

pers must have most enormous tasks. It is not the writing of the leading article itself, but the obligation to write that article every week, whether inclined or not, in sickness or health, in affliction, disease of mind, winter and summer, year after year, tied down to the task, remaining in one spot. It is something like walking a thousand hours. I have a fellow feeling, for I know how a periodical will wear down one's existence. In itself it appears nothing—the labour is not manifest, nor is the continual attention which it requires. You become as it were, the publication. One week is no sooner corrected and printed than on comes another. It is the stone of Sisyphus, an endless repetition of toil, a constant weight upon the mind and spirits; demanding all the exertions of your faculties, at the same time you are compelled to do the severest drudgery. To write for a paper is very well, but to edit one is to condemn yourself to slavery.—*Marryat.*

#### THE GOLD DIGGERS.

An American paper thus paints the gold-diggers of California, and the scene of their labours:

"The stories we hear of California bring Sinbad, that Arabian Ulysses, freshly back to our memories. We are reminded of the loadstone island which drew all the nails out of the vessels that approached it. Only California has a yet stronger magnetism, and carries off all the hands from the American vessels that touch there. There is something very fascinating to the imagination in fancying the arrival of the ship in the harbor of San Francisco, the crew of which are ignorant of the golden discoveries. They find the bay full of vessels, but no sign of a human being. A mysterious silence reigns everywhere. The Captain goes ashore in search of his consignees. The town is empty. The houses betray no signs of recent occupation. He sees a few fowls raking among some yellow grains, which they pick up and drop again, cheated with a dream of corn. The little yellow grains are gold, for which the sailors immediately scramble and quarrel, amidst much astonished cackling of poultry. At last they find a sick man, left, as in the desert, with a pitcher of water and a loaf beside him. He is evidently dying, but contrives to explain the strange posture of affairs, at the time endeavouring to conceal an old coal sifter under the bed clothes. There is a simultaneous rush out of doors, but one of the sailors, more thoughtful than the rest, runs back and wrenches the battered implement of rusty iron from the convulsed fingers of the dying man. The Captain skulls himself back to the ship, tells what has happened, and in five minutes is left alone on the quarterdeck.

Arrived at Sacramento River, the new comers find themselves introduced to a life of singular contradiction. They meet men, without a shirt to their backs, who are earning their two hundred dollars a day. A millionaire is pointed out to them whose sole costume consists of the body of a coat without sleeves or skirts, and a tattered waistcoat. His pantaloons, boots, stockings, sleeves, and skirts, have been, one by one, converted into bags or strong boxes to store his immense wealth in. He is now making his supper upon half a red herring, for which he paid fifty dollars, and will sleep on the bare ground. The sailors inquire for a boarding house, and are directed to a shanty, or wigwam, built of boughs and leaves, terms thirty dollars a day, washing extra. The fortunate possessor of the coal-sifter is at once beset by a crowd, all eager to buy it at any price. He refuses two thousand dollars for it. It is at last made the basis of a company, the owner taking payment in stock."

#### Editorial continued.

**THE PEACE MOVEMENT.**—This is undoubtedly an age of reform and moral regeneration. Whilst one class of Reformers are making strenuous efforts in Scotland to reduce the taxes of the Nation, and proportionably lessen the public expenditure, another class in England are earnestly discountenancing "the pomp and circumstance of war." Richard Cobden, of Corn-Law-League notoriety, is closely identified with both; and we observe by an English paper, that this gentleman has given notice in the House of Commons of his intention to introduce, at an early period of the next Session, a motion to settle future national disputes by arbitration instead of war.

**A CURE FOR FROZEN POTATOES.**—A correspondent of the *St. John Morning News* gives the following valuable hint.

"If Potatoes are frosted, in order to take the frost out of them and render them fit for use, put them into cold water, let them stand until the frost comes out of them, which will soon be observed by scales of ice coming off the potatoe; so soon as that is the case they can be cooked, and used, and will be found to be as good as when first dug from the ground.

**NOTICE TO MARINERS.**—It has lately been decided by an English Court of Law, that a Sailor is not respon-

sible for his wife's debts if he allow her, while at Sea, half his pay.

**U. STATES AND CANADA RECIPROCITY BILL.**—A correspondent of the *Toronto (Canada) Globe*, writing from the City of Washington, uses the following language in reference to the Reciprocity Bill, noticed in a former No. of the *Examiner*:—

"The bill for admitting articles, the growth and product of Canada, into this country, free of duty, upon a similar measure being passed in Canada, with reference to the United States, was, as you are doubtless aware, passed by the House of Representatives, last Session. Want of time, however, prevented its being brought before the Senate at that time. It will be introduced to the Senate in a few days, and will undoubtedly pass that body. Some opposition will be offered by Mr. Underwood, of Kentucky, and Hannegan, of Indiana, upon the ground that it will interfere with the farming interests of their sections. This is all a fudge, and will carry no weight with it. There may be a good deal of discussion, but you may rest satisfied, that the bill will be carried by a considerable majority."

#### NEWFOUNDLAND.

Papers from the above Colony, received by last Monday night's Mail, furnish little or no intelligence.

The Legislature of the Island resumed its Session after the Christmas Holidays on the 10th January. Nothing of importance had transpired during its sitting.

The *St. John's Gazette* states, that during the last year, upwards of eight hundred persons have been committed to the Lock-up, in the Court House, in that town, most of whom were apprehended for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

The Temperance Society of St. John's has been re-organized and set in active operation—the Rev. Mr. Walsh, Roman Catholic clergyman, having taken the initiative, and Lectured twice upon the subject. The Teetotalers, in a most numerous and respectable body, walked through the Town in procession, on the 6th ult:—the various trades classed by themselves, each carrying banners with appropriate inscriptions.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

**TRIAL FOR MURDER.**—A mad named William Andrews was put upon his trial in St. Johns, N. B. on the 16th January, for the murder of his wife Martha, which took place at Portland, on the 10th September last. It appeared from the evidence, says the *St. John Morning News*, that the prisoner and his wife had lived in a state of perfect tranquility, up to within about two years when they took to liquor—and from that moment jars and discords were of almost continual occurrence. Both parties appeared to be equally guilty in the indulgence of liquor; and when their passions were inflamed quarrels would ensue; until finally the unfortunate crime was committed, for which the prisoner was put upon his trial. The deed was committed on the Sabbath day. It appears that both parties on this day had been intoxicated—this was proved by several witnesses—and a lad of about 14 years of age testified that he with several other boys had been playing on a wood sled close beside the house where the murder had been committed—that he happened to be looking into the window and saw the prisoner strike the deceased over the side of the head with his fist once, and saw deceased fall. The prisoner's child, a fine smart looking lad, of about eight years of age, who happened to be in the room at the time when the murder was committed, was brought forward; but His Honor the Judge, after putting certain questions to him, considered that he was entirely too young to be placed upon the stand, consequently he was not examined. That poor little fellow is now in the Poor House, near the Jail, and under the paternal care of Mr. Cunningham, who no doubt acts as a father towards him. The Hon. Attorney General acted for the Crown; and Robertson Bayard, and Charles Waters, Esqrs., for the defence. The Jury retired about half-past 4 o'clock; and after being absent for three quarters of an hour, brought in a verdict of **MANSLAUGHTER.**

**MORE CRIMINAL TRIALS AT ST. JOHN, N. B.**—A man named Samuel Beattie was put upon his trial at St. John, N. B., on the 17th January. The indictment charged the prisoner with **Manslaughter**, for having killed James Bourk, while fighting with him in the month of August last. The parties had been fighting some little time, when the deceased received a blow near the ear, and fell dead immediately. The verdict returned was for an **Assault!**

On the same day Mrs. Harris, who resided in Lower Cove, was put upon her trial for having received into her premises stolen goods, when she had strong proof before her that they must have been stolen. The person charged with the robbery was Arthur McGuirk, who was formerly a Clerk to Messrs. Doherty & McTavish, of the "Golden Fleece." It seems that McGuirk had been

indulging in this system of plunder for upwards of two years, and that he was in the habit of taking the goods to the house of the prisoner. The total amount of Doherty & McTavish's loss, as far as they can ascertain, is £70! The Jury brought in a verdict of **GUILTY** against Mrs. Harris.

#### CANADA.

**THE DEBT AND LIABILITIES OF CANADA.**—On the first of January of the present year the debt and liabilities of Canada exhibited the following statement: The debt in England bearing interest at 5 per cent up to the 1st March, 1848, exclusive of Guaranteed Loan £1,998,375 7s 8d—of which £30,000 pays 6 per cent. In Canada, viz in U. C. Legislature, and Debentures of Canada, meaning those issued since the union and under Acts of the United Legislature, the debt due is £403,282 3s 1 1-4d. The Provincial Debentures of Lower Canada vested in Trustees for works, and except the two first, the interest alone being guaranteed by the Province: Chambly Canal £35,000. Turnpike Trusts Quebec £33,850; Longueuil and Chambly Trust £15,000; Harbour Montreal £90,925; Turnpike Trust Montreal £47,000. The interest on the last three items is paid by Commissioners. The total of these latter amount to £221,775.

The new English Loan in sterling is £1,363,060 equal in \$ at 4s 6d to £1,514,521 2s 3d., which pays an interest of 4 per cent.

By the above our readers will perceive that Canada is rapidly building up a debt. Whether the exigencies of the case, and the prospect of proportionably benefitting from the burthen voluntarily assumed, at some future period, are commensurate with the inconveniences necessarily following an entanglement of this nature, is a matter for serious consideration.

The whole amount of Debentures issued and calculated up to the 1st March ensuing is £500,314 7s 6 1-2d. The great proportion of this large sum pays a ruinous interest of 6 per cent.

A public meeting has been held at Miramichi for the purpose of obtaining for the Telegraph Association at Quebec, the right of way direct through New Brunswick to Halifax, and a petition has been adopted to be laid before the Legislature, praying for a modification of the Act passed at the last session.

The following is copied from a Montreal paper, and furnishes a deplorable picture of the condition of that city.

"The number of stores closed, and empty houses closed in all quarters of our city, must strike every observing citizen with concern, especially when it is remembered that, in addition to the stores closed, many now open have only passed through bankruptcy, and not a few of the remainder are on the brink of insolvency, struggling against heavy rents and expenses, will shortly have to yield to the pressure of the times unless improvement in business come to their relief.

#### UNITED STATES.

**MURDER BY A BOY!**—The *New York Tribune* gives an account of a shocking murder committed the evening previous by a boy, aged fifteen. His victim was a news-boy aged 18, who had come into the eating cellar where the murderer acted as waiter, partially intoxicated. A quarrel arose, when the boy, in self defence, stabbed the assailant to the heart.

**ACCUMULATION OF GOLD.**—The *New York Tribune* has seen private letters of a recent date from the Pacific Coast, which state that £2,000,000 worth of dust was at San Francisco, waiting for transportation. The greater part of it will be probably taken by the mail steamer *California*. The English steamer *Pandora* carried away \$300,000 in dust. Another letter completely contradicts the reports of the disturbances at the Mining Districts. The writer states that excellent order prevails, and there had been but two or three petty depredations since operations commenced in the region.

**FRIGHTFUL OCCURRENCE.**—Philadelphia, Jan. 9th.—A most frightful occurrence happened this afternoon on Schuylkill river, near Fairmount. A large piece of ice with 100 persons on it, floated off with the current—great consternation prevailed—numbers were rescued by a boat—others jumped into the water—three persons were carried over the dam, a man, a boy, and a little girl. The latter was the daughter of Morgan Ash. She struck her forehead on a piece of ice which cut a dreadful wound. All were finally rescued, and no lives lost.

**FIRE!**—A fire broke out in a Store occupied by Mr. James Duncan, at his Shipyards, Lot 49, on Friday, the 2d inst, which totally consumed the building, and property therein to the value of about £100, in goods, rigging, sails, &c.—The goods in the lower part of the building were saved; but most of what was above stairs was destroyed. The fire originated from a stove pipe.—*Isl.*

**EXTRAORDINARY FORTUNE.**—A labourer named Worth, employed in the ropeyard at Devonport dockyard, has by the death of his uncle, come into very considerable property. We have not heard the exact amount, but it is stated to be above 20,000*l.*—*Plymouth Paper.*