The Courier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1852.

NEW MODE OF ELECTION.—In the *Edinburgh Review* for October last, in an article on "Representative Reform," a new mode of election is proposed, which, it appears to us, is the very best plan for obtaining the unbiassed opinions of voters that we have heard of. It is new only as regards Parliamentary elections, the system having been for some time in operation in England and Scotland at the elections of Boards of Guardians and Poor's Rates Assessors with the most satisfactory results. It consists simply in taking the polling-booth to every elector, instead of, as now, carrying each elector to the polling-booth. A couple of days before the one appointed for the election, a voting-paper, with the names of all the candidates, and ample directions as to the mode of filling up the paper, is left at the house of every ratepayer; and after the lapse of one clear day, the paper is called for by the appointed officer. The collector is provided with a sealed box, with a slit in the lid, into which the paper is dropped; and the Commissioners require that every paper shall be returned, whether filled up or not, with the view of compelling the *attention*, at least of the ratepayer, to the appeal made to him, however he may choose to treat it.

On this plan, each elector, when he returns home at night, finds the important document awaiting him; he considers the merits of the candidates, he reads the addresses—perhaps he consults his wife and family, or his neighbours—and then he places his name opposite to that of the man or men of his choice, and folds up the paper ready for delivery to the collector. All the secresy and advantages of the ballot might be obtained by swearing the Commissioners or Returning Officers to secrecy.

The Fifth Report of the Poor Law Commissioners clearly sets forth the manifold advantages attending this mode of election. It states that "by the voting-paper on which the elector is to record his vote being left one or two days at his residence, he is enabled to give his vote in the most free and deliberate manner, undisturbed by the importunities of canvassers, or the tumult and clamour of the polling-booth; by the paper being called for, the elector is saved from the necessity of losing his time, and neglecting his business in attending the polling-booth, it being deemed better economy that one officer should attend at the residences of several hundred voters, rather than that several hundred voters should leave their homes and occupations to attend at the station of one poll-clerk.

"By this mode the enormous expense and excitement required to induce bodies of electors to incur inconvenience, insults and annoyance, are saved to both parties. Hitherto this mode of election, which differs from all others in this country, has given general satisfaction. Moreover, it has continued to be marked by the greater number of votes being given than have been obtained for the like objects under any other form of election. In the greater number of instances, the number of votes polled have been more than trebled. The expense in the larger parishes was greatly below that of the ordinary elections by poll. One with another, not less, perhaps, than half a day would be consumed by a voter in quitting his occupation to go to the polling-booth, give his vote, and return, which perhaps would be under-estimated at half-a-crown. The aggregate value of the time required for the voters in a large parish would not, therefore, be less in value than £1250. The permanent expense of printing the voting papers and other incidental charges for completing the election, would probably not exceed £100."

It is argued in favour of this plan—

First.—It would entirely avoid the riotous proceedings now so generally and disgracefully attendant on popular contests.

Second.—It would do away with intimidation and bribery. Bribery is now chiefly confined to *close* contests. When the majority is decidedly against a candidate, it is not worth [illegible] to bribe; when the majority is in his [illegible] votes will turn the scale, that cor[illegible]sorted to. By the proposed mode the [illegible] be avoided. No one could have the least idea how the election was going till the returning officer opened his papers and cast up his columns at the end of the poll.

Third.—The cost of elections would be enormously curtailed. Even the legitimate and inevitable expenses—those of the booths and clerks—would be considerably reduced. Instead of the staff now required, no one would be needed but the returning officer and the representatives of the candidates who might wish to be present as a check upon him, and the distributors and collectors of the voting-papers. From six to twenty men, according to the size of the borough or parish, might do the work. But the great expense of elections is the carrying voters to the poll, and keeping open houses and committee-rooms for collecting them previously. They are generally taken in carriages; and according to the testimony of experienced canvassers, eighty out of every one hundred voters are carried at the expense of the candidates. We must add to this the loss of time and earnings by all the voters whose day is broken in upon and generally lost by going to the poll.

Fourth.—You would add almost incalculably to the number of voters, *i. e.*, of those who recorded their votes.

Generally, of those possessed of the suffrage not more than fifty per cent. take the trouble to exercise it. By this plan, every one would vote who had not some distinct and positive motive for obstinacy.

Fifth.—The new votes—those which are now lost, but would then be given—would belong to precisely the members of the constituency whose votes we most desire to get, namely, the industrious, the quiet, the retiring and the modest. A great proportion of the votes never recorded are those of men of business and tradesmen, who will not or cannot leave their work. Now, it is very well to say that men who are thus lukewarm in the discharge of their electoral functions do not deserve to possess them: this is true enough; but these are just the men whom it is desirable, for the good of the country, *should* possess them, and should exercise them too.

The idle, the excitable, the bribable, will vote fast enough. We must smooth the path to the poll, for those whose counteracting influence the welfare of the State requires; and the more we can secure the action of these men, the more effective and fatal is the blow you have struck at bribery and intimidation.

Lastly.—This plan would effect the very desirable aim of *equalising electoral action* in times of excitement, and in times of indifference and stagnation.

Under the existing system, in periods of quiet and prosperity, when men's reason and good sense may be expected to be paramount, because their passions are comparatively dormant, and when therefore the opinions of one people would be unusually valuable, because unusually deliberate and sober, it is next to impossible to persuade any considerable number of them to be at the trouble of recording their votes. But on all more turbulent and angry occasions, when some popular cry has been sent forth, or some epidemic prejudice aroused, when men are blinded by passion or warped by delusion, far larger numbers flock to the poll; and those who go there are many of them peculiarly the men who, as far as the object of a calm decision is concerned, it is especially important should stay away. By the new mode of voting, on the contrary, the exercise of the electoral function would be made so easy, that the minimum of motive and convenience would suffice to secure it; and we might count on an equally general expression of public sentiment, whatever were the peculiar circumstances under which the election took place.

We commend this plan to the consideration of the public, and hope to see it taken up and discussed by our contemporaries, so that its merits may be thoroughly understood.

We insert to-day, an article, which has been handed to us, on the supply of Water for the City. We noticed a somewhat similar plan recommended in an Editorial in the *Morning News* of Wednesday last.

We commend the subject to the attention of our citizens.—If a judicious plan is now adopted, the result will be highly beneficial to the City, and we therefore desire to see the subject fully discussed.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last Monday evening, the Members of the Mechanics' Institute were favoured with a lecture, for the first time, from Jas. Hogg, Esq., of Fredericton, the Editor of the *Reporter*. His subject was, "*Woman and Poetry.*" The audience, which was large and respectable, appeared to be much pleased, and sometimes even delighted, with various parts of the lecture. He drew his illustrations from both ancient and modern sources. The Scriptures and the Classics, the ancient and modern ballad, and other poetical writings, were called in to contribute their quota to the support of his positions respecting the dignity, worth, and value of woman, and the connection that true poetry has always had with her heroism, her piety, her love, or her beauty. The lecture was concluded by a beautiful piece of poetry, which was recognised as the production of his own pen.

Next Monday evening, William Watts, Esq., of Fredericton, Barrister, will lecture on "*Want of Faith in our Country and Ourselves.*"

WATER COMPANY.—The extension of the works of this Company through every street in the City, is an object of paramount importance to the public generally, and several plans have been suggested to accomplish this object; but we beg to call attention to the following scheme, which we believe quite practicable, provided proper exertions are made to carry it out:—

The Capital of the original Stockholders, we believe, with accumulated dividends, is about - - - - - -	£16,000
The amount of the new Stock, created by a recent Act of the General Assembly, is	10,000
To complete the extension through the City generally, and to make Loch Lomond available for a supply, would cost about	14,000
Making the Stock in all about	£40,000

Now we believe that the old stock could be purchased, payable in twenty or thirty years, by scrip bearing interest at five per cent. per annum. Assuming this to be the case, we should recommend the management of the Company's affairs to be placed in the five Commissioners, to be appointed by the ratepayers; the Commissioners so appointed to elect from themselves a Chairman, who should assume the management of the Company, and receive for his services £200 or £250 per annum. The new stock is £10,000, and entitled to receive six per cent. per annum before there is any dividend paid to the holders of the old or first stock. Now, we assume that the holders of the new stock would be willing to receive scrip payable in twenty years, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly; and to make up the whole stock to £40,000, a sum of £14,000 is to be raised by further debentures, payable, at six per cent. per annum, in twenty or thirty years.

Taking the old Stock, in round numbers, with the accumulated Interest at £16,000, at five per cent., is - - - - - -	£800
New Stock, - £10,000, at six per cent., -	600
Additional . ,, £14,000, to be raised, at six per cent., - - - - -	840
Annual Interest, - -	£2240
Add to this, for the Management, - -	760
Making the annual charge, in all,	£3000

To meet this, we would propose that a water rate of twenty shillings be levied upon every house fronting upon any street through which the pipes of the Company are led, and five shillings upon every vacant lot similarly situated, until they are built upon, when they would become liable to the twenty shilling rate. But if the proprietors or occupants of houses become tenants, and take the water at the regular charge, the rate above-named to cease, or to form part of the regular charge for the use of the water.

Assuming the number of Houses at three thousand, would make - - - - -	£3000
Number of Lots vacant, one thousand, at 5s.,	250
Rents recoverable over and above the 20s., upon Houses taking Water, - -	750
Making	£4000

annual income, which would leave £1000 per annum towards paying off the Scrip.

Let the Scrip be so numbered and conditioned to be paid off, according as the funds accumulate; and assume that £1000 of the Scrip is paid off annually, it will be found that the whole Stock and Interest will be extinguished in twenty-five years. The whole work, and the income arising from it, to be the property of the citizens gene[illegible] operation, we have made no allowance for any increase during the period, but we think we are quite safe in estimating the income from the Stock, at the end of twenty-five years, at the least at £6000 per annum, which sum will pay nearly all the ordinary Taxes for the City.

We think this preferable to any plan yet submitted for the consideration of the public; because it can scarcely be called a Tax, for every house will derive a direct benefit from the reduction of the premium of Insurance, more than three times the *Rate*, even supposing the occupants do not use the water; and if the water is taken, the rate virtually ceases, as it goes as part payment of rent for water. To make ourselves more clear, we may state that all the houses now taking the water will pay no additional Tax or Rate.

The adoption of this plan will, in the mean time, release the citizens generally from taxation, (which will not be the case if the Corporation take Stock,) and ultimately be gainers to the extent of the whole income arising from the use of the water; while no person is called upon to pay who do not receive a direct benefit to a much greater amount than he pays, assuming that there is no other advantage beyond the mere saving of premium of Insurance against fire.

At a meeting of the habitual attendants at Saint James' Church, in the City of Saint John, called in compliance with a Circular Letter from the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, and held at the Church on Friday, the 10th day of December, 1852—

On motion, the Rev. John Armstrong, Rector of the Parish, was called to the chair, and B. Lester Peters requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman desired the persons present to join with him in prayer, after which he read the circular of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and fully stated the object of the meeting.

A printed copy of Mr. Gladstone's Bill "*To explain and amend the Laws relating to the Church in the Colonies,*" as published in one of the city papers, was read by the Secretary.

Whereupon the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. Moved by William Wright, Esq.; seconded by Henry W. Frith, Esq.,—

"Whereas it appears by the Lord Bishop's circular that the request made by the Clergy in every Deanery of the Diocese in which this meeting originates, was expressly for the purpose of taking into consideration the Bill lately introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, 'To Explain and Amend the Laws relating to the Church in the Colonies,' this Meeting deems it a duty to record its opinion thereon.

"*Resolved*, therefore, as the opinion of this Meeting, that every legislative measure for the regulation of the ecclesiastical affairs of the Colonies, before passing into a law, ought, in all fairness, to be first submitted to the Colonial Church; and that with respect to Mr. Gladstone's Bill, so far as its provisions are known in this Colony, this Meeting disapproves of it."

2. Moved by John M. Robinson, Esq.; seconded by John Kinnear, Esq.,—

"Without questioning the wisdom and propriety of all Synodical action in the Church, under certain circumstances, and certain regulations, yet, in view of the working of Ecclesiastical Synods, or Conferences, in our own day, both at home and in the Colonies, there is little ground to encourage the hope of anything else than the exasperation of existing differences, and the creation of new and fatal divisions; therefore—

"*Resolved*,—That, in the opinion of this Meeting, it is for the present inexpedient that the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity in communion with the Church of England, should be empowered to meet in Diocesan or other Synods, and make regulations for the management of their internal ecclesiastical affairs."

3. Moved by Thomas McAvity, Esq.; seconded by R. W. Crookshank, Jun., Esq.,—

"*Resolved*,—That the Churchwardens be the Lay representatives of this Parish to place before the General Meeting to be convened by the Lord Bishop, the foregoing Resolutions."

On motion of Robert Parker, Jun., Esq., the Chairman left the chair; and William Wright, Esq., being called thereto—

"*Resolved*,—That the thanks of this Meeting be tendered to the Rev. John Armstrong, Rector, for his able and impartial conduct in the chair."

B. LESTER PETERS, *Secretary*.

At a meeting of a large number of the members of the Church of England, attendants on Trinity and St. John Churches, in the City of Saint John, called by the Rev. I. W. D. GRAY, Rector, in pursuance of a Circular from the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, in reference to the Ecclesiastical affairs of the Diocese, and held at the Mechanics' Institute on Friday, the 3rd day of December, 1852.

On motion, Beverly Robinson, Esq., was called to the Chair, and James R. Ruel, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman then briefly stated the object of the meeting, and read the Bishop's Circular.

Whereupon the following Resolutions were passed:—

Moved by G. D. Robinson, Esq., seconded by Walker Tisdale, Esq.:—

Whereas, Mr. Gladstone in his place in Parliament explained "that his object was to introduce certain amendments into the Bill, (to explain and amend the laws relating to the Church in the colonies) and to have it printed in a complete form and transmitted to the Colonies, so that they might consider it during the recess, in order to its being laid before the House in another, and be hoped an early session. And whereas such pledge has not been redeemed, and whereas the Lord Bishop, in his Circular to the Clergy, states that to suppose that a large number of persons (many of whom may not have seen Mr. Gladstone's Bill) will be able, in a short time, to make themselves masters of a subject which touches on many delicate and difficult questions, is, according to my judgment unreasonable, therefore,

Resolved, That sufficient notice has not been given to obtain from all parts of the Province, a correct expression of opinion upon a subject involving matters of so much importance to the future welfare of the Church.

Moved by R. Bayard, M. D., seconded by His Honor Mr. Justice Parker:—

Resolved, As the opinion of this Meeting, that the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone, "to explain and amend the laws relating to the Church in the Colonies," having, in consequence of the opposition it there met with been withdrawn; and it being quite uncertain whether that same Bill, or any other Bill will be again brought forward; or if brought forward, whether it will receive the support of the Government, or that any measure will be introduced by the Government on the subject;—and this meeting being informed by the Circular of the Lord Bishop that he is not prepared to submit any particular measure to the Diocesan meeting when assembled, the Parishioners of this parish are not sufficiently conversant with the subject, "touching on many delicate and difficult questions," or informed as to the mode of dealing with it, or aware of the object in view in bringing it forward at the present time; nor have they sufficiently considered the provisions of Mr. Gladstone's Bill, the only plan specifically brought under their notice, to give an answer either in the affirmative or negative of the abstract proposition submitted to them; neither do they think the question has been sufficiently considered in the other Parishes of the Province, to give weight to their decisions. And this meeting distinctly protests against the vote of a majority of Parish meetings being considered to pronounce the sense of the Church in this Province on this important question—or against this Parish being in any manner bound by the decision of the Diocesan meeting proposed to be called at St. John in January next. And that in the opinion of this meeting, an humble Petition should be presented to the Imperial Parliament praying that no act may pass affecting the Church in the Province, until ample opportunity is afforded for considering the provisions of any Bill which may be there introduced.

Moved by J. W. Lawrence, Esq., seconded by J. R. Ruel, Esq.—

Whereas a number of the Clergy of the Diocese are only Missionaries, and as such removable at the pleasure of the Diocesan, and the salaries of many more are derived from sources which are controlled in a great measure by the recommendation of the Lord Bishop, and

Whereas many of the country Parishes are thus necessarily dependant for the services of the Church upon the Bishop, therefore

Resolved, That a Synod constituted of Clergymen so dependant, and of a large proportion of lay delegates from Parishes so situated, cannot command the confidence of the Churchmen of this Province.

JAMES R. RUEL, Secretary.

By Telegraph from Woodstock we learn that the Parishioners have rejected Mr. Gladstone's Bill—22 voted in favor of it, and 37 against it.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS for December were opened at the Court House in this City on Tuesday last. The Grand Jury having elected Robert Jardine, Esq. as their Foreman, were addressed by His Honor the Recorder on various matters relating to the County—such as the revision of the assessment law, so that property might be more generally valued and assessed;—the condition of the Gaol, &c.

His Honor also alluded to the new Liquor Law which is to take effect in June.

There were no criminal causes for trial. One of the nine civil causes entered, created considerable interest—it being an action brought by a Mr. Lee of Carleton, to recover from a Division of the Sons of Temperance of which he was a member, the weekly benefits allowed by the order, but payment of which was refused him on the ground, we believe, of work being offered to him which he was considered able to perform, and also that it was not intended to provide for persons permanently disabled.

The case had been tried in September, but the Jury were then unable to agree. Now, however, a verdict was returned for the amount claimed—£19 10s.

Counsel for the plaintiff—A. R. Wetmore, Esq.; for the defence—R. Bayard, Esq.

We understand, [illegible] ary, prepatory to its being submitted to the Legislature for enactment, providing for the repeal of the Law for the election of Parish Officers in Portland, and also to change the system of making the assessments in Portland, by having the duty done by one officer instead of by a board of assessors as at present.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL have had several meetings in this City during the present week. It is understood that the subject of the Fisheries is among the important matters at present engaging the attention of the Provincial Government.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.—At the regular annual meeting of this Society, for the election of officers, held at the St. John Hotel, on the evening of Monday, the 6th instant, the following gentlemen were chosen officers for the ensuing year:—

THOS. PARKS, Esq., *President*.
GEORGE CARVILL, Esq., *Vice-President*.
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON, Esq., *Treasurer*.
Mr. ALEXANDER ADAMS, *Secretary*.
WM. HUTCHINSON, Jun., Esq., *Ass't Sec.*

On Monday, a man named Thomas McGrath, who for a long time previous had been in very ill health, left his home at South Bay and in about half an hour after was found lying quite dead on the road side by a squaw and some other persons passing by. The spot where he was found was but a short distance from the house. An inquest was held before the Coroner, Dr. Bayard, on Tuesday, when after hearing all the evidence that could be obtained, the Jury returned their verdict—Died by the visitation of God.—*Freeman*.

Cape Breton was visited by a terrific gale of wind on Wednesday and Thursday, 24th and 25th ult., causing much damage at sea and on land.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE at the opening of Congress on Monday last, came to hand by the Steamer *Admiral* on Thursday. It is, as usual, a lengthy document, touching upon the varied affairs of the United States and their connection with those of foreign countries. Respecting the Fishery difficulty the President says—

"In the course of the last summer considerable anxiety was caused for a short time by an official intimation from the government of Great Britain that orders had been given for the protection of the fisheries upon the coasts of the British Provinces in North America against the alleged encroachments of the fishing vessels of the United States and France. The shortness of this notice and the season of the year seemed to make it a matter of urgent importance. It was at first apprehended that an increased naval force had been ordered to the fishing grounds to carry into effect the British interpretation of those provisions in the convention of 1818, in reference to the true intent of which the two governments differ. It was soon discovered that such was not the design of Great Britain, and satisfactory explanations of the real objects of the measure have been given both here and in London.

The unadjusted difference, however, between the two governments as to the interpretation of the first article of the convention of 1818 is still a matter of importance. American fishing vessels within nine or ten years have been excluded from waters to which they had free access for twenty-five years after the negotiation of the treaty. In 1845 this exclusion was relaxed so far as concerns the Bay of Fundy, but the just and liberal intention of the Home government, in compliance with what we think the true construction of the convention, to open all the outer bays to our fishermen, was abandoned, in consequence of the opposition of the colonies. Notwithstanding this, the United States have, since the Bay of Fundy was re-opened to our fishermen in 1845, pursued the most liberal course toward the colonial fishing interests. By the revenue law of 1846, the duties on colonial fish entering our ports were very greatly reduced, and by the warehousing act it is allowed to be entered in bond without the payment of duty. In this way colonial fish has acquired the monopoly of the export trade in our market, and is entering to some extent into the home consumption. These facts were among those which increased the sensibility of our fishing interests, at the movement in question.

"These circumstances and the incidents above alluded to have led me to think the moment favorable for a reconsideration of the entire subject of the fisheries on the coasts of the British provinces, with a view to place them upon a more liberal footing of reciprocal privilege. A willingness to meet us in some arrangement of this kind is understood to exist, on the part of Great Britain, with a desire on her part to include in one comprehensive settlement, as well this subject as the commercial intercourse between the United States and the British provinces. I have thought that whatever arrangements may be made on these two subjects, it is expedient that they should be embraced in separate conventions. The illness and death of the late Secretary of State prevented the commencement of the contemplated negotiation.—Pains have been taken to collect the information required for the details of such an arrangement.—The subject is attended with considerable difficulty. If it is found practicable to come to an agreement mutually acceptable to the two parties, conventions may be concluded in the course of the present winter. The control of Congress over all the provisions of such an arrangement, affecting the revenue, will of course be reserved."

The President states that the affairs of Cuba remain in an "uneasy condition." The refusal of the Captain General to allow the mail and passengers to be landed at Havana, "has been made the subject of a serious remonstrance at Madrid."

Propositions have been made by France and England inviting the United States to become a party to a tripartite convention to disclaim, now and for the future, all intentions to obtain possession of Cuba. This invitation has been declined. But so far from the United States entertaining any designs against Cuba, Mr. Fillmore says he should "regard its incorporation into the Union at the present time as fraught with serious peril." The Tehuantepec, Nicaragua and Costa Rica treaties are referred to.

The sovereignty of Peru over the Lobos Islands is unreservedly acknowledged.

The President is not without hopes of a beneficial result of the Japan expedition.

The business of the State Department has been so much increased, notwithstanding the establisment of the Department of the Interior, that he recommends all business of a domestic nature to be transferred to some other Department.

The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th June last, exclusive of trust funds, were $49,728,386 89. Expenditures, $46,007,896 20, leaving a balance of $14,632,-136 37 in the Treasury on the first day of July last. Value of foreign merchandize imported during the year, $207,240,101. Exportations, $167,065,937, exclusive of $42,507,285 in specie.—Owing to the reduction of the rates of postage, the revenue of the Post Office department has fallen off $1,431,696, or about 23 per cent. as compared with last year.

By Telegraph to the News Room.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL STEAMER.

HALIFAX, Dec. 10.—The *Niagara* arrived at 5½ o'clock this morning, having left Liverpool Nov. 27th, at 11¼ A. M. She had 59 through passengers—none for Halifax.

The Niagara arrived out at 11½ A. M., 22d ult. The Arctic at midnight on Wednesday. The Washington arrived off Cowes 21st, and landed mails and passengers. The repairs of the Franklin not being complete, no Mail Steamer left Havre for the United States. The despatch, consequently, embraces seven days' later news. The interest by this arrival centres in England and France—the Free Trade question in the former, the Empire in the latter.

MARKETS.—*State of Trade.*—Manchester Market is again exceedingly flat, with lower prices for both yarns and goods. The Iron districts are actively employed, having large orders on hand for the United States.

Money Market.—English Funds steady. Consols closed for money and account at 101⅛ to 101¼.

Cotton.—This has been the dullest week in Cotton that has occurred for many months, the irregularity and depression being so great, that it is impossible to give correct quotations. It has given way from ⅛d. to ¼d. per lb. The stock is 411,000 bales, of which 201,000 are American.

The Grain Market throughout the country is active, with an upward tendency, and Flour and Wheat are held at extreme rates.—White Wheat, 7s. 4d. to 7s. 6d.; Red, 6s. 8d. to 7s.

Philadelphia Flour, barrels, 25s. 9d. to 26s.; Western Canal and Canada, 25s. to 25s. 6d.; Indian Corn, yellow, 31s. 6d. to 32s.

Provisions dull—Molasses in good demand.

Freights at Liverpool unchanged.

ENGLAND.—If any doubts existed after D'Israeli's Protection overboard, it was set at result, throw Derby in the House of Lords on the 22nd ultimo. In answer to a question from Earl Clanricarde, Lord Derby stated that the object of calling a Session of the House prior to Christmas was to close for ever the controversy with regard to Protection and Free Trade. The result of the late elections had convinced him, that though a large number of constituencies were well disposed to support the Government, they were determined not to assent to an alteration in the recent commercial policy, and that any such attempt would instantly be negatived by a large majority. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, he had felt it his duty to declare that the principle of unrestricted competition ought to be adopted. (Cheers.) After making this explicit statement, the Government might have rested; but it went further and announced its Budget for an early day, from the details of which, the country would be enabled to judge of the sincerity of the Government and the wisdom of its policy. (Cheers.) An attempt had been made indeed, in the lower House to anticipate discussion by a Resolution, to which no member of the Government could agree, but it would be well if those who were about to support that motion would consider, not so much how to overthrow the Government, but how they could form an administration if it were overthrown. (Cheers.)

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Villiers' motion, thus opprobriously referred to by Earl Derby, was debated by the Commons. Both the motion and D'Israeli's amendment thereon were transmitted by the *Europa*.

Mr. Villiers declared he had brought forward his motion for the purpose of placing on record an unmistakeable declaration on the subject of Free Trade—that men of business and the world might comprehend the final decision of England on this all important question.

Mr. D'Israeli, in moving his amendment, ingeniously persisted in resolving Villiers' motion into a mere enquiry whether the Government had fulfilled its pledges since it came into power. Following out this view he maintained that the Derby Administration was of necessity one of compromise and conciliation. Office was thrust upon them when the former Cabinet fell to pieces from internal dissensions. They acceded to power by no motion connected with Protection; consequently they violated no pledge by retaining Office, with a House opposed to Protection, and further, from the beginning they never did intend to repeal any of the Free Trade acts.

Mr. Bright replied at length, in a speech chiefly noticeable for this passage "If the House maintained Mr. Villiers' motion the United States, where a Free Trade President had just been returned by an overwhelming majority would also know it!!" (Hear hear.) In the United States Protection was in the same helpless condition it was in this country, and though well beaten, the supporters of that cause still clung by it as in this country, but when President Pierce comes into office, in March next, they might look forward to Reciprocity just now so much talked about; therefore let them put on the Books of the House a Resolution that nobody could mistake."

Lord Palmerston skilfully smoothed over the asperities of both speakers and suggested, but did not formally submit some verbal amendments. The Debate was then adjourned.

Next day it was resumed by Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cobden, and others, and resulted in the withdrawal of D'Israeli's amendment and the substitution of Lord Palmerston's, as follows—"That it is the opinion of this House that the improved condition of the country, and especially of the industrial classes, is mainly the result of recent legislation which has established the principle of unrestricted competition—has abolished the taxes imposed for the purpose of Protection; that it is the opinion of this House that this policy followed, maintained, and prudently extended will best enable the industry of the country to bear its burdens, and thereby most assuredly promote the welfare and contentment of the people; that this House is ready to take into its consideration any measures consistent with those principles which in pursuance of her Majesty's Speech may be laid before it by her Majesty's Ministers."

The Debate was further adjourned to Friday, when after another lengthened Debate, and a *pro forma* division, the House again divided upon the amendment of Lord Palmerston, when the numbers were—

For the amendment, 468; against it, 53: majority, 415

The House then adjourned.

In the House of Lords, on the night of the 25th, in reply to Lord Wharncliffe, the Earl of Malmesbury stated, with regard to the North American Fisheries, that Mr. Webster's letter arose neither from the Government placing a new construction upon the Treasury Order, regulating the Fisheries, nor from the use of improper language in the negotiation. He did not know what was the cause of the letter being written, unless it resulted from circumstances which occurred to the American Government, within the time of the Presidential Election. He must refuse to produce the papers in the present peculiar state of the negotiation; but he assured the House that the most friendly spirit prevailed between the two Governments. With the exception of that one letter everything tended to a most satisfactory conclusion. He would produce the papers as soon as possible.

Strong opposition is making by the shipping interest against the grant of a Charter to the New Liverpool and London Transatlantic Screw Steam Ship Company. A deputation from several seaports remonstrated with the Board of Trade.

Rule has been granted for a new trial in the case of Achilli *vs.* Newman.

The ship Eagle, from Port Philip, in 76 days, has 150,000 ounces of gold; the Maitland, from Sydney, 14,000; the Sapphire, 15,000; the Phelan, 28,000. Total value nearly one million sterling.

The Committee of Turkish bondholders, in London, have resolved that steps be taken to enforce their claims against Turkey. The Government expect that the matter will be satisfactorily arranged.

FRANCE.—The vote for the Empire was cast on the 21st and 22nd. Both public and private accounts agree that the ceremony was conducted decorously, but without any show of enthusiasm. From the pains taken to bring up the voters, the returns will exhibit a large majority, greater probably than on any previous appeal to the people. The figures for the department of the Seine were—*Oui*, 210,658—*Non*, 54,753. By Telegraph on the morning of the 27th, we learn that the total number polled to latest, were, including 83 Departments and the Army and Navy—*Oui*, 7,200,000—*Non*, 250,000. In Paris the number of votes who abstained in December, '48, amounted to 1-4th. The result was proclaimed amidst cries of Vive l'Empereur. The scrutiny will occupy some days. On the 1st of December probably, the result will be announced, and the official proclamation of the Empire will be made on the 2d: the anniversary of the Coup d'Etat, and of the Coronation of Napoleon 1st. On the 3d will appear the *Senatus Consultum* and the modification of the Constitution. The modifications will be few, but the Court etiquette of the Bourbons and of the First Empire will be restored. It is said that the Emperor will address one Manifesto to France, and another to Europe: both, we are told, will be essentially pacific. Prince Murat is endeavouring to procure a concession of the Trans-Atlantic Packet Service.

SWEDEN.—The King has recovered.

AUSTRIA.—It is stated that the death of Mr. Webster will restore relations between Austria and the United States, and that Chevalier Hulsemann will return to Washington.

RUSSIA.—The Duke De Leutchenburg was buried, Nov. 4th, with ceremonies not less imposing than the funeral of Wellington.

GREECE.—A Convention, additional to the Treaty of 1832, guaranteeing the independence of Greece, under a Prince of the Greek faith, was signed at London, on the 20th, by Ministers of England, France, Russia, Bavaria and Greece.

HALIFAX, Dec. 11.—The *America*, from Boston, arrived at half-past three o'clock yesterday morning.

Weather mild—wind East, and raining.

WOODSTOCK, *Saturday morning.*—Snowing fast, wind North.

FREDERICTON.—Rain all night—snowing now. The same all above Woodstock.

Passenger per Mail Steamer *America*, from Halifax for Liverpool—Mr. J. R. Grindon, of this City.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*Ignarus*, and *A Nova-Scotian* have been received, but must lie over this week.

☞ The Members of the "SAINT JOHN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY" are requested to meet at the Saint John Grammar School House, Germain-street, on WEDNESDAY EVENING next, for the purpose of electing Office-Bearers and receiving the report of the Committee.

E. N. HARRIS, } *Committee.*
F. A. WIGGINS, }

Dec. 11.

MARRIED.

On Thursday morning, by the Rev. R. Knight, Wesleyan Minister, Chairman of the New-Brunswick District, DeWitt Clinton Cammeyer, Esq., of the City of New-York, to Jane C. A., second daughter of Geo. A. Lockhart, Esq., of this City.

On Wednesday evening last, by the Rev. I. W. D. Gray, Mr. William C. Godsoe, to Mary S., eldest daughter of Mr. Samuel Bibbitt, of this City.

At the residence of Mr. Samuel Horner, Saint James'-street, on the 9th inst., by the Rev. Wm. Ferrie, A. M., Mr. John Coulter, of Springfield, to Miss Martha Thomson, of this City.

On the 20th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Mr. George Discow, of the Parish of Portland, to Miss Letitia Ann Dunbar, of St. John.

On the 26th ult., by the same, Mr. David Mott, of Sunbury, to Miss Ann Jane Gregory, of Portland.

On the 30th ult., by the same, Mr. Thomas Dale, to Miss Susan Ann Bartlett, both of the Parish of Portland.

On the 3d inst., by the Rev. Samuel Robinson, Mr. James Pangbourn, of the Parish of Portland, to Miss Ellen, daughter of Mr. Thomas Curtes, of St. John.

On the 2d inst., by the Rev. R. Knight, Mr. William Starkey, to Miss Mary Fox, both of this City.

At Loch Lomond, on the 8th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Keith, Mr. Addington L. Gables and Miss Elizabeth A. Miles, both of the Parish of Simonds.

At the residence of the bride's father in Gagetown, on the 28th ult., by the Rev. S. Vidito, Mr. Moses M. Dykeman, to Miss Sarah Cottle, second daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Cottle.

DIED.

On the 27th ult., after a short illness, Mr. John Fitzpatrick, in the 29th year of his age, leaving a wife and two children to mourn their loss.

On the 6th inst., Mary, fourth daughter of Mr. George Martin, aged one year and eleven months.

On Tuesday evening, Thomas, eldest son of Mr. John McDermott, aged seven years.

On Wednesday morning, of consumption, Frances Mary, wife of Mr. Robert Nixon, in the 27th year of his age.

On Thursday evening, of cramp, Anne, daughter of Mr. John Phillips, aged one year and 17 days.

On the 6th inst., Mrs. Mary Wootton, widow of the late C. M. Wootton, of Golden Grove, in the 62d year of her age.

On Friday se'nnight, of hooping cough, Martha Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. Joseph Byno, aged three months.

At Carleton, on Wednesday morning, Mary E., eldest daughter of Mr. William Olive, 4th, aged four years and nine months.

In New-York, on Wednesday morning, 8th inst., after a short illness, Mr. Donald Ross, Stationer, lately of this City.

MARINE JOURNAL.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN—ARRIVED,

Saturday—Brig Clifton, Cochran, New-York, 6 days—J. W. M. Irish, general cargo.
Albert, Robinson, Savannah, 11—N. S. Demill, pitch pine timber.
Monday—Schr. Echo, Holder, Boston, 3—J. V. Troop, ballast.
Steamer Conqueror, Donehey, Machias, with materials from the wreck of brig *British Queen*.
Tuesday—Brig J. G. Hall, Healy, Liverpool, 33, via Yarmouth—C. McLauchlan, merchandise.
Wednesday—Brig Competitor, Trefry, Boston, 3—Chas. McLauchlan, ballast.
Brigt. William Allen, Troop, Surinam, 55—Edward Allison, assorted cargo.
Schr. Lucy Ann, Campbell, New-York, 8—Edward Allison, general cargo.
Coral, Purdy, Charlotte Town, (P. E. I.) 10—Berton Brothers, oats, barley and butter.
Schr. Lynnfield, Bogart, Boston, 2—Gilbert Bent, general cargo.
Thursday—Barque Majestic, Trask, Boston, 3—Chas. McLauchlan, ballast.
Brig Victor, Covell, New-York, 8—J. V. Troop, general cargo.
Richard Cobden, Wyman, Demerara, 22—Charles McLauchlan, sugar and molasses.
Schr. Oliver Frost, Smith, New Haven, 4—Geo. Eaton, ballast.
Steamer Admiral, Wood, Boston—George Thomas, passengers and merchandise.
Friday—Brigt. P. I. Nevius, Boddie, Alexandria, 16—S. Hersey, wheat.
Schr. Peruvian, Cole, New-York, 6—T. Gilchrist, flour.

COASTWISE.

Sunday—Schr. Richmond, Scott, Joggins, coals.
Eliza Ellen, Banks, Wilmot, barley, butter, &c.
Caledonia, Corbett, Londonderry, deals, oats, &c.
Fidelia, Morris, Three Sisters, deals.
Monday—Schr. Mariner, Yarigle, Digby, cattle, &c.
Tuesday—Str. Pilot, Leavitt, Annapolis, cattle, &c.
Thursday—Brigt. Margaret, Crowell, Digby, oats, &c.
Friday—Schr. Resolution, Rogers, Joggins, coals.
Element, Green, Apple River, deals.
Lioness, McLooney, Salmon River, deals.
Rising Sun, Crisp, Salmon River, deals.
Amanda, Wells, Harvey, deals.
Digby Packet, Turnbull, Digby, deals and butter.
Lavinia, Anderson, Sackville, hay and deals.
Express, Sloan, Cornwallis, potatoes.
Sackville Packet, Wilson, Sackville, hay and butter.
Hillsboro, Irvine, Hillsboro, deals and butter.
Dorchester, King, Dorchester, deals, oats, &c.
Abeona, Cole, Petticodiac, deals and butter.

CLEARED.

Dec. 6th—Ship Vanguard, Boltenhouse, Liverpool, timber and deals—G. & J. Salter; Brigantine Bream, Cameron, Cienfuegos, boards, salt, &c.—J. & T. Robinson.

7th—Brigt. Francis, Corning, Santa Cruz, lumber, flour, salt, &c.—J. & T. Robinson; Hiram, Fitzgerald, Boston, alewives—