INDIA AND CHINA.

We have received, by express from Marseilles, our letters from India in anticipation of the overland mail of the 2nd of March.—The dates thus received are from Calcutta to the 22nd of February, Madras to the 24th, and Bombay to the 2nd of March.

The chief points of interest at the moment in India regarded the threatened outbreak of hostilities in China. The steam frigate *Semiramis* was despatched from Bombay on the 27th of February, to take on a part of Her Majesty's 25th Regiment from Cannanore to Hong Kong. The steam-frigate *Sanfris* was also under orders to proceed round to Calcutta. It was said the Governor General had resolved to maintain an effective steam force in China, and that three large frigates would be required for that purpose.

The death of Admiral Inglefield, Naval Commander-in-Chief, took place at Bombay on the morning of the 24th of February—The cause is said to have been his exposing himself for some hours in the middle of the day to the force of the sun while examining the fortifications of Trincomalee. He came to Bombay in Her Majesty's ship *Fox* on the 9th of February, very ill, upon which dysentery ensued, and carried him off. His remains were interred with the honors due to his rank, in the cathedral of that island. The *Fox* was subsequently declared unsound, and condemned to be broken up at Bombay. Her Majesty's brig *Cruizer* has also been condemned to be sold, as being unseaworthy.

Commodore Plumridge had hoisted his flag on board Her Majesty's ship *Cambrian* as the senior naval officer in the Indian Seas. It was expected that the *Cambrian* would leave Bombay for China after the Governor of Bombay had arrived from Scinde.

The Hon. Company's steamer *Tenasserim* had taken on a wing of Her Majesty's 25th Regiment from Madras to Hong Kong.

Notwithstanding these preparations it seemed, however, to be the general opinion in India that war with China was not imminent. Advices had been received on the 24th of February, by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Bragonza* which declared that Sir Henry Pottinger professed great anxiety for the maintenance of peace.

A report had been current in the north-western provinces of the assassination of Dost Mahomed; but it was without any corroborative evidence. The death of the Kuzzilbash Mahomed Shereeff, well known during the Cabul campaign as an English partisan, is confirmed from Peshawur. From Lahore we learn that the command of the forces in the Punjaub had been relinquished by Sir J. Littler, who had assumed his seat in the Council at Calcutta. General Whish succeeds him in the command of the troops.

The operations of the field force in the Ungool districts had ended in the deposition of the Rajah of Ungool, who with fifteen other chiefs, had been taken prisoners. By these measures a degree of tranquility had been obtained, and for some weeks there had been no perpetration of the Meriah sacrifices amongst any of the Khond tribes.

There is the old story told of plots and counterplots in Nepaul. That kingdom is described as being in a most distracted state, the Minister managing barely to retain power with the old King as prisoner, and the more recent monarch compelled to conform to the Minister's will. Disturbances were rife between the different nations.

We learn from Madras that the Marquis of Tweeddale had left that Presidency on the 23rd of February, and proceeded by the steamer *Hugh Lindsay* to Ceylon, where he was to embark for England on board Her Majesty's frigate *Fox*. Mr. Dickenson has assumed the government of Madras as acting Governor, until the arrival of Sir H. Pottinger.

We have had the pleasure to learn that the efforts of the Indian Government to discover coal in the districts of Western India are likely to be successful. The search had been entrusted to Mr. Johnson, civil engineer, who, under the guidance of Mr. Hamilton, the resident at Indore, proceeded to examine the coal formation in the neighbourhood of Nimaar, some specimens of which had been sent to Bombay and proved to be of a good quality. It was hoped that means could be devised of conveying the coal by the Nerbudda to the sea.

The Governor of Bombay was still in Scinde.

In political matters there is nothing stirring, but the whole social condition of Calcutta is deeply affected by the commercial embarrassments which still continue.

The Hon. East India Company's steamer *Sesostris*, lying off the Sin. Alexandria, and the failure of a French banker, and others suspected, has caused great distrust. Two lots of cotton have been sold at a small advance in price. Exchanges were quite nominal, and nothing has been done.

Provincial.

THE COMMON SCHOOL ACT FOR CITIES AND TOWNS IN UPPER CANADA.

We extract the following from the remarks of the *British Colonist* on the Report of the Standing Committee on Education for the City of Toronto, which may prove interesting to our readers:—

That the system of levying by Rate Bill is no longer in force, and cannot be resorted to, is apparent from the subjoined opinions of the late Solicitor General for Upper Canada, which are also appended to the Report of the Committee. It is equally clear from the opinion of the Attorney General, that the Council is bound to raise by assessment, the sum required to meet the estimates submitted by the Board of Trustees.

Question submitted by the Chief Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada, to the Hon. J. H. Cameron, while Solicitor General, with the Reply thereto:

"Whether by the amended Common School Act, 10th and 11th Vic., ch. 19, the Board of Trustees of Common Schools for the City of Toronto have authority to impose a Rate-bill upon parents or guardians sending children to their schools, or whether it is the duty of the Board to lay before the Council an estimate of the sum or sums (in addition to the amount of the Legislative grant) necessary to support the City Common Schools, and for the Council to provide the same by assessment?"

Answer:

"In answer to your communication of the 1st inst., on the subject of imposing a Rate-bill by the Board of Trustees of the City of Toronto, under the Common School Act, 10th and 11th Vic., ch. 19, I am of opinion that an estimate of the amount required should be furnished to the City Council by the Board of Trustees, and that the same should be raised by assessment, under the authority of the City Council."

Copies of Questions submitted by the Chief Superintendent of Schools, to the Hon. Mr. Attorney General Baldwin, with the answers thereto:—

First Question:

"Under the amended School Act for Cities and Incorporated Towns, viz.: 10th and 11th Vic., cap. 19, have the Board of Trustees the power to levy a *Rate-bill upon the parents or guardians of the pupils attending the Common Schools* of this city, in order to assist in paying the salary of the Teacher?"

Answer:

"The Board of Trustees have not the power to levy a Rate-bill upon the parents and guardians of children attending the Common Schools of this city."

Second Question:

"Or, is it not *obligatory* upon the Common Council of this City, to provide by an *assessment on property* based upon an estimate, laid before them by the Board of Trustees, *for the whole expense* of maintaining Common Schools, *paying the salaries of Teachers, and for other School purposes?*"

Answer:

"The Council of the City is bound to raise by assessment the sum required, to meet the estimates submitted by the Board of Trustees."

Third Question:

"Or, has the Legislature in the Act referred to, left it to the discretion of the Common Council to provide for the expense of maintaining Common Schools, &c., &c., in the mode prescribed by the School Act, 9th Vic., cap. 20, viz.: partly by Assessment, equal to the amount of the Provincial grant, and partly by Rate-bill on the parents of pupils—if the Common Council should desire to continue that system?"

Answer:

"The Council itself is not authorised to levy money in any other way than by assessment for School purposes, and has not therefore the option suggested by the question."

STATEMENT *shewing the amount of School Tax to be levied on individuals, under the amended Upper Canada, being a Property Tax, calculated on the yearly rental, from £2 10s. to £500, at the rate of 2d in the pound, being the Assessment proposed for the City of Kingston, for 1848:—*

Rental	Rate of Tax	Amount of Tax
£ 2 10 0	2d	£0 0 5
5 0 0	do	0 0 10
7 10 0	do	0 1 3
10 0 0	do	0 1 8
12 10 0	do	0 2 1
15 0 0	do	0 2 6
20 0 0	do	0 3 4
25 0 0	do	0 4 2
30 0 0	do	0 5 0
35 0 0	do	0 5 10
40 0 0	do	0 6 8
45 0 0	do	0 7 6
50 0 0	do	0 8 4
55 0 0	do	0 9 2
60 0 0	do	0 10 0
65 0 0	do	0 10 10
70 0 0	do	0 11 8
75 0 0	do	0 12 6
80 0 0	do	0 13 4
85 0 0	do	0 14 2
90 0 0	do	0 15 0
95 0 0	do	0 15 10
100 0 0	do	0 16 8
125 0 0	do	1 0 10
150 0 0	do	1 5 0
175 0 0	do	1 9 2
200 0 0	do	1 13 4
225 0 0	do	1 17 6
250 0 0	do	2 1 8
275 0 0	do	2 5 10
300 0 0	do	2 10 0
350 0 0	do	2 18 4
400 0 0	do	3 6 8
450 0 0	do	3 15 0
500 0 0	do	4 3 4

The principles of the Act are not new, although but recently introduced among us. They have been the foundation of the system of education, pursued in that portion of the neighboring Union, comprising the New England States, for more than two hundred years; and they have recently been introduced into other States.

In the April number of the "*Journal of Education for Upper Canada*," published in this City, we find a very able and highly instructive article from "the *London Quarterly Journal of Education*," on the system of Free Schools in the New England States. The London periodical from which this valuable article is extracted, was published under the direction of the "*Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*," when *Lord Brougham* was Chairman, and *Lord John Russell* Vice Chairman of the Committee.

We beg leave to direct the attention, not only of the members of the Education Committee of the City Council, and the members of the Corporation generally, but also that of the inhabitants at large, to the article to which we refer, as well as to the other important information, on the same subject, which the April number of the "*Journal of Education for Upper Canada*" contains.

The system embodied in the Amended Common School Act for cities and towns in Upper Canada, is taken from the long-established system of New England, which has been of late years introduced into the cities of Cincinnati, Detroit, New York, Brooklyn, Rochester, Buffalo, and various other places; and is found in its operation to be highly beneficial, equitable, and satisfactory. Every man is taxed alike, according to the property he possesses, and every man has an equal right to send his children to the School so supported. We sincerely trust that the time is not far distant, when a similar just, equitable, and efficient system will be extended over the whole of the rural districts of Canada, so that every farmer—every inhabitant—may have a good School convenient to his residence, to which he may send his children as a matter of right, in consideration of the small sum he may yearly pay by way of School Tax.

We conclude with the following extract from the "*London Quarterly Journal of Education*," already referred to:—

"The Hon. East India Company's steamer *Sesostris*, lying off the Sin. Alexandria, and the failure of a French banker, and others suspected, has caused great distrust. Two lots of cotton have been sold at a small advance in price. Exchanges were quite nominal, and nothing has been done.

"In most towns of New-England, one-fifth of the inhabitants pay, at least, one-half of the tax; and probably do not send more than one-sixth of the scholars. Of course, the set of tax is, to a considerable extent, a tax on the richer classes to educate the children of the poorer; and yet, as all pay in proportion to their means, the poorest man feels that he has done all he ought to do to purchase the benefit which he receives, and he therefore claims it, like the protection of the state, as a right, instead of receiving it as a favor. And this is as it should be. Every man in the community has an interest, that ignorance, vice and barbarism be kept out of it, and a claim on the commonwealth that they should be. In New-England, if he be poor, he has the promise of law, that his child shall be educated, and thus preserved from the great temptation to degradation and crime; if he be rich, he is promised by the same law, that he shall live in a community, where universal education shall keep the foundations of society safe, and affords him a personal security greater than that offered by the terrors of prisons and the tribunals of Justice. The system of Free-schools in New-England, therefore it is to be regarded, and is there regarded, as a great moral policy wisely supported by a tax on property to preserve a decent, orderly and respectable population; to teach men, from their earliest childhood, their duties and rights, and by giving the mass of the community a higher sense of character, a more general intelligence, and a wider circumspection, to make them understand better the value of justice, order, and moral worth, and more anxious and vigilant to support them.

On this point no one has spoken with so much power as the Hon Daniel Webster, now the first statesman in New England, and probably in the United States, who, alluding in public debate to their free schools, where he himself received his earliest training, said:

"In this particular, New England may be allowed to claim, I think, a merit of a peculiar character. She early adopted, and has constantly maintained the principle, that it is the undoubted right, and the bounden duty of government, to provide for the instruction of all youth. That which is elsewhere left to chance, or to charity, we secure by law. For the purpose of public instruction, we hold, every man subject to taxation in proportion to his property, and we look not to the question, whether he himself have, or have not, children to be benefitted by the education for which he pays. We regard it as a wise and liberal system of policy, by which property and life, and the peace of society are secured. We seek to prevent, in some measure, the extension of the penal code, by inspiring a conservative principle of virtue and of knowledge in an early age. We hope to excite a feeling of respectability and a sense of character, by enlarging the capacity, and increasing the sphere of intellectual enjoyment. By general instruction, we seek, as far as possible, to purify the whole moral atmosphere; to keep good sentiments uppermost, and to turn the strong current of feeling and opinion, as well as the censures of war, and the denunciations of religion, against immorality and crime. We hope for a security, beyond the law, and above the law, in the prevalence of enlightened and well principled moral sentiments. We hope to continue and prolong the time, when, in the villages and farm-houses of New England, there may be undisturbed sleep within unbarred doors. And knowing that our government rests directly on the public will. We do not, indeed, expect all men to be philosophers or statesmen; but we confidently trust, and our expectation of the duration of our system of Government rests on that trust, that by the diffusion of general knowledge and good and virtuous sentiments, the political fabric may be secure, as well against opened violence and overthrow, as against the slow but sure undermining of licentiousness."

THE REPEAL MEETING IN THE BONSECOURS MARKET.

From the Montreal Herald.

This meeting was held according to notice on Monday night; but for the "monster" that was called, had a somewhat juvenile appearance. After something like an hour after the time fixed for the commencement, there were not more than about five hundred persons assembled, of whom, at least, one-half belonged to classes who must have been attracted more by curiosity than any other feeling. Many of these were speaking French, or were otherwise to be readily distinguished from the genuine Repealer. A very considerable number we knew to belong to the opposite camp. As time drew on the numbers gradually increased, till the assembly might probably amount to from one thousand to fifteen hundred persons; divided as at first, and containing a very considerable number of the tag rag and bobtail. Upon the platform there was not one individual of note in the community; indeed, the only persons with whom we were acquainted, were Mr. Fennell, Mr. Devlin, and Mr. P. Brennan, lately employed in some subordinate department about the Emigrant Sheds.

There seemed at first a great probability that the whole business would hang fire for want of a President; but at length Mr. Devlin, who appeared the prime mover on the occasion, proposed that Thos. McGrath, Esq., should take the chair. (Three cheers for Tommy.)

Here there was a pause of some fifteen minutes, which was followed by the announcement that Mr. McGrath had absented himself. (Groans.)

After casting about for some time longer, Mr. Devlin next proposed that Mr. Coursol should be invited to preside. (Cheers for Coursol and *Weeve le France*.)

Mr. Coursol seemed as loath to accept the offered distinction, as Mr. McGrath had been; but as he had not acted with the same precaution he was at length triumphantly led to the top of the platform amidst deafening plaudits.

Mr. Coursol apologised for his want of preparation. He had not the honor of being an Irishman, but was a Frenchman. (Hurrah.) However, a man need not be Irish to lament the misfortunes of that country, or join in the call on England for justice to Ireland. (She must.) He hoped all men from one end of the world to the other, without distinction of races or creeds, would join to ask England to give Ireland Repeal of the Union. He knew nothing of the resolutions that were to be submitted; but they would hear them in due course, and treat them as they pleased.

Mr. Devlin then introduced to the meeting Mr. McCoy, the editor of the Quebec *Spectator*, who would, he was sure, in that capacity do justice to the good sense.

Mr. McCoy was an Irishman, proud of being so, and ready to stand by the name no matter how great those were who frowned upon him, or how terrible might be the array brought to terrify him. (Three cheers for Quebec.) These were times to try Irishmen and prove who were so only in name. The recent intelligence coming rapidly by the Telegraph, announced that old and young had made a determined stand for independence. He trusted in God that it was not too late. All hopeful things that Ireland knew in the state brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, in that unfortunate country. (Cheers.) Famine, desolation, and death, had swept over the land. The funeral pall seemed never raised from the face of the country, and grave-yards were made more green by the corpses of the famished children of the soil. At home Irishmen—by peaceful means if possible, if not by any means—were determined to achieve the independence of their country. A meeting similar to that had already been held at Quebec, and both gave weight to the assurance that Irishmen abroad were not indifferent to the feelings of their countrymen at home. In Canada it was true, the people had a government of their choice—here they possessed freedom, and religious equality; but in Ireland what did they see? (Cries of slavery.) Yes! Slavery, famine, and death.

He moved to resolve, that this meeting composed of Irishmen, and the friends of Irishmen, declare, that in their opinion nothing short of repeal can secure to Ireland that industrial prosperity she formerly enjoyed, nor to her population that legitimate control in the legislature to which they have natural and inalienable rights. He was sure that no man could object to that resolution. Every one granted that there was misery, and the Irish who ought to be the best judges of the cause asserted that it arose from the union.—If it were not unlawful then to aid in saving mothers from feeding on their infants, as they were now sometimes compelled to, it could not be treasonable or unlawful to attempt to abolish this law which was the cause of it. There must now be a movement, for things could not remain as they were—a commencement on one side or the other, and when it came, the Irishmen in Canada would pray that God might defend the right.

Seconded by Mr. TWEEDY, and carried.

Mr. DEVLIN said, that this was the time for those who loved their native country, or who desired the increase of liberty in any part of the world, to come forward and insist on putting down the tyranny which enslaved more than eight millions of people. (Cheers.) A great change had taken place all over the world since the King of the French had been hurled from his throne, and obliged to lay down his royalty. (Shouts and hurrahs.)—Were the Irish to despair when a tyrant so strongly barricaded in his own palace, was obliged to fly precipitately from that land that he had desecrated by his misconduct. They met under auspicious circumstances; but he regretted that he did not see the men who should have been there that evening.—(Groans.) Were the Irish no longer worthy of the support of their leaders? Was it because the elections were terminated, that they were deserted. (Ah! ye struck home then Devlin.) He hoped there would be no disorder. He hoped they would show that evening that the Irish could meet in thousands, and disperse peaceably; so as to show that if the Irish got a government, they could work it in a reasonable manner. (Cheers.) Let them not give their enemies an opportunity of vilifying them to-morrow; but let them not fear to tell those who should have been at their head, what they thought of their conduct. (Groans and hisses.) What was the use of boasting of patriotism?—why call on Irishmen to do this or that, and yet do nothing, when every day brought them nearer to victory; and when, therefore, the exertions of all should be increased? Was not that a time when these persons should be present.—(Certainly! by all means! Shame on them!) They could manage to do without these persons; for they were not there to make flowery and eloquent speeches. They had hearts to feel, and willing hands to take up those things which were necessary for the defence of their country. (Cheers.) They were aware of what had been said respecting this monster meeting—they were aware of the trouble to which they had put the military gentlemen, who had brought canon, and ordered, he knew not how many, axes, to destroy their barricades, which they expected would be made in this city. (Laughter.) They must have known little of the character of Irishmen, to suppose they would rush into rebellion, without any preparation. The authorities need not doubt their loyalty—for the present at any rate. (Laughter and cries of well done.)—They had, that night, the glorious telegraphic intelligence that 22,000 Chartists were in arms, and that all the Irish members of Parliament had left London, never to return, till their parliament should assemble on Corkagreen. What was better still, it were announced that the Old Irelanders and Young Irelanders had now united, and were determined to rescue their fallen country from the jaws of the British lion. (Hooting, cheers, and laughter.) Was it the duty of Irishmen in Montreal to remain inactive spectators of the contest which must take place—without evincing their determination to stand by their country, and second whatever means she might adopt for regaining her long lost liberty. No man could find fault with Irishmen for expressing their contempt and hatred of the British Government, which had swept off two millions of Irishmen by starvation. Could not the fertile soil of Ireland yield enough to support her children? They knew it could, but for the cruelties of Landlords supported by the bayonets of the British Government. It was the duty of Ireland to rise to a man and let the British Government know that there were in Montreal, thousands of Irishmen ready to take the field in defence of Irish liberty. (Immense applause, and cries of encore!) There was no use in making professions of loyalty with their mouths, while they had none in their hearts. He stood forward to express his contempt for that Government which had shewn such a diabolically deliberate design to destroy his fellow countrymen. Could that Government expect loyalty from Irishmen that it had banished from their homes in thousands (a voice—and killed as many on the road)—banished them, the victims of fever and every other kind of misfortune that could torture man? England had treated Ireland as a step-sister; why should not Irish now treat England as step-brothers? They could not be expected to fight England's battles; and when the hour came it would be found that England, knowing the importance of Irish Aid, would crouch to Irishmen to get it. (Cries of she'll never get it.) There was a glorious demonstration that night: none could doubt the existence of patriotism in the bosom of Irishmen, though distant from their native land; and they would not be prevented from resorting even to the most violent means to insure victory to their countrymen. They stood alone. Let them look at Quebec. There Father McMahon, a man who has always avoided political agitation, had presided at a meeting, where it was said that in case of a war with the United States, England would loose the help of Ireland, if Repeal were not granted. Let them prepare for the fight: let them organize not only in Montreal but in every part of Canada, and let them form an union with their fellow citizens of every other origin, English, Scotch, or French, who would identify themselves with the sacred cause. They had nothing to do with religious matters; they would have something more important to do at this time of day than to quarrel about creeds. Let all join without distinction.—He had noticed that the word "Orange" had been pasted by some person over the word Repeal, on the placards calling that meeting. Whoever did so had conferred a great favor on them (laughter.) for the catholics of Montreal took it as a proof that the Orangemen were prepared to meet them and declare their determination to rally round the standard of repeal. (Shouts.)—They only regretted they did not know the name of the person who had given that conspicuous heading to the bill. (Laughter.) If any Orangeman would get up there, he would get as good or perhaps a better reception than a Catholic: people had now something better to do than prosecute one another. In reading the proceedings at Conciliation Hall, he noticed particularly that Montreal was mentioned; and it was said that the Irish here would not fail to discharge their duty. (No they won't.) It was their duty to make a stern resolve to promote the cause they were that night assembled to forward. (Cries of *Oui! oui!* and laughter.) They were aware that in the *Pilot* of Saturday a paragraph appeared telling the public that this meeting was unauthorised. Well he supposed not no one would imagine that the officers of the Repeal Association had called the meeting for latter by they had been asleep. (They'd got their [illegible] that all the members of the Repeal Association had not consented to that placard. Some were displeased with it, especially those who worked with him to show that Irishmen had not forgotten to sympathise with their countrymen.

[We did not understand that Mr. Devlin proposed any resolution for the addition of the meeting.]

Mr. P. Brennan moved, "That the Irishmen in Montreal would be traitors to the cause of honor and justice, if they refrained from showing their sympathy with their fellow countrymen in Ireland in their exertions in the cause of repeal; especially because the colonists of Canada had extorted from the fears of Great Britain that liberty which Ireland now demands."

Ireland was calling for bread and something to eat: the British Government says it will give bullets. They did not want a man named Clarendon to tell them he would give them bullets. He was transported there, like other Englishmen to crush industrious people. A few landlords—the industrious classes. They called these lords.—His faith was that there is but one Lord.—The Scriptures were better authority than the crown of England, and he said there was but one. (Well done Brennan.) But England had two kingdoms; said there she would make five hundred; [illegible] one into every parish in Ireland [illegible] the industrious people. A few [illegible] they struggled in a great contest [illegible] It was a pity those who they [illegible] then had deserted them since [illegible] Irishmen in Montreal would not [illegible] for the wrath of two or three people [illegible] hands were greased let them [illegible] others looked to their brothers [illegible] man had slept in his house, [illegible] before who dined in Limerick [illegible] day, and who said that the whole people there were up for repeal. [illegible] were to be carried away by [illegible] would they be refused to? It [illegible] said that that meeting would [illegible] hundred: he thought it [illegible] thousand.

Mr. Devlin again presented [illegible] were in Canada 50,000 Irishmen [illegible] render invaluable aid to their [illegible] men at home when the time [illegible] so. There was no doubt, of [illegible] little that these persons would [illegible] assert the cause of Ireland [illegible] when the time arrived. The [illegible] their aid to make her "Great [illegible] free, first flower of the earth [illegible] the sea." (Loud cheers.) [illegible] "That there are in Lower Canada 50,000 Irishmen pledged to the cause [illegible] if properly organized and [illegible] Repeal, who would lend invaluable aid to their countrymen in Ireland."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Fennel, and carried.

As no more orators could be procured, it was at length determined that the remaining resolutions should be read en bloc, and carried after the same fashion.

We understood that there were [illegible] five or six more resolutions, the following were the only ones [illegible] make out as being really part [illegible] a Committee of organization [illegible] pointed, who shall be charged [illegible] of securing the services of a [illegible] nalists, and defraying the expense [illegible] lishing a repeal paper in the city.

"That whatever means the [illegible] land may adopt to regain their liberty, we shall render them every assistance in our power regardless of all consequences."

The last resolution was seconded by a Mr. Thos. Ryan, and was moved by a Mr. Devlin. At any rate that gentleman again came forward. He said, he said, they understood what that—that they should give their countrymen every assistance in their power, whatever means they might adopt, and regardless of all consequences. (We do, we do!) He wished to inform them that this meeting was to be considered more in the light of a preparatory one than anything else. When all was prepared, the Committee would call another monster meeting, and lay before it, the plan of action which was to be adopted. The intention was to correspond with the patriotic Irish of Quebec, and with all favorably disposed to their native land throughout the province—to be present as often as possible at their meetings, and so add fuel to the flame. On the occasion of the next meeting, they would have among them men of acknowledged ability, who had suffered for their country. He had the assurance of the first men of the country that they would identify themselves with the Irish, when the Irish had organized themselves. (Hurrah for Papineau.) Irishmen would not object to follow where they might lead, provided they led them forward. It had been stated that Mr. Papineau, who had been called on to preside at that meeting, had answered that it was now purely Irish, and that he would not identify himself with it. He had Mr. Papineau's authority for saying that he had the greatest desire to identify himself with the Irish, and would come forward to do so, regardless of all consequences. They would get up Committees and shew England that she could place little dependence on the loyalty of Canada so long as she maintained the Union. But if she would give freedom to Ireland, Irishmen would be ready to shed the last drop of their blood for the rights and liberty of England.

Mr. Coursol then said a few words to repudiate the insinuations brought against the leaders of the liberal party by Mr. Devlin, and stated that he must be permitted to say that he did not assent to the whole of the sentiments expressed by that gentleman.

Mr. Devlin was far from wishing to create dissnion among Irishmen; but he said it fearlessly, a man who pretended to be the friend of Ireland should have been there that evening. He who deserted them then was not their friend; because it was in times of danger that a general was needed.

Thanks were then given to Mr. Coursol for his conduct in the chair, and having given several cheers, for the Mayor, who left the room gratis, for Mitchel, Meagher, and O'Brien, for Daniel O'Connell, the French Republic, &c., the meeting separated.

TO PREVENT THE ROT IN POTATOES.

To the Editor of the Montreal Transcript.

SIR,—If you could afford room to insert the following in your widely circulated paper, you would thereby confer a favour upon many of your subscribers, and on the country at large, if the farmers will but try the experiment!—

Spread a little slacked lime under the seed, and cover the seed about two inches deep; then spread more lime over the whole surface of the field, to the amount of 100 bushels, slacked lime, to the acre. What is put on the surface may be roach, but what is put under the seed must be slacked. I have tried the above for the last three successive years, and have not found one rotten potatoe where the lime was applied, although my neighbors lost great quantities by the rot the same years, and not only so, but on two of the crops I tried on part of the same field with lime, and another part without it, and lost the greater part of my crop by the rot for want of lime, though the unlimed part of the field was as productive as that part which was limed, yet at the last of November three fourths of the produce was lost by rot.

It is but a trifling additional expense, and the crop will amply repay all the expense, and future crops will be improved for five or six years afterwards. A farmer writes in the *New York Evangelist* that the addition of half a pint of lime to each hill, increased his crop of potatoes at the rate of 100 bushels to the acre over those that had been planted in a similar soil, and in all other respects managed in the same manner, except the application of lime. The writer knows of only two farmers who have applied lime to their potatoes since the rot made its appearance, and they have positively asserted that they had not one rotten potator, though most of their neighbors lost heavily.

Mr. Evans, whose opinion in agricultural concerns is entitled to much weight, recommends the use of old mortar, and his authority is sufficient where the mortar can be obtained; but lime can be obtained every where, and ought to be universally applied.

N. B. All newspapers, magazines, &c., throughout the Province, from time to time, those who publish in French should translate into that language. Let editors in all cases consider that while they are thus printing out a remedy for the disease of an extensively used esculent root, they are but contributing their part towards furnishing their own tables as well as those of their fellow mortals with a wholesome nutritious vegetable.

JOHN MERLIN.

Hemmingford, May 1st, 1848.

The *Albany Argus* gives the following account of an improvement in the Electro Telegraph:—

Mr. Bain, an English gentleman, interposes between a style and a cylinder—(which are connected with the opposite poles in a battery)—a strip of paper perforated before-hand, with holes so arranged and combined, in line, as to designate letters—and as the paper moves the style, the latter drops through the holes in the paper upon the cylinder, and this forms an electric circle, and a dot at the other end, of the wires, as often as the holes occur. The paper being a non-conductor, shuts off the circuit, except where it is perforated and properly punctured, can be transmitted as fast as the paper moves. The advantage is said to consist in this—that some twenty or more persons may at the same time prepare different parts of a long message for the telegraph, and the whole be put through at a rapid rate, and without the aid or attention of the operator; and that individuals may furnish their own communications all ready for the tour of the wires—and in a form, if they please, unintelligible to the operators.

The invention is contested by Professor Morse, and the two claimants are now before the Courts.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO BREAK GAOL.—The necessity for the erection of a new and proper Gaol, becomes more imperative every day. The District Council are much to blame for their conduct in this matter. In them lies the power, and every crime—we might almost say Murder—that results from the inefficiency of the present gaol, must more or less attach to those who neglect to provide a proper place of confinement. One of these results occurred on Sunday evening.

About six o'clock, the time when the cells are visited for the purpose of locking up for the night, on opening the door of the corridor, a immense rush was made upon the Gaoler, and an attempt made to murder him, by John Robinson, or Smith, under sentence to the Penitentiary for 5 years; Mark O'Hara, a black man, John McDonald, Jas Nicholson, Patrick Finnigan, and John House, convicted at the late Assizes. It appears that these desperate villains had sawed off their manacles with a knife, which they had turned into a saw, and armed themselves with bludgeons; having disengaged the bolts of their cells, they made a simultaneous rush on the gaoler who received several desperate blows, particularly on the crown of his head. He, however, succeeded in parrying off the blows with a dagger, until an assistant arrived. Smith, who was the ringleader, was wounded in several places, when he was driven back to the cell, where his accomplices had fled upon the first show of the firm opposition displayed by the Gaoler. Mr. McDonald the Gaoler, is entitled to much credit for his courageous comfort. Such an affair as this could not have occurred, were there sufficient room in the gaol.

Hamilton Express.

☞ A WARNING TO PARENTS.—A melancholy circumstance occurred a few days since, in Yonge street. A child, two years old, was left asleep in the house by its parents, who went out on some business. The little fellow, on waking, got hold of a candle, which had been left lighted, and set his clothes on fire. The mother returned in about a quarter of an hour, and found the infant dreadfully burned. It survived only about three hours. An inquest was held by George Duggan, Esq., and a verdict returned of "accidental death."

Toronto Patriot.

☞ The heavy Cavalry Regiments in Ireland are to be supported with cuirasses, like the Household Brigade.

BRITISH WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 13.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "BRITISH WHIG."

The Publisher of the *British Whig*, entreats the indulgence of his Subscribers, while he says a few words on his private affairs.—From sundry Sheriff's Advertisements, they are already aware that his pecuniary matters are in a disordered condition; so much so, that the very Materials of his Printing Office will on Saturday next pass from his possession into that of another party. Reiteration of his embarrassments do not arise from any want of public patronage, he wishes his subscribers distinctly to understand, that under no circumstances will the *British Whig* be discontinued. It is possible, though scarcely probable, that some person or persons, imagining by purchasing the Plant of the Office, they may obtain an induction into its business, will bid for the Materials more than they are intrinsically worth, and thereby prevent the friends of the Publisher from buying them at a fair valuation. Should such intention be carried into effect, the promoters thereof will be disappointed. A new Office will be immediately purchased, fully as complete as the one now in use; and meanwhile, thanks to the kindness of a brother Printer, the *British Whig* will be issued as usual. The Copyright of this Paper is of too much value to be slightly sacrificed.

☞ A WORKING PRIEST.—The great fault in the Church of England Establishment is the gross inequality in the payment of the Laborers in the Vineyard. The Bishop of Durham receives upwards of £30,000 per annum, and a Welch Curate, who does five times more work than his episcopal brother, starves on less than £100 a year. It is not in England alone, that this glaring inconsistency is to be found. In Canada, free and happy Canada, the same thing is practiced, though to a more limited extent. The Ladies of Kingston, with that kindness of heart which has ever distinguished their acts, are busily engaged in getting up a Charitable Bazaar, to aid the funds for building a Parsonage House for the Revd. Mr. Rogers, of St. James Church, on Lot No. 24. This is praiseworthy, but we cannot help suggesting to these kind hearted Ladies, (before they begin to build a Parsonage House, for a clergyman who has already a very ample and sufficient income to pay for the rent of a good one,) the propriety of furnishing a bare *living*, in its literal sense, to another worthy clergyman, within the same distance from Kingston. The incumbent of St. Mark's Church, Barriefield, serves two Churches, twelve miles distant from each other; in addition to which, he occasionally performs Divine Service at McLean's Mill, six miles from Kington, besides assisting his better paid brother in town; not forgetting his duties as Acting Naval Chaplain. For all these very arduous duties, embodying a vast amount of personal labor, the Revd. gentleman exists on less than £100 a year, including his pittance from the Dock Yard. Now, if the Ladies of Kingston would take it into their kind heads and hearts to contrive ways and means, so that a worthy clergyman, who labors hard in his calling, could be enabled to live something like a gentleman, it would be much more praiseworthy than building Parsonage Houses for clergymen who do not need them.

☞ THE SEASON.—The present Spring is exceedingly favorable for the farmers. Opening unusually early, the fine dry weather has permitted the usual agricultural work to be [illegible] and should the coming season prove equally propitious, the harvest must be most abundant. The winter-sown grain looks uncommonly well; and the meadows appear very promising. Canada wants a rich harvest to rid her of her pecuniary liabilities.

☞ THEATRICALS.—We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. Charles Hill's petite Troupe of Comedians intend to make a summer tour throughout Upper Canada.—They intend to visit Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and London; and may extend their tour westwards so far as Chatham. The Troupe will include Mrs. Charles Hill, Miss Rosalie Hill, Mr. Charles Hill, Mr. Barton Hill, and one or two other gentlemen. The Company will be small, but remarkably good, and something legitimate may be expected from them.

THEATRE ROYAL.

To the Editor of the British Whig.

SIR—On Tuesday evening last, the first entertainment of the Garrison Amateurs of the 20th Regiment, took place at the Theatre Royal. The house was crammed in every part, with the exception of the Boxes. The first piece, "Tom Cringle's Log," was well played for amateurs, who, by the way, should never attempt a Melo-Drama, as an opening piece on a stage with which they are not well acquainted. The characters were very well sustained, the ladies (!) not excepted; the only disparagement to the acting as a whole being, that the heroes, *Tom Cringle* and *Alfred*, proved themselves *amateurs* indeed.

The Recitations and Songs were passable, one of them by PRIVATE SHINE, ("Sittin' on a Rail") was encored, and it deserved it; for it was a perfect imitation of Jim Crow Rice in the same character.

The Farce cannot be so highly spoken of. Some of the parts were wretched attempts at acting. The Farce being an original one, of course I may be allowed to make a few remarks upon it. The author evidently knows nothing of the character of a Yankee Major of Militia, or he would not have set him down as a stumbling, crockery-breaking dandy; or put only a few Yankee expressions in his mouth, such as "I guess," "presume" "calculate, &c.; and what is more of it, Yankee Majors of *Militia* have more of the assumed dignity about them, than to address waiters so very familiarly; the piece would do very well were it not that some of the scenes in it are far from original; for instance change *Splash* in the "Young Widow," to an Irishman, and you have *Dennis O'Toole* to perfection; in fact *Splash* is much more genteel, for he does not play on his own fiddle, and when he enters the room (two door chamber,) he knows enough to take his hat off. Several of the other scenes cannot be called strictly original. The part of *Major Catchem*, however, was well played according to the words and meaning of the author, as also was that of *Timothy* (who I forgot to say personated *Gypsey Jack*, in the first piece, to perfection;) but with reference to the second title of the piece, which was *flat* or which *sharp* it would be hard to tell; certain it is, I thought the British Lieutenant looked flatter than the flattest. The Amateurs promise another entertainment at an early period, when perhaps I shall trouble you with a much longer letter. Until then, I remain

Your's, &c., THESPIS.

May 11th, 1848.

By Magnetic Telegraph.

Reported for the British Whig.

MONTREAL, May 10, 7½ P. M.

We have nothing commercial to note.

There are 15 cargo vessels in port. The *Paragon* from Liverpool, with a general cargo, arrived this morning.

FIRE.—This morning about 1 o'clock, the extensive Stables and Carriage Sheds of Mr. Jones' Tattersalls, Bonaventure Street, were discovered to be on fire. The conflagration extended with great rapidity to Mr. Jones' residence, which was quickly consumed. Another cut-stone building, Miss Easton's Academy, was also much injured; the upper part being completely gutted. St. George's Chapel also damaged to the extent of £150 and narrowly escaped destruction. Mr. Fitts' Bakery destroyed. Stables, out-houses, about 30 winter vehicles, and a quantity of forage consumed. Eleven horses, value £250, burned to death. The buildings were insured, not the other property. The inmates of Mr. Jones' residence, had hardly time to escape with their lives. The fire, it is said, broke out simultaneously in several places, and it is suspected that the affair was the result of a malicious design against the Proprietors of the new Omnibuses which were kept at the establishment.

Per *Britannia* the English letters arrived at Quebec this morning.

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