

and that such men as these require "the arm of the law to restrain them from extremities," is a most unfounded imputation. Such persons as Mr. P. would vigorously, though ineffectually, endeavour to persuade the Government that the majority of the inhabitants of this Island are "a disaffected set of men."

The principles that Mr. Young subscribed to were highly constitutional. He was only required to have certain grievances redressed, and which, if effected, would cause peace and harmony to take the place of that discontent that now exists in the Island.

Now that the Government has acted in accordance with the wishes of the people, Mr. P.—one of the small, the lingering aristocracy—turns round to reprove His Excellency Sir C. A. Fitz Roy, for acting impartially, and according to his instructions.

That the mis-called Escheators, or the people, have gained a partial victory over their opponents, by the appointment of Mr. Young to a seat in the Council, Mr. P. seems to admit; and that they will continue to do so, time will unfold.

I next turn my attention to a communication purporting to have been written by Mr. William Douse. And who, pray, is this Mr. Douse, who has given us such a thorough-bred specimen of his acquirements? Well can it be said that Mr. Douse thinks—

"Magno conata magnas nequas," "By great efforts to obtain great trifles."

And what will Mr. Douse obtain for his great display of research? I am only surprised that so voluminous and such nonsensical trash would get publicity. All his efforts will prove vain—all that shew of falsehood, with which he has polished his grand production, will go like chaff before the wind.

I am, Sir, With all the respect which truth bears in its countenance, Your faithful servant, VERITAS.

Five-mile-house, 7th Jan., 1841.

To the Editor of the Colonial Herald.

Sir; I wish to call public attention to this fact. At the last June Term of the Supreme Court at St. Eleanor's, John M'Pherson, of Indian River, was presented by the Grand Jury for having sold rum without license.

At the last October Term of the same Court, Edward Monagh was presented by the Grand Jury for the same offence, but we have never yet seen in the Gazette that he was fined, and who live in the neighbourhood have never heard any report of any trial.

I am, Sir, A FRIEND TO FAIR PLAY.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHARLOTTETOWN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Your Committee have much pleasure in appearing before those who have supported this institution for the past year, and in congratulating them upon the continued prosperity and upon the increased progression of this useful and instructive institution.

The course of lectures delivered during the year, under the superintendence of your Committee, have been as follows:—On the 8th January last, Mr. Thresher lectured on Aerial Perspective. On the 22d January, the Rev. James Waddell delivered a second lecture upon Electricity.

On Wednesday the 2d December, instant, the third Session of the Institute commenced, with an address from the President, upon the present and future prospects of the Institute, and by the Rev. James Waddell's delivering a lecture upon Light and Vision.

Your Committee beg leave to state, that by one of the standing Rules of the Institute, the lectures should commence on the first Wednesday of November, whereas, this season, owing to the navigation being fortunately so long open, the members were too much engaged in their ordinary avocations to attend the lectures, and your Committee thought it advisable to postpone the commencement until the first Wednesday of December.

Your Committee have much pleasure in recording an increase in the attendance of ladies during this session, and they indulge the pleasing hope that their number will still be greater. That females have not always been attendants upon the meetings of the Institute, your Committee are afraid, arises from their want of knowledge of the interests and importance of the subjects treated, or from the erroneous impression that such studies are not suited for their sex.

Your Committee are happy to inform you, that, in addition to the Lecturers above enumerated, there are several

other talented individuals in the Island, who have promised to lecture during the present course—among whom, it may not be invidious to name, the Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins, the Rev. John Knox, and Dr. Maclaren, the last of whom has recently returned from his medical studies in Scotland to this his native Isle.

Your Committee have much pleasure in stating, that the Library, which has been established in connection with the Institute, is rapidly increasing, and that it now contains upwards of 300 volumes, comprising some of the best works of the day.

Your Committee feel convinced, that when it is generally known the subscription for members of the Institute amounts only to three shillings per annum, the members will flock to the Librarian, subscribe their names to the Rules, pay their money, read the books, and thus improve their minds by expending a mere trifle, and thus support a most excellent and useful institution.

Your Committee beg leave to state, that they have procured during the past summer, from London, one of Ede's Chemical Laboratories, which will be found eminently useful in conducting experiments, and which your Committee hope will soon be produced and its various apparatus explained by some of the learned faculty of the town.

Your Committee beg to acknowledge the following donations, during the present year, towards the Library, and the incipient Museum attached to the Library:—Joseph Hopkins, Esq., 12 vols. Fraser's Magazine.—Mr. Charles Macdonald, 2 vols.—John M'Gill, Esq., 1 vol.—the skull of a Walrus, or Sea Cow, by the Hon. J. Pope—the skeleton of a non-descript animal, by Mr. T. Robinson—a specimen of Mistletoe, by Alexander Leslie, Esq.—a large tooth of a Walrus, by H. W. Lobban—the skeleton of a Bear's Head, by Mr. John Davis, jun.—and various other books, and some minerals, by Mr. C. C. Davison—numerous other articles both lent and bestowed.

Your Committee would also inform you, that they have made arrangements for receiving, quarterly, four British Reviews, re-published in the United States at a cheap rate, and which, when received, will render our library more attractive, and give ourselves, in this remote quarter of the globe, a little idea of what is going on in the literary and scientific world of our fatherland than we have now the means of possessing; and the want of which hitherto, has been felt to be a very great privation—the Reviews are the Westminster, the Edinburgh and the Quarterly, and Bentley's Miscellany—and your Committee hope that this alone will call your attention to the Library, and induce you to support it with a determination to prevent its going down.

As regards the number of members this year, your Committee have much pleasure in stating that the Institute has now upwards of seventy members, that thirty family tickets, which will admit four persons each, have been sold, and that twelve youths have purchased tickets; so that according to the quantity of tickets sold, there are two hundred persons in this community who give the Institute their countenance, by attending its meetings and subscribing towards its funds.

Your Committee beg also thankfully to acknowledge the handsome Legislative grant of £20 voted last session to the Institute, without any reservation as to its mode of being expended.

Your Committee now beg to hand in for your examination, the Accounts current of the Secretary and of the Librarian—by the former of which it appears that the Secretary has funds in hand to the amount of Eight pounds, and that some three or four pounds are due to the Institute on account of Tickets sold this year—and also, that the Librarian has some two or three pounds in hand, and that some three or four pounds are now due to the Library for subscriptions for the present year.

Your Committee cannot conclude this Report without congratulating you, first upon the continued existence and increasing prosperity of the Institute—secondly, upon the value of the property which now belongs to the Institute, and which amounts to £150 and upwards, whereas this day two years ago it was not in being—thirdly, upon the great improvement that has taken place in the change of the Lecture Room, by the kindness of His Excellency their respected and worthy Patron—and lastly, upon our present and future happy prospects. But, notwithstanding that we have all these causes for congratulation, yet, your Committee would still urge upon you the necessity of increased exertion on behalf of the Institute; for so long as we advance one step in cultivating and diffusing a knowledge of the arts and sciences, so much the more do we progress in civilization and in acquiring knowledge, and so much the greater do we unfold the glorious works of nature—the unfolding of which ever has the useful and instructive tendency, of raising our thoughts "from Nature up to Nature's God."

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 30, 1840.

INDIA.

The news from the North-western provinces, as we stated last week, wears a most threatening aspect. Upper Scinde is described as in a state of insurrection, and the track of country which the English marched over as victors during the Cabul campaign now requires to be reconquered. The withdrawal of the British forces seems to have encouraged the discontented tribes to make a general effort to throw off the English yoke.

The most disastrous intelligence is from Afghanistan. The Murrees, who are of the Beloochee tribe, have besieged the fort and town of Kahum, under the command of Captain Browne, who has defended the fortress with signal gallantry. On the 12th of August, Major Clibborn of the 1st Bombay Grenadiers, (a regiment which has been singularly unfortunate of late in the loss of officers, five having died and been killed since April last,) left Sukkur with a detachment for the relief of the besieged. The force consisted of 600 Sepoys, 250 of the Poonah horse, with a train of 1000 camels, besides bullocks laden with provisions, ammunition, &c.

The convoy under the command of Major Clibborn, which left this on the 12th Aug., encamped at the beginning of the pass of Surtoof, on the 29th, and resumed their march on the morning of the 30th over this rugged and slanting mountain, above a mile in extent, and by the most strenuous exertions of the sepoy's guns and stores were taken to the top, after a wearisome march of fourteen hours in the burning heat of the sun. Early on the 31st they moved on to the encamping ground of Nufork, below the pass, about six miles distance; after a little rest they started again for the second range of mountains, through which lay the route to Kahum, which was, after great trouble and difficulty, surmounted by the cheerful and unceasing exertions of the sepoy's. The advance of the convoy, consisting of six divisions of infantry, about 450 strong, two twelve-pounders, and fifty of the Scinde horse, arrived at the halting ground. The enemy on the heights kept up a brisk fire on the convoy while approaching its ground: the guns were placed in position to inflame the pass in front: here a detention took place for the arrival of the rear-guard, consisting of the right

flank company of the 1st grenadiers, one howitzer, the Poonah auxiliary horse, under Lieut. Loch. The major ordered the left flank companies of the 1st and 2d grenadiers to storm the heights, who were led on with admirable coolness and order by Captain Raitt, supported by the remaining companies of the 1st grenadiers and fifty volunteers of the Poonah auxiliary horse, under Lieutenant Loch, who kept up a galling fire on such of the enemy as appeared below the crest of the mountain, and the howitzers cleared the head of the pass, while the storming party advanced over a miserable road, obstructed by breast works covered with thorn bushes. The enemy opened a very heavy fire, but our party gallantly advanced and gained the head of the pass, and were ready to push on, when a dense mass of the enemy overwhelmed the storming party with musketry and showers of stones, while others fell on them with sabres, committing a fearful havoc on the retreating sepoy's; the advance companies were ordered to the support of the guns and colours, when the numberless enemy rushed down with the most determined gallantry, and with such impetuosity, that the troops had hardly time to form; hard fighting on both sides, the enemy yelling and howling like beasts of the forest; but the well applied rounds of grape from Captain Stamford's howitzers, soon repulsed the enemy with considerable loss, leaving about 200 dead on the field. Our troops suffered severely, about 150 killed and wounded. Captain Raitt, of the 1st grenadiers, fell, leading the storming party; Lieutenant Moore, also of the 1st grenadiers; Lieutenant Franklin and Ensign Williams, of the 2d grenadiers, were also killed; and Lieutenant Loch, Poonah auxiliary horse, who, with fifty of the Russalah, gallantly volunteered to act as skirmishers, was severely wounded, but is considered out of danger. Most of the influential men of the enemy were found dead on the field, yet the pass remained in their possession, their numbers amounting to many thousands. The heat was dreadfully intense, and the suffering of the men and cattle from exhaustion and thirst had become painfully apparent; the little water remaining in the pucksalls from the last halting place was dried up, and no water was procurable unless the pass was carried, and the post of Kahum was distant about six miles. The pucksall beasts and camel pucksalls, together with the gun horses and officers' horses with followers, under an escort of fifty of the irregular horse, went for water. At this time the cries of the wounded and dying for "water! water!" were increasing, and gave rise latterly to scenes of frenzy and despair. In this manner they remained, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the water party. Some stragglers came in and reported that the water party was surprised in a nullah: what was to be done? They had already lost 150 men of the force, the remainder were enfeebled with the thirst and exertions of the two previous days, and to add to their difficulties, most of the camel drivers, dooley bearers, &c. had absconded during the action, after plundering the commissariat of the loads of flour, &c. The gun horses were gone, and the men of the Golundauze so prostrated from fatigue and thirst, that latterly they could scarcely rise to fire a gun. Major Clibborn, after mature deliberation, found that it would be impracticable to throw provisions into the fort of Kahum, and further, that unless the water party returned, the whole force must perish of thirst; the sad alternative was forced upon this gallant officer of abandoning the unfortunate garrison at Kahum. No signs of the water party appearing at 10 p. m., Captain Stamford was ordered to spike his guns, and this enfeebled force moved off with as much quietness as the frantic state of the men would permit. Almost everything was abandoned, owing to the desertion of the camel drivers, and at daylight they had partly descended the pass of Surtoof, when the little baggage, stores, and treasures they were able to bring with them fell into the hands of the enemy. A great number of followers were here massacred. Without food and tents, and marching in the burning heat of the sun, they were obliged to make one forced march to Poolajee, where they arrived completely famished. A great many deaths have occurred since their arrival, amongst whom, Captain Heighington, of the 1st Grenadiers, who expired on the 3d inst.

CHINA.

Attempt to burn the British Shipping at Capingmoon:—A circumstantial account of this attempt appears in the Canton Register:—

"The first alarm was given about two a. m. on Tuesday (the 6th of June.) A noise was heard from amongst the small Chinese boats inshore; and immediately after distant lights appeared in the direction of the passage of the Capingmoon, called the Flood Gates; and the commanding officer of the Danish King fired a gun and hoisted the signal previously ordered by the senior officer of her Majesty's ships for fire rafts; and instantly almost the fire burst forth from at least fifteen fire boats. The appearance was very beautiful. The wind and tide were then favourable for their course. As they approached they blew up, like some beautiful works, what in English pyrotechnical science would be called a flower-pot. The beauties of the sight, however, did not dissipate the alarm felt by those on board the ships, who were also fearful there might be other crafty schemes in progress, and that they might be attacked from other quarters; consequently, most of the ships slipped their cables, and moved out of danger, each more anxious than his neighbour to get into the rear. The scene and danger caused great excitement. The night was very dark, the wind slackened, and so many vessels being under weigh at once in a small space, caused great confusion, and many, consequently, came in contact; but we have not heard of any serious damage. The boats of the squadron were actively employed towing the rafts clear of the shipping, and anchoring others. The junks were first turned adrift, chained together, two-and-two. Nine of these rafts were counted, which gives eighteen boats. But it was ascertained that some had not ignited, and some had exploded, the wrecks being seen floating about the bay next morning. On examination, the fire rafts were found to be constructed of what had been very old outside fishing boats. What remains of them will supply the fleet with firewood for a month. They were full of dross, the remains of the combustible matter."

EARTHQUAKE AT ZANTE.

Extract of a letter from Zante, 11th inst, in the Mediterranean of Malta:—

"On the 30th ult., at half-past nine in the morning, a violent earthquake overthrew numerous houses in this city, and eight persons were buried in the ruins. The total number of houses that have fallen is 240, but all the others, without exception, have been more or less injured; and in the fortress only two or three have been left standing. The damage caused to the country is immense; some villages may be almost said no longer to exist, as only some portions were left to mark the spots that have been inhabited. Some have suffered less in proportion than these, but have not been free from great loss. Of the country houses of Zante no mention need be made, for they are all in ruins. It is sufficient to state that Count Roma, who was the proprietor of so many, has only one remaining. Fortunately the day being fine, the inhabitants of the country were out of doors, and up to the present hour it is not known that any in the country districts have been killed. The loss is enormous, and many years must elapse before Zante will recover from the blow. The Lord High Commissioner, Sir Howard Douglas, arrived in our port just at the time of the catastrophe."

The following is from Sir Howard Douglas, dated on the day of the earthquake:—

"I arrived off this island just at the moment of a terrible catastrophe—an earthquake more violent than any which has happened since 1775. We were within three miles of the island when the engine of the steamer was agitated in a very extraordinary manner; and which the captain declared to be the effect of an earthquake. His opinion was soon confirmed by the appearance of columns of sand and dust along the coast. On coming closer in with the land we saw that enormous masses had been detached from the hills and the islands of Trentanove and Corio Nero. On reaching the town we discovered the ravages caused by the visitation. Very few houses remained standing, the prison was damaged, and the Resident's house no longer habitable. Whole streets were choked up with ruins, and the inhabitants fled to other parts of the town which had suffered less. The local government is preparing a detailed report of these misfortunes, but it is already known that seven or eight lives have been lost."

Another letter of the 12th says—

"We arrived here on the 30th of last month, a quarter of an hour after the great shock of an earthquake, which ourselves felt most sensibly on board. The effects of the shock are most lamentable. Whole villages have been ruined; and at this season of the year, when the rains are expected, it is sad, indeed, to see the poor wretches sitting in the ruins of their dwellings, hundreds and hundreds of them, without a farthing to assist in rebuilding. Government does much, and charity is exerting itself all it can to render help to the destitute. There is not a house in the town of Zante which has not, more or less, suffered, and many to considerable extent. Two and a half millions of dollars is the lowest estimate of damage done altogether. We have or had at least 150 shocks since, which keep the people in constant alarm."

The subjoined from Corfu of the 11th refers to the catastrophe:—

"An awful earthquake took place at the ill-fated island of Zante on Friday. Sir Howard Douglas and suite are on shore and have during the last week felt upwards of 150 shocks, and some very smart ones. The country has suffered severely, but providentially not more than seven lives have been lost. The inhabitants are all in a state of the greatest alarm, and the damage done is estimated at \$1,500,000. Fortunately the weather was, up to Friday last, remarkably fine, and the sufferings of the poor would have been tenfold; a subscription has been opened for the immediate relief of the poor wretches, whose houses are utterly destroyed. Gentlemen who have come from Zante say, that after the first tremendous shock the town had the appearance of a place that had been bombarded for a month, and every fancy what it must look like now that they have annihilated one hundred and more shocks, which it is said have crumbled down those buildings which the first shock rent. The small island in the harbour of Zante has disappeared; there were a few fishermen's huts upon it, but we know not whether any poor wretches were on it at the time."

FRANCE.

The French papers contain long and fearful accounts of inundations in the North of France, which have done immense damage. A telegraphic despatch from Marseilles, the 4th Nov. makes known that the Rhone had burst through its banks, and covered 60,000 acres in the arrondissement of Arles with its waters, causing losses estimated at several millions of francs. The Marseilles mails, which ought to have arrived in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday did not reach the post-office till within three and four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. They were unable to get into Avignon, which was completely inundated on the 31st; and after losing a considerable time at Tain and Valence, we only able to make their way through the byroads. At Lyons on the 4th instant, the Soane was pouring its waters through the streets. Four bridges had been swept away, and the streets were choked up with the ruins of the houses that had been thrown down; upwards of five hundred houses had fallen, some of them four and five stories high. A letter from Lyons, of the 4th, says—"There is a general desolation; numbers are reduced to the utmost misery, being left without bread, or the means of earning any, the very commencement of the winter. The waters have begun to retire to-day; but a new scourge has come to visit those whose houses remain standing, though flooded, because thieves are so numerous, that all those of the neighbourhood must have made this their rendezvous, in order to take advantage of the general confusion. During the whole of last night musket shots were heard: they were fired against the marauders, who, making use of boats, were attacking houses surrounded by the water." The inhabitants of the inundated houses mostly escaped by rafts, which were floated through the streets for that purpose. Through the whole course of the Rhone similar inundations have taken place. The loss of lives has been great, but no estimate of the numbers is given. Letters from Lyons of the 7th state that the waters had subsided considerably; but at Soane continued to rush through the streets, and three-fourths of the city were then under water.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1841.

We have received no Foreign Mails during the past week.

THE WEATHER.—For the last few days we have had, what rather unusual at this season—a free thaw, with a high temperature, under the influence of which the snow that had previously fallen is fast melting away. Indeed there is none all on the ice, and the streets are bare of everything but mud and snow-water. The weather this morning is cold, the wind, having shifted to the Northward. Horses cross the city in an hour, although the ice is far from being considered in a sound state.

SUPREME COURT.—The Hilary Term commenced on Tuesday last, when the Grand Jury was sworn in, of which Donald Macdonald, Esq., of Charlottetown, was appointed Foreman. True Bills have been found against several persons for pulling down a house in a part of Charlottetown prettily well known as 'The Bog,' and which had been chiefly occupied by females of a 'certain description'—also, against an individual of the name of Dwyer, for setting fire to a house, and immediately adjoining the former. The latter has been tried and acquitted—the trial of the other parties is now proceeding. A coloured boy, indicted for larceny, pleaded guilty. A co-offender was yesterday found against Henry Smith, residing near Rustico, for an assault on James Yeo, Esq., near Hooper's, on the Princetown Road. A bench-warrant has been issued for his apprehension.

A Writ has been issued for the election of one Member to represent the Third Electoral District of Queen's County, in the room of the Hon. Charles Young, called to the Legislative Council. The election is to commence on Tuesday, 19th inst.

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held at Down's Hotel, on Wednesday last, the President, the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, in the chair. A very able Report of the last year's proceedings was read by the Secretary, which, we are sorry to say, its length, and the crowded state of our columns, prevent our inserting.

At the Mechanics' Institute, on Wednesday evening last, the Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins delivered, to a crowded audience, a large proportion of whom was composed of ladies, a most interesting and highly scientific lecture on Astronomy, a subject which the reverend gentleman seemed to be quite at home in. Some discussion afterwards took place, upon some of the subjects which had been treated upon in the lecture, and at a late hour in the evening, the audience withdrew, apparently well satisfied with the mental treat which had been provided for them. Dr. McLaren will lecture next Wednesday week on Chemistry.

TEMPERANCE CONVOCATION.—A convocation of the friends of Temperance throughout this Island will be held in the Court House, in Charlottetown, on Tuesday next, the 12th inst., at 6 o'clock, p. m., to devise measures for the furtherance of this important cause. It is hoped the attendance on the occasion will in some degree correspond with the grand object in view.

A Collection will be taken to defray the expenses of the meeting. We beg leave to call the attention of our readers particularly to the advertisement, in another column, of a Temperance Convocation, to be held in the Court House, on Tuesday evening next. When all the world are putting forth increased exertions for the promotion of the benevolent objects for which Temperance Associations have been instituted.