

Winter Communication.

The Northern Light left Charlottetown on Wednesday morning, for Pictou to coal. We presume that she will soon commence running on the Georgetown Pictou route; and that, after she fails to make regular trips there, she will, if possible, proceed to test the practicability of applying steam to the Capes.

Within the past week or two we have had a large number and variety of communications respecting winter communication; and we are glad to see that the public is awake to this highly important subject. One writer thinks it better to stick to the Georgetown-Pictou route; another strongly advises a trial of the application of steam to the Capes route; another holds that the best route is that between Sea Cow Head and Cape Tormentine; and still another is of opinion that the winter steamer should run between West Cape and Richibucto. And the Advertiser (we must not forget the Advertiser) says the EXAMINER aspires to be organ of the Government in this Province. We may state, in passing, that the Advertiser is slightly astray. In truth the ambition of the EXAMINER is much higher than to be the organ of any Government. We aspire to be the organ of practical common sense as applied to the advancement of the interests of Prince Edward Island and Canada as a whole.

Now, the first observation we have to make upon the differing opinions about this subject is that it is not necessary to quarrel about the particular points at which winter communication shall be kept up. For, though of much importance to the people of the Province in general, it can be of no great advantage to any locality. The Northern Light has been running between Georgetown and Pictou for several years. How much more has Georgetown been benefited than West Cape? And suppose Sea Cow Head the point at which the winter steamer touched, how much would Summerside be advantaged? Very little more than if she touched at Georgetown, West Cape, or Cape Traverse. The bulk of the mails and passengers at once pass by the place at which they are first received and are distributed throughout the Province—Charlottetown, being the centre of population and trade, taking the most of them, as a matter of course. Moreover, our internal communications are now so good that even in the matter of time, little is gained by the particular locality at which winter communication is kept up. So that persons in all sections of the Island can cheerfully unite to aid the Government in its search for the very best place to keep up winter steam communication. Nor need there be any sectional jealousy of the place selected.

Of course it is agreed that the open water should be utilized as long as possible. And to do this a steamer must necessarily run at Georgetown—late in the fall and early in the spring. Whether or not she shall be the Northern Light is a question for the Government to decide. The Northern Light certainly did well last winter while she ran. But she is terribly expensive to the country; and it was on that ground we advised that she be sold and another obtained which will do the work as well and cost half, or less than half, the money.

As to the best place to apply steam to winter communication, after Georgetown and Pictou close up, that must be ascertained by actual experiment. But we submit that, other things being equal, it is easier to take a steamer through a less than it is through a greater quantity of ice; and that consequently the capes route is most likely to be the best, and it should be one of the first on which to experiment. Besides, where men have succeeded without the aid of steam, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will succeed better with the aid of steam—properly applied; and men have succeeded in a notable manner at the Capes. Again, it is the opinion of men who know the route well, that steam may be successfully applied at the Capes. In view of all these considerations, the Government have, we think, done well, if they have decided to try the Capes route first. But we still hold to the opinion that the Northern Light is not so likely to be successful as a smaller, more easily managed craft of lighter draught.

ANOTHER lot of Clothing Cheap. Men's and boy's Reefers from \$2 upwards; men's and boy's overcoats, \$3 and upwards; men's and boy's Ulsters, from \$3 and upwards; men's and boy's Pants, \$1.00 and upwards, on exhibition at the store of JOHN KELLY & Co., Walker's Corner.

HEAD-QUARTERS for useful Toys, &c., at wholesale prices at T. NELMS' (Mr. Robert Young's old stand.)

"A writer in the Mark Lane Express, the leading London agricultural journal, says: 'The Times is now following Lord Beaconsfield's lead in puffing the Canada Northwest. Well, if people are prepared to encounter a winter of from five to six months and a temperature that for three months is, on an average, below zero, no doubt they will find good wheat land to cultivate. To my mind the severity of the climate is sufficient to raise the question whether life is worth living in the illimitable and fertile wilderness.'"

We clip the above from last Saturday's Patriot. The object of its insertion is only too evident. Any thing, from whatever quarter, which belittles Canada, which misrepresents her, is very welcome to the Grit press. Dr. Johnson defined "Patriotism" to be "the last refuge of a scoundrel," and in that sense we are not induced to dispute their claims. But give them an opportunity of injuring the credit of our country—of holding forth to the world that Canada is bankrupt, that her trade is failing, that her seaport towns are decreasing in importance and wealth, and at once the misrepresentation is heralded forth. Hitherto, their malice has been confined within this limit, they have not in their mad unreasoning hate of the Government, which the great majority of the people so enthusiastically support, said anything to warn from us the tide of emigration which all Governments have done, and the present Government is still doing, to attract to our shores. To the Patriot belongs the proud boast that it is the first Canadian newspaper to republish the slanders of a portion of the English Press. The Mark Lane Express is a paper deeply interested in Australia, and ready to promote its interests at the expense of all other colonies. The remarks of the Prime Minister of England, the reports of the agricultural delegates who lately returned to England, have attracted towards Canada an amount of attention never before exhibited, tending to a large increase of immigration. The delegates have reported that in many respects we have advantages over Australia. This is worm-wood and gall to the Mark Lane Express. Canada is denounced by it as an illimitable wilderness. It states that the winter is five or six months long; that, in fact, in Canada "life is not worth living." The English farmers are implored not to venture among its inhospitable wastes. Misery, want, starvation or untimely death are foretold. Of course the object of this apparent. But who would have thought such sentiments would have found an echo among ourselves—that these slanders would have been reproduced without one word in contradiction of their untruthfulness. The Patriot has attained this high place. Hatred of its political opponents is a dearer passion to it than a love of its country. Upon the eminence of political iniquity, upon which it is perched, we take leave of it.

Alarming News from Cabul.

TEN THOUSAND AFGHANS UNDER ARMS.—MISHAP TO THE BRITISH TROOPS CONFIRMED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A London cable special says the gravity of Cabul news is acknowledged. Nobody believes the official accounts to be complete. The Ministerial organs admit a mishap, and that the British hold on Cabul is jeopardized, and they warn the Government against any further progress towards annexation. The Liberal journals frankly say that General Roberts is fighting for life, his whole force numbering 5,000 men, being pitted against the entire Afghan army, admitted to be 10,000 strong. The tribes are raising on every side.

The Kohistanes, lately reported as surrendering their arms, send 3,000 troops; and what Lord Lytton called a "hostile Ghuzzee gathering," means 7,000 soldiers, well armed and led. Military critics agree that the Afghan movements show surprising strategic ability. Nevertheless it is believed that General Roberts is likely to overcome the present attack, as he holds strongly fortified positions about Cabul, but unless he is victorious an insurrection in Cabul is certain.

Candahar is also threatened by 11,000 troops advancing from Herat. Candahar is likewise restless.

The "Times" urges the Government to abandon Afghanistan after crushing the resistance, and the "Standard" gives the same counsel. The public are uneasy from the daily accumulation of evidence of the merciless cruelties perpetrated on the Afghans.

OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—A despatch from Cabul on Friday evening, says that General McPherson attacked the enemy on the Ridge of Balla Hissar, at noon on that day, and captured the lower part of the Ridge. General Baker arrived from Midon, and had some sharp fighting on Wednesday and Thursday. The crest on the hill is to be adorned on Saturday. Cabul is quiet.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 13.—General Roberts telegraphs the confirmation of the report of Gen. MacPherson's partial failure in his attempt, on Friday, to capture the ridge above Balla Hissar at Cabul. Saturday morning Gen. Baker attacked the Afghan's position with two and a half regiments of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and eight guns, and succeeded in capturing the hill and driving the Afghans from all their positions.

MINCE MEAT.

ALL READY PREPARED, for 20cts. per pound, very choice, at BEER & GOFF'S. Dec. 17, '79.

Pure Confectionery.

A GRAND ASSORTMENT for Christmas, at BEER & GOFF'S. Dec. 17, '79.

RAISINS,

CURRENTS, Citron Peel Essences, pure Spices, Pastry Flour, etc., at BEER & GOFF'S. Dec. 17, '79.

NUTS, ORANGES,

GRAPES, Figs, Dates, Pound and Fruit Cakes, &c., at BEER & GOFF'S. Dec. 17, '79.

COAL. COAL.

FOR SALE, at the Gas Works, a quantity of Round Langan Coal. This Coal gives a great heat, and being almost free from sulphur, is suitable for either grates or cooking stoves. Dec. 17, '79—1w

Fat Labrador Herring.

100 bbls still on hand but going fast. Apply to H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79—3i pat

SLEIGHS.

2 Wood Sleighs, nearly new, in good order, 1 French Box Sleigh, 1 Light sleigh, 1 Jaunting Box Sleigh, 1 Old Style Family Sleigh, (cheap), 2 Small Sleighs, and 1 set Cart Harness, (nearly new), 2 sets Driving Harness, price \$6 to \$8, in good repair. Apply to H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

Plate Glass & Common Mirrors

2 Large Mantle or Shop Mirrors, will be sold for less than cost. 2 Plate Mirrors, in gilt, cottage size, 2 Round Top Show Glasses, cost me \$6, now offered at \$4.50. 2 Maps of P. E. Island, 4 pairs Scales, a lot old style Beams, at 25 cts. each, 1 wood Pump, about 10 feet, part Cucumber Pump, 3 crowbars, 2 Force Pumps, for cleaning windows. Apply to H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '78.

FURNITURE.

12 New Lounges, 2 Smoking Chairs, 3 Feather Beds, at only 25 cts. per lb 2 Meat Safes, 2 Sewing Machines. A lot of second-hand furniture, bedsteads, chairs, book-cases, washstands, tables, mattresses, and last but not least wanted, 1 bath tub. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

GAS FITTINGS.

6 fancy Chandeliers, in gilt, 12 single and double Bracket Burners, 1 Gas Stand, with rubber tube attached, Lot of Gas Pipe, lot of 2 in. Lead Pipe, 1 Safe, lot of New Lamps to fit on gas burners. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

SUNDRIES.

Cross-cut Saws, Musical Boxes, Plaster Paris, Clapboards, Broadcloth, Hoop Iron, Oat Tubs, Meat Barrels, 1 ship's Medicine Chest, 1 fancy Work Bench, 1 Gun Case, Lot Mahogany Doors, second-hand, Hose and Lead Pipe, 1 Wench, 1 Mahogany Desk, Lot of 7 inch Stovepipe, Stove Drums, 4 Chimney Tops, for smokey chimneys, at half price. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

Frames & Sashes

1 set second-hand Doors and Windows, with inside casings and Mantles, out of a house 24x36. Will sell the lot cheap. 1 suit new Sashes, and 6 Frames and Sashes, 12 lights, 10x12. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

Sugar & Molasses.

A few puns. choice MOLASSES, " " bbls brown SUGAR. Cheap for cash or approved paper. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

JUST RECEIVED 100 boxes Digby Herring. The best in the city. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79.

ABOUT 4 TONS IRON still remaining on hand. Will be sold cheap. H. COOMBS. Dec. 17, '79—eod tl 31st pat era 3i

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At this most festive season, when every one is engaged in trying to please, when stores are ransacked for their prettiest treasures and their cheapest stock, in order to make Christmas as joyous as in Olden Times, we are offering our quota to this end. Our Christmas Cards are of the most varied character, and indicate, by the way in which they go off, that the 25th will soon be here.

We take this opportunity to place other goods of a more useful and not less pleasing nature, before our friends. Our reductions in Mantle Cloths, Dress Materials, Fur Goods, &c., must be very opportune when "everybody is presenting everybody else" with something—a sacque, a dress, or a muff. We have on hand a large and very attractive stock which will, we have no doubt, meet the requirements and the approbation of the Christmas loving public.

The good cheer which Christmas is said to bring is not to be found in the-dregs of the wassail bowl, or in a pint of brandy punch, but in the good warm clothing which a benevolent public are bestowing on the poor. It is in trying to please others we enjoy the greatest pleasure, and any one engaged in the work of "giving to the poor" or to their own people, cannot do better than give a call at 83, where, in so large a stock, every one must find the very article they require, and that at a very low price.

Gentlemen will find it the best economy to come to us for Overcoats and Ulsters, of which we have a few left. In our attempt to place a good Overcoat at a small price, we have succeeded—every article sold having given complete satisfaction. We have just got in new Linders and Drawers at prices to suit the times.

The Ladies will find at 83, a good assortment of Fancy Wool Work, at very moderate prices. Yarns, &c., very low. Also, a splendid lot of Chenille in various shades, which is much admired an extensively worn.

Householders will find at 83, a Tea to suit any taste. Our prices will show the varied kinds. We can give an excellent Tea for 32c., 36c., 40c., and 48c. per lb. These prices are very low, when it is remembered that Tea has advanced 4d. and 5d. stg., per lb.

TREMAINE & METCALF, SUCCESSORS TO JAMES DESBRISAY, 83, Queen Street. Ch'town, Dec. 17, 1879.

Christmas Examination OF THE CITY SCHOOLS.

A PUBLIC EXAMINATION of Queen Square School will take place on MONDAY, Dec. 22nd, inst., commencing at 10 o'clock, a. m. The examination of Prince Street School and Kent Street School, will be held on TUESDAY, 23rd inst., commencing in both Schools at the same hour, viz: 10 o'clock, a. m. The usual routine work of the Schools will be performed under the superintendence of the Teachers, in their various departments. The parents of the pupils and the public generally are hereby invited to be present. By order of the City School Board, ISAAC OXENHAM, Secretary. Ch'town, Dec. 17, 1879—4i

FREE. FREE.

A GRAND TEMPERANCE RALLY in the ATHENÆUM, on Thursday, the 18th inst. Speeches will be delivered by some prominent temperance men. Chair to be taken at eight o'clock. Some good music may be expected. Dec. 17, '79—2i

UNION BANK STOCK.

I WILL SELL at Auction at my Sale Room, on THURSDAY NEXT, 18th inst., immediately after the sale of Oil Paintings, 10 Shares in the Union Bank of P. E. Island. WILLIAM DODD, Auctioneer. Dec. 16th, '79 2i

COAL. COAL.

300 TONS Gowrie Mines Fine Coal; also a quantity of Sydney Large Coal, at KOUGHAN'S SCALES. Ch'town, Dec. 16, '79—3i

READINGS & MUSICAL.

THE second of these Entertainments will be given in St. PETER'S SCHOOLROOM, On Thursday next, the 18th inst., at 8 o'clock, p. m., Doors open at 7.30. Admission, 10 cents. The Readings will be continued on alternate TUESDAYS throughout the winter. Dec. 15, 1879—3i pat 1i

COAL. COAL.

ROUND COAL for sale by F. S. HANFORD. Ch'town, Dec. 15, 1879—6i

BOOKBINDING

PERSONS having volumes of Magazines and files of Newspapers, or Books of any description which they might wish to have bound at reasonable rates, will please leave their orders with the subscriber, or at Harvie's Bookstore. DAVID BETHUNE, Rotchford Square. Dec. 15, 1879—4i pat

NEW BOOKS

JUST RECEIVED AT THE SCHOOL BOOK DEPOT, Harvie's Bookstore.

Masson's English Grammar. Swinton's Language Lessons. Charles the 12th, by Voltaire. Thompson's History of England. Bracket's French Grammar. Julius Caesar, MacBeth. Smith's History of Greece. Royal Readers, complete series. Hann's Trigonometry. Chambers' Practical Mathematics. Classical Atlas. Smith & McMurphy's Arithmetics. Arnold's Latin Prose Composition. Dont ask for credit, but bring your CASH, and buy cheaper than ever. HARVIE & CO. Dec. 12, 1879.

TO LET.

FOR ONE OR MORE YEARS the House and premises recently occupied by Mr. W. W. Clarke, situate on Great George street, two doors above the office of Messrs. Longworth & Hazard, attorneys, and near the head of Steam Navigation Co's. Wharf. For terms etc., apply to JOHN INGS. Ch'town, Dec. 15, 1879.

BRICKS. BRICKS.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS take notice that the Charlottetown Brick Company will be prepared to deliver in JUNE and JULY next at their yard in the Royalty, and in Charlottetown, any number of Bricks up to ONE MILLION, at prices lower than ever before placed in this market. Reserve your orders. FRED. W. HYNDMAN, Agent. Ch'town, Dec. 1, 1879—pat 2w