NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

From the Illustrated London News, Dec. 23.

The news from Sebastopol this week is very meager. The letters from the camp are filled with complaints of the wretched condition of the English troops, who had, up to that time, made very insufficient provision against the inclemency of the weather. The French were said to be much more comfortable; and our troops will, no doubt, be in a much better condition by this time, as the wood for huts and no small portion of the winter stores must have arrived. According to the French papers their army is now supplied with four months provisions, and no other or better prepared to spend the winter with some degree of comfort. Independently of the provisions and articles of equipment of every description provided for the troops, these vessels were loaded with forty of fifty tons of tobacco, and as many more of flannel waistcoats and drawers, which the Emperor has sent as presents to the soldiers and non-commissioned officers. The remainder of the cargoes of these vessels, consisting of wine and eatables, was placed at the disposal of the officers.

The sufferings endured by the Russians are much greater than those to which the Allies were exposed during several days after the hurricane of the 14th ult. The greater part of the unfortunate Muscovites sleep in caves or in the open air, are decimated by illness, and cannot procure provisions. In confirmation of this last fact, it is stated that along the coast of the Sea of Azof there are enormous quantities of flour and other provisions lying exposed to wind and rain, which they have no means of conveying to the Crimea, the roads being rendered impassible by the mud, which forms extensive lakes. A letter in the *Post Ampt Gazette* says:—

"The Russian army of Sebastopol is threatened by a danger which becomes every day more and more formidable—scarcity of provisions. It is positively stated that a complete famine prevails in Southern Russia; and that the victualling of the Russian armies is so badly managed, that only the corps which are stationed close to the depots receive any provisions, while those at a greater distance are left to their fate. The garrison of Sebastopol already feels the effect of this serious state of things; and the strength of the soldiers becomes exhausted in the work, without being renewed by sufficient food. The want of meat is replaced by a profuse allowance of spirituous liquors, which, however, cannot last long; and its use, instead of causing enthusiasm, only causes a kind of lethargy. The measures adopted by the Russian authorities are not well carried out. Large quantities are sent from Austria, on account of the French and English Commissariat, the result of which will be to secure the army of the Crimea against any scarcity of provisions.

As regards the siege, active operations had been almost suspended in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. Several sorties had been made by the garrison, which had always been gallantly repulsed, but up to the 13th inst. nothing important had taken place. As the weather had improved, however, it was expected that something would be done. Large reinforcements had been received by the Allies. Letters from Odessa state, that from the 12th to the 20th of November, two Russian Divisions had arrived at Sebastopol, consisting of from 26,000 to 30,000 men. Since then it is reported that 20,000 Russians, utterly exhausted by privation, had marched to Simferpol to escape extinction by the sickness which was decimating the army in the marshes they occupied in their first position.

The *Constitutionnel* publishes the following, dated "Before Sebastopol, the 1st," and guarantees its authenticity:—

On the 25th ult., the Russians had opened a fire of cannon or mortars ready to open fire on Sebastopol. In this number seventy were of large calibre from the navy. The English had nearly as many, and were disembarking others. The order to re open the fire was expected every moment, and it was commenced shortly after, followed by an assault. But the assault must be simultaneous; that is to say, that, in order to avoid being taken in the rear, the English must penetrate to the right of the Admiralty port, whilst the French, marching the Flagstaff Bastion, will possess themselves of the left. The communications with the town by the bridge of the Tchernaya are completely cut off by two redoubts which command the bridge at a short distance, and which do not allow it to be built to be rescued. Two of these redoubts armed by the French by the 25th. The other, a little further from the Tchernaya, was constructed in common, and by the 30th the English had armed it. In advance of these redoubts are two batteries destined to attack some redoubts, which the Russians constructed some days ago, and armed by the 30th. Opposite the telegraph, at the bottom of the port, the Russians have a battery of five pieces, placed at 1600 metres from the French redoubt. This point being very abrupt, the French could not have been able to put in it a larger number of cannon; but they were constructing behind it another battery of nearly the same force. The prolongation of the lines of the Allies obliges the Russians to make long and difficult detours, both to go to the valley of Balaclava, and to send assistance into the place. All the reports agree in representing the Russian soldiers as greatly discouraged. They have sustained enormous losses. To form an idea of them, it may be stated that out of 10,000 soldiers, Buck were disembarked to reinforce the garrison of Sebastopol, only 6000 remained, and that the effective of the regiment of Sudlesky is only 200 men. The number of wounded is considerable, and the cholera makes great ravages in the enemy's ranks. The town is besieged more closely than like by the fire of shells and balls. As for the Allies, placed out of the range of cannon, they sustain no other losses than those of the trenches, which are almost insignificant, since they do not amount to 15 killed and wounded per day. The Turks of action left to Omar Pacha in consequence of the treaty of the 2d is considered to be of the greatest advantage to us. The Ottoman General will, it is expected, land his troops at Eupatoria, and occupy the country between the coast and the main road from Perekop to Simferpol, by which the Russian contingents, munitions of war and provisions arrive. Sebastopol, which supplies food for the Russian army, must be pretty well exhausted by this. Almost all recent accounts concur in describing the situation of the Russians as deplorable. The difficulty of the communications has already reduced them to very great straits; and, if Omar Pacha's soldiers prove themselves not to have degenerated since Oltenitza and Silistria, we may judge of the effect on an army of 36,000 men interrupting the convoys from the north and menacing the reinforcements of Prince Menschikoff.

Letters from Odessa state that the Russians feel great uneasiness at the operations which may be directed from Eupatoria. It is said that Prince Menschikoff has pointed out to the Government of St. Petesburg the dangers which threaten his army and the fortress from that point, and that he has declared that he is not in a state to resist any considerable offensive operation directed from Eupatoria against Simferpol. General Liprandi has been in consequence charged to fix his head-quarters at Perokop, and to defend the isthmus with troops under his command.

Hostile symptoms in the Principalities.

Immediately after the conclusion of the treaty of alliance with England and France, an order was issued from Vienna increasing the Austrian Army in the principalities by two brigades, in order to replace the Ottoman troops sent to the Crimea. The state of things on the Austrian frontier is said to be rather ominous. A despatch dated Galatz, Dec. 15, states that the following occurrence had created sensation:—"A Cossack detachment crossed the Pruth, and, in presence of the Austrian troops destroyed the supplies of straw and hay which had been collected for the Austrian Army in Moldavia." This occurrence is possibly exaggerated, but it is well known that there have been outrages by the Cossack troops on the frontier, which take more the character of brigandage than military movements; and these outrages have fallen severely on the poor Moldavian villagers. Redress is at hand, however. A letter from Vienna, of Saturday, says:—"The Austrian troops quartered at Jassy, and in other parts of Moldavia, are proceeding towards the Pruth, to put an end to the brigandine of the Cossacks, who cross the river by night, and burn and pillage the Moldavian villages. It is not impossible, consequently, that the first musket shots between the Austrians and the Russians will be exchanged on the Pruth."

THE ENLISTMENT OF FOREIGNERS.

The British Ministry have introduced a measure into Parliament providing for the enlistment of 10 000 Foreign Troops.—with the Earl of Ellenborough we cannot help thinking that the guarantee is there that, after having been trained and disciplined at our cost, they would not turn against us in the day of battle?" Are they to be compared to those Germans, those Swiss which have rendered service in the Peninsular War, or even Germans of whose bravery we could not form so high an estimate. The Earl of Derby entered into many objections against the measure, and concluded by remarking that our Indian Army was a source from which the Army in the East might be judiciously strengthened.

The London *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* says:—The Bill for the employment of Italian Foreign Soldiers into the service of the Country seems to meet with the condemnation of almost the entire daily press, as well as those of the principal speakers in the House of Lords, the only exception being the avowed organ of the Ministry. The Duke of Newcastle, in his advocacy of the measure, referred to the precedent of the Acts passed in former wars, for the admission of Germans into the Army. The *Times* very justly replies to the argument as follows:

"Familiar as we are with the history of the German Legion in the late war, we always mentioned with the fact that the war was especially German, fought on German soil by German sovereigns and people, who were, indeed, more immediately interested in it than ourselves George III, was a German potentate, of German family, with German connexions. When the French revolution-ists began their crusade against dynasties and institutions, as soon as they burst forth from their frontier they found themselves in Germany, and it was a common cause with Germany was the only way to stay the progress of revolution. The present crisis is wholly different. Germany is not yet in the quarrel. She has not yet been brought to terms by a Russian defeat, and consequently she has her army at his disposal. Her people have not yet been induced to seek in England that freedom and that military organization which they could not obtain at home. Nor, if we succeeded in the end in the glorious deed of bridling the ungovernable ambition of Russia, they can do so at home, and that indeed, is their proper sphere."

"With regard to the want of a sufficient army of reserve—We have only to say that government have made a very sad mistake as to the proper remedy. The great object is to raise the estimation of the service, whether it be regular or militia, by all manner of lawful means. This is an age of free trade, of supply and demand, and free trade there will be in the traffic of military service. Improve the commodity, and you will have no lack of purchasers. What is it that we want? What is that home produce of which the Duke of Newcastle appreciends scarcity, and, therefore, wishes to supply its place with a foreign ingredient? He cannot get enough of the British Soldier; at least, he would seem to fear for the future shortness of the supply. Now, to introduce into the army foreigners, adventurers, outcasts, nameless, homeless men, who care not one jot for the cause for their crimes, is the very way to degrade the service and make it the refuge of immorality and rebellion. But it is quite as easy to raise the appreciation of this article as any other. If you cannot get a good labourer at 10s a week, you may at 15s: if you cannot get a servant with a good appearance and character at £40 a year, you may at £50. It's only the same year round with the soldier. Raise not only his money wages, but his whole condition—his road to honor, his chances of promotion, his comforts, if necessary, his luxuries, if you will, to the 'soldier.' Give the private soldier honorable mention of his merit, a fair chance of a commission—in a word, as much opportunity of rising in the army as any industrious and well-conducted soldier has in the navy, and he will be proud of his craft, and you will soon have an army large enough, without having recourse to a German Legion, or an appeal to the 'crushed nationalities.'"

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

On Tuesday the 12th the day appointed for the opening of Parliament, the Queen proceeded in state to Westminster-hall.

The morning was very fine, A very large concourse of spectators lined the entire route through which her Majesty passed from Buckingham Palace, and who greeted her Majesty most enthusiastically.

The Quenn arrived at the houses of Parliament a few minutes before 2 o'clock, and, having proceeded, amid the cheers of the peers, her Majesty read the following speech from the Throne:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen*,

"I have called you together at this unusual period of the year, in order that, by your assistance, I may continue to prosecute with vigor and energy the great war in which we are engaged, with the utmost vigour and effect. This assistance I know will be rendered by you, and I have doubt you share my conviction of the necessity of sparing no effort to augment my forces now engaged in the Crimea. The exertions they have made, and the victories they have obtained, have raised my army to a height and pugee of our history, and have filled me with admiration and gratitude.

"The hearty and efficient co-operation of the brave troops of my ally, the Emperor of the French, and the glory acquired in common, cannot fail to cement still more closely the union which happily subsists between the two nations.

"It is with satisfaction I inform you that, together with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded a Treaty of Alliance with the Emperor of Austria, which I anticipate important advantages to the common cause,

"I have also concluded a treaty with the United States of America, by which all subject of dispute between the two nations have been equitably adjusted.

"These treaties will be laid before you.

"Although the prosecution of the war will naturally engage your chief attention, other matters of great interest and importance to the general welfare will not be neglected.

"I rejoice to observe that the general prosperity of my subjects remains uninterrupted. The state of the revenue affords me entire satisfaction; and I trust that by your wisdom and prudence you will continue to promote the progress of agriculture, commerce and manufactures.

"*Gentleman of the House of Commons*,

"In the estimates which will be presented to you I trust you will find that ample provision has been made for the exigencies of the public service.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen*,

"I rely with confidence on your patriotism and public spirit, and I rejoiced that in the momentous contest in which we are engaged you will exhibit to the world the example of an united people. Thus shall we maintain the respect of other nations, and may trust that, by the blessing of God, we shall bring the war to a successful termination"

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge is at Therapia, rather better; he returns to the Crimea directly. He was severely suffering from dysentry and over-fatigue.

VIENNA, Thursday.

The Empress of Russia is reported to be dying and it is not certain that she was alive when the account was transmitted from St. Petersburg.

A telegraphic despatch from St. Petersburg of the 12th inst states, that if negociations do not produce peace at the commencement of the year, a conscription is contemplated, whose Russia of 16 in every 1,000, producing an army of 1,000,000 soldiers. But there must evidently be a mistake in this somewhere; either the telegraph has put wrong numbers, or the Russian authorities are somewhat overrating the population.

A letter from Balaklava, communicated by telegraph from Vienna, states that the English are preparing to embark some heavy siege artillery for the purpose, it was thought, of attacking Odessa, where the fleets would winter.

According to a despatch from St. Petersburgh, dated Wednesday, December 20, nothing of importance had occurred before Sebastopol up to the 13th of December. Some small sorties has been made, and repulsed with ease. Meanwhile Russians captured in the trenches of the allies some small mortars, and spiked some others of larger dimensions. The fire of the allies was feeble, and the Russian loss very light.

Paris, Dec. 12.—The following despatch has been received from Admiral Hamelin, addressed to the Minister of Marine:—

Bay of Kamiesch, Dec. 12.—Four thousand three hundred men arrived on the 10th, with ammunition.

A brisk cannonade has been kept up for the last two days.

The enemy has made some vigorous sorties on our own and on the English lines.

They were driven back by our musketry, and in some instances, at the point of the bayonet, after a fierce resistance.

TURKISH TROOPS FOR THE CRIMEA.

BUCHAREST, Dec. 8.—Mussa Pacha starts on Monday or Tuesday. Thirty or forty thousand Turks, and a hundred guns, are to be embarked at Varna, or Baltschik, under his superintendence Next week Omar Pacha, too, will start for the Crimea. The troops will most probably be disembarked at Eupatoria. The prospect of entering on a campaign at this season is not very pleasant; but, taking it for all in all, it is pleasanter for me than this stupid life at Bucharest. I have no doubt Omar Pacha's army will redeem the character of the Turks. Under his eye, they are ready for anything, which shows what they would be, were they generally well officered.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 7.—From the 28th of November, to the 2d of December, no guns were placed in the newly-constructed batteries, the weather being so bad, and mire so deep. The Turks had arrived at Balaklava, and it was found very difficult to provide food for them. The Russian army had quitted the valley for the heights commanding the Tschernaya. Deserters say that the Russians suffer much. Every evening the garrison opens a fire of artillery on the French positions, and makes sorties, which are always repulsed with loss. During the day, the enemy's fire is slack. The soldiers are constructing huts. In the morning of the 24, the Russians attacked in advanced posts of the English, but were soon repulsed. The Rifles advanced to its assistance, drove back the Russians, and forced them to quit their positions. The Turks are suffering from sickness. The cholera has re-appeared among them.—Omar Pacha has orders to send 30,000 men with all speed to the Crimea.

CRIMEA, Dec. 3.—The cause of the Russians cheering yesterday morning is now ascertained. They had received a reinforcement of men and provisions, and according to the statement of a deserter, two days previous to the 2nd, the troops must have been very small indeed, for it escaped our observation, and any large body of men or waggons must have been seen entering the city. By they also morning the Russians cheered, they came out to attack a party of the 50th Regiment, posted in the Ovens—the caves in the rocks to the left of and below our left attack, in a ravine near the neck of the harbour. As our men had been out in the wet all night, they found their rifles would not go off, and the enemy being very numerous, they were forced to fall back, and the Russians once more established themselves in the ravine. A large reinforcement was made too hot to hold them, for a party of the Rifle Brigade was at once pushed down, and speedily dislodged them. We lost two men killed and two severely wounded, eight men slightly wounded, in this affair. Three men are supposed to have deserted to the enemy—one from the 77th, one from the 33rd, and one from the 88th. It is not true that any man of the 79th deserted.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The Baltic fleet has returned home, but such of them as are not wanted in the Baltic are ordered to the Crimea, for a double purpose—to convey troops, and to assist, if necessary, in the siege. Admiral Napier was under the gallery of the House of Commons in the great debate of Tuesday, and saw Lord Ellenborough take his seat for Marylebone. The Admiral hoped, when he reached home, that he might have been nominated as a candidate for that borough, and, in anticipation of such a contingency, he despatched his electioneering address from the very shores of the sea where he has been so ingloriously idle during the summer and autumn. Had he returned home as anticipated, he would have been one of the small-est of the honours which would have greeted him. His present position is not enviable, and he must feel all the annoyances to which a chained lion is exposed. It is questionable, also, whether he will have an opportunity of being more active next year, for according to Lord John Russell's speech on this very remarkable subject, the Baltic seems to be, to use the cry peceavi,—in which case the blood of the Napiers will suffer permanent disparagement. If Nicholas can hold his ground in the Crimea during the next three or four months, Sir Charles will see the Baltic again this year, and—if not, he has seen it for the last time with a three-decker under his feet.

According to accounts from Galatz, to the middle of November, the Russians, when the Cossacks had passed the Pruth, and, in the presence of the Austrian troops, destroyed the supplies of hay and straw which had been prepared for the Austrian army in Moldavia. If this be correct, it is calculated to increase the animus of the Russian soldiers towards the Austrians—a feeling which may precipitate affairs more speedily than treatise or protocols. The appearance of a hostile force in Moldavia is about to send to this country is generally regarded as one of those evasive shuffles in which he has been indulging ever since the war commenced. The accounts from Odessa state that the inhabitants of that place were in constant dread of a visit from the navies of the Western Powers, increased by the fact that their forces there had been weakened by heavy drafts to the Crimea.

THE TREATY WITH AUSTRIA.

From the Illustrated London News.

The treaty of the 2d of December, by which Austria binds herself to the policy of Great Britain and France against Russia, has been differently interpreted by different persons. Lord John Russell sees little in it—the Emperor of the French sees a great deal. Judging from the antecedents of Austria, and from her obvious interest, we are inclined to think that Napoleon III, is more sanguine than Lord John Russell in his anticipation of the advantages to be gained by the treaty. The document is not a vague one, and expresses a meaning which we think the Emperor of Russia must have already discovered, or he lacks perspicacity. Austria has not yet declared war against Russia—has not yet entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, against the Czar; but, if she have not, the negative result is certainly more like the forbearance of Russia, than to the non-hostility of the attitude assumed by the Emperor Francis Joseph. If the Czar were not in a very serious dilemma, and if it were possible for him to remove the bulk of his land towards Austria, as he did towards Turkey, when he sent Prince Menschikoff to bully the Sultan, there can be little doubt that the Austrian Treaty of the 2d December would have been immediately followed by a declaration of war on the part of Russia.

But the Czar cannot afford to declare war, and he will either yield to the dictation of Vienna, or allow that Court to take the initiative in hostilities. The treaty of the 2d December has at least one great advantage, even should it in any other respects be as ambiguous as those in its territorial clauses, that Russia and Austria still assert it to be. It fixes a short term for the deliberations of Russia. In eight days from the present time, it provides for its own supersession, either by peace or by war. On the 10th January, 1855, Russia has to date that date refused the bases of peace which Austria has put forward as the minimum that she and the Allies will accept, or if the Czar Nicholas has agreed to the conditions, Austria has bound herself to enter into a new treaty with Great Britain, France, and Turkey, and to declare war against Russia. There is a limit to all things, even to German diplomacy. Austria has reached the limit of her future forbearance, and has thereby rendered good service to the cause of Europe.

No hopes are entertained either at Berlin or at Vienna, that the Czar will yield; so that the perplexities of Prussia have been largely increased by the bold movement of his rival for the supremacy in Germany. There is something painful yet ludicrous in the position in which the King has placed himself. Afraid of Russia—jealous, and still more afraid of Austria—anxious to stand well with France and Great Britain—and insecure with regard to the Rhine provinces, he is evidently unable to make up his mind amid so many perplexities and bewilderments. He has, in fact, no mind to make up; and he is a wretched trimmer, who shortens his sail to the breeze, but who fears that to be bold is to be honest. He is not of the number of those who say, "*Fiat justitia ruat cœlum.*" He fears the crumbling of the heavens, and he dreads justice; lest justice, in advancing, should shake the pillars of his world in the inevitable crash of falsehood and wrong. As a last resource, to stave off, if even for a few weeks, or a few days, the painful necessity of a choice between the Allies, Prussia resolved to dispatch special Ambassadors to London and Paris, to argue a few points that appear to be debateable. His emissaries will no doubt be courteously received. What they have to say will be listened to, but in the meantime events will march. The year 1854 will expire, and Austria will make a new movement; the reinforcements of Great Britain and France will arrive, and the fate of Russia, whether the siege of Sebastopol will be prosecuted with all possible vigour and determination; while Prussia, self-isolated, will remain in a state of doubtful allegiance to her character and interests, between the Allies of Western Europe—or will by that very neutrality, and its obvious advantage to Russia, bring herself into collision with those who have both the will and the power to fight out the war to the last extremity. Yet it may be anticipated that, if the wickedness of the Czar's cause do not produce its effect, its hopelessness will not be unavailing in bringing the King of Prussia to the rightful and the stronger side. But, whatever happens, it is only Prussia herself that can suffer by the duplicity or irresolution of the Prussian Cabinet. The cause of the Allies, though it may be aided by a Prussian alliance, cannot be weakened by Prussian defection.

BOOKS FOR THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—Mr. Arthur Smith's appeal has exceeded the sanguine expectations of the projectors. In ten days from its first issue, upwards of 22,000 volumes (exclusive of newspapers, magazines, and periodicals) have been sent to Egypt and the Crimea. Of these, thirteen large cases have been shipped to the hospital at Scutari; and ten cases to the Crimea, through the kind co-operation of the Crimea Army Fund. A large number of books, still lying at the Egyptian Hall, will be forwarded by the earliest available opportunities. Several kind contributors, enlarging on the original intention of the circular, have forwarded various parcels of linen, woollen clothing, stationery, tea, coffee arrowroot, with other comforts and hospital necessaries—all which have also been dispatched. A list of articles most likely to be practically useful in the troops under the present circumstances may be obtained at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. No more books or old linen can be received. No parcel specially addressed to any particular individual will be forwarded.

The New York *Tribune* contains the following table of persons estimated to be out of employment in that city:—Tailors and Tailoresses 7000; cabinetmakers, upholsterers, &c., 3000; masons 2000; machinists, smiths, &c., 700; printers 500; stereotypes 150; bookbinders, folders and stitchers 450; shoemakers 400; boatmen upwards 200; ship carpenters 700; rope makers, block makers, riggers, &c., 500; plasterers 200; plumbers 600; umbrella makers 250; hatters 300.—Total 15,450. Horace Greely thus accounts for the existence of the depression are—1st, a prospect of a low tariff; and secondly, the extension of slavery in the South.

The Stomach prepares the elements of the bile and the blood; and if it does the work feebly and imperfectly, liver disease is the certain result. As soon, therefore, as any affection of the liver is perceived, we may be sure that the stomach requires an out of order. The first thing to be done, is to administer a specific which will act directly upon the stomach—the mainspring of the animal machinery. For this purpose we can recommend Hoofland's German Bitters, prepared by Dr. C. M. Jackson, Philadelphia. Acting as an alternative and a tonic, it strengthens the digestion, changes the condition of the blood and thereby gives regularity to the bowels. See advertisement.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills for the Cure of Erysipelas and bad Legs.—The wife of Mr Edward Cole, of the Post-office, Salcombe, near Kingsbridge, suffered for a number of years with erysipelas. Some time since she had the misfortune to injure a vein in her foot, which caused her leg to swell, and ultimately broke out into four deep flesh-wounds, attended with violent inflammation. She had the best of medical advice, and tried various remedies without being able to effect a cure. At last she commenced using Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which have effectually healed the wound, and in every other respect restored her to sound and robust health.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, January 10, 1855.

THE WEATHER.

DURING a period of upwards of thirty years, which the writer has passed in Prince Edward Island, he is not aware before seen with harbour open so late as the 8th January, the day of which he is writing this article. It was in the year 1828, we think, that two vessels arrived in Charlottetown harbour, on the 5th day of January, one from Antigua, and the other from Halifax. In this year, 1855, two vessels arrived in the same harbour on the 7th January, and this, we think, will be the latest on record. It is perfectly ascertained, that all the different harbours in the Island were formerly closed by ice at a much earlier period than they are at the present day, but we have no date by which to ascertain whether this fact is indicative of any great change of temperature in the seasons. One reason for the earlier closing of the waters by frost, arose we take it, from their being more sheltered by the forest, in the earlier period of the settlement, and from the great nuisance of their being confined within narrower limits than they now are. It is astonishing how much wider the rivers, as they are called, —being in reality arms of the sea—are, since the forest has been cleared, than they were what they must have been when in a state of nature. Even in our recollection, the bank known as the site of the old windmill, has been diminished by the operation of the spring floods and frosts and the encroachment of the tide. The forest must have flourished on many parts of the banks of the river, where there is now nothing save an expanse of water at high tides. If however, we have to believe Virgil and Ovid, the climate of Italy must have been in their time very different from what it is now, and much nearer to that of our own. As for the countries of Gaul and that part of Germany which is watered by the Rhine, their inhabitants were subjected to as severe winters as those of Canada. It is natural to suppose, that when these dense forests to the north, shall have been cleared, and the influence of the sun felt, it will cause a perceptible amelioration of the climate.

The long continuance of mild weather has shortened our winter considerably. In a few days, midwinter will have arrived, and though the days and nights in February, are sometimes very severe, yet, the increasing length of days, and the influence of the sun's rays, when it is unobscured by cloud, must make it a very powerful. The 8th was more like a day in April, but to-day we have it rather stormy. The Harbor still remains open.

The Grand Jury were dismissed on Monday last, on their own application, in consequence of there not being a sufficient number present, to form a competent jury. There were only thirteen, who answered to their names on the first day of the Court, so that the absence of one rendered the remainder incapable of transacting any business. There were, we understand, some Bills of Indictment left undisposed of, when the Jury were discharged. It is said that the Grand Jury will come to a determination not to grant any Licences for the ensuing term. We have not had sufficient time to ascertain whether this be the fact or not. If it have come to such a determination, it is another gratifying proof of the spread of temperance principles, to see a body so influential as the Grand Inquest of the most populous County in the Island, coming forward with such decision to its aid. That there is a growing desire in the well-disposed of this community, to put a stop to this dreadful evil, we do not for an instant doubt. The only difference is with respect to the means to be used in accomplishing so desirable an end. We think it make it our business to inquire into the truth of the matter, and give our readers the result of our enquiries as soon as possible. The following are the Gentlemen composing the grand Jury

Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., Foreman; Messrs. G. W. DeBlois, Thomas Pethick, W. R. Watson, John W. Morrison, Neil Rankin, Benj. Davies, Edward Wheldon, Charles Dalgleish, Jacob Dockendorff, Francis Kelly, John Stumbles, Pierce Gaul.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The session of the above institution for the current year was opened on Thursday last—Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., the President, in the Chair, and the Hon. Charles Young, delivered the opening lecture. The learned lecturer gave an historical summary of the rise and progress of Mechanics' Institutes in Great Britain and America, and eloquently and forcibly pointed out the important beneficial influences which such institutions exercise over the minds and morals of a community. The lecturer then concluded by stating the present condition of our own Institute, and concluded by offering some interesting suggestions, as to the best mode of advancing its prosperity.

At the close of the lecture, and after some preliminary discussion on unimportant questions of form, the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers of the Institute for the ensuing year:—

President—The Hon. Charles Young.

Vice President—Edward Whelan.

Assistant Vice President—I. T. Pidwell, Esq.

Secretary and Treasurer—William E. Dawson, Esq.

Committee—Messrs. Alexander McAusland, John Williams, W. C. Trowan, W. Duchemin, James Morris, L. McPhee, M. Butcler, J. Milner, Silas Barnard.

A resolution was then moved, and passed unanimously, to the effect that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Edward Wheldon be come the Patron of the Institute.—J. D. Haszard, Esq. was elected 1st Vice Patron, and the Hon. Daniel Brennan, 2d Vice Patron. A vote of thanks was then given to the ladies and officers for their services during the past year, it was then announced, that the Hon. Edward Whelan would deliver the next Lecture on Thursday, the 25th instant, the subject of which will be hereafter announced. We are requested to state, that the sessional tickets of admission for this useful institution will be in readiness in a few days, and we trust that a good staff of lecturers will be secured.—Ex.