COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Tuesday, April 5th, 1853.

EXPORT DUTY ON JUNIPER KNEES.

House in Committee of Supply.—Hon. Mr. Jardine, in the Chair.

Hon. MR. WHELAN, with reference to the Petition of John Frost, Fitz and Sewal, Edward Saville, and John Matherson, praying that no additional export-duty might be imposed upon Juniper Knees, and that the period for exportation might be extended beyond the 1st. of July next—which Petition was presented to the House, by the Hon. gentleman, on Saturday, 2d, April, and respecting which, it was ordered that it should be referred to the Committee of the whole House, when in consideration of the Bill for raising a Revenue—said, It is true that two or three of the subscribers are citizens of the United States, but I hold that that fact affords no argument against our complying with the prayer of the Petition; for these foreigners, having resided amongst us, and, by their outlay and investment of capital in the Island—in the case of some of them to the amount of £2000 or £3000—having stimulated and recompensed the industry of many of our people, ought to be regarded as friends and benefactors of the Colony; and held as fairly entitled, under such circumstances as those set forth in the Petition, to have their interests protected to the extent prayed for by them, as if they were our countrymen and fellow subjects. I maintain that, with respect to the Petitioners, the laying on of the extra duty is an unjust imposition. Two of them have embarked, in the speculation, to the amount of £2000, and another of them, Mr. Frost, all that he has in the world. They had done so in the reasonable belief that the duty would not be increased. One hon. member (Mr. Montgomery) has said that a duty of 1s would not injure the parties; but I maintain that even that duty would be felt as a very serious injury by them. Other hon. members had said that so small a duty would make but a very small addition to the Revenue: why then, I ask, should it be imposed at all? The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) had strongly insisted on the injury which would be done to the ship-building interests, by allowing a free exportation of juniper knees; but I reply that, as our ship-builders will not enter into a fair competition for the purchase of them, it would be very unjust to prevent persons who have them on hand for sale from disposing of them in the most advantageous market. We have been told that the ship-building business is improving, and that, if farmers will wait, they will, in the end, be able to sell all the juniper on their farms to the ship-builders on the Island. A good time, is coming, we are told, and the farmers must wait for it. But how! long must they wait I should like to know. Must they wait and starve? Must they wait until they become so burthened with arrears of rent and other debts, that they can no longer keep possession of their farms? The hon. gentleman concluded by saying, I will move that all relating to Juniper Knees be struck out of the Bill.

Hon. MR. COLES. When I saw so many hon members in favor of a high export-duty, I said I thought it would be better to prohibit the exportation altogether: but, it must be confessed that such legislation is not in accordance with free-trade principles. It is said, by the advocates of the high duty, that it will be better for the tenantry to be obliged to husband up the resources which they have in juniper timber, until the time shall arrive when the demand for it, for ship-building purposes, in the Island, will ensure them good prices for it. But I should like to know when that time will arrive. How long will the people have to wait for it? We want free-trade: we are all, I think, agreed that nothing will tend more to the immediate and profitable opening up of the resources of the Colony, than free-trade with the United States; and, yet, by such legislation as this, we are consenting to throw a barrier in the way against it. As to those who abandon agricultural labour to work in ship-yards, I am persuaded they obtain no lasting or substantial benefit by it. On the contrary, they frequently become so unsettled in their habits, through it, as to be quite unable afterwards, to settle down to any employment, to succeed in which steady perseverance and patient industry are qualifications indispensably requisite. Look to those who came to Charlottetown, to work for £2 a month. What will be their ultimate gain? Or, rather, will they not, in the end, find themselves in much less dsirable circumstances, than they would have been in, had they devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits; for, although the remuneration and benefits arising from such pursuits may not be immediate, yet they eventually prove, not only the most certain, but the most substantial? It would, in fact, in my opinion, have been a benefit to the country, if there had not been half the number of ship-yards in the Island that there have been. Instead of having contributed to the agricultural prosperity of the country, they have greatly retarded it; and, if the comparison be fairly made between those who have, for years, worked in ship-yards, and those who have steadily devoted their energies to the improving of their farms, it will be found that the latter are possessed of much more substance, comfort, and respectability, than the former. Until the late rise in the price of ships, good workmen, in ship-yards, were paid no more than £2 a month; and, out of their present wages, £5 a month, when every draw-back comes to be duly considered, it will be found that it is scarcely possible for them to save any thing out of them, even admitting them to be paid in cash. The Americans have been paying as much as 10s. a piece for our juniper knees; and our ship-builders will not allow more than 2s. Besides, if exportation of juniper were prevented, it would be ten years, or more, before the juniper now on hand would be worked up in the Island. We are, I am convinced, moving in the wrong direction. We have avowed free-trade principles. Let us adhere to them; and honestly and earnestly avail ourselves of every opportunity to give them effect; for, by the adoption of no other policy can the general prosperity of the country be so well, and with so much certainty, advanced and secured. Why should the interests of ship-buiders be more especially protected than those of any other class? It would be qnite as fair to prevent the exportation of barley, with a view to the especial benefit of brewers. If we determine upon any prohibition at all, let us confine it to the Crown Lands, with respect to which we have an unquestionable right to exercise a discretionary legislative power, either for the imposition of restrictions, or otherwise. I move, therefore, that the prohibitory part of the clause be reconsidered, with a view to its being rescinded.

MR. MOONEY. I have already said—and I again repeat it—that this imposition is the most flagrant piece of injustice ever perpetrated by a Legislature—perpetrated as it is upon a down-trodden tenantry—upon the poorest of the poor; for such are they who will suffer most from this cruel interference with their right to dispose of their own property. When will the people learn to protect their own interests by discarding from their representation such cunning gentlemen as seek to secure their own gain and profit by inflicting a cruel wrong on those whom they are chosen to protect! How can this House justify such legislation? For the purpose of encouraging a few ship-builders, we must, for sooth, drive our wealthy neighbours, the Yankees, from our shores—they who, by their dollars and Indian meal, have often given employment and food to thousands of our population! What right have we to say, "John, you must not sell your hay; you must feed your cattle with it; and you must bed them with your straw; your cattle will be improved by it, and so will your farm. William, you must not sell your beef or pork; you must give it to your children; they will be all the abler to contend with the hardships which this Island presents to agriculturist." This language might sound very sweetly in a man's ear provided they who addressed it to him could, enable him to put it into practice; but laudable as the theory may be, it cannot be carried into effect. Our farmers, generally speaking, are obliged to sell their hay, and feed their cattle with straw; and to sell their beef mutton, and pork, and live—they and their children—on the scanty supply of fish which they can find means to purchase. And, with all these truths staring us in the face, we presume to say to the poor farmer, "You shall not cut down your timber. We will not allow you to destroy the forest. Mr. Wightman intends to carry on ship-building, and his sons will carry it on after him. Mr. Yeo, and other gentlemen of his trade and calling must be protected. The men now on green-wood farms must never expect to figure in society as independent farmers; they must live and struggle on in the bush, and husband the juniper for the sole use of the ship-builders." The Hon. the Treasurer with a slang peculiar to himself ridicules the Petitioners; and, oh! how he spurns the idea of complying with their prayer! He has told us that the Certificate signed by the ship-builders, is only a hoax upon the Petitioners. Be it so: But to what a pretty pass are the people come by their returning a number of ship-builders to this House, when, in consequence of their having done so, they are under the necessity of asking permission of those, who, legally and constitutionally speaking, are their servants, to make sale of a few pieces of timber which grow on the land for which they are paying rent! Some of the gentlemen who now advocate this species of robbery—I say robbery, for it is nothing less—are playfully satirical upon those who are to be despoiled; but, if they were canvassing these poor men for their votes, to obtain seats in the Assembly, they would speak very politely to them, and style them "Gentlemen Electors." But, as connected with the question under our consideration, they are, in the estimation of these hon. gentlemen, nothing but stupid boors—so ignorant that they know not how to turn their own property to any good or profitable account, unless the House shall condescend to enlighten and direct them. We take out of the Public Revenue, moneys, for the support of every institution in the Colony: and, in particular, the parties who are engaged either in ship-building or in Sailing Packets, or who have vessels employed in the fisheries, are all drawing something, for their encouragement and support, from the public purse; and yet so selfishly unreasonable and unjust are these parties, that they cannot be content unless the tenantry shall be deprived of the privilege of selling their timber to those who will give them the best price for it, and compelled to keep it until it shall suit them to buy it at their own price.

HON. MR. LORD. Now, when I have turned the question well over in my mind, and duly considered the condition of the tenant-farmer, it certainly does appear to me, that he ought to be at perfect liberty to sell or dispose of all timber, growing upon his land, just as he himself may please, and as it may appear to him will be most for his own individual benefit; and, as the best cash market will, undoubtedly, be that to which, in the exercise of his free-will, he will give the preference, to the end that he may procure money for the payment of his rent, and for the purchase of family supplies on the most advantageous terms, if we shut him out from such a cash market, by the imposition of prohibitory duties, he will have abundant reason to accuse us of unjust and unequal legislation. I think, therefore, we had better not interfere at all with respect to such poor men. Our farmers are very differently circumstanced from those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In those Provinces they are all freeholders; and such regulations and restrictions as may, in them, work equally and fairly, would operate unequally and unfairly, if established in Prince Edward Island, where the great majority of our farmers are tenants. In my own unprejudiced opinion, this country is best adapted to agriculture; and I therefore, think the sooner it is cleared of its timber, the better it will be for the general interests; for then agriculture will be prosecuted with all our energies as it ought to be. I will not vote for the proposed increase of the export-duty; but for the old duty of 3d. It would, indeed, be most unfair, now that a great quantity of knees have been prepared for exportation, in the reasonable belief that there would be no increase of the export-duty, to impose such a higher rate as that proposed, and thereby to deprive men of those fruits of their labor, the realization and enjoyment of which they had most reasonably contemplated. The Americans have, in some cases, been giving as much as 10s a knee. One individual, I know, gave £50 for 100 knees; and that is what no Island ship-builder would do. I would allow a duty of 3d, a knee on all now cut down and ready for exportation; and 1s a knee on all afterwards prepared, dating from 1st. July. The object of the prohibitory duty is to serve a few individuals engaged in the ship-building business. They are, it is true, highly respectable men, and I respect them much myself; but I cannot think it right that, for their benefit, a prohibitory duty should be imposed, the effect of which would be to shut out poor men—poor tenants, having to pay 1s sterling, or more, per acre for their farms—from the only really good or desirable market they can find for their juniper.

MR. LAIRD. The taking of the duty off will not serve the farmers generally; but it will materially serve such as are settled in the woods. I oppose the duty because I think it wrong in principle—because I think it would be altogether a very unjust imposition. If we submit to it, we may expect that, by and by, we shall not be allowed to cut down large tress for fire-wood, merely because they might be wanted by our ship-builders.

Hon. the SPEAKER said, he thought the fairest way of dealing with the question would be to agree that the duty of 3d. a knee should remain unchanged, until after the close of the navigation; intimating, at the same time, by a plain declaration, by a fair warning—if such was in reality the sense of the House—that a prohibitory duty would be imposed before the opening of the navigation, next year; so that no contractors could have the smallest cause to say the House had done them wrong. If he were a ship-builder, he would not be exposed to the clamour which would be raised against him, if he were instrumental in causing the imposition of the prohibitory duty, before such a warning had been given, for £5000—no, not for all his profits, whatever they might be.

Hon. Mr. Pope, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Davies, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Longworth, and other hon. members, all steadily adhered to their views of the question, as declared by them, on 21st. March, when the House sat in Committee on *Ways and Means*, and as already reported, and briefly reiterated the arguments used by them, on that occasion, in support of their opinions.

The Chairman having put the question on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles for striking out the prohibitory part of the clause under consideration, it was agreed to; and the prohibitory part was struck out accordingly.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN proposed that the blank should be filled up with 3d.

On this motion, the Committee divided—Yeas, 9—Nays, 10; so it was lost.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then moved, that all having reference to juniper knees be struck out of the Bill.

On this motion the Committee divided:—Yeas, 8—Nays, 10; so it was lost.

It was then agreed that the blank should be filled up with 1s.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

FULL PARTICULARS IN DETAIL OF THE MONTREAL RIOT.

(Correspondence of the Halifax Daily Sun.)

MONTREAL, June 15th, 1853.

The last- has been an eventful week, both at Quebec and Montreal, not only on account of the domestic sorrow, bereavement and calamity which have been inflicted, but because a spirit of hostility has been aroused, particularly in this city, which years will not allay, and which the slightest incident will again call forth into energetic action. The occurrences of the past week I shall now communicate in a succinct and impartial manner.

Last Saturday evening, Signore Gavazzi, at one time a Monk in Italy, where he officiated as such for twenty years, and who has been Lecturing in New York upon the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope, delivered a similar Lecture at the Wesleyan Church at Quebec, where the meeting, which was numerous and respectable, met with no interruption; and on the Monday following he proceeded to deliver another at the Free Scotch Church in that city.

During the Lecture, a statement to the effect that the Clergy in Ireland were the instigators of rebellion and opposition to the government of England, was contradicted by some one among the auditory, which was the signal for an assault upon the church from the outside, and a portion of the mob effected an entrance, which was followed by an attack upon the lecturer, at whom stones were hurled, and attempts were made by several persons to get him from the pulpit, which for a length of time he manfully resisted, knocking down his assailants with a chair and subsequently with a stool—in which he was assisted by a sergeant of the Royal Artillery, one of the audience. At length, however, he was thrown over the pulpit, falling a distance of twelve or fifteen feet; but lodging on the heads of of the crowd beneath, he sustained little injury. His secretary was not quite so fortunate, and was severely injured.

During all this time, the police were in attendance, but without being able to check these outrageous proceedings: and it was not till a party of troops was called out, that order was restored, and Gavazzi was enabled to reach Russell's hotel, where he was protected during the remainder of the night by the soldiery. No lives were lost during this outburst, in which it appears the French Canadians took no part, although they appear to feel sensibly this attack upon the religion which they profess.

I arrived at Montreal on Thursday morning,—and being satisfied, that a disturbance would take place on the evening of that day, when Signore Gavazzi was to lecture at one of the Presbyterian churches of the city, I deemed it my duty, in connection with the American press, to remain and witness the proceedings. For this purpose, I repaired at six o'clock to the church, and, having paid the entrance fee, succeeded in obtaining a seat near the pulpit just as the lecture was being commenced. The audience for the most part were very much excited, and, anticipating an attack on the church, had brought with them fire-arms, which were distributed near the entrance of the building.

The audience repeatedly cheered vehemently as the lecturer proceeded—of whose address it is unnecessary to speak particularly, as it was in substance much the same as has been fully reported and extensively circulated in the columns of the N. Y. *Herald* and other American papers. Eventually the cheers were answered from without, where, I omitted to mention, a police force of about fifty men were drawn up in front of the church. At length the mob attempted to force an entrance, and instantly there was a commotion in the church, several rushing towards the door, by whom the assailants were repulsed.

The lecturer had proceeded with about two-thirds of his lecture when another attempt was made to enter the church, and was again prevented. There were several ladies present, who with one or two exceptions were in the galleries, and who conducted themselves with much self-possession and presence of mind. A cry of fire about this time was raised, which created a momentary alarm; but Father Gavazzi stating, that it was a trick of the enemy, and those gentlemen who were on the platform with him assuring the audience that no danger was to be apprehended from that source, it quietly subsided, and comparative quiet was restored; and it being stated, that two companies of the 26th regiment had arrived, which the Mayor had previously held in readiness, in the vicinity of the church, the lecturer proceeded without any further interruption, and the audience ultimately departed.

As I was at some distance from the door, I was among the last who left the church, as was the case with the females. On arriving in the street I found but few persons near the church, the mob having been driven down the hill, at a distance, probably, of two hundred yards; and in the intermediate space, some seventy or eighty yards from the church, two companies of the 26th were drawn up across the street—one of which had its front towards the mob, which was probably upwards of a hundred yards distant from the outer division, and the other towards the church.

There was no disturbance at this time, and nothing to warrant any apprehension. The audience were quietly dispersing, a portion of which had reached beyond where the troops were stationed, and were passing (ladies and gentlemen) between the troops and the crowd, and the remainder were moving along the sidewalk, between the church and where the troops were stationed. I had arrived at between twenty and thirty feet of the first division, and, not dreaming of danger, was crossing the street in front of it, when I heard a pistol discharged somewhere in the rear, where the mob were, which was answered by two similar reports from opposite the church, and instantly the soldiers received orders to fire.

In the British service there is no word "fire" used—the order is, "make ready, present"; and at the word "present," the soldiers lower their pieces and discharge them. I was about one-third of the width of the street on the left front of the division when the order was given; and observing that the muskets were elevated so that their contents would pass over my head, I pushed on; but as I approached the right, they became more depressed—and I shall always be under the impression, that the third or fourth man from the right of the front line fired deliberately at me; seeing him level his piece, I stopped, and, when he had discharged it, succeeded in reaching the opposite side-walk in safety; instantly afterwards, the bugle sounded the order, "cease firing."

As I was desirous—not from any idle curiosity—of seeing the affair out, I recrossed the street taking the precaution this time to pass between the two divisions, for the purpose of obtaining admittance into one of the houses on the opposite side, from the upper windows of which a better view of what was going on could be obtained, there being no buildings on the right of where the troops were posted; but not succeeding in this object, I made a detour—and passing down another parallel street, crossed between the mob and the soldiers, and went to the telegraph office in Great St. James's street.

I was still under the impresssion that the troops had fired with blank cartridge, and that the fire I had witnessed was a premonitory notice—not being aware that the practice has been discontinued—nor was it a regular volley, but a scattered fire from left to right. Just as I had succeeded in crossing St. James' street, I heard another pistol discharge, which was followed by a crashing noise, which, I afterwards learnt, was caused by the demolishing of the windows of a shop in which some persons had taken refuge; coupling this with the reports I had previously heard, I was under the impression, that it was the signal given by the mob when any movement on their part was contemplated; and that the commanding officer of the troops so considered it.

In St. James' street, all was confusion; and I met wounded persons who were being conveyed to where medical aid could be obtained; one gentleman whom I met had been shot in the breast, but who, I understand, is still alive, and another was struck in the back with a paving stone: the mob dealing out their vengeance on harmless persons passing near them.

The elevation of the muskets of the soldiery, to which, in a great measure, I owed my preservation, was, however, fatal to those nearer the church, which stands near the summit of a hill—the road passing in front of it; among whom were several ladies. One gentleman with his wife on his arm, was struck on the back by a musket ball which passed through his body, and lodged under the skin on his breast, and was instantly killed. A little boy, his nephew, had a leg broken, which was subsequently amputated; two or three were mortally wounded, and others slightly. There were several ladies, who were returning from the church, in the direction in which the division that faced the mob fired; but who all fortunately escaped without injury; although several men were killed or wounded in that quarter. The result of this unfortunate affair, so far as has yet been obtained—is seven killed, and twenty three wounded. The loss sustained by the assailants, will probably never be known.

Of course there is much excitement in this city, and the conduct of the Mayor, who is a Roman Catholic, is generally condemned. It was his duty, in the first instance, to have sworn in two or three hundred special constables; and a deputation during the day, consisting of a number of respectable individuals, waited on him on Thursday, with a tender of their services in that capacity; which was rejected. But the greatest amount of censure with which he is visited, originates in the opinion which prevails, that he ordered the troops to fire, and which he has denied, but of which there can not, I believe, be a doubt. This I do not attribute to any improper motive, but to an excitement, produced by the occurrences that were happening around him, and a want of that presence of mind so essential to a person in his position.

I have just returned from attending the inquest; but the Coroner has requested, that the testimony shall not be published until the rendering of the verdict. I accompanied the jury this morning, to view the body of a young man, who was shot through the body on Thursday evening, making the seventh death they have been summoned to enquire. The Mayor and commanding officer of the troops will be examined on Monday; but the investigation will not terminate in all probability for two or three weeks.

In the mean time, there was a numerous meeting of Protestants yesterday, when, a Committee of Vigilance was appointed for the more effectually ascertaining who are the really guilty parties, and bring them to justice. The assemblage was addressed, among others, by a French Canadian gentleman who expressed his gratification, that his countrymen were not, in the slightest degree, participators in the outrageous proceedings that have taken place, and who contended the British subjects had a right to assemble in a peaceable manner, to discuss any subject of a public nature without molestation or hindrance.

Father Gavazzl, entertaining the conviction, that the public peace could not be preserved, without the farther sacrifice of human life, considerately determined not to lecture on Friday evening, as had been decided upon at the meeting on Thursday; and on Saturday morning left for New York, where it has been stated he has an engagement for Monday; and consequently there has been no further outbreak. It has been rumoured, that he intends returning. Should he do so, the most fearful results may be anticipated, unless—which is hardly to be expected—the Irish portion of the Roman Catholic population should determine to follow the example of their French Canadian brethren, and to permit his supporters and himself to assemble unmolested. This is the course which a wise policy would suggest, both here and in the United States, for however much the movement of Gavazzi may be condemned, the question at present at issue really is—whether free and fair discussion is to be interrupted or prevented by mob violence. If, in the course of his addresses, he libels the priesthood of religious establishments of the Roman Catholic Church in this province; although a foreigner, he is amenable to the laws, and could be dealt with as a common libeller; and I have no doubt that, in both countries, a Protestant jury would visit him with exemplary punishment.

A PROSPEROUS NEWSPAPER.—The *Melbourne Argus* has taken a step, which we believei ts proprietors are correct in supposing to be unexampled in the history of newspapers. With all the appliances that could be mustered in the colony, no more than 10,000 copies per day could be struck off; and, as the demand exceeded this number, and was constantly increasing, it was deemed necessary to announce that for the present, and until the arrival of new presses, no new subcribers were wanted. To the subscribers already on the list, the papers would be supplied at the old price of £2 per annum, to all others the price was to be £4, and this was to continue, until the fast-printing machines were received.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

EXTRAORDINARY EFFECT OF ELECTRICITY.—A French paper says, that a most extraordinary effect, produced by electricity, has just happened in one of the electric telegraph offices in France. A gentleman employed in one of the principal offices was in communication with one of his colleagues, when the electric wire for the purpose of transmitting intelligence happened to relax, and to come in contact with his arm. The electric current was passing through it, and the *employé* sustained a violent shock, which, raising him from his chair, violently threw him through a window opening on a garden. When he recovered his senses, he could only be convinced of it, by perceiving that his hair and beard, which were previously of a beautiful jet-black, had become in various places as white as snow.

A VOLUMINOUS PROTEST.—At a late anti-slavery dinner in Connecticut, the address of the women of England to those in America was piled on the table with the 26 folio volumes of signatures. One journal says—"It formed a pyramid as sublime, if not as high, as that of Cheops. Whoever looks through a volume or two of it will perceive that a spirit is beginning to pervade the social fabric of the civilised world, which will make slaveholding as uncomfortable as sheepstealing, to say the least."

BISHOP PERRY ON EMIGRATION.—Extract from a letter, written by the Bishop of Melbourne, dated Feb. 10, 1853:—"Many of our recent immigrants are, I am sorry to say, suffering great privations and much distress from sickness and want of house accommodation. It is strange, that so great ignorance and want of consideration or judgment should prevail as to the condition of Victoria, and the opening it affords for settlers from the old country. My heart bleeds for many of those who bring letters of introduction to me, but for whom I can do nothing. The fact is simply this—a young colony, and, especially a gold-producing colony, wants a large number of strong arms and skillful hands, but it wants comparatively few well-furnished heads or fluent tongues. Above all, it is not the place for training persons for any kind of business; there is no time for that; every one here must be doing, not learning to do, his work."

NEW ZEALAND.—Advices from New Zealand to the 6th April state that coal of superior quality had been found on the shores of the Ocholsk sea, in long. 156 E

UNITED STATES.

THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN FAVOUR OF TEMPERANCE.—The question of Licence or no Licence was tested in the City of Washington, on the first Monday of the present month, by the vote of the Citizens, and the result of the ballot was nearly two thirds of the voters in favour of NO LICENCES. The *Lewiston Falls Journal* gives the following interesting sketch of the late Temperance movement in Washington.

"The fact will doubtless create some astonishment throughout the country, but nevertheless it *is* a fact, that the citizens of Washington yesterday decided, by a vote of nearly three to one, to put down the liquor traffic. The Washington city councils, which have always been rather timid about acting upon the liquor traffic, voted sometime since to submit the question of "license" or "no license" to the people at the June election. Since the passage of the resolution by the council, the temperance men and the "antis" have strained every nerve on the one side and the other, to gain proselytes.

THE CUNARD STEAMERS.—PORTLAND AS A STOPPING PLACE.—It has been suggested, that Portland will, ere long, be the stopping place for the Cunard steamers, instead of Halifax. This suggestion has some force, when we consider the strenuous efforts that are made to establish a railroad communication between Portland and Montreal. It is believed, that this will be attained before the expiration of two years from this date. —*New York Courier and Inquirer.*

We learn from the Boston *Herald* of the 24th, the result of another serious Railroad catastrophe, which occurred on the day previous on the Western Railroad. One man was instantly killed, four seriously injured, and several slightly so.—The entire train was destroyed. The accident, says the *Heroald*, is attributable to the "gross carelessness of a switch tender."

A negro man died in New York last week from eating strawberries. A wager had been laid, that he could not eat *ten baskets full*, He accomplished the feat, won the wager, and died almost immediately after.

The President has recovered from his late indisposition; he called on Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent English geologist, and visited with him the prominent points of Washington.

No less than *twenty-nine* cases of sun-stroke, or sudden and dangerous illness from the effects of the heat, occurred in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday, of which *twenty-four* resulted fatally. —The victims were principally laborers.—Such a fatality from Cholera would have spread consternation throughout the city. There were some dozen or more deaths in Philadelphia from the effects of the heat, Tuesday and Wednesday.

FOSSIL REPTILE FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EASTERN CHRONICLE.

SIR:—As some of your readers may be desirous of further information regarding the fossil jaw-bone stated in a late number of your paper to have been found in Prince Edward Island, and as I have been favored with an opportunity of inspecting the fossil or a portion of it, I have much pleasure in communicating the following facts.

The specimen is a fragment of a jaw-bone, about seven inches in length and five in breadth. It contains eight conical teeth, of various sizes, the largest being an inch and a quarter in length above the surface of the jaw, and having probably a quarter of an inch of its point broken off. The teeth are flattened laterally and slightly curved backwards, and are finely serrated on the edges. They are deeply planted in true sockets. The teeth and bone are white, and in excellent preservation, and are attached to the original matrix of soft red sandstone. The specimen was found imbedded in the red sandstone of New London, P. E. I., at the depth of 21 feet from the surface, and therefore probably in the upper portion of a formation which there is good reason to believe corresponds in geological age with the Trias or New Red Sandstone of other countries. Mr. D. McLeod, the discoverer, very properly intends, that the fossil shall be sent to London, where, if the attention of Prof. Owen or other eminent anatomists can be directed to it, we may expect to learn much of its true place in the system of nature, as well as of the geological age of the deposit in which it occurs. In the mean time the following inferences may be considered certain. The form and setting of the teeth, prove that the