CALIFORNIA.

A Nut for the Geologists.—H. De Witt, of this town, who has recently returned from California, brought with him a piece of the auriferous quartz rock, of about the size of a man's fist. On Thanksgiving day, it was brought out for exhibition to a friend, when it accidentally dropped upon the floor, and split open. Near the centre of the mass was discovered, firmly embedded in the quartz and slightly corroded, a *cut iron nail*, of the size of a six-penny nail. It was entirely straight and had a perfect head. By whom was that nail made? At what period was it planted in the yet uncrystallized quartz? How came it in California? If the head of that nail could talk, we should know something more of American history, than we are ever likely to know.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

Export of Gold.—During the month of October, California exported $6,886,875 in treasure.—This would give an aggregate of $82,618,800 for the current year. Most of this large amount, of course, finds its way to the Atlantic States, and thus the whole confideracy is benefited. The amount which will be carried forward during the period of twelve months by returning Californians, will not, probably, be less than $20,000,000, giving an aggregate of over $100,000,000 as the products of the mines this year. Who will say, that the inexhaustible treasure of California is a fiction?

Diving for Gold.—We are credibly informed, that a large party of Mexicans and Indians are now making from ten dollars to an ounce a day about one and a half miles above Oregon Bar, on the Mokelumme river, by diving for gold. The water is very cold and deep, and being in the centre of a steep channel, there is no way of turning the river. The divers go down with a round-pointed shovel, or a common tin pan, which they bring up half full of sand and earth, from which they wash the gold, and are amply repaid for their trouble.

Death of Priessnitz, Founder of the Water Cure.—Priessnitz, the celebrated founder of hydropathy, died at Graffenburg, on the 29th ult, at the age of 52. In the morning of that day, Priessnitz was up and stirring at an early hour, but complained of the cold and bad wood brought in to make the fire. His friends had for some time believed him to be suffering from dropsy of the chest, and at their earnest entreaty he consented to take a little medicine, exclaiming all the while, "It is of no use." He would see no physician, but remained to the last, true to his profession. About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 29th, he asked to be carried to bed, and upon being laid down expired.

New Convict Settlement.—The project of establishing a new convict settlement at New Caledonia, in the Southern Archipelago, has for some time occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and active steps for the purpose are at this moment under consideration. The island is described by those who have visited it in whaling ships as presenting sources of a most valuable character, teeming with vegetation, abounding in varieties of timber of the best description, suitable alike for shipbuilding and other useful purposes, whilst the climate is, at the same time, said to be delightfully salubrious, and the harbours already known, safe and capacious.

Proclamation of Parts of fhe Counties of Monaghan and Armagh.—At a Privy Council held at Dublin Castle, at which His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant presided, the parishes of Clontibret and Mucno, in the barony of Cremorne, in the county of Monaghan, were proclaimed under the Crime and Outrage Act. In the above parishes lies the scene of the frightful murder of Mr. Thomas D. Bateson. The parishes of Derrynoose and Keady in the baronies of Tiranny and Armagh, county of Armagh, were also proclaimed.

INDIA.

The Overland Mail reached London on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Relations with the Hill Tribes of the North West Frontier, continued in an unsatisfactory state. Sir Colin Campbell was to proceed at once from Peshawur with a force of 2,500 or 3,000 men of an army to chastise a powerful tribe called the Momuns.

There has been a serious Musselman riot at Bombay. It was occasioned by the Parsee Editor of an illustrated newspaper (in each of which is given a life and portrait of some remarkable historical character) having published in the series (next to one of Benjamin Franklin) a like portrait of Mahomet. The riot lasted about half an hour, when the mob was dispersed by the Police. Several persons were dangerously injured—shops were plundered, and Parsee women violated. No means had been taken to ascertain the amount of property plundered. Its value is stated by the police authorities and their organ, the *Bombay Times*, to be under £1000, and by the other local papers to have exceeded £25,000.

The Austrian capital was agitated by the very grave question of Finance Reform.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Cork and Bandon Railway was opened on Saturday, the 6th inst.—Lord Plunkett, recently alarmingly ill, is recovering.—An Irish paper gives an account of a scripture reader having been mobbed at Tuam.—The report is revived that the Queen will visit Ireland next summer, taking Bristol in her route.—The Belfast Iron Company rolled out the first Iron plate in Ireland early in the present month.—Upwards of 300 persons have recently joined the Masonic body in Ireland.—The spawning ford of the Shannon and its tributaries have been supplied with salmon and trout this season in quantities beyond any former precedent.—Sir J. Emerson Tennent has offered for Lisburn, vacant by the death of Sir H. Seymour.—Mr. Norris, solicitor to Cardinal Wiseman, will contest the representation of Cashel, in opposition to Sir T. O'Brien.—Part of the estates of Mr. Hyde, of Castlehyde, have been bought in the Encumbered Estates court by Mr. Sadlier, M. P., for £17,575—the rental is £1160.—The Marquis of Clanricarde is using his influence in Galway county for the return of his son Lord Dunkellan, with his relative Sir T. Burk, M. P.—The East India Company has presented the Royal Dublin Society with a complete set of specimens of raw materials from India. A Dublin paper says, the returns of emigration from the Irish ports, between March and October, inclusive, will exhibit the astonishing number of 270,000 souls.—The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has issued an address, in which remembrance of the late King of Hanover is recorded, and the grant to Maynooth condemned.—Col. O'Rielly, an Irishman, is insane; his property, £5000 per annum, is claimed by two clergymen.

From 1st January 1851 to the 6th December, same year, there sailed from the port of Limerick, for Canada, New Brunswick, and the United States, 76 passenger vessels, with 11,241 emigrants, of which 6087 were for Canada, and 5,213 for the States.—Lord John Beresford, Primate of all Ireland, has been appointed to the Chancellorship of the Dublin University, vacant by the death of the king of Hanover.—The conduct of the people of the Old Head of Kinsale, at which place a French brig was recently cast away, has been denounced as disgraceful; it was with difficulty the clergy and gentry preserved the effects of the crew; and a Revenue cruiser was obliged to fire upon the wreckers.—Property in the Encumbered Estates Court has been disposed of at a low figure—occasioned by the fact of 8s. in the pound having been levied as poor rates.—Mr. Birch who volunteered to write in the *World*, a Dublin paper, in support of the Irish Government during the crisis from early in '48 to the close of 50. and for which he at various times received sums to £3,700, but for which he claimed £7,000 has recently tried the matter in Court, when the jury returned a verdict for the defendant, with sixpence costs.—A widow named Mason has been awarded by the Exchequer Court, Dublin, £150 damages, against the Western Railway Company, for the death of her husband, who was killed on the line.

It is stated, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Ireland have resolved not to celebrate the rites of marriage between a Protestant woman and a Roman Catholic man, unless the woman consents that all the children shall be brought up as Roman Catholics. It is added, that Dr. Wiseman will uphold the priesthood of this country in a similar determination.

UNITED STATES.

The Royal Mail Steamer Niagara arrived on Thursday night bringing advices from Boston to the day previous.

Intensely cold weather has prevailed all over the Union.

Besides the news from abroad, the papers bestow but little notice on any other subjects than the proceedings of Congress,—trial between Forest and his wife—the singing of Jenny Lind and Catherine Hayes,—the dancing of Lola Montes—and the speeches of Kossuth.

The Kossuth fever still raged. He had left New York for Washington.

The storm of November 19th, extended along the Mexican and Pacific coasts, doing great damage.

A grand Editorial Banquet was given to Kossuth on Monday week.

New York Post Office.—There are made up daily in this post office, 4,480 mails, a considerable part of which are made up thrice each day, making over 7,000 mails made up for separate places daily. About 200 large canvass bags of newspapers are despatched daily; on Wednesday and Thursday 250 extra bags are despatched each day, and on Friday nearly as many more. The average number of letters received at and sent from the office daily is between 50,000 and 60,000. There are 76 clerks employed, 30 carriers with their assistants. The above work is exclusive of the mails sent and received by foreign and California steamers.

Mr. Henry Grinnell, the owner of the vessels employed by Lieutenant De Haven, has generously offered them for another cruise in search of Sir John Franklin, should Congress think proper to authorise a second expedition.

Mr. Charles Cheney, of Newburyport, (Mass.) has a tankard presented to Mrs Hannah Dunstan, by King William, 1696, for her courageous conduct in the massacre of ten Indians, by whom she was taken captive. The tankard bears the portrait of King William, supported by the lion and the unicorn.

Temperance Movement—Baltimore.—The friends of temperance held an adjourned meeting at the hall in Gay-street, last night, to consider the propriety of petitioning the legislature to abolish the license law for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The committee appointed at a previous meeting, was not prepared to report.—Several resolutions were proposed, for the action of the meeting, and after being debated at length by many of our most prominent citizens, were appropriately disposed of. Among others was one appointing a Committee to draw up a resoluiton to be signed exclusively by women, asking the Legislature to pass a law for the suppression of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors within this State.—*Patriot, 11th.*

Heavy Fire.—Baltimore, Dec. 17.—A conflagration commenced in a small building near the Post Office, burning nearly a whole square, including the Post Office and Telegraph Office.

Buffalo, Dec. 9.—The new ship Dyerdenago is ashore in the St. Lawrence, and 17 lives have been lost.

A train of twenty freight-cars arrived at Savannah on Friday morning, with nine hundred bales of cotton, through direct from Chattanooga, Tennessee, shipped at that place, and traversing a distance of 400 miles by rail, without interruption.

Riot at Mount Desert.—*Ellsworth, Dec. 26, 1851.*—A riot took place at Mount Desert to-day. An attempt was made to seize liquors, and a mob assembled, and in the *melee* knocked down the officer; and the liquors were forcibly taken from the hands of the law, and carried off and secreted. The authorities have sent here for an officer to execute the law.

Trade with England.—Great Britain and the United States interchange in a year produce worth about $200,000,000. The exports from Great Britain are near one-fifty the value of British exports.

The Echo d'Italia, of New York, contains a letter dated Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 21, six days later than our last advices, stating that Gen. Rosas had been compelled to abdicate and leave the country, thus bringing civil war to a close.

CANADA.

Election Affray and Loss of Life.—A Telegraph despatch from Quebec states that on the 15th instant, as two Irishmen were passing a tavern during the election excitement in the Township of Broughton, Megantic County, they were sallied upon by the inmates of the tavern, supposed to be Canadians, and most brutally beaten; one of them was killed on the spot, and his comrade was so severely ill-treated, that he was expected to die shortly afterwards. We understand that the Coroner for the district left the district left this morning to investigate the circumstances of the affair. Great excitement throughout the Province about the elections.

Destruction of the Artillery Barracks and Ordnance Stores at Quebec by Fire.—Quebec, Dec. 26.—The Royal Artillery Barracks and Ordnance Stores in Arsenal-street are burnt down. The fire was discovered about half-past three o'clock this morning, by the sentry at the lower gate of the Artillery Barracks, and shortly afterwards the flames burst out from one of the men's rooms opposite the guard room. The fire originated between the roof of No. 9 and floor of No. 5, and there was no getting at it sufficiently soon to arrest its progress. The most the men living in the rooms could do was to endeavour to save their effects, in which they but partially succeeded. Capt. Franklin's company are reported to have lost all, besides what they had on their backs. Water could not be got—the well was dry,—the thermometer 24 below zero, and engines were consequently useless. In this extremity, Col. Higgins ordered that part of the officers' quarters which adjoins the men's quarters to be blown up, by which the farther progress of the flames in that direction was arrested. But they communicated to the extensive Ordnance Stores on Arsenal-st., which in a few minutes were hopelessly on fire. To save as much of the Ordnance property as possible, a gap was made near the centre of the building by gunpowder, which it is hoped will arrest the progress of the flames.

The loss must be heavy—some say over £20,000. The houses opposite suffered considerably by the concussions.

Postscript.—We learn that the Ordnance Building is now altogether on fire.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

An association called "The Newfoundland Steam Packet Company," with a capital of £6,000, has recently been formed at Harbour Grace, with a view to remedy the inconvenience and delay experienced in crossing Conception Bay in sailing boats, by the substitution of a steamer. This measure has long since been talked of, and it is gratifying to learn, that it is now in a fair way of being carried into effect in the course of a few months.

At the meeting of the *Direct Steam Navigation Committee* held yesterday, letters from Mr. Brooking. of London, and Mr. Shea. of Cork, were submitted. Mr. Brooking, as Chairman of the London Committee, stated they were waiting for communications expressive of the views of the other Committees at different parts of the United Kingdom, which they expected soon to receive, when a memorial would be prepared and presented to Earl Grey. Mr. Shea expressed his readiness, and that of Mr. Kent, of Waterford, with whom he had communicated, to co-operate in forwarding the views of the Committee here.—From encouraging communications lately received from London, it is confidently expected that the British Government will grant £4,000 or £5,000 a year to aid the enterprise. Mr. Harvey stated, that a company lately organized to run a steamer between Halifax and Boston, and bought from Government a fine steamer about the size of the *Unicorn*, built on Lake Ontario, and that he believed, if sufficient encouragement was held out to them, they would be willing to run her to Newfoundland. The draft of a letter to Mr. Gisborne, who leaves by the steamer for the United States, was read and adopted, requesting him to urge the capabilities of this port as a port of call, upon those interested in Atlantic Steam Navigation in the United States.

Mr. Gisborne had returned to St. John's.

At *White Bear Bay*, he discovered a small seam of coal. He had ascertained that silver had been found in the Island by Indians. He saw enough to warrant him in saying, that the precious ore might be obtained if properly sought for.

The Legislature was summoned for dispatch of business on the 29th prox.

Free Education.—Our Correspondent Sub-Umbra, whose communication we subjoin, does us no more than simple justice, in his confident anticipation that we shall be found actively favorable to any well-devised scheme for the general extension of the benefits of Education, by means of Free Schools, throughout the Colony. Than proper Education, no greater benefit can be bestowed, by their rulers, upon a people. Their morality, their prosperity, their health, their happiness, all depend upon it. We shall, therefore, most willingly lend whatever assistance we have ability to afford, for the furtherance, on just principles, of the Free Education Scheme. Our own views touching the question, we will endeavour briefly to set forth in our next number.

FREE COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Sir,—

Although you have not, as yet, taken occasion, through the medium of your editorial columns, to make any public declaration of your sentiments touching the scheme of Free Education; which, it is expected, will be seriously agitated at least, if not effectually provided for, in the approaching Session of the Legislature; it will not, I feel certain, be believed by any one who, like myself, has been a constant reader of your paper, and a close observer of your public character and conduct, for many years, that you can possibly feel lukewarm or indifferent concerning the progress of this, or of any other feasible movement, whether for the immediate good or prospective benefit of the inhabitants of this—your native—Island.

It is true, that you have already, (in common with the other proprietors of our Island Press,) entitled yourself, as respects this subject, to the thanks of all amongst your fellow colonists who are friendly to the cause of Education, simply by the publication of the communication which appeared in your last, respecting the meeting so judiciously held, by a respectable number of our District Teachers, for the laudable purpose of taking into consideration the present state of Education in the Colony, and of enquiring how far, by any probable action or measure of the Legislature, our present very imperfect, not to say almost wholly inefficient, system of Education might be made more conducive to the end for which it was called into existence.

The publication of the notice concerning the meeting, together with that of the two resolutions unanimously passed therein, cannot have failed to produce some salutary effects; inasmuch as, by shewing that many of the direct educators of the youth of the Colony are zealous in their avocations, alive to all its duties and responsibilities, and ready to cooperate with one another, and with all who may be found actively favourable to the advancement of its best interests, for the furtherance of the public good; such advertisement is well calculated to call forth the united and energetic action of all throughout the Colony, who justly rank among the genuine friends of Education; and to *shame* into active and serviceable alliance with them, such as are *professedly* favorable, for whatever reason, but yet *insincerely* so to the promotion of it.

So far then, you have, as respects the desired movement in favour of Education, conferred an obligation of no little moment upon the people in general; but particularly upon such as those who, whilst they most sincerely desire, and are willing to use their best exertions for the elevation of the public mind, and the promotion, in every respect, of the general welfare; yet wisely conclude, that no popular change in the form of our local government, or even in the nature of any of our social institutions can operate for our general advancement and well-being as a people, until the effects of a wise and liberal provision for the *real* education of the youth of the Colony, shall have prepared the public mind for the proper exercise of the popular power, with which the liberal and emancipating spirit of the age is eager to invest it.

But much greater service in the cause, than the mere opening of your columns for the admission of communications concerning the projected measure, is justly expected, not only from you, but from all your brethren of the Press; and I doubt not—indeed, did I think otherwise this letter would not be addressed to you—you will not delay to give the movement that powerful assistance which your honest, generous, and enlightened advocacy of it, in the editorial columns of your truly respectable and influential journal, is so well calculated to afford.

When the interests of a mere party are at stake, or mere factious men are contending for the objects of their ambition or cupidity, some of you editorial gentry—I speak it good humoredly—whether you style yourselves *Tories*, *Reformers*, *Conservatives* or *Moderates*, are very apt to engage, (*con amore* it might seem,) tooth and nail, in the fray; and to bark and bite, scratch and *snatch* too, when you *can*, with as much determination, fury and voracity, as ever do the most fierce and hungry of canine contenders for the possession of a half-picked bone. This species of ignoble warfare has, of late, by certain conductors of our Island Press,—with whom, Sir, I am happy to be able to say, it would be very unjust to couple you—been carried on too long and with a licence truly intolerable; especially by one individual who, without provocation, and in the mere spirit of ribald wantonness, to shew his imaginary talent, has sought occasions for assailing the private characters of such individuals as he dreads to encounter fairly or with equal arms in the arena of public debate; and the practice has I am sure, materially tended to degrade those who have indulged in it, in the estimation of every man of sound judgment and pure taste amongst their readers.

But, prone as newspaper editors are, in this respect, "to run a-muck, and tilt at all they meet;" it is, on the other hand, much to be regretted, that at times when their pens might, and ought to be brought into action, and their knowledge, talents, and tact be well employed for the general good,—should they find themselves unsummoned to the field for the defence of their party or "feudal lords," they are too well contented to take their ease in their arm chairs and allow the general good to take care of itself.

Such sloth or indifference, on the part of the Press, with respect to any object of general interest, most undoubtedly merits reprehension; even although it should be admitted, as I think it ought, that editors are occasionally entitled to an extra *nap*, especially when "*a lull*" in political strife, or literary warfare, seems to afford them a fair opportunity to unbend and lay aside their bows. But, should any of you now forget that you ought indeed to be—as you often profess you are—the independent, faithful and watchful guardians of the public rights, and the unceasing promoters of public good; and fail to use your best endeavours to impress upon the minds of the people, in general, and of their representatives in the Legislature, in particular, that communities can only become duly qualified to hold the reins of self-government, by means of the *power-conferring* effects of education or knowledge; and to shew, that in the commonwealth of Prince Edward Island, the first step towards the accomplishment of this most desirable state of society, must be permanent provision by the Legislature for an efficient system of Free Education for all; in so failing, you would forfeit every claim to public confidence, and deserve, ever after, to be held in less estimation than "dumb dogs that cannot bark."

And if any, in the popular branch of the Legislature either oppose the measure, or fail to sustain it, according to the full measure of their strength, their conduct will afford all other men ample reason for withholding from them in future, as public men, the confidence which had previously been reposed in them: for, either in wisdom or integrity, or in both, they will have made manifest their great deficiency; and ought, thenceforth, to be held positively disqualified for any public trust.

I need not now, I imagine, repeat any of the many conclusive arguments, which have, of late years, been so often triumphantly employed to prove that *the general education* of the people must be, nay, cannot be otherwise than for *the general good;* and that, consequently, it is no more than an act of even-handed justice, to require that every *rateable** individual in any community in which such a system of education either already exists, or is about to be brought into operation, may be compelled directly to contribute to its support, according to his means.

Taking then the truth and justice of this proposition to be fully admitted on every side; or at least by all but such as are not, by blind and miscalculating selfishness, or stupid misapprehension of their own interests, as individual members of one great family, rendered incapable of comprehending the happy, the salutary results which must, as it were of necessity, flow from it; I will now merely suggest that it is for you, Sir, and others, whom long training and experience in the schools of political economy have enabled to resolve the question, to indicate to the public the source whence, with the greatest justice and the least individual inconvenience, the means for the support of the requisite number of Free Schools in the Colony may be derived.

* By "*rateable*" individuals, the writer means such as, under the operation of a Poor Law, would be liable to assessment for the relief of the poor; whether landed proprietors, tenant farmers, or householders.

In the expectation that, in an early number of your *Gazette*, you will oblige your friends and the public in general, by a free expression of your sentiments touching this great question, which the Legislature will shortly be called upon to entertain, and to which I have herein taken the liberty to draw your attention,

I am, sir,
With sincere regard,
Your obedt. servant,
SUB-UMBRA.

To J. D. Haszard, Esq.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1852.

A Colonial Mail arrived on Saturday evening, which furnished us with news from England 7 days later, telegraphed from Boston to St. John, N. B.—and the couriers last night brought the English Mail with dates to the 27th December.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE !

[*By Telegraph to the News Room.*]

Boston, Jan. 2, 1851.

The steamship *Africa*, with Liverpool dates to the 20th ult., has arrived at New York.

The Atlantic, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 18th and the Asia, from Boston, on the 20th December.

Cotton had declined ¼d. per lb., with large sales. Flour and, Wheat had improved a little in price. Corn remained abont the same.

France.—The latest accounts represent Paris as being all quiet. In the Departments there had been considerable excitement, and some fighting, but in every instance the authorities had been triumphant. The result of the Election in France would not be known before the 28th December.

Russia, Prussia, and Austria, it was reported and generally believed, were straining every nerve to support Louis Napoleon.

General Cavaignac has been offered his freedom, but has refused to accept it, unless the same privilege be extended to his associates!—Victor Hugo has escaped.

The Queen of Spain has pardoned all the prisoners concerned in the Cuban invasion.

The *Courier des Etats*, A French paper of high character, published in New York, manifests much astonishment and indignation at the course which Louis Napoleon has adopted, in order to become possessed of imperial power.—We translate as follows:

"For our part, in whatever light we view the conduct of Louis Napoleon, we cannot find for him the shadow of an excuse. He has awakened all the dormant political passions of the people, just when they had accustomed themselves to respect the provisions of the Constitution.—He has violated his oath, at the hour when for his own honor and the well being of his country, it was most important that he should keep it. He has sought to influence public opinion by one of those demoralizing firebrands which are more fatal than a sudden outbreak. He has again opened a way for all revolutions by thus giving them his sanction.

This is a strange aberration of a man for whom the caprice of a great nation had marked out so brilliant a destiny. He might have been honored and respected had he followed the counsels of Lamartine, and quitted honorably a station to which he would in all probability one day have been restored. He has chosen to be a usurper—he has chosen to imitate his uncle, but it is not upon the rock of St. Helena that he will finish his career. He will receive his punishment nearer home."

Blocլade of Vera Cruz.—The telegraph reports that a British squadron was off Vera Cruz at last accounts. The squadron consisted of the Indefatigable, of 50 guns, the Admiral's vessel; the Cumberland, of 70 guns; the Wellesley, of 70 guns; the steamer Express, of 6 guns; and the steamer Calypso, of 10 guns. The *New York Express* learns from Washington that the errand this naval force has been sent on is to enforce the payment of the Mexican Bonds; and in the event of refusal, Vera Cruz is to be blockaded.

Severe Weather.—The snow lies 40 or 50 feet deep in the cuttings of the Silesian railway near Oderberg. Two engines had their fires extinguished. In Upper Silesia 10 lives had been lost from the severity of the weather; and in Saxony 15 men and 6 horses perished in the snow storm of the 20th.—*Liverpool Times.*

The New York Tribune learns that Charlotte Cushman is lying at the point of death, in consequence of a wound in her foot by a needle.

Private letters from Havre to the 8th of Decemder, state the number of persons killed in the late *emeute* to be much larger than is reported in the papers. Two Americans, named Martin and Stafford, are reported killed.

The impression in Paris was, that large amounts of money and goods will be sent, as soon as possible, to the United States.

Arrival of the Cambria.

Seven Days Later still.

RESIGNATION OF LORD PALMERSTON—ELECTION OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.

The steamship *Cambria* arrived at Halifax at 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, bringing Liverpool dates to the 27th December. She brought out 28 passengers—only one landing at Halifax, the following summary of the news was received yesterday at the Reading Room.

The steamer Humboldt arrived at Southampton on the 26th December.

The demand for Cotton had been good, and sellers were enabled to obtain a little better prices. The total sales for the week amounted to 34,460 bales.

The grain market was without any material change. Flour was in good demand at full rates.

Two great events have transpired in the course of a few days preceding the departure of the Steamer—each capable of seriously influencing the character of all commercial operations. First, the resignation of Lord Palmerston, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs—and the other, the election, by a very large majority, of Louis Napoleon as President of France for ten years. A temporary disarrangement of the various markets, and the decline of prices in many had occurred; but when it became known that Lord Granville was to succeed Lord Palmerston, confidence became in some measure restored.

Lord Palmerston has suddenly retired from the office of Foreign Secretary, to the amazement and regret of the whole nation. He has been succeeded by Lord Granville. This astounding act is imputed to the dissentions which were known to exist in the Cabinet for several months, and was precipitated by the significant reception and emphatic avowal of opinion to the Kossuth deputation, to whom his Lordship used language by no means complimentary to the absolutists of Europe. The fearless position assumed by his Lordship proved distasteful to the majority of the Ministry, and hence the result.

This has been the all-prevailing topic of conversation at this festive season, and has created universal sensation. The Under-Secretary, Lord Stanley, of Alderley, had also tendered his resignation.

Amoung the rumoured causes of Lord Palmerston's secession from the Cabinet, was that of a difference of opinion upon the abstract question of the French Revolution, though the mystery was not likely to be revealed before the meeting of Parliament.

A Privy Council was held at Windsor on Friday. Her Majesty was pleased to appoint the Right Hon. George Earl Granville to be one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, and he was sworn in accordingly.

The English funds continued buoyant during the week, and closed on the 24th at an improvement. Consols 97 and 97¼ ex dividend.

The Iron house of John Barclay, Buchanan street, Glasgow, has suspended payment. His liabilities amount to £90,000.

A member of an extensive drysaltery business in Liverpool had absconded, after misappropriating funds to the amount of £50,000.—A Scotch firm remotely connected with the house to which the defaulter belonged, had previously offered to make good all deficiencies, provided the defaulter would enter into a Bond not to return to England.

The Austrian Ambassador at the Court of St. James, and now at Brussels, has received orders to proceed immediately to his post.

Ireland.—It would appear that the return of many Irish emigrants to their own country had attracted considerable attention in Ireland, as in very many instances the expectation entertained had been by no means realized. The Irish were congratulating themselves upon it, and regarding it as a ground of hope.

France.—The all engrossing topic of the Presidential election was occupying the French mind to the exclusion of all others. The President was throughout the whole of France in possession of an overwhelming majority, which was reported as likely to be greater than that of 1848.

The latest news from Paris, by Telegraph, of the 27th Dec., gives as the votes of 81 Departments, of which 23 were complete,