail to a most alarming extent on every side. On some of the streets almost every second house is a grog-gery; and in every part and corner of the city the body and soul-destroying liquid is sold openly and boldly, and we have reason to believe, in most instances without license. The excise laws are a nullity, and the attempt, if there be any to enforce them is a mere farce.—*Canada Advocate.*

The New York "Observer" says:—The most important event since our last has been the formal resumption of specie payments by the Banks, on the morning of Saturday, the 12th inst. The Banks of New York suspended by a formal vote on Tuesday evening, Oct. 15, so that the suspension has nominally lasted just fifty nine days. As a matter of fact this suspension has been only nominal; after the first two or three days no bank in the city actually refused to pay specie for its obligations, while many of them have not refused such payment in a single instance since the excitement commenced, although if pressed, they might have been compelled to negative. Specie has been easily obtained throughout the whole period at par (or even something less) for silver, and at par, up to half of one per cent. premium, for gold.—Practically, the formal vote for resumption, passed by the city banks at their meeting on Friday evening the 11th inst., is of little importance so far as the city itself is concerned. What effect it will have on the country banks in this State, and on the institutions throughout New England it is, of course, too soon to say; but it now appears probable that all these banks will follow their example and formally announce their resumption.