

Fires.—Dr. Cone's Church Injured—American and Foreign Bible Society.

Our city was visited with two great fires on Saturday night last, the first entirely consuming the large stables of J. & M. Murphy, at the corner of 27th-street and 3d avenue, and extending thence until over one hundred buildings were destroyed, among which were the Methodist Episcopal Church under the care of Rev Dr. Stratton, the Protestant Episcopal church of St. Barnabas, and the Public School Building, No. 15. In the stables were over two hundred horses of which more than one half were burned. The fire was unquestionably the work of an incendiary, for whose apprehension it may be hoped no pains will be spared. The M. E. Church was insured for \$5,000. There was an insurance on the parsonage adjoining of \$1,000.

Later in the night a fire broke out in the store corner of Brome-street and the Bowery, which extended to Dr. Cone's church, and occasioned some damage to the building, which we have heard estimated at \$1,000. Insured. The American and Foreign Bible Society Rooms were considerably damaged. The loss, however, it is thought cannot exceed \$5,000, which is fully covered by insurance. We have been particularly gratified to learn that the library was not materially injured. It should be the occasion of particular gratulation and thanksgiving that the noble edifice, though so greatly endangered, was spared.—*N. Y. Paper.*

JUBILEE OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

—By the arrival of the last steamer we have news of an interesting religious anniversary in England. We learn that Wednesday and Thursday, the first and second days of the present month, were observed as a jubilee, and celebrated by religious services throughout England, as the fiftieth anniversary of the Church Missionary Society. The Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other high functionaries of the church took an active part in the proceedings. The annual income of the Church Missionary Society, is, in round numbers, £100,000; or, \$450,000; but on this occasion, extraordinary exertions are to be made to raise a jubilee fund of £100,000, making the sum collected in 1848, £200,000. The society has upwards of 100 stations in different parts of the world, and 139 clergymen are supported by its funds. The number of Missionaries sent out by the Society since its commencement is 576, and the entire amount of money raised in its behalf exceeds £2,500,000.

MADAGASCAR.—The British have been engaged in a negotiation with Tamatane, the Queen of Madagascar, on the subject of establishing commercial relations with that Island. It is said that they have so far succeeded that the trade will be immediately opened, although under very close restrictions. The British according to the same account, have already begun to export cattle from Madagascar to the Isle of France.

GREAT GALE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The American papers received last evening, contain the particulars of a heavy gale which occurred on the 20th inst., and caused much damage along the coast. Schr. Olive, from Windsor, N.S., for Boston, was driven ashore on Nantasket Beach, Boston Bay, and all hands perished.—Three bodies had been washed ashore.

GREAT FIRE.—SERIOUS DISTURBANCES AMONG THE FIREMEN.—PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 19.—A tremendous fire is now raging in the vicinity of the gas house, and has been all night. The Gas Works and surrounding buildings are much injured. Several thousand tons of coal are on fire. Some serious disturbance have broken out among the Firemen.—*Telegraphed to the New York Sun.*

THE VALUATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.—The total valuation of real estate is \$122,027,576 00; personal estate \$61,164,451 12. Total valuation in the county \$254,192,027 12. The total increase of real estate since the assessment of 1847 is \$5,712,190 00; on personal estate \$1,326,534 06. Net increase since the assessment of 1847, is \$7,038,724 00.

IOWA, at the late election, polled twenty-four thousand three hundred and fifty-five (24,355,) votes, which would give a population of about 100,000.

WISCONSIN contained a population in December last of 213,575, which is supposed to have increased by emigration, to 225,000 up to the 1st of October instant.

Destruction of the immense Dam of the Hadley Falls Company at "Hampden City."

—In the same paragraph in which we announce the completion of the great dam of the Connecticut River, by the Hadley Falls Company, at the "New City," nine miles north of Springfield, we have also to record its destruction. Both events occurred on the same day—yesterday—the one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

The fact that the dam was completed and that the gates would be let down for the first time, yesterday morning, drew to the spot a large crowd of people. The early train hence carried some 500 to 600 from Springfield and Chicopee, and subsequent trains conveyed many others.—Fifteen hundred to two thousand people probably lined the banks of the river as the gates were let down, which was at 10 o'clock. And the number who visited the dam during the day could not have been less than three thousand at a moderate estimate.

It was truly a sight worth some trouble to see—the stopping of the waters of the Connecticut in their onward progress. It was the hand of man arresting the course of one of nature's most mighty powers, and could not but awaken the most sublime thoughts in the minds of all beholders. But nature would not brook the control that man had laid over her—ere the day was spent she resumed her own majestic sway, and bid defiance to the hand that would bind her.

From the first, considerable imperfection was manifested at the bottom of one of the gates, which appeared to have been injured by its fall into its place, and much water was allowed to escape from that part of the dam. Measures were taken for stopping the leak by placing gravel, brush, &c., over the defective part.—These efforts were continued, but without the desired success, until it became evident that the structure was likely to give way, when the dam was cleared of the persons upon it, and crowds awaited in suspense on the sides the end that was to come.

They had not long to wait. In a few minutes a breach was made at the imperfect point, which widened with great rapidity, and almost immediately, three-fourths of the whole structure were swept away, leaving but a small portion on each side. When the water broke through, the pond had filled to within several feet of the top, and the pent up waters rushed forth with mighty power and dashed and tumbled over the rocky bed below, sweeping away with them the now broken and scattered, but still huge portions of the wreck. The scene was both magnificent and frightful. To describe it were impossible—no pen limner could convey a tithe of the impression that is vividly marked on the minds of all who witnessed it. Strong hearts trembled within them, and every face was pale at the sight. The labours of many minds and hundreds of hands for a long summer—the pride and the confidence of the constructors, just in the hour of triumph, were swept off in an instant; and naught but the huge wreck that remains, is left to tell of the mightiest structure of the character, that was ever built in this country.

The loss of this unlooked-for catastrophe cannot be rightly estimated. The dam was built for the company by Messrs. Moody & Ross, and all the loss falls of course on the former.—The cost of the work is not even known, but has been reckoned at between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Much of it, however, remains, and can be made useful in a reconstruction, which those who know the character of the men engaged in the enterprise, need no assurance will be entered upon without more delay than is necessary.

The dam, which has been destroyed was over one thousand feet long, and about thirty feet high. It was constructed of immense timbers, fastened together and to the rocks of the river bed, on which the whole structure rested, with iron bolts. Great pains were taken in the construction of all parts of the work, and its destruction under the circumstances, is a disappointment to all parties.

DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHUYLKILL WATER WORKS.—On Saturday morning the reservoir gave way, (owing probably to quicksand soil) and the contents about 6,000,000 of gallons of water found its way through. All done in five minutes. It carried away about fifty feet of the walls around Girard College, but without destroying life.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that on Sunday last a most melancholy accident occurred on the St John River, opposite Sugar Island, about ten miles above this city, by which a person named Darcas, and a child named O'Harra, lost their lives. It appears that Darcas was amusing himself by skating, with his sister's son, a child of about 7 years of age, in his arms, when the ice suddenly gave way, and both plunged into the river to rise no more in life.—The accident was seen from the shore, and immediate steps were taken for the recovery of the bodies, which, after about an hour's exertion, were both found, that of the child being firmly clasped in the uncle's arms, but both of course quite dead.

We learn that one of a number of persons belonging to this city, who were skating on the river below, on the same afternoon, had a narrow escape from a similar fate; and we hope these occurrences will be a warning to our skaters not to indulge in that amusement on the river until the ice is sufficiently strong to render the chances of such accidents less numerous than they appear to be at present. It has often been remarked that a great majority of these accidents occur on a Sunday, and although this may be accounted for by the fact of their being often a great many more chances for accidents of this kind happening on that day than on any other, yet we cannot help thinking that occurrences such as we have just noticed, should lead to some reflection on the part of those who indulge in this amusement. *Head Quarters.*

STEAMERS FROM INDIAN TOWN.—During the latter part of last week, the steamers "Frederickton" and "Forest Queen," came up as far as the mouth of the Oromocto with full cargoes of freight, which they landed there, and immediately left for St. John. The weather during the week has continued quite mild for the season, but although the river both above and below Frederickton be open, there is little probability of the ice opposite this city moving until next spring. Teams have already crossed, and the late soft weather seems to have had little or no impression on the ice formed during the few nights of sharp frost which closed the navigation to this place.—*Id.*

FIRE, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—An accident of a most melancholy nature took place in this city on the morning of Thursday last, the facts of which, as far as we can learn, are as follow:—As Mr. James Hagar, a hatter, who lived in Burrington street, opposite the store of Mr. John Egson & Co., was preparing some varnish, the material caught fire, and proved so exceedingly combustible as in a few minutes to envelope the whole house in flames.

All the family ran out of the house; but Mrs. Hagar it appears returned for something in the house, and was seen from the street at one of the dormant windows, by several persons. She had gone out the rear of the building, which unfortunately, however, was not the case, but as is supposed, was suffocated in a few minutes, and fell insensible upon the floor—and her body was preserved from being consumed by the immense quantity of water which was at length poured in from the fire plug at Mr. Roman's corner.—The body was found in the rubbish, but not greatly burnt—and even life was said to be scarcely extinct.—*Halifax British Colonist.*

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.—MONTREAL, NOV. 16. His Worship the Mayor, pursuant to a requisition of the Council and the members of the Board of Trade and a number of our influential citizens, has convened a public meeting for Monday next, to consider the subject of a repeal or modification of the Navigation Laws, so far as they relate to Canada, and the throwing open of the St. Lawrence to ships of all Nations.—*New Brunswick.*

FROM VENEZUELA.—Extract of a letter, dated St. Thomas, Oct. 31, 1848:—"There are rumors here, said to have come by way of Trinidad and Antigua, that Paez had entered Carracas at the head of 2000 men, and that Monagas had fled."

The British steamer Alecto sailed from Rio Janeiro on the 27th Sept., for Buenos Ayres, having on board Mr. Suthern, Minister from England to the Argentine Republic.

SEIZURE.—Within the last week, the Revenue Officers at this port have seized thirty casks of contraband American Spirits.

ENGLISH AID.—Among the receipts acknowledged in the late annual report of the Maulmain Missionary Society, we observe a donation from the Bishop of Madras. The following testimonials we find in the Macedonian. After acknowledging the receipt of money from the Church in H. M. 84th regiment, formerly stationed at Madras, the Rev. E. A. Stevens, missionary at M., say:

I would remark that the above is a specimen of what we are not unfrequently permitted to observe, of the fruits of the preaching of the gospel to the European population of Maulmain.—A few months only, previous to the reception of the above letter, I received a communication from Lieut. Col. Russell, of the same church, authorising me to draw on a firm, in Madras for the sum of twelve hundred and fifty rupees.—fifty of which were from the church, the rest from himself, for the same object mentioned in the above letter.

Besides this, he sent a few months before a similar order for five hundred rupees,—making in all, within the period of twelve months, a sum of 1850 rupees, contributed by that officer and the church with which he is connected, for the promotion of the cause of Christ among Burmans, Taleings and Karens. The brethren of that church all feel that God met and blessed them here, and here in gratitude to him they wish to serve him, though absent from us.—The reports of the Maulmain Missionary Society show what they have done in former years, in the same good cause. You will not wonder, then, my dear brother, that in view of such manifestations of the favor of God toward our work, we, too, should thank God, take courage and, go onward.

HATTEN MISSION.—The Rev. W. L. Judd, in a letter to the Contributor, after speaking of a baptismal occasion says:

"The church now numbers thirty-one persons, two of whom are in the United States, and one in Jamaica. The rest were all present at the communion season, which was celebrated the same day of the baptism, who with one brother from the United States, and the mission family made out a very respectable assembly for the administration of the Lord's Supper. It was a very solemn time and we all felt to say, what hath God wrought? One year ago the church numbered six! Our French meetings are becoming more interesting again since the re-establishment of tranquility. We held them evenings mostly, in order to accommodate the Nicodemus hearers. There are great numbers of people who hear me from time to time standing or sitting by the door or windows outside, who would by no means enter into such a dangerous place! After hearing several times in this way, they are sometimes induced to go farther and take a seat inside, which in a certain sense breaks their caste, and places them in a more hopeful condition."

AMERICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD.—Mr. Bergen, and other Americans, imprisoned in Ireland, and Mr. Bush, of New York, imprisoned in Havana, have been the subject of government correspondence. The British Government informed the American minister that they had strong proof against Mr. Bergen, but the Spanish Government refused to state what charges they have against Mr. Bush.—*New York Sun.*

FROM CALIFORNIA.—The California Star of April 1st, says that large numbers of Chinese are preparing to emigrate to that country, which is considered a favorite climate for the silk worm.—*Boston Traveller.*

COTTON CULTURE IN AFRICA.—A most important movement has been made at Natal, in Africa, in promotion of the cultivation of cotton. A company, established for the purpose, have just completed a purchase of 25,000 acres, at the upset price of two shillings per acre, and the conditions imposed by the crown were, that immigrants should be introduced, in which case the whole purchase money will be laid out in the formation of roads, &c. We are informed likewise, that a body of German settlers at Natal had given a very high price for some land, being satisfied of its great capabilities for cotton growing.

WORTHY OF REMEMBRANCE.—In the annual report of the London Missionary Society for the present year, we have an interesting fact connected with the Christian liberality of the converts to the faith. It is stated that for the last seven years, the amount of contributions raised at the several mission stations towards their own support, has exceeded \$75,000 annually—being nearly one-fifth of the Society's income.