

We are aware that the Government have granted a sum of money, but what will it be among so many, when oats is three or four shillings per bushel, wheat fifteen and potatoes three shillings per bushel. Let the Lieutenant Governor of this Island place his name at the head of the list of a relief fund, and we venture to say that hundreds will follow it.

Among our new advertisements of to-day will be found the Summer arrangement of the Steamers belonging to the P. E. I. Steam Navigation Company. We are sorry that it is so drawn up as to make the arrival of the boat at this port from Charlottetown, at midnight. It is certainly an unseasonable hour for passengers—for goods it does not make any difference, as they are always stored at the expense of the Company. In this matter many persons think that the Company are to blame. It is not so. They are bound to carry the mails when delivered to them, and therefore those who make the mail arrangement are the parties who are to blame.

Large quantities of new goods have been landed from the steamer, at this port, during the past week.

The ship L. C. Owen arrived in Charlottetown, from Liverpool, on the 14th, and the Undine on the 18th, both bringing cargoes of general merchandise. The bark Kewadin is daily expected here.

A rare chance is now offered to any person wanting a good business stand on Water Street, in Summerside. (See Auction sale by Wm. Bearisto in to-day's paper.)

We direct attention to an article in another column headed 'Under the wrong flag,' which we have copied from the Canadian, published in Boston. What it says about the young men leaving Canada, is very applicable to this Island. The article has a true British ring about it. No Annexation sentiments in it, like some of the 'small fry' articles published in a few of the Colonial papers.

Mr. Punshon, the great English orator, has arrived in Canada. Next week we will endeavor to give our readers a short sketch of this great man.

The members of the Summerside Fire Engine Company are requested to meet for practice on Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock.

Hay is selling to-day for 7 per cent., oats 3s 6d, potatoes 3s, eggs 6d, butter 1s 4d, in good demand.

We extract the following from the Dominion Tariff Act, which we have just received. In Schedule D, it says—'The following goods, when the growth and produce of any of the British North American Provinces, may be imported free of duty, viz:—'

Animals of all kinds, fresh, smoked and salted meats, green and dried fruits, fish of all kinds, products of fish and of all other creatures living in water, poultry, butter, cheese, lard, tallow, timber and lumber of all kinds, round, hewed, squared, but not otherwise manufactured in whole or in part, fish oil, gypsum, ground or unground.'

Mr. Edward Ellis gave his last Readings, prior to his returning to Yarmouth, on Wednesday the 23rd April, before the Brethren of 'Forest' Division, in their new Temperance Hall.

We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of C. L. Richards, in another column. We have dealt extensively with him, and bear willing testimony to his integrity and willingness to suit customers in every particular. We can assure parties in this Island who deal in St. John, that they cannot do better than to give Mr. Richards a call. Our transactions with him was the result of seeing his Card in the Summerside Journal, which shows the business men of St. John the importance of advertising in an Island paper having such an extensive circulation in this City as the above named paper.—Cons. from Ch. Town

Albert H. Yates, Esq., has been appointed Marshal of the Vice Admiralty Court of this Island, in the place of Robt. Hyndman, Esq., deceased.—1st.

The Rev. Thomas Duncan, of St. James' Church, of this City, was a passenger in the Steamer City of Cork, from Halifax for Liverpool, on Friday last.—1st.

METHOD OF ASCERTAINING THE STATE OF THE LUNGS.—Persons desirous of ascertaining the true state of their lungs are directed to draw in as much breath as they conveniently can. They are then to count as far as they are able, in a slow and audible voice, without drawing in more breath. The number of seconds they can continue counting must be carefully observed; in a consumptive the time does not exceed ten, and is frequently less than six seconds; in pleurisy and pneumonia it ranges from nine to four seconds. When the lungs are in a sound condition the time will range as high as from twenty to thirty-five seconds.

It is believed that the seven Italian ships of war that lately sailed on a secret mission have gone to the La Plata River to redress the wrongs which eighty thousand Italians who have settled there have suffered from the government of the Argentine Confederation.

Mount Allison Male Academy.

The Students of Mount Allison Male Academy, having received with deep sorrow and regret, the intelligence of the death of their fellow student WILLIAM DOULL, who died at Sackville, N. B., on Tuesday, May 12th, 1868; and being desirous of giving expression to their respect and esteem for him, at a special meeting adopted the following preamble and Resolutions:—

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God by a dispensation of His wise but inscrutable Providence, to take to Himself one who during the past few months has been so intimately connected with us, therefore

Resolved, that while we reverentially bow to the will of the Highest, we lament the loss of one whose mental and moral worth, as exhibited in his daily deportment will make his memory ever dear to us, and receive our only consolation from his dying testimony of happiness through faith in the Saviour.

Resolved, that we proffer his relations and friends our sincere and heartfelt sympathy, and are grateful that his Christian character affords them abundant assurance of hope.

Resolved, that as his remains are to be conveyed to the place of residence of his parents for interment, we request one of our number, William M. Stirling, to accompany the corpse as far as Shediac.

Resolved, that copies of the above preamble and resolutions be transmitted to the parents of the deceased, in Prince Edward Island, and for publication in the 'Provincial Wesleyan,' 'Summerside Journal,' and 'Borderer.'

WM. M. STIRLING, CHARLES D. HEARD, SAMUEL JONES, CLIFFORD B. TRUEMAN, ALFRED S. BERR, EDWARD C. McREARY, Committee. Sackville, May 12, 1868.

I would not grieve you unnecessarily, and would have saved you from this very painful interview, but my boy—he has no father.

She stopped, unable to proceed. I was equally affected. I murmured, "Emma, I will be his father; he shall be my child; but why talk thus? why abandon yourself to despair? You are young, and have many years to live." A melancholy smile played over her face: "Years to smile!" she repeated, in a low, calm voice, "no, not days!" I looked at her attentively; she was unusually beautiful; her eyes were bright and lustrous, and her cheek was streaked with glowing carmine; she changed the conversation to more indifferent subjects, and presently, complaining that she felt a little faint, requested me to leave her for the present, and return at an early hour in the evening. I obeyed her, and retired.

As I walked from the house, a fearful suspicion crossed my mind. There was a solemnity in her "not days" that filled me with alarm. I inquired for the physician that attended her, and called upon him—my worst fears were true—Emma was in the last, the hopeless stage of consumption.

My feelings may be easily conceived, when, in the evening, I sought the lodgings of my dying friend. I found her reclining upon the sofa, and beside her a lovely boy of three years old in the deepest mourning. I entered so gently that for a few seconds she was unconscious of my being in the room; I looked at her anxiously. Her still beautiful face was white as the artist's marble; but when she saw me hanging over the couch, again the eye lightened, and again a feeble blush dwelt for an instant on her faded cheek; she beckoned to me—I knelt beside her—she was sadly altered since the morning.

"George," she said, feebly, "I feared I might not have strength to convey to you my dying wishes; you will find them here," and she put a sealed packet in my hand, while with a faint effort she placed the infant in my arms.—

"Will you be a father to him?" A flood of tears fell upon the child's face, as stealthily I pressed him to my bosom. "And you will bury me with Arthur?" I could not speak. "Kiss me, George—my boy—Arthur I come!" I had passed my arm round her neck to support her—the head fell backward on my arm—the eyes closed—and Emma Hilson was dead!

Her wishes were obeyed. She sleeps in the churchyard of Ashfield, beside him whom in life she loved so well—and I placed the simple tablet over their graves which tells their names to the passing traveller. The orphan of Arthur Hilson is my adopted child.

My boy—for he is dear to me as ever child was to a parent—has exceeded my most sanguine hopes; and, when I fall, and a presentiment tells me that mine will be a soldier's death, George Hilson will find that his adopted father has not forgotten him.

UNDER THE WRONG FLAG.

From the Canadian for May.

It is acknowledged by all who are conversant with the current history of Canadian affairs that within the last few years an astonishing increase has taken place in the number of young men who cross over to the United States from the various provinces of the Dominion. Yet we have seen but little in the Canadian press showing that proper consideration of the subject which its importance demands. It would seem as if all were fearful to touch upon a topic so humiliating to our national pride,—thus tacitly admitting the correctness of the charge so frequently made against us by the United States press—that Canada does not know the true value of her young men. Differing in opinion from those who expect to restrain this emigration by ignoring its existence, we advocate the fullest publicity in all its details, believing it is only by diffusing a general knowledge of the relative advantages of the two countries, that our people can be taught the folly of expatriation.

As we view the earlier history of British America and the United States, contrasting the semi-torpidity of the one with the rapid progress of the other, it ceases to be a cause for wonder that when the glowing story of the Union's prosperity reached the wilds of Canada, not a few discontented spirits were found ready and willing to avail themselves of the change that profured an improvement of their condition. Unlike the emigrant from across the sea, with no old habits to discard, with no new ones to acquire, the success of the settler from Canada was rapid and certain. Each one who prospered soon drew many old friends to his new home, and they in turn became powerful magnets to draw on those who were left behind. Thus, step by step, the exodus increased, till gathering strength with its years, this terrible evil now threatens the very welfare of the country.

We admit that the time has been when the young man could find in the United States a greater field for successful enterprise than in any of the British American provinces; but it was years ago, and the western world has changed its front since then. The Dominion and the Union have exchanged places, and we date this new era from the commencement of the southern rebellion. When the United States entered the list as one of the great warlike powers of the world she departed from the paths of prosperity and affluence. During the continuance of the war, the enormous expenditures of the Government created an artificial prosperity, but on its termination a disastrous reaction ensued, which ever since has been fostered with skillful stupidity by the political agitation of reconstruction. Her vital energies are crippled by enormous taxation, and her very existence rests upon the rotten foundation of an inflated paper currency. With her manufactures depressed, her shipping curtailed, deprived of the south as a market, the supply of labor is in excess of the demand; and thousands, impoverished by the high cost of the common necessities of life, swell the ranks of pauperism to an extent beyond all power of relief.

It is to these changes in the labor and money market of the United States that we call the especial attention of our readers, and warn the young man who thinks of going thither, against the special pleading of his countrymen across the border, who, captivated by the glitter and bustle around them, write that "business never was better, and you are certain of obtaining constant employment at good wages." Trace that letter to its writer, and you will most probably find that it came from a dry-goods clerk who is starving on eight or ten dollars a week, or from a mechanic, who, at from two to three dollars a day is out of employment six months in the year. We speak advisedly when we say that few Canadians in the United States are doing better than they could at home, while a great number fare far worse and bitterly repent the foolish step they have taken.

A dispatch from Athens contains the following:—"The Spakiotan Mutineers claim that in recent conflicts with the

Could the young man just starting out in the world but see the trials that thousands of his countrymen have to endure, their want of comfort and sympathy when most needed, their make-shifts to keep up appearances, their bitter struggles to keep the wolf from the door, the little they receive for their labor, the large amount they expend for the common necessities, he would never leave his native land for a home under the stars and stripes.

At present the various provinces are agitated by the changes through which they are passing, and business is somewhat unsettled, but this will pass away and a better state of things succeed. Do not be driven from home by political clap trap about the evils of confederation, but stay at home and help to redress them. Taxation is increased, and injudiciously so, but we have no heavy war-debt to discharge, and, as the errors are detected, the people will soon rectify them. Leaving Canada for the United States to escape taxation and depression of business, is truly "out of the frying pan into the fire." Yet these are the only reasons now advanced in favor of the step. That they are seriously entertained we cannot doubt, but it must be only by that large class who allow others to make their opinions. They hear from friends such stories, and seeing nothing in the local papers to contradict them, naturally make no effort to obtain information on the subject.

We hold it to be the duty of the public press to pay frequent attention to this important topic, for it is one that will ever be interesting to their readers, and its fruit, like bread cast upon the waters, will return after many days. There is a disposition on the part of many who now sojourn in a strange land, to avail themselves of the increasing benefits conferred by confederation, but they are deterred by seeing those at home preparing to leave. In no prophetic spirit, but after mature deliberation, we confidently assert that ere long the tide will turn the other way, and that our young men will return to their native land,—some sadder, all wiser, by their experience abroad. It behooves those at home to put their house in order, so as to make the advent of the wanderer beneficial to all parties concerned. All that is needed to ensure this end is to inform our people abroad of the progress we are making in building up our country. Men who have preserved their nationality against the greatest temptations, as is almost universally the case with our fellow-countrymen in the United States, have too much love for the old soil not to embrace the first favorable opportunity to return. Our country needs the talent and assistance of all her sons at this very time, and we assure them that there is room for all who prefer their own flag to the now gloomy stars and stripes.

NEWS SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on the 12th inst., the reply of the Queen to the petition of the House of Commons, based on Mr. Gladstone's third resolution, was announced.—The Queen says "that relying on the wisdom of the House of Commons, she desires that her interest in the temporalities of the Irish Church will not in any way hamper parliamentary legislation on the subject."—On the 13th, Mr. Gladstone brought in a bill to suspend for the present any making of additional appointments to a third reading on the 14th, and is to remain in effect until the first of August, 1869.

The letters received from Dr. Livingstone, by his Edinburgh friends, leave no doubt that the lies of the Johanna men were invented to hide their cowardice. The Doctor mentions that the Johanna men had "skedaddled," upon hearing that a traveller journeying into the interior had been robbed of his slaves, a fate which they seem to have feared for themselves. It is amusing also to find that the English name has struck such a fear into the minds of the slave-dealers that they immediately took to their heels as soon as they heard that an Englishman was on the road. Livingstone's last date is February, 1867.

Comments do not cease on the drunken speech with which the Prime Minister of England closed the first great debate on the Irish Church. What is odd is that the Tory papers answer only by silence. Nothing like a contradiction has anywhere appeared. Indeed, how can you contradict what six hundred eye-witnesses testify to? There is no longer any affectation of reserve in speaking of Mr. Disraeli's condition on that evening. Why did he not suppress in the reports the conspiracy passage? ask some persons. The answer given a few nights ago was that Mr. Disraeli left the House of Commons at 3 1/2 o'clock in the morning, blind drunk. When he came to himself on Saturday afternoon, he sent his private Secretary, young Corry, with messages and verbal explanations to the newspaper offices, but the mischief was done, the speech was in everybody's hands, and before night the scandal had flown over England.

The Emperor Napoleon and the Empress were at Orleans on Saturday the 9th inst., from which city they returned to Paris on Monday. Upon their arrival at Orleans they were received by the Mayor on the part of the people, in an address of welcome. The Emperor replied briefly, and after expressing his thanks said that he was happy to be in a city made sacred by glorious religious and political memories, and devoted to active industry. He was sure such labors were safe in the general assurance of peace. The Bishop of Orleans spoke in reply, and concluded by invoking blessings upon the Emperor and Empress.

The sudden close of the Abyssinian war caused a good deal of excitement in the East India freight trade, and heavy decline in rates, as the release of the tonnage under charter to the Government would be speedy and very large.

Queen Victoria is said to be very regular in attendance on Divine services, and notices the absence of any of her servants. On one occasion, at Balmoral, last season, she asked one of her attendants on a Monday morning, "Why were you not at the Kirk yesterday?" He answered, "Please your Majesty, the morning was wet." "Oh, fie," said the Queen, "who could have expected a Scotchman to plead that excuse? It was not too wet for me."

It is said that the late King Louis of Bavaria left eight coffers, the contents of which are a mystery. One is to be opened in 1869, and the others in 1918! At that date it is more than probable that the present generation will have joined King Louis.

Three thousand human beings were put to death at Amoussa in Africa, as sacrifices on the occasion of the King's death. Surely the Christian powers of the world should put an end to such butchery.

Late and important despatches received from Japan. Civil War vigorously prosecuted, and army of the Nikado arrived at point near Jeddo.

Turks, the latter were defeated and driven to the coast.

Sixty years ago there was hardly a Jewish convert to Christianity in Great Britain. Now there are 20,000 converts on the continent, and 3,000 in England, of whom 100 are clergymen in the Church of England.

Spain is trying to negotiate a loan of \$10,000,000, in London, payable in fifteen years, offering as security the surplus revenues of Havana.

A dispatch from Constantinople, dated May 12th, says—"The Sultan opened the new Council yesterday in a speech remarkable for its liberality. He said the time had come when Turkish manners must yield to European civilization.

There are about 3,000 endowed schools in England.

There were 700 suicides in Paris last year.

Sixteen thousand Mormons in Europe have proposed emigrating to Utah this spring.

The Algerian Arabs starve at fifty a day.

UNITED STATES.

Advices from the City of Mexico, to the 1st of May, says, that Juarez is in quite a possession of the Presidency, and that all attempts at revolution in different parts of the country had been suppressed.

The case of John H. Surratt was before the Criminal Court at Washington on the 12th inst., and at the request of the prisoner's counsel the trial was postponed until next June.

Richmond advices of the 2nd contain the following: "Jeff. Davis' bail bond was renewed to-day. The accused is to appear on such day, at the next term, as the Court may hereafter fix. The Judge said that Chief Justice Chase had told him that he would be in Richmond to preside at the trial, within two days after the impeachment trial had been concluded. The new bond has Horace Greeley, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Gerrit Smith on it for \$25,000 each, and the remaining \$25,000 is by the citizens of Richmond. This was done by instructions from the parties named. Ex-Senator Bright of Indiana was in the Court room, and Gen. Lee and Ex-Secretary of War Seddon were in the city to attend as witnesses. It is thought the trial will take place the last of May."

A Southern paper is urging upon the Southern people the selection of a day for an annual "national celebration," to be observed with proper ceremonies, for the purpose of commemorating the great achievements of the Confederacy during its short career, and to be devoted to decorating the graves of those who fell in the Southern cause.

The New Orleans Tribune, said to be the only daily paper in the United States, owned and edited by negroes, and the only one thus conducted in the South, has suspended for want of support.

About a year ago the Poruvian Government sent an expedition to explore the northern parts of that country, on the banks of the rivers Marañon and Morona, which are tributaries of the Amazon. A steamer named the Napo was employed under the command of a Major Vargas, whose official report, recently issued, is alleged to show that "immense quantities of gold exist in the region through which the explorers passed." It is stated that such is the abundance that an Indian using only a simple wooden tray for washing the gold dust—can gather several ounces of gold in two or three hours.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, in an article on Fenianism says:—"The spirit of Fenianism is not only diabolical, but unapproachable. It seems to be simply and purely fiendish. It burns and slaughters wantonly. No measure of forbearance or magnanimity disarms or softens it. When an outrage has been committed, an appeal for pardon is responded to, only as it appears, that a second outrage may be immediately committed. The unprecedented indulgence of the British Government shows no purpose, but aggravates the atrocities of Fenians. Our own Government, too, constantly called upon to interpose in favor of Fenian prisoners, finds its reward in fresh assassinations. And the unsatisfactory of Fenianism is most malignant when the British Parliament is showing the greatest wisdom and sympathy for Ireland, and in the repeal of the Church Establishment. The assassination of Mr. [Name], and that of the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred, are great crimes, which ought to induce all [Name] men to set their faces against Fenianism."

It is stated in American papers that an entirely new Fenian organization is to be perfected in the United States on the same basis as the political secret societies in Italy, which will absorb those now in the existing circles whose honesty is unquestionable.

It is reported that President Johnson was acquitted on the strongest article of impeachment—the second. The Senate then adjourned until the 26th, without taking a vote on the other articles.

The Boston Journal says: The chief who assisted Gen. Napier in his movements against Theodore is to be placed upon the throne, and the Prince Theodorus is to be sent to England to be educated. Evidently, therefore, it is to be expected that there will be harmony between the two countries, and if the new King does not lose his throne, or if his head is the hand of the dead Theodore's partisans, there is no reason why the friendly relations between the two Governments may not be of service to both parties.

NEW DOMINION.

The Dominion Parliament was to be prorogued on Saturday last. The rate of interest in Nova Scotia has been fairly fixed at 7 per cent. The Dominion Government have received no information yet of the intended despatch of an American fleet to the Canadian fishing waters. It is reported that the proposed Canadian Marine policy for the protection of fisheries will consist mainly of small cruisers, especially adapted as coast guards, which will generally remain within a marine league from the shore, and warn intruders away.

An effort will be made in Senate to defeat the bill for the reduction of the Governor General's salary. It is not probable that that body will take the responsibility of repealing it.

Evidence of considerable importance, of entirely new character is now being taken in the assassination case, but its purport will not be allowed to transpire for some days.—Detectives have made further seizures of Fenian papers.

A man named Duggan, a saloon keeper, and two accomplices, were arrested this morning, charged with being implicated in the plot for the assassination of McGee. The prisoners were examined before Judge Counsel with the doors of the Court closed. A witness testified to being present in Duggan's house, in December, when the conspiracy was hatched. Twelve American and twelve Canadian Fenians were also present.

One man called Smith, was selected to do a certain job, but witness could not say what job it was, but he heard one of the men say "My God, if McGee only knew what was in

store for him, wouldn't he leave the country." Witness also heard another man say: "Smith, you did that job of burning the Orange Lodge first rate." Witness has identified Whelan as the man he heard called Smith.

The Crops.—From all parts of Canada we are glad to receive the most favorable accounts respecting the crops. The breadth of wheat sown last autumn was unusually large, and there is less winter killed than has been known for many years. In fact unless some entirely unforeseen misfortune occurs between this and harvest time we may hope for one of the most productive yields which has ever been known in Canada. Of spring wheat there has been a considerable quantity sown, and we hear that it is coming up in a very promising manner.

In the States the indications are also favorable. In Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois the yield of wheat is expected to be unprecipitately large. In some parts of the Northwestern States grasshoppers have appeared in large numbers, and have done considerable damage, but on the whole the farmers of Iowa and Minnesota are well satisfied with the appearance of the crops. The reports from Europe are also favorable, and a fine and early harvest is expected. The stock of breadstuffs on hand, however, is unusually small.

The Montreal Gazette says:—"Advices from St. Louis show that the prospects of the wheat crop in the United States are very favorable; it is said there is 'not even one dark sheaf.' But the peach and other fruit crops are said to be touched by recent frosts. From Western Canada so far we have precisely the same report with regard to fall wheat."

The Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Gaspe has commenced the season's operations having started yesterday from Quebec, on her first trip to Pictou and intermediate ports. The Gaspe has undergone a thorough overhauling since last season, a considerable part of her machinery having been repaired or renewed, the passenger berths widened, and other improvements effected of a character to strengthen the vessel and ensure the safety and comfort of the passengers. We were glad to see the Gaspe in such good condition for sea, and wish her a prosperous season. She is commanded by Capt. T. Connell, who it is believed will leave nothing undone to give satisfaction to the Company and the public. The Gaspe carries the mails, passengers and a full cargo.

We understand that the tablet in memory of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, placed on the building opposite the spot where he fell, was unveiled at 7 o'clock, May 9th. The simple and expressive inscription, neatly executed by Mr. Mills, the marble worker, runs as follows:—"Here fell, on the 7th April, 1868, by the assassin's hand, the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee." The inscription is cut into the stone of the building.

In the Methodist Church at Milltown last Sabbath, eleven adults were baptized by Rev. Howard Sprague and between 60 and 70 received the right hand of fellowship, afterwards the Lord's supper was administered to a larger number of communicants than the church has had for 12 years.—St. Croix Courier.

The steamer "Princess of Wales" made the trip from Pictou to Charlottetown last Monday in 3 hours and 49 minutes. The "Princess" is one of the fastest as well as comfortable passenger boats plying on the waters of the Lower Provinces. Captain Evans, her gentlemanly commander, is very popular with the travelling public. Halifax Reporter, May 9.

LOCAL ITEMS.

The Patriot mentions the following as some of the improvements to be made in the City this summer:—

Bishop McIntyre has commenced the cellar wall of a Monastery building, on the lot adjoining Mr. Hyndman's European Exchange. Owen Connolly, Esq., is digging the cellar of a new shop, between the premises of F. LePage, Esq., and McKee's Tailoring Establishment, and the Queen's Printer is doing a similar work on his premises near the Temperance Hall.—Messrs McKinnon and Fraser, Carriage Builders, are also both preparing to build this summer. These, with the Bishop's Palace, will be among the civic improvements for 1868.

The Rev. Mr. Simpson, son of Alex. Simpson, Esq., of Cavendish, in this Island, has accepted a call as colleague to Rev. Mr. McCreger, Poplar Grove Presbyterian Church, Halifax, and is to be inducted on the 21st inst.—1st.

By late English papers we see that Frederick Hyndman, Esq., R. N., has been appointed assistant Paymaster in charge to the Newport, which was being fitted out for surveying service in the Mediterranean. Mr. Hyndman spent a few years in the British North American Coast Survey under Capt. Orlebar; was for some time attached to the Flagships Indus and Nile, and subsequently served as Assistant Paymaster in the Duncan, Formidable and Victory. We congratulate our Island friend on this last appointment, which, as we understand, an excellent one.—1st.

EXTRAORDINARY METEORIC APPEARANCE.—On Wednesday evening, the 13th inst., at twilight, before the fixed stars were visible, a Meteor was observed from Cape Traverse, in this Island, in a North Westwardly direction, shooting down from a height of twenty-five or thirty degrees above the horizon. After traversing about fifteen degrees, it became extinct. The apparent size of the Meteor greatly exceeded that of an ordinary shooting star. Its descent was comparatively slow, and nearly in a straight line; but the luminous appearance which it left behind it in the heavens, quickly assumed a sinuous aspect, not unlike that of zigzag lightning. This luminous track was of great brilliancy, and remained distinctly visible for upwards of 20 minutes after the Meteor had disappeared. No communications were visible in it, although the angular projections seemed to waver and contract, and thus imparted an undulating appearance to the phenomenon, as if it had been an unbroken stream of light floating through the atmosphere.—1st.

We have received the Fifty-eighth Annual Report of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, from which it appears that the premiums on the "Fire Business" alone amounted to £33,984 18s., being an increase of £53,441 8s. 5d., sterling, over that of the previous year. The losses by fire during the past year were £165,738 12s. 11d., sterling. In the "Life Department" £21,818 sterling were covered by 916 policies. The premium received from this source were £29,273 9s. 10d. At the annual meeting held at Edinburgh in March last, a dividend of 12 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. were declared on the paid up capital of the Company, and after paying the Dividend and Bonus £50,000 sterling were added to the Reserve Fund. The capital of this Company is two millions sterling, and the total accumulated funds on the 31st Dec., 1867, were £2,687,813 14s. 10d. If the character and standing of the North British may be inferred from its second to none in any part of the United Kingdom, for it has for President the Duke of Roxburgh, and for Vice-presidents, the Duke of Sutherland, the Lord Evershed, Ireland, and the Viceroy of India, and among its Directors are large land owners, as well as some of the leading merchants and bankers of London and Edinburgh. We hope such a Company may long continue to do business. Agent for P. E. Island, G. W. DeBlois, Esq., who gives great satisfaction to the public, and we have no doubt, to the Company also.—1st.