

was for 5,317,915 persons. The number of attendants on the Census-Sunday—(after an estimated addition on account of 939 churches, from which no returns of the attendants were received)—was as follows:—Morning, 2,641,244. afternoon, 1,890,704; and evening, 860,543.

We leave these statistics and information for our readers to weigh and comment upon at leisure, assured that they will find in the perusal more cause for gratification than warrant for disappointment or complaint. The returns set down the income of the Church of England at £5,000,000 annually

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Niagara, from Boston

AUSTRALIA.

We have received advices from Sydney to the 21st, and from Melbourne to the 17th of November, both inclusive.

(From the Panama Herald, Jan. 7.)

Our files of the Sydney Empire are from the 12th Oct. to the 2d of Nov.; from them we compile the following:

A petition against the new constitution, signed by over 4000 persons, was presented to the Governor, Fitzroy, on the 17th of October, for the purpose of being forwarded to the Queen. His Excellency refused to say whether he would support its prayer.

The revenue returns of New South Wales for the quarter ending Sept 30 are published. The customs duties amount to £95,618, being an increase of £42,924 on the corresponding quarter of 1852; on land sales and government rents the increase is £34,474. The total increase on the quarter is £91,918 6 2.

Letters have been received in Auckland, stating that it is matter of doubt whether the Australian Pacific Mail Steam Packet Company will make any point of New Zealand a port of call for their steamers between Panama and Sydney.

A correspondent of the Herald, writing from Sydney, says:—

"In Van Dieman's Land the form of an elective upper house has been shadowed out. Mr. Richard Dry, whose report excites very much of curiosity, proposes an upper chamber, elected by the freeholders, with £25 a year. Something of the same kind will, I suppose, be Mr. Foster's plan for Victoria; but in South Australia and in New South Wales, as in New Zealand, the principle of a nominated upper house has been established, and I do not see any present prospect of a reversal of the decision of the two Australian Legislatures, which have made up their minds upon the subject. What the ultimate result will be in your colony and Van Dieman's Land, it is difficult to conjecture, but it will in no way affect us. The peculiar social circumstances of New South Wales are too strongly developed to allow of any hope that the popular ideas will prevail for many years to come."

The Sydney Herald of the 2d of November gives the following particulars of the seizure of New Caledonia:—

THE FRENCH IN NEW CALEDONIA.

The following are the particulars which we have been enabled to glean respecting the act of the French government in taking possession of the island of New Caledonia and its dependencies. It appears that the French Rear Admiral commanding in the South Pacific, sailed from Tahiti in the steam corvette Le Phoque, accompanied by several naval officers and civilians, "on a cruise among the islands." On the 23d of September, the Phoque arrived at New Caledonia, and on the 24th the Admiral landed at Bolade, and hoisting the French flag, formally took possession of the "Island of New Caledonia and its dependencies" in the name of his imperial majesty, Napoleon III., Emperor of the French. A *protes verbal* of the occurrence was immediately drawn up, in which the Admiral states that he takes possession of the islands by order of his government, and declares them to be a French colony from and after the 24th of September.

It would appear that no extensive preparations had been made for the maintenance of the new station; but Admiral Des Pointes chartered the American bark John H. Millay, which he found there, and despatched her with his Secretary, M. De Perrier, and M. Amar, an officer of the Phoque, to Sydney, to obtain supplies and stores on a large scale. We are informed that three French frigates were to follow the Phoque, with troops, to insure the possession of the island.

M. De Perrier brought a letter from Rear Admiral Des Pointes to M. Senta, the Consul of France at Sydney, requesting his assistance and advice in obtaining the stores required, and enclosing a copy of the *protes verbal*. M. Senta, immediately on the receipt of this important intelligence, forwarded a copy of the last named document to his Excellency the Governor General.

We have reason to believe that the immediate object of the French government is to establish a penal settlement on the island; but coupled with the systematic extension of French influence over the Society Islands, the Pomotou Group, and the Marquesas, this occurrence assumes a great importance in a political point of view, and is indicative of well considered designs on the part of the French Emperor.

MONTREAL, Jan. 27.—THE GAVAZZI RIOTS.—The postponed trials of the Gavazzi sisters have been concluded at Quebec. The Court ordered the acquittal of four of the prisoners, for want of evidence, and the rest have been acquitted on the ground that the

indictment charges the intent to destroy the church, instead of merely assaulting the Padre.

A CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—Some time since we gave an account of two persons, George Cox, of Middleboro', aged 46 years, and a little girl of seven years, Susan R. Thompson, of Halifax, having been bitten by a dog supposed to be rabid. Both of the persons, as we stated, were taken to the Massachusetts General Hospital, their wounds having been cauterized, healed up, and they returned to their respective homes in good health. The man had great apprehensions of being attacked by hydrophobia, but the little girl had none at all. Friday morning last the little girl was attacked with symptoms of hydrophobia, and in the evening was again taken to the hospital. The spasms occurred irregularly, either spontaneously or from some temporary exciting cause. She appeared to be more affected by the noise of water poured from one tub into another, than by the mere sight of it at a distance. Any quick motion of a bystander, or conversation upon exciting topics, such as light water, &c. would cause her to jump suddenly from one side of the bed to the other, and occasionally even provoke a more formidable attack of the disease itself. Saturday, through the day, she was very happy, and conversed freely about her parents, brothers and sisters. Her pulse varied at short intervals from 70 to 120.—She noticed a zulus feeling upon her hands, which seemed to her as if covered with gloves. This is extremely rare. In the evening she was several times attacked with an inordinate desire to get rid of her alive, expiring with great force for five or ten minutes successively. She observed that she should certainly die that night, because she had "so much vinegar on her stomach." About nine o'clock in the evening she was attacked with the most violent symptoms of the disease; so prolonged that Dr. J. Mason, Warren and Cacot, decided that unless relieved, the nervous energy would fail within an hour. Sulphuric acid was administered, thereby controlling the spasmodic action, so that she survived till two o'clock on Sunday morning. A thorough *post mortem* examination showed all the organs to be apparently healthy. There was no inflammation or softening of the spinal cord or brain, as significant of the disease, and not the slightest congestion of the lungs from the free use of ether.—*Boston Commonwealth, Jan. 24.*

TRAGEDY EXPLOSION AT LOWER RAVENSWOOD, L. I.—Eighteen to Twenty Lives Lost.—About ten minutes past 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 28, the patent cartridge manufactory owned by Mr. French, at Ravenswood, Long Island, was blown up, and some fifteen or twenty persons, mostly boys and females, were instantly killed.

The shock occasioned by the explosion was tremendous, and was sensibly felt at a distance of six or eight miles; and during Saturday afternoon a report was current in Williamsburg and Brooklyn, that an earthquake had taken place somewhere upon the island.

The scene at Ravenswood beggars description. The building occupied by Mr. French for the manufactory of French's rifle cartridges was a one-story wood building, twenty by twenty-five feet square, which was blown into fragments, and not a single stick could be found that a child could not lift.

There were about twenty persons—mostly boys and females—in the building, engaged in filling and packing cartridges, all of whom, with one or two exceptions, were instantly killed.

Our reporter was on the spot half an hour after it occurred, and the sight of such a sickening scene he hopes to be spared again. The site of the building and the surrounding lots were covered with the debris of the building, human limbs, and fragments of machinery: here a trunkless head, there an arm, and all round blood and entrails, and shreds of clothing, all blackened and burnt so that identification is impossible. We saw a man draw from the mass the head of a little girl, which he knew was that of his daughter, by a bit of ribbon fastened to her hair; but any other portion of the body he would never find, or if he found it he would never be able to say it was the body of his child. The house of Mr. Moses is a white house, about four hundred feet distant, and against the rear of this a human arm from the shoulder down was carried with force, and has left its exact imprint in blood and charcoal on the angle. The windows of this house, those also of the Rev. Mr. Ware, the Episcopal minister of Ravenswood, which is next, and those of Mr. French, adjoining, have not a whole pane of glass left in them.

Most terrible of all it was to see women wailing on the ground, or propping among the human fragments for something which they could identify and upbraid over; but lime barrels, filled with a disgusting mass of human remains, black and bloody, was, in most cases, all they could indulge their frantic grief upon. About ten corpses were fitted together, either wholly or partially, but carried away on boards, followed by groups of inconsolable mourners.

John Smith, a young man, who has been in the employment of Mr. French but two or three days, was literally blown to pieces, having his arms and legs broken, and his body and face dreadfully mangled.—He was conveyed to the New York Hospital.

In the evening, when another of our reporters arrived at the scene, he saw conveyed away two lime barrels nearly filled with fragments of bodies, which had been gathered up in the vicinity.

Within a few feet of the building is a fireproof cell, in which is stored large quantities of powder; and this being within the scope of the smoke and flames of the burning ruins, no one was willing to hazard an

approach to attempt to rescue the sufferers from the ruins for some time after the explosion took place.

THE BOSTON SERVICE OF PLATE.—The Doctor Atlas of the 20th inst. says:—We had the pleasure Saturday of examining at the store of Messrs. Jones, Ball & Co. the superb service of plate to be presented by the Committee in behalf of the Boston merchants, Captains Low, Crighton, Souther and Pendleton, for their gallant and successful services in rescuing the passengers and crew of the ill-fated San Francisco. They are all of exquisitely useful workmanship. The service presented to Capt. Crighton, on which we remember his memorable words of comfort, "Be of good cheer, will not desert you," and the pitcher designed for Capt. Low, are especially to be noticed, and reflect small credit upon the good taste, correct design, and skilful workmanship of the manufacturers. The service consists of a silver and pitcher to each of the captains and a basket in addition for the captain, and each of the officers of the San Francisco.

THE RESOURCES OF THE PASSENGERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO.—The following amounts have been subscribed in the cities designated, for the purpose of aiding the captains and crews of the ships *The Bella* and *Antarctic*, and the bark *Kilby*—

New York,	\$15,550
Boston,	9,120
Philadelphia,	2,000
Baltimore,	2,000
New York Corn Exchange,	4,000
Total	\$34,470

Besides the above sum they are to have silver medals from the Legislature of the State of New York, medals from the Marine Society of Boston, gold boxes from the Corporation of the city of New York, medals from the Massachusetts Humane Society, appropriate testimonials from the Board of Trade, Baltimore, which is not yet decided upon, and yet something handsome will yet be done by the Legislature of Washington, which is a satisfactory movement.

Editorial Miscellany.

LEGISLATIVE.

THE greater part of the week has been occupied by the usual preliminary arrangements, and real work scarcely yet begun. Some important measures, however, have been already introduced. Mr. Jones' usual Bill for making the Legislative Council Executive, which will probably pass quietly through the House, leaving the gentlemen upstairs the price of perpetrating a *felo de se* upon their body.

The same gentleman has re-introduced a Bill extension of the elective franchise. And last, he has given notice of a Bill somewhat similar to the MAINE LAW. He has also brought forward a Bill with regard to the Colonies, which elicited expressions of cordial concurrence on the part of the principal Secretary.

Mr. Howe has introduced a Bill to reduce and alter the mode of issuing marriage licenses proposed to make the price 7s. 6d.—have them issued now by the Governor and Secretary, but let the parties by the local Judges of Probate, who retain 2s. 6d. each, and remit the rest to the Treasury. No doubt this plan will afford facilities to the public, and will prevent the numerous discrepancies which now occur when the License must be taken at Halifax, and does not come at the spot until the day after. Mr. Howe laid on the table Capt. Lamy's Report and estimate respecting the St. Peter's which make the cost of the proposed work £11,000. Mr. H. intimated that he would test the sense of the House on the question at an early day. The year last year but not expended, was £12,000.

A petition from Joshua Snow and Cornelius Esq. of Shelburne, charging Mr. Barclay, Col. with malfeasance, has been referred to a Committee of the Government at the same time alleging the matter had been already sifted and the charge by Mr. B.

A letter from Col. Bazaigetto has been sent by the Government, claiming a salary for his Private Secretary, while administering the Government during a part of 1852.

Mr. Wier has introduced a Bill, authorizing the Governor of Halifax to erect a new City Prison—a measure of paramount necessity. Mr. Lewis Wilkins, an excellent remarks on the necessity of putting to the political strife and personal recriminations have been so injurious to the public interest, the Prov. Secretary whether the Government intention of bringing forward a measure for the construction of one of the Railways so long delayed—on our own resources—pledging the support of any well digested measure to secure Railway progress.

In reply, Mr. Howe disclaimed any wish to party strife to the prejudice of the Province—adding—there is but one way of stating the minds of this people which would be in public life a single day; and that is, by