

The extensive works of the United States Stamping Co., Portland, Conn., were burned on the 1st; loss \$400,000

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Lord Ripon will return home from India in a few months, and *Truth* thinks that Lord Lorne will be his successor as viceroy.

Great stagnation exists in the shipping interest upon the Tyne. Over a hundred vessels and 1,500 men are idle.

Ireland is paying \$56,000,000 for land rents, but \$60,000,000 for strong drink. Stop howling about rents till you have settled the drink business.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company announce that the accounts for the half year ended December last show that the seventy per cent. net revenue accruing to the Grand Trunk will permit the payment in full of the dividend on first and second preference shares, and three and a quarter per cent. per annum for the half-year on third preference shares. The balance carried forward is about £1,000. The thirty per cent. of revenue accruing to the Great Western share capital covers the payment in full of the dividends on preference and ordinary stocks, leaving a balance of £4,000 for the reduction of the deficit of the previous half-year.

At Madrid, speculators have subscribed £120,000 to raise a revolutionary movement similar to that of August, 1883. The Government are fully informed in regard to the plot.

The steamer *Bertha* collided with the barque *Amelia* at Gibraltar. Nine persons were drowned.

Seventeen of the crew of the barque *Trinidad* from Pensacola, have arrived at Liverpool. They report that they abandoned the vessel in a waterlogged condition February 24th. The captain and the remainder of the crew refused to quit the ship.

The trial of Christian August Selmer, Minister of State of Norway, under articles of impeachment, was concluded at Christiania on the 27th. He was adjudged guilty and sentenced to forfeit his place as minister and his membership of the royal council and pay \$5,000 costs.

Congress assembled in Bogota on the 1st inst., and, after scrutinizing the votes, declared Dr. Rafael Nunez President of the Republic for the term which commences April 1st next.

There have been sixteen suicides and two murders at Monte Carlo since the 1st of January. It is stated that the newspapers published in that district have been paid to suppress all mention of the tragic events.

It is announced that M. Charles de Lesseps will visit Cairo in April for the purpose of obtaining concessions which will permit the construction of a second canal across the Isthmus of Suez.

The Island of Chios and towns of Chesme and Vourla, upon the mainland, have been visited by an earthquake.

Earl Dufferin has asked the Porte for satisfaction for the manner in which officials at Smyrna have been treating foreign coasting vessels. They have prevented steamers embarking passengers and removed the Union Jack from English vessels.

Montenegro is making preparations for a campaign in Albania. Six thousand men have been concentrated on the frontier. Prince Nicholas, of Montenegro, designs to settle the frontier question this spring by seizing the territory which Montenegro claims.

The Czar has decided to convene the superior Council at St. Petersburg to consider the Socialist question and enquire whether there really exists a powerful Nihilist party, if so, what its wants are, and how they may be satisfied or be crushed as the demands of the country may require. The council will be composed of representatives of the ruling classes and all heads of the administrative departments.

Advices state that there is a great financial panic at Peking, and many native merchants and banks have failed. Bank rates for silver are rapidly declining. Merchants in the interior have stopped all trading ventures, and the populace throughout the country is greatly excited.

Despatches from Trinkitat report a severe check to the Soudan rebels in the form of a terrible defeat inflicted upon them by British troops under General Graham, on Friday last. The disciplined soldiers were too much for their untrained antagonists, who, however, fought pluckily and hard for half a day. The rebels lost 1,000 killed. Gen. Graham decided to remain at the Wells of Teb for the day and night. The spoils taken from Baker Pasha were in a large measure recovered. The losses of the British in the fight was 24 killed and 142 wounded. The British forces captured four Krupp guns, two Howitzers, and one machine gun. Osman Digma is encamped eight miles off. A battle with him is expected. Seven hundred men, women and children have arrived at Suakim from Tokar. The rebels mutilated the British dead that fell into their hands.

Tales and Sketches.

HOME INFLUENCES.

"Who's that, I wonder?" said Mrs. Seaburn, as she heard a ring at the basement door.

"Ah! it's Marshall," returned her husband, who had looked out at the window and recognised the grocer's cart.

"And what have you had sent home now, Henry?"

But before Mr. Seaburn could answer, the door of the sitting room was opened, and one of the domestics looked in, and asked—

"What'll I do wid the demijohns, mum?"

"Demijohns?" repeated Mrs. Seaburn.

"Put them in the hall and I'll attend to them," interposed the husband.

"Henry, what have you sent home now?" the wife asked after the domestic had gone.

"Some nice old brandy," replied Henry.

Cora Seaburn glanced up at the clock, and then looked down upon the floor. There was a cloud upon her fair brow, and it was very evident that something lay heavily upon her heart. Presently she walked to the wall and pulled the bell-cord, and the summons was answered by the chambermaid.

"Are George and Charles in their room?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Tell them it is school-time."

The girl went out, and in a little while two boys entered the sitting room, with their books under their arms, and their caps in their hands. They were bright, happy, healthful fellows, with goodness and truth stamped upon their rosy faces, and the light of free consciences gleaming in their sparkling eyes. George was thirteen years of age, and Charles eleven; and certainly those two parents had reason to be proud of them. The boys kissed their mother, gave a happy "good morning" to their father, and then went away to school.

"Come," said Mr. Seaburn, some time after the boys had gone, "What makes you so sober?"

"Sober?" repeated the wife looking up.

"Yes. You have been sober and mute ever since the grocer came."

"Do you want me to tell you why?"

"Of course I do."

"Well, Henry, I am sorry you have had that spirit brought into the house."

"Pooh! what's the use in talking so, Cora? You wouldn't have me to do without it, would you?"

"Yes."

"Why, what do you mean?"

"I mean that I would cut clear of the stuff, now and forever."

"But—Cora—you are wild. What should we do at our parties without wine?"

"Do as others who have it not."

"But—mercy!—what would people say? Are you afraid I—but no—I won't ask so foolish a question."

"Ask it, Henry, let us speak plainly, now that we have fairly commenced."

"Well, I was about to ask if you were afraid that I should ever—drink too much?"

"That's not a fair question, Henry, I was not thinking of that at all, but I will answer it by and bye. You have no fixed appetite for it now?"

"Of course not."

"Then it would not cost you any effort of will to abstain from its use?"

"Not a particle."

"And you only have it in the house, and serve it to your friends and drink it yourself, because it is fashionable! or, you do it because others do it?"

"I do it because"—said Mr. Seaburn, hesitating in his choice of language—"because it would appear very odd, and very niggardly, and very fanatical, not to do it." This last was spoken emphatically.

"But," pursued Mrs. Seaburn, with the calmness and assurance of one who feels the sustaining influence of right, "you would not do what you were convinced was wrong, out of respect to any such considerations, would you?"

"You know I would not, Cora. This question of temperance, I know, is a good one in the abstract, and I am willing to live up to it as I understand it; but I am no teetotaler."

"Henry," said his wife, with an earnest look into his face, "will you answer me a few questions?—and answer them honestly and truly, without equivocation or evasion?"

"Bless me, how methodically you put it, Cora. But I will answer."

"Then—first,—Do you believe you, are your friends, are in any way benefitted by the drinking of intoxicating beverages at your board? That is, do you derive any real good from it?"

"No, I can't say that we do."

"Do you think the time has ever been, since we were married, when we actually needed wine in the house, either for our health or comfort?"