

There is one thing upon which it seems necessary to administer a "friendly caution" to the writers of the *Islander*—to beware on whom they cast the imputation of ignorance and illiteracy. We are cognizant of persons both in the Government and out of it, all patrons of the *Islander*—whose education is not superior to that of a common labourer—who have just learning enough to write their names, and apply the first rules of arithmetic, and no more. Having no wish to be personal, we shall now abstain from mentioning names; but we warn the *Islander*, that if it persist in casting the imputation referred to, we shall exhibit a list of names that will "astonish the natives," and we shall ask the public in what branches of learning those persons have made themselves conspicuous. The charge of ignorance would come strikingly home to many who are dubbed "respectable and influential."

The Packet *Rob Roy*, arrived yesterday morning early, with the Colonial Mails. There will be no Mail from England, it is likely, for another week, as the Steamer did not leave Liverpool till the 17th inst.—We have given some items of the Colonial news elsewhere.

THE PUBLIC MEETING called for the purpose of promoting some measure of relief to the Fire Sufferers, in Kent Street, was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday last. The attendance was small. A few subscriptions were entered, and a Committee appointed to solicit further subscriptions through the Town.

The Parliament of Nova Scotia is summoned to meet for the Despatch of business on the 18th January.

The Murderer *McFadyan* was hung at Pictou on Wednesday last.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Legislature of this Province is summoned to meet for the despatch of business on Wednesday the 31st of January.

A fire broke out at St. John, N. B., on the morning of the 13th instant, which destroyed seven houses, three on Dock Street, and four on Prince William Street.

DEPOSIT OF ROCK SALT IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—We understand that an American citizen has discovered an extensive deposit of Rock Salt in this province, and that he has made a proposition to the government of New Brunswick to make them acquainted with the locality, on being assured of a small percentage on the duty paid to the Government on the quantity raised, and this only for a limited term of years. As this proposition involves no outlay on the part of the Government, and offers the greatest security against deception or imposition, we hope our American neighbour's proposition will be favourably received, for if no salt is raised no money is to be paid, and the Government have it at all times in their own power to regulate the rate of duty which shall be collected on the mineral. It is, however, rather singular that we should have had a Provincial Geologist wandering over the face of the country for years, at a heavy expense to the public, and that he should have discovered no indications of this deposit during his peregrinations. Fortunately for the public a lynx-eyed Yankee occasionally follows in the track of these well paid official gentlemen, and when they happen to make a discovery, such as we have just referred to, we see no reason in the world why they should not be permitted to benefit by their ingenuity.—*Head Quarters.*

COALS FROM DORCHESTER.—During the present week a cargo of coals has arrived from Dorchester, Westmorland County, which is of an excellent quality, and ignites very quickly. It produces a very brilliant light, and is said to be much superior to the imported article for generating Gas. We learn that a quantity of this coal has been purchased for the use of the Gas Company. It gives us much pleasure to notice the efforts that are being made to develop the resources of this Country, and that in this instance we are indebted to Mr. John Steadman, a native of this Province, for the valuable discovery.

CANADA.—Another destructive fire is stated to have occurred at Montreal, by which six houses, including the Nunnery School House, were consumed. It is believed to be the act of an incendiary.

A correspondent writing to the *Quebec Mercury* from the parish of Green Island, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, states that the shock of an earthquake was felt there on the 6th instant, at a quarter past five. It lasted about three minutes.

TIMES IN MONTREAL.—The *New York Sun*, on

the authority of an intelligent American merchant in Montreal, says:—"Within the year past, over five thousand persons, mostly enterprising men formerly doing respectable business in Montreal, have been obliged to abandon the city or suffer complete bankruptcy. Over 500 tenements, stores, shops and dwellings are without tenants, nor can they be rented at any price.—The most business streets are comparatively deserted by trade, and it is no fiction that grass grows upon the solitary pavement. Since the increased facilities given to trade between this city and the Canada merchants, especially of Canada West, there is scarcely a trader who resorts to Montreal for goods."

Mr. Blaiklock, surveyor, lately returned to Quebec from lake St. John, about a hundred miles north of that city, has brought with him a small quantity of plums from trees planted about 170 years ago by the Jesuits, who had formed an establishment there, some traces of which are still extant. They had about 300 acres of land under cultivation at the entrance of the river Ashumashuar, on the south side of the lake.

WEST INDIES.—By Monday's Mail we received Bermuda papers to the 6th instant, which put us in possession of late news from the West Indies.—The Legislature of Jamaica met on the 26th October for the dispatch of business, but, down to the 20th November, no great amount of work had been done. An intractable spirit still pervades the opposition party, who have a majority in the House of Assembly; they evidently design to force the Council to concur in whatever project of Retrenchment the Assembly may pass; for, though the intention of refusing to vote the Supplies has been abandoned, still the opposition party have succeeded, by a deliberate vote, in resolving that all Money Bills shall be detained in the House, until a measure of Retrenchment shall have passed the other branches of the Legislature. The favourite scheme of retrenchment with the majority of the Assembly is a reduction of the Salaries of the Officials; a project of this nature was rejected by the Council at the last annual session of the Jamaica Legislature; but the *Morning Journal* intimates that the Council is quite ready to unite in passing some comprehensive measure for reducing the island expenditure. Either a collision will ensue, or the session terminate abruptly, unless the Assembly recede from their determination respecting the Money Bill. The Governor had involved himself in a little difficulty with the Assembly, by offering, in a Message to the House, certain fiscal suggestions relative to the appropriation of the loan from the Imperial Parliament. The Assembly voted the Message a breach of their privileges, and sent a copy of the resolution to his Excellency, who very promptly disavowed any intention of interfering with the privileges of the House: so the matter dropped.

The Barbadoes Legislature was opened on the 10th of October by the new Governor, Sir William Colebrook. The *Mercury*, in allusion to the circumstance, says:—

"We publish to-day the address of his Excellency the Governor, on meeting the Legislature for the first time since his arrival. We are glad to find that he takes a cheerful and encouraging view of things, and does not hesitate to express the hope that, notwithstanding the difficulties we have had to encounter, the prosperity of the island may yet be re-established, and placed 'even upon a more solid basis' than it was before.

"It is gratifying to observe the manner in which he speaks of the efforts made by the proprietary body to bear up against the pressure of the times, and the praiseworthy conduct of the labouring population, building upon it his hope of revival of our prospects."

At the Court of General Assize, lately held at Hamilton, Bermuda, the Printer and Publisher of the *Bermuda Herald* was tried and convicted of a libel on the Legislative Assembly, and sentenced to pay a fine of £50 and to be imprisoned for 20 days.

Vice Admiral the Earl of Dundonald arrived at Hamilton, Bermuda, in the Flag-Ship *Wellesly*, from Halifax, on the 1st instant.

MELANCHOLY FACT.—A *New York journal* says there are thirty thousand persons, men and women, in that city, at this time, who either cannot get work to do or are compelled to do it at prices bordering on starvation.

SHORT.—A Commission was lately sent to California to examine the products of the gold Region. The only despatch or report returned was—"Genuine."

EXTRAORDINARY CLOCK.—HEARD TO THE DISTANCE OF 300 MILES.—The various telegraph offices along the line from Cincinnati to Pittsburg, were thrown into some excitement last evening by an incessant and uniform ticking, which occurred in their various registers. It appears that Professors Walker and Looke have connected an Astronomical Clock with the line in such a manner that its beats were conveyed to Pittsburg, for determining longitude. That a clock going in Cincinnati should tick so loud as to be heard in Pittsburg or Philadelphia and along the intermediate line, at one and the same moment, is an item of "Natural Magic" which a few years ago could scarcely have been predicted.—*Cincinnati Times.*

General Cass, the democratic candidate for President of the United States, has never tasted spirituous liquors in his life. The same is stated of General Taylor, the successful candidate, and that in addition he never used tobacco.

The Government of Chili has voted fifty thousand dollars to attract emigration from England.

DIED.

At Warblington, on Monday morning, after a lingering illness, ELIZABETH ISABELLA, wife of the Hon. G. R. Goodman, Comptroller of Customs and Navigation Laws of this Island, aged 42 years.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.

Dec. 18—Brothers, Squarebridge, Newfld., ballast Flora Ann, Gillis, Halifax, goods. 19—Zebulon, Pillman, Halifax, goods, flour, &c.

MEMORANDA.

The cargo of the schr. *Welcome Return*, belonging to Mr. N. J. Brown, of St. Eleanor's, and which was cast away on the 20th ult., on Plymouth Cape, near Boston, was not insured.

Arrived at Bermuda, Dec. 1—Jessie, Nemes; 4th, Favorite, Griffiths, from P. E. Island.

Arrived at Plymouth, G. B., Nov. 25, Concordia, Barret, from P. E. I.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will be held at the Town Hall, on WEDNESDAY, the 3d of January next. Chair to be taken at 6 o'clock.

By Order,

C. STEWART, Sec'y.

December 25, 1848.

Charlottetown Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

NOTICE!!!

A PUBLIC MEETING of the COMPANY will take place at the "Town Hall" on Thursday next, at One o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of electing fifteen Directors for the ensuing year.

A general attendance is requested.

Those persons who have subscribed their names in the Members' Book, and have not yet paid the deposit, must pay the same before they can be considered members of the Company; and those persons who may be desirous of becoming Members thereof, can do so, by subscribing their names to the Members' Book, and paying the deposit on or before Thursday next.

DANIEL BRENNAN,
CHARLES YOUNG,
THOMAS PETHICK,
DENNIS REDDIN,
HENRY PALMER.

Charlottetown, Dec. 23, 1848.

AUCTIONEER,

AND

General Commission Merchant.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Queen's Square, Charlottetown, begs leave to inform his friends and the public generally, that he intends to commence business in the above branches; and he hopes, by prompt and strict attention to the interests of those who may favour him with their patronage, to merit a share of public support.

J. W. has ample Warehouse room for any Consignments that may be forwarded to his care.

December 23. 4w.

Axes! Axes! Axes! Warranted.

THE Subscriber is prepared to furnish the public with Broad and Narrow AXES, and Edge Tools of all descriptions, of a superior quality, and at reduced prices. Ship Yards supplied at a liberal discount.

Call and examine, at the Shop, Head of the Queen's Wharf—West.

ARTEMAS DAVISON.

Decr. 25.

STRAY PIG.

A White SOW has been on the Farm of Mrs. GRUBB since the 8th instant. The owner may have her by paying expenses.

December 25.

To be let,

A large SHOP in a convenient and public part of the Town. Rent low. Enquire at the Office of this Paper.

December 18.