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…*the United Service Gazette, Dec.* 19.

…corded the demise of three …whom saw good service in …Gen. Sir Martin Hunter, …Thomas … …ings Davies, and Lieut. …Fountain Elton. …r Martin died on the 9th …inst., at Anton's-hill, in the 90th year of his age. …ife was the second son and heir of Mr. Cuthbert …Hunter, of Medomsley, Durham. In 1797 he married the daughter and heiress of Mr. James Dickson, of Anton's-hill, Berwickshire. He entered the Army at the early age of fifteen, his first Commission bearing date 30th August, 1771. On the 18th June, 1775, he was promoted to a Lieutenancy; on the 21st November, 1777, to a Company. On the 30th October, 1793, he obtained his Majority, and on the 19th July, 1794, his Lieutenant Colonelcy. On the first of January, 1800, he was appointed Colonel, by Brevet; Major General on the 30th October, 1805; Lieutenant General on the …th June, 1811, and General, 27th May 1825.—Sir Martin served in the first American war, including the battles of Bunker's-hill, Brooklyn, and Brandywine. He also took part in the storming of Fort Washington, and in the night attack on Gen. Wayne's Brigade. On the latter occasion he was severely wounded. He subsequently proceeded to the East Indies, and Commanded the 52d at the seige of Cannamore, being the leader of the party of Light Infantry that stormed the breach. He afterwards took part in other Indian engagements, including those of Seringapatam and Bangalore, and the night attack on Tippoo Saib's intrenched camp under the walls of the former town, where he was severely wounded in the body and arm; and in 1797 he Commanded a Brigade at the capture of Trinadad, and the siege of Porto Rico. At the Blockade of Malta, in 1800, he Commanded the 48th Regiment. Several years ago he Commanded the troops in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and was three times President of the Council and Commander-in-Chief of the latter Province, from 1808 to 1812, and on the 23d July, 1813, he was appointed Governor of Stirling Castle, a post which will not again be filled up. He was a Grand Cross of the Ionian Order of St. Michael, and St. George, and of the Guelph; and the last of the British Officers who survived the battle of Bunker's hill.

REMODELLING OF THE ARMY.—The 'Daily News' says: "The intention of government, we have heard, is to put at once in force the law limiting the service to ten years, and to release all the soldiers who have served that term, adopting towards them similar arrangements with those adopted towards the pensioners. Like the pensioners, they are to be enrolled at their places of abode, and be subject to be called out for exercise or for service. This may take place once a year, and each reserve or retired soldier will receive two shillings a day whilst thus engaged. This is something like Marshal Soult's plan of a Military reserve, except that the French soldier, engaged for eight years, serves really but four, and remains the other four in reserve. The great objection to our adopting so short a term of service, or even that of ten years, is the large proportion of our army on colonial service, which would lead to such expense and trouble in continually sending home men whose term had expired, and sending out recruits to replace them. This objection is, however, not so formidable as it might first appear. Our military force at present amounts to 139,000. Of these there are about 60,000 beyond sea, half that number being in India. Now, there is scarcely any expense to be calculated under the head of sending home soldiers from India. Being better paid in that country, and occupying a higher level than at home, soldiers like the service, and, instead of returning with their regiments, volunteer to others which remain. This gives rise to the tragical paragraphs which we find in newspapers from Greenwich, telling us how such a regiment, after so many years' absence in India, landed with a hundred men. This is wound up by deploring the loss of the remainder. But the remainder had merely volunteered to other regiments, preferring India to home. Out of the last four regiments which returned from India, 2,000 men volunteered to remain. The increased expense, therefore, is limited to the remaining 30,000 in the other colonies. And of these few would return from Canada, for example, or from Australia. The retirement of the soldier after ten years' service would of course greatly diminish the demands on the pension list; and the whole of the intended reform is a self remunerative one, that is more lessening than increasing expenditure. But it is important, both towards the retired soldier locating himself profitably in civil life, and towards his being useful as a soldier of reserve if called on, that he should belong to a better class, and that, in fact, he should belong to the respectable peasant population of the country. We trust the intended reform may attain these desirable ends."

MILITARY FORCE.—The military force in Ireland at present consists of ten regiments of cavalry, seventeen of infantry, two troops of horse artillery, nine of royal artillery and detachment of royal engineers, and four of marines. The total is 24,000 rank and file of all arms, and 21,682 enrolled pensioners and recruiting parties.

GOVERNMENT PROJECT FOR EMIGRATION.—Returns have been called for, from the office of the Irish Poor-law Commission, connected with a contemplated prospect for emigration from this country, on an extensive scale. Nothing has yet been finally determined upon; but it is likely, that a grant from the consolidated fund will be proposed to facilitate the emigration of persons above the class of paupers, and that persons destitute of means, with their families, will be sent to some of our colonial possessions at the expense of the State.

SCREW PROPELLERS.—The Lords of the Admiralty have suspended the completion of the vessels intended to receive screw propellers, for six months. This delay is occasioned by the wish to have the results of further experiments upon the principle, in order that the supposed advantages of the screw plan may be clearly established, previously to finishing the large number of vessels now in progress.

The *Morning Post*, says that Government has under consideration a project of sending a royal commission of inquiry to both the Universities.

Last Tuesday's *Gazette* contains an order in Council approving a scheme of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for augmenting the incomes of the smaller bishoprics from the revenues of the Bishop of Durham.

It appears from the present weekly expenditure by the government, with a view to the relief of distress in Ireland, that by August next it will have amounted to a total of some £6,000,000.

The Wellington statue is to be placed in the open space west of the Horse Guards, and fronting the enclosure in St James' park, and workmen are now preparing the pedestal.

The women of Edinburgh, to the number of 10,337, have memorialised their sisters of the United States, imploring them to lend the influence of their sex for the emancipation of three millions of their fellow-beings who are slaves in America.

American Provisions.—In four days last week there arrived at Liverpool from America, 62 697 barrels of flour, 23,642 bushels and 7 519 sacks of Indian corn, 75,233 bushels, 11,202 minots, 753 bags of wheat.

SMUGGLING.—Joseph Hough, steward of the ship Samuel, from Saint John, N. B., was yesterday charged at the Police Court with smuggling 30 lb. of tobacco on board. It was found concealed in a cupboard. There were also 4 lb. in his chest. He was fined £100, and in default was sent to gaol.—*Liverpool Standard, Dec.* 29.

The "Great Britain" Steamer.—We are enabled to announce that the directors have finally abandoned all intention of attempting to raise this ill-fated vessel, having seen a letter to that effect, addressed to Mr. Matthew Stead, of Ludlane, in which the ingenuity of his plan was acknowledged—Captain Claxton at the same time stating it to be the 412th received by them.—*Kidderminster Messenger.*

A report from Mr. Brunel, on the state of the Great Britain, and on the best means to be adopted for saving the property, has been printed for circulation among the proprietors. He reports the ship to be as yet essentially uninjured, and that the injuries could easily be repaired if the vessel were in dock. He rejects altogether the notion of breaking the vessel up; but he is of opinion it would be impossible to complete the preparation for floating her under three months, and in the meantime the ship must be protected, or at the end of three months she will be valueless. As the best means of protection, he recommends that the exposed part of the ship should have a shield, formed by a mass of faggots bound together by ropes and secured by rods run vertically through the mass, and chains laid horizontally and binding the whole tightly to the ship. Mr. Brunel calculates that to form this shield effectually would require eight or ten thousand faggots, and he has given directions for immediately procuring the quantity and setting about constructing this means of protection.—*Dublin Freeman's Journal, Jan* 2.

FEARFUL DESTITUTION IN SCOTLAND.—At a public meeting in Edinburgh, a few days ago, to devise means of mitigating the distress in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, at which the Lord Provost presided, the Rev. Norman M'Leod, of Dalkeith, thus described the condition of the people:—Taking round numbers, there were 430,000 souls, who, strictly speaking, inhabited the eight Highland counties. From statistics furnished from different parishes, this number were divided in the following manner: those in comfortable circumstances, and who could not be affected much by the failure of the potato crop, amounted to 100,000; those who only depended for three-fourths of the year upon potatoes, to 200,000; those who depended upon the crop for the whole year, to 130,000. These numbers were an approximation to truth. Mr. M'Leod read several other figures, of which the result was, that in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland there were 330,000 persons deprived of the usual means of subsistence this year. Of these, 200,000 required assistance to enable them to live over the season. If they did not assist them immediately, these poor persons would have to sell their cows and eat their seed-corn, and thus utterly destroy the provision for the future. The other 130,000 required food immediately to keep them from starvation.—The Rev. Dr. Candish stated the substance of a communication from the island of Uiva:—He did not suppose that the whole of Skye could furnish twenty barrels of potatoes free of disease. The population numbered 4,000 souls. Of these, nearly 2,000 occupy small crofts, which have not yielded sufficient to support them for three months. The other 2,000 were in a state of absolute destitution. But the whole 4,000 would immediately be left destitute. The proprietor was Lord M'Donald; who had already made such arrangements for relieving the people as would involve an expenditure greater than the rental of the island. It was therefore plain, that unless the proprietors were assisted the people could not be supported. The letter concluded by stating, that from the writer's experience the destitution in 1836-37 was nothing at all compared to that impending at present.

The incorporation of bakers in Glasgow have raised the price of bread: the 4lb. loaf is now selling at 10d.; household ditto, 9d.

From Ireland we learn that the accounts from all parts of the province of Connaught continue to be of a most deplorable nature; the pressure of extreme destitution becoming gradually as severe in the counties of Galway and Roscommon as it is in Mayo, with its fearful "black list" of weekly deaths by famine. The 'Roscommon Journal' contains the following:—"At the presentment sessions held here a few days since for the county at large, one of our coroners stated that eighteen out of the thirty inquests which he held, died from starvation. Not less than seventy-five cases of typhus fever are daily reported in the hospital of the poor-house of this town, and the average number of burials from the same establishment is computed at fourteen each day. The number of civil bills served by landlords for the approaching sessions of this town will treble those ever sent out for the last ten years. Ten persons were committed to our county prison within the last week for slaughtering black cattle, the property of farmers in this county, and upwards of fifty fat sheep are missing, not one of which the owners will ever find. Thus we briefly give the state of our once happy county."

The scenes of misery arising from famine are becoming every day more and more appalling. We learn the following from a Cork paper:—"At Dunmanway the reporter met, on yesterday week, four corpses going to Fanlobus grave-yard. The first was carried on two sticks or watties borne by men; it was followed by about a dozen people. The next was the body of a child carried in a coffin on a man's back, attended by no other person. The next was on a car, followed by about twenty persons; and the fourth was on a butt, driven by a woman—no one else in attendance. In fact, funerals are now of such hourly occurrence that few have heart to attend them."

The same writer states:—"In Skibbereen, no one can speak to you on any subject, but that of the destruction of human life. Men are all day digging graves in the burying places, and all the carpenters and cartwrights are at work day and night, not excepting Sunday; still they cannot meet the demands made upon them for the roughest coffins. At Ballydehob, the people were dying in all directions—those living being mere skeletons.

The reporter says:—"On entering the town you are surrounded by famishing creatures, from whom it is almost impossible to escape—every one of them has a more distressing tale of destitution than the other. Here I heard horrible details of the neighbouring parishes. The parish of Skull adjoining, which extends to the sea coast. It contains 37,922 acres, and has a population of 18,000. Here there are but two resident gentlemen—Mr. Limrick and Mr. O'Callaghan—the landlords being all non-resident. In this parish, as well as the adjoining—Kilcoe and Kilmoe—the deaths are daily increasing, and the bodies are carried to their graves without coffins. The R. C. clergyman told me that in Skull the deaths were ten a day on the average of the last fourteen days. The people are living on seaweed and cattle that they steal; they are carrying off cows and sheep every night. Kilcoe contains 5272 acres, with 2800 inhabitants. They are dying here at five a day on the average of a fortnight. I was told that one family of eight persons were found in their hut on Thursday *devouring a dog* belonging to them. There were thirteen buried in Skull Churchyard on Friday; only one of them had a coffin; they were taken on doors, covered with a little straw. Under these circumstances it is cruel to insist on these wretched skeletons going miles to and from roads to earn a few pence; it would be much wiser and more humane to give them a little food and permit their remaining within doors. The stocks of corn are nearly exhausted."

Mr. Cummins, a magistrate of the county of Cork, in a letter to the Duke of Wellington, relates the most heart-rending cases. He visited a townland in Skibbereen, with five men laden with bread, and says, "I was surprised to find the wretched hamlet apparently deserted. I entered some of the hovels to ascertain the cause, and the scenes that presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearance dead, were huddled in a corner on some dirty straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horse-cloth; their wretched legs hanging about, naked above the knees. I approached in horror, and found by a low moaning they were alive—they were in fever—four children, a woman, and what had once been a man. It is impossible to go through the detail—suffice it to say that in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least twenty of such phantoms, such frightful spectres, as no words can describe. By far the greater number were delirious, either from famine or from fever. Their demoniac yells are still ringing in my ears, and their horrible images are fixed upon my brain. My heart sickens at the recital. In another case, decency would forbid what follows, it must be told. My clothes were nearly torn off in my endeavour to escape from the throng of pestilence around, when my neck cloth was seized from behind by a grip which compelled me to turn. I found myself grasped by a woman with an infant apparently just born in her arms, and the remains of a filthy sack across her loins—the sole covering of herself and babe. The same morning the police opened a house on the adjoining lands, which was observed shut for many days, and two frozen corpses were found lying upon the mud *half devoured by the rats*. A mother, herself in fever, was seen the same day to drag out the corpse of her child, a girl about twelve, perfectly naked, and leave it half covered with stones. In another house, within five hundred yards of the cavalry station at Skibbereen, the dispensary doctor found seven poor wretches lying unable to move under the same cloak. *One had been dead many hours, but the others were unable to move either themselves or the corpse.*

STATE OF ROSCOMMON.—Coroners' inquests have been held on the bodies of three men in the course of last week, and from the evidence adduced it was fully proved that the wretched creatures had died from absolute hunger. In consequence of the continuance of outrage and robbery, the magistrates of the county have made an application for an additional police force to be stationed in the barony of Boyle. No man can count on the possession of his sheep or cattle for a single night.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.—The *Mayo Constitution* of last week publishes seven cases of coroners' inquests on persons died from starvation. One was found lying dead in a field. Another, who died in a sheep-house, was, with her family, in the utmost state of destitution, and one of the children had nothing to wet the lips of its dying parent but a drop of water or a little snow. The body lay for eight days before a few boards could be procured to make a coffin, in such a state of destitution was the locality. A third was on a boy, one of a numerous family. The evidence of the mother as to their destitution was truly melancholy. The last words of the dying child to his famishing parent were, 'Mother, give me three grains of corn.'

The *Galway Vindicator* reports the death of a labouring man from starvation, when fifteen days' wages were due to him by the Board of Works, and he could not procure a penny to purchase food. Several other deaths are mentioned in communications from Galway.

DEEDS, NOT WORDS!—J. L. W. Naper, Esq., of Loughcrew, has converted his kennel yard into a soup kitchen, and is now killing his fine herd of deer, which have been the pride and ornament of his family for a century of years, to provide for the hungry people.

On Tuesday last, there was an important meeting of the landed proprietors of Londonderry, attended by every magistrate in the county, to consider the proposition of Sir Robert Ferguson, that landlords should submit to a voluntary assesment of 5s. in the pound for reproductive labour. All acquiesced in the proposal, but few were in a condition to adopt it.

(From the Morning Chronicle.)

The employment of multitudes of able-bodied men on public works, and the consequent neglect of agriculture, are the really alarming facts in the present condition of Ireland; but with regard to these facts, it is important to keep in mind that the strong representations which reach us refer to less than a third of the area of the country. We are not at present in possession of the numbers employed in the various counties, but we may recal attention to the conclusions furnished by a return which we published on the 20th of November last, and which had reference to the middle of that month, when there were 150,000 men on the public works. From that return, it appeared that more than *six-sevenths* of the whole number were employed in *ten* counties of the south and southwest. They were thus distributed:—

1. Clare, 23,899 men employed, or about *one* in *three* of the able bodied population; 2. Roscommon, 20,106, one in three; 3. Limerick, 18,233, one in four; 4. Galway, 14 714, one in seven; 5. Mayo, 13,149, one in seven; 6. Sligo, 6,823, one in seven; 7. Kerry, 8,918, one in eight; 8. Leitrim, 3,548, one in ten; 9. Tipperary, 9,718, one in twelve; 10. Cork, 10,565, one in twenty—Total number of men employed, 129,723.

In ten of the northern and eastern counties, the numbers stood thus:—Antrim, 520 men employed; Armagh, 107; Carlow, 182; Dublin, 48; Fermanagh, 349; Kildare, 240; Kilkenny, 270; Monaghan, 289; Queen's County, 203; Wicklow, 67—Total, 2275, or less than *one* in *two hundred* of the able-bodied male population. Since the making up of this return, the gross number of those employed has more than doubled; but we may feel pretty sure that a similar return made up to the present time, would still show an enormous inequality in the number employed upon public works in different districts.

Neglect of Agriculture.—A Kerry paper contains the following: "Although in some parts of our county the farmers are busy in preparing their ground for the produce of next year, yet, from personal observation, it is our painful duty to state that, in the aggregate, Kerry may be said to have literally ceased all agricultural pursuits. This is a startling state of things, and one calling for the immediate attention of their landlords, our relief committees, the Roman Catholic clergy, and every one having influence with the people."

The *Daily News* announces that a great and comprehensive measure with reference to Ireland is resolved upon, and is to be promulgated by Ministers in Parliament. We select the heads of the measure:—The chief laws at present in operation, for employment, improvement, and drainage in Ireland, are to be continued, but to be amended and made more efficient. The action of the poor-house will be put forward as a check to flug back the loiterer, who could find employment elsewhere, from burdening relief funds; but the warden of the poor will be empowered to give relief in all cases to the infirm and the really destitute. Emigration will be provided. Not only will depots be formed at home, but active and beneficent preparations will be made in the colonies, so as to insure those who wish to emigrate against all the risks of the poor, unprovided, and ignorant emigrant. The peculiarity, however, of the present plan of emigration is—that it will be coupled with the choice of settlement at home. A commission will be issued for the purchase of waste lands, which are to be enclosed, reclaimed, cultivated, and then offered in no large lots for sale, with such facilities as will render them a premium for industry and frugality, and the foundation of a class of Irish yeomen.—There are other lands, not waste, that are not cultivated, and which in the hands of the poor, incumbered, embarrassed landlord, are as profitless to the community as the bog or the heath. To render these more available, liberty will be given to sell entailed property. Government will be empowered to proceed to the sale of a portion of those estates indebted to Government which have not paid up the interest or instalment agreed upon.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday, Dec. 28th. The attendance was above an average one. The chair was taken by the Hon. Cecil Lawless, M. P., who, in addressing the meeting, referred to the present poverty of the country. If they had a home government, Ireland could not be in such a state of wretchedness, for, if a parliament were sitting in College Green, the ports would be opened, and they would not be told that the Irish should starve, lest the English might suffer in their trade. Mr. O'Connell then addressed the meeting at great length, observing, at its close, that he would have an address issued to the people, calling upon them to desist from attacking or plundering convoys of provisions—to resign all resort to violence—to give up all force, and endeavour to assist each other in the terrible crisis which was upon them. Some sums of money were then handed in; the rent for the week was announced to be £57 7s. 4d.

The accounts received from Paris this morning state, that it has been resolved to omit, in the diplomatic address presented to the King on New Year's Day, all mention of the Montpensier marriage as a subject for political congratulation; it is merely to be treated of as a family event. This omission has been conceded to the desire of Lord Normanby.—*Examiner, January* 2.

Pauperism is making frightful progress in Belgium. The number of poor persons inscribed on the registers of the charitable institutions is from 700,000 to 800,000, out of 4,000,000 of inhabitants, or nearly a fifth part of the population. The proportion is still more considerable in Flanders, where pauperism appears to be passing into a chronic state, as in Ireland. This state of things is attributed to two causes, one accidental and the other organic—the dearness of articles of food, and the decadence of the linen manufacture, occasioned by the revolution which has taken place in the method of fabrication.

The *Samarang* arrived at Spithead on Thursday, with papers from the Cape of Good Hope, of the 20th of October. Skirmish after skirmish had taken place, but with some provoking and unsatisfactory results.

INDIA AND CHINA.—An extraordinary express, *via Trieste*, Lieut. Waghorn's route, in anticipation of the December Indian mails, reached London on the 2nd inst. The latest dates are, Calcutta, November 22, and Bombay, December 2. The fortnight prior to the despatch of the express had proved rather barren of intelligence. The insurrection in Cashmere was over. The Mooltan misunderstandings seemed fully arranged—Scinde continued quiet. Rumours were rife of the immediate retirement of Sir Charles Napier from office. The climate within the Delta continued cool and healthy, but at Sukkur considerable sickness prevailed. Three companies of artillery, one regiment of cavalry and five of infantry were about to be withdrawn from the country. There still remained a force of 24,000 men on the Indus. The late ministry were said to have been favourable to the restoration of the Ameers. The Governor-General had reached Loodhiana. India generally was quiet and contented; trade was dull and money scarce.

Rome has been visited by terrific inundations. The distress is great, the amount of property destroyed serious. The Jews have been the greatest sufferers by the overflowing of the Tiber, but the new Pope has mitigated their hardships by his purse and his personal exertions.

Information has just been received from Egypt that the overflowing of the Nile has carried away 93 villages in Lower Egypt, with all the produce they contained, including a very large quantity of flax. The government has set vigorously to work to repair the dykes.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

The Legislative Session was opened at Fredericton on Thursday last. We understand that the former Speaker of the Assembly, the Hon. J. W. Weldon, was chosen by the new House without opposition. Mr. Bradley, (Postman) handed us a copy of his Excellency's Speech at an early hour yesterday morning; but we have as yet no further intelligence of the doings of the Legislature, a violent snow-storm having prevented the arrival of the Mail at the usual hour this morning. The Speech is as follows:—

"*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"As the situation of the Province did not require, after the elections, that I should anticipate the ordinary period for the meeting of the Legislature, I have called you together at this time, with a confident reliance on your disposition to apply yourselves to the business of this first Session in a spirit of unanimity which will attest your zeal for the Public Service.

"I congratulate you on the abundance of the late Harvest, which has relieved the pressure on the Agricultural Classes occasioned by the failure of the Potato Crop in the preceding year; and while we deeply sympathize with the continued sufferings and privations of so many of our fellow subjects of the United Kingdom, we are bound to acknowledge with thankfulness that the People of this Province have, with few exceptions, been spared from a recurrence of this afflicting visitation.

"In reflecting on the measures to which it becomes my duty to invite your attention, there are none which impress me with a deeper sense of their importance, than those which have for their object to improve and extend the means of Education for the People. The state of the Parish Schools, and the system under which they have been conducted, was the subject of an elaborate inquiry in 1844, and I need not remind you, that unless timely provision be made for their efficient regulation, training, and inspection, there are those who are growing up around us, to whom the loss must soon become wholly irretrievable.

"From the salutary effects which have elsewhere attended the introduction of an improved system in the management of Prisons, I recommend this subject to your especial notice. The enforcement of discipline, and of effective secondary punishments, under statutory rules, have been found to be conducive, not only to the reformation of offenders, but to the prevention of crime, and essential to the safety of society, where the Criminal Laws have been ameliorated.

"The recent improvements in the Laws of the United Kingdom which provide for the settlement and relief of the Poor, suggest for consideration how far the Provincial Acts may require in this particular to be amended, to meet the altered circumstances of society. From the large increase in the number of Immigrants annually arriving, especially of the poorer classes, some amendment appears to be also necessary in the regulations applicable to their relief.

"Representations having been made to me on behalf of the Indian Population, and of persons residing on their Lands, of the ill consequences of delay in the adjustment of their respective claims, I hope that measures will be taken to facilitate such a settlement of them as will conduce alike to the satisfaction of the claimants, and to the credit and advantage of the Province.

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"I have the satisfaction to inform you, that from the prosperous state of Commerce, the Revenue in the past year has been amply sustained.

"I have given directions that the Public Accounts should be laid before you.

"I have also directed to be communicated to you various Returns and Reports relative to the Roads and other Public Works, the execution of which, on a systematic plan, would materially tend to the public advantage.

"An urgent appeal having been made to me on behalf of the Inhabitants of Saint John's, Newfoundland, who had suffered from the destruction of that City by fire, I felt impelled to aid the private contributions which were raised for their relief, by an advance from the Public Funds, which I made in full confidence that I only anticipated your desire for the alleviation of the sufferings of our fellow-subjects exposed to so severe a calamity.

"*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"Commissioners having been appointed by Her Majesty's Government to investigate and report on the Boundary in dispute between this Province and Canada, I have to regret that their labors have been in some degree retarded, owing to the lamented death of one of the Officers engaged on this service. I have no reason, however, to anticipate any further delay in the settlement of the question, and, in the meantime, the Jurisdiction of the Province in the Disputed Territory has been maintained.

"An examination of the Country by the same scientific Officers, with the object of ascertaining the best direction for a Trunk Line of Railway, to connect the Provinces, has been in progress, and will be resumed when the season becomes again favorable, another Officer having been appointed to the Survey.

"In order to effect a rapid communication of intelligence through the Provinces, the establishment of a Line of Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, from Halifax to Quebec, has been proposed by the Governor-General, in a Despatch which will be laid before you.

"Availing myself of the encouragement held out in the last Session, I have directed the prosecution of some special inquiries in reference to those important undertakings—the Reports, when received, will be communicated to you.

"I congratulate you on the prospects which at this time appear to be opening to the Province; with improved means of intercourse, so fertile a region cannot long remain imperfectly settled and reclaimed, and the time we may hope is approaching when the labors of the early settlers and their descendants, aided by British enterprise and capital, will be applied in developing its vast and varied resources. That undertakings of this nature, conducted in a righteous spirit, will be eminently successful, I can entertain no doubt, and that they may prosper under your auspices and become the means of diffusing the blessings which have elsewhere followed in their train, must be the aspiration of all who regard the welfare of their Country, and desire to extend and perpetuate the glory of her Institutions."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—At a meeting, on Monday last, of the Committee chosen on the 21st instant, the Hon. John Robertson was elected Chairman; John Duncan and John V. Thurgar, Esquires, Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. R. Jardine, Secretary and Treasurer.

NEW-BRUNSWICK RAILWAY.—The intelligence by the last English Mail, with respect to this undertaking, continues to be encouraging to its friends in this Province. In addition to the interest taken in its behalf in London, several of the leading men of Liverpool and Glasgow had expressed themselves favorable to the project, and the subscriptions for shares, in these places, are expected to be on a large scale. The assurance given by the Solicitors, Messrs. Gilbert, Hooke, Street, and Gutteres, contained in their letter to Earl Grey on the 27th Nov. and published in our paper of the 26th ultimo, that a supplementary Act, embracing the several amendments proposed by the Imperial Government, would be prepared by the Directors of the Company and submitted to the Provincial Legislature for enactment, had been so far satisfactory that the Acts submitted for Her Majesty's sanction had received the Royal assent. Every thing, therefore, promises well for this important Provincial work, and the next Mail, we have reason to expect, will bring us still more satisfactory accounts of the progress made by the gentlemen who have the matter in charge on the other side of the Atlantic.

SENTENCES.—The following sentences were passed on Wednesday last, by His Honor Judge Street, on the criminals tried during the sitting of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, held the present month, for the City and County of Saint John:—

William Hennigar, found guilty of larceny, for having stolen a sum of money, the property of Capt. Robert Martin, of the schr. Martha Brae, sentenced to 12 calender months' imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, with hard labour.

Bridget Daley, found guilty of larceny, for having stolen £3, the property of a poor woman, sentenced to six calendar months' imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, with hard labour.

Patrick Daley, found guilty of receiving the stolen property from his wife, sentenced to six calendar months' imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, with hard labour.

James Faulkner pleaded guilty to an indictment for a felonious assault upon his brother-in law, having wounded him severely with a knife, sentenced to 12 calender months' imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, with hard labour.

…ovincial Penitentiary, with hard labour.

…a Wire pleaded guilty to an indictment …, having stolen a sum of money from …er, sentenced to four calendar months' …nment in the common Gaol.

…cy Smith, (coloured woman,) found guilty of a common assault, sentenced to two calendar months' imprisonment in the common Gaol.

On Friday morning, four Bills were read before the Grand Jury, previous to their being submitted to the Legislature—viz:

A Bill to improve the navigation of Black River and its Tributaries.

A Bill to incorporate a Boom Company at South Bay, in the County of Saint John.

A Bill to authorise the Trustee of St. Stephen's Church, to sell that Church, and to provide a suitable place of worship in lieu thereof.

A Bill praying for the repeal of the Act authorising the St. John Water Company to impose a tax on the citizens of St. John.

The civil docket contained fifty two causes, fifteen of which have been tried, and twenty-four remain to be taken up at the adjourned sittings of the Court. The others have been confessed and referred.

The Court adjourned yesterday until the second day of March next.

In publishing the subjoined extracts from a late London paper, we feel called upon to say, that Capt. Sergeant's statement with regard to our Constables, is certainly overstrained. Some of them are not exceeded in any part of the world, in the rigid discharge of their duties; but our Police force is not sufficient; yet we much question whether any remedy short of that recommended by the Chamber of Commerce, in their annual report published by us last week, viz. the discharging of all sailors on their arrival in port, and the passing of a Law compelling the bringing from other ports of a certain number of Seamen for every new vessel fitted out; would check the evils under which Shipmasters and shipowners at present labour in regard to Seamen. At Quebec, where, we believe, a large day and night police has been kept very efficiently, matters are not better than with us.

THAMES POLICE, LONDON, December 12.—*The Crimping System in St. John, New-Brunswick.*—WM. JOHNSON, a seaman on board the barque "Henry Tanner," summoned the master, Mr. Henry Serjeant, for an alleged balance of £6 wages. Mr. Sergeant said he resisted the claim upon public grounds, and hoped the system which he was about to expose, and which up to the present time was unresistingly submitted to, would obtain publicity. The practice at Saint John was, that as soon as a vessel arrived from Europe, the Crimps allured the crew (including the apprentices) ashore, and sent them up the country. The captain, or master, had then to go before the Custom House authorities, and make oath that he had, to the best of his power, endeavoured to recover his crew. His next step was to appear before a magistrate, and take out warrants against each individual of the crew—a most expensive proceeding—The constables to whom the warrants are entrusted are, for the most part, in league with the Crimps, and who never execute them, even though the master has succeeded in tracing the fugitives at his own private cost, and given the necessary information to the officers. The master, anxious to proceed on his voyage, is, by this time, completely at the mercy of the Crimps, upon one of whom he is compelled to call for the purpose of procuring a crew at any terms. The usual demand is £4 5s. to £4 10s. per month, with a month's pay in advance. The Captain leaves with the Crimp Articles partly in blanks, and when the ship has been taken to sea by the tidesmen, the crew, whom he has never seen, are shipped, and the Articles which he has previously signed, but has not had time to read over, are sent on board. As the Crimp never comes himself, there is no opportunity of remonstrating upon the injustice of any clause in the Articles. As soon as the voyage commences, the master finds he has been completely taken in. It turns out that his crew, for the most part, consists of men who have only had one voyage even, or are mere emigrants dressed up in sailors' clothes.

In the present case, the complainant had shipped for £4 10s. per month for the voyage. He had been on board a month and eight days, and out of that time he had refused duty ten days under a plea of sickness.

The Captain being sworn to these facts, Mr. Ballentine indignantly dismissed the summons, expressing his pleasure at the exposure of such practices.—[Sunday Times, Dec. 13.

FREE CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOL—ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT.—The Annual Meeting of the Teachers and Scholars connected with the above School, took place on Thursday last, the 28th inst. in the basement story of the Free Church. At 4 o'clock, P. M. (though a very cold day) the children, numbering 240, assembled, and were entertained by the Teachers with a nice refreshment consisting of cakes and fruit. They retired at sun-down much pleased with the entertainment.

At seven o'clock, the same evening, the Teachers assembled in the same place and had tea together. After tea, the Rev. Mr. Irvine, Pastor of the Church, read the annual report of the school, which was highly satisfactory, exhibiting an increase of 70 children and ten teachers during the year; the number of children being at present 260, and the number of teachers 40. The Elders and Trustees of the congregation were present, by request, on the occasion, and were highly delighted with the proceedings of the day, and the prosperity of the School, as detailed in the Report.

BURNS' CLUB.—A Society has recently been organized in this City for the purpose of doing honour to the Memory of ROBERT BURNS, the illustrious Bard of Scotland, and, at the same time, cultivating good understanding and fellowship among the members of the Club, and aiding the charitable operations of the St. Andrew's Society of this City, by alleviating the distresses of Scotchmen and their families. The first festival of the Club took place on Monday evening last, at the Long Room in the Portland Market House, which was suitably decorated for the occasion, and where upwards of eighty Gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous entertainment. The Chair was filled by Mr. Thomas Allen, who was ably supported by Mr. John Bryden, as Vice President, and the evening, we understand, was spent in the utmost harmony and good humour.

If we had room to-day to give extracts from the articles relative to us which have appeared in the editorial columns of the three last numbers of the *Chronicle*, we think we could convince even the publishers of that print, that, by adopting and giving publicity to the ravings of a conceited fop—an apostate, whose arrogance and presumption received, merited public chastisement—they have shewn an utter disregard to truth, and an illiberal repeated libels upon dissenters, upon private individuals, and upon public functionaries, render anything they may say respecting us deserving only of utter contempt. They are no doubt desirous to continue a controversy with us, in order that their sinking concern, now aided weekly by the charities of their contemporaries, may receive notice. They may hear from us again. In the meantime, we leave them, detested and despised by their opponents, and, though willing tools in publishing defamation and untruths, which only little minds would conceive, and black hearts propagate—not trusted even by their few friends.

THE CONCERT of Vocal and Instrumental Music, given by the Philharmonic Society on Tuesday evening, gave very general satisfaction to a large and fashionable audience. The pieces selected for the occasion were such as required considerable skill and knowledge of the principles of music, for their proper performance, being selected from some of their best collections, and even had they not been so faithfully executed, some excuse might have been found in the difficult nature of the selections; but in this respect the most fastidious could not but have been gratified. The Overture to the "Caliph of Bagdad," Labitzky's "Dublin" Walzer, and others, gave ample proof of the ability of the Society, and their correct appreciation of the fine intonations of the art divine. They appeared not only to understand, but, what is more, to enter into the spirit of the music they were discoursing.

The Song "I should like to marry," by Master A. Seely, was remarkably well executed, and enthusiastically encored.

We trust, after the golden opinions won on Tuesday evening, that this Society will, ere long, favour the public with another Concert.—*New-Brunswicker.*

MELANCHOLY.—We regret to learn that a man named James Johnston, formerly a resident of this city, was found frozen to death on Monday week, at Petersville, County of Queen's. It appears that he left his residence on Su… ing, the 17th instant, to attend Divine … after which, he was present at a funera… the same evening, about 9 o'clock, set o… own home, when he was found the next … as above stated. Mr. J. was an honest in… man, and has left a father, mother, and t… ters, to lament his melancholy death, of w… was their only support.—*New-Bruns.*

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Monday morning … Captain Charles Calhoon, of Hopewell, A… County, on returning home from this City, … about two or three miles out, while conver… with a gentleman riding with him, suddenly bec… insensible and ceased to breathe. … he had been slightly ill a day or two … apparently in a great measure recovered … most at the very moment thus taken, he … the act of describing how well he felt. The … tleman with him, as well as a number of … who were following in company, imm… made application to the inmates of the … house they found, for leave to take him in … the cold, but were peremptorily refused, and … to drive him all the way back to the City, … dical aid was then immediately called, but … late for resuscitation.

Capt. C. was universally esteemed by all … knew him as a sober, honest upright man. … was 29 years old, a widower, and left three … dren, together with a large circle of relatives … friends to lament his death.—*Ib.*

☞ We learn that the Phrenological Lec… of Mr. S. F. GREEN, at