

tico to name the fittest occupant for it, I think my choice at any time during the last forty-five years would have lighted, and it would now light, on Washington. To my mind Washington is the purest figure in all history." This is high praise, but every earnest student of the revolutionary period knows that it is not undeserved. The ability may have been overrated by Mr. Gladstone, but it is impossible to greatly exaggerate the purity.

The American Senate has almost unanimously passed a bill to prohibit all importation of laborers under contract. A prominent Canadian journal calls the supporters of the bill "demagogues." On what principle are they obnoxious to such an epithet? Is it right to allow wealthy contractors, or mine owners, or manufacturers to import laborers to work at low wages and thus drive out of employment those who have been making their living at the same occupations? The importation of Chinese into California, of Hungarians and Italians into the mining districts of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and of French Canadians into the manufacturing districts of New England has aroused an intense feeling of which the above bill is merely the outcome. A similar feeling is rising in Canada, where, so far from discouraging immigration large amounts of public money have been annually spent in bringing across the Atlantic people who drop at once into the position of paupers.

ONLOOKER.

General News.

CANADIAN.

The Dominion Government has issued a circular directing license commissioners to prove with the issue of liquor licenses for next year. This indicates that the recent Supreme Court discussion is to be taken up by the Privy Council.

At Norfolk, Ont., Mary Branch, aged 40, prepared some meal a few weeks ago to poison rats. She forgot all about it, and on Monday baked it into bread, which she ate. She died in great agony.

The body of a man about thirty years of age, having the appearance of a tramp, was found on the 24th inst., lying near the track about three miles east of Oakville. He evidently died from exposure.

Edward Fagan, a shoemaker living in Picton, was found dead on Feb. 24th, frozen stiff on the ice on the Bay of Quinte, five miles east of Picton.

A very sad and fatal accident happened about half a mile south of Exeter on 24th inst. As Mr. David Richards was up on a straw stack which was frozen hard cutting a piece of it off, his wife came near the stack, when the piece fell on her. Mr. Richards immediately harnessed his team and drew the piece off, but not before life was extinct. She leaves several small children.

FIRES.—One of the most destructive fires that ever visited Middlemills took place on Feb. 20th., the roller mills of Currie H. Walper being totally destroyed. The loss will be between \$10,000 and \$12,000; insurance \$3,500.—At Theford, Ont., on Feb. 20th, a fire broke out at three o'clock in the morning in the furniture shop owned by Dr. Cornell and occupied by Jas. Bothwick, and extended to other buildings east and west, which were also burned to the ground. Bothwick's loss is \$1,500. The loss on the other buildings is not yet known. All is supposed to be amply covered by insurance.

UNITED STA

An oyster famine is imminent at Baltimore, owing to the ice and severe weather.

Railway officials estimate the loss to western roads by the severe storms during the second and third weeks of February at from two to three million dollars.

Alarm is felt at the spread of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in Delaware, near the Pennsylvania State line, where the plague has appeared in a malignant form.

A respectable looking young man, who is unknown, committed suicide on the American side of Niagara Falls, on February 24th, by shooting himself through the heart.

At Galveston, Tex., on Feb. 21st, Hat Gosling, United States

Marshal, and Deputy Manning were killed by mail robbers at New Braunfels, where they were attempting their arrest. Bloodhounds are on the robbers' track.

An explosion of natural gas at Wellsburg, West Virginia, on Saturday morning caused the death of a family of five and fatally injured many others. Two buildings were blown to atoms by the force of the explosion.

FIRES.—Terrible fires raged in different parts of the United States on Saturday last. New York was the scene of a holocaust in which a whole family was destroyed.—In Philadelphia a fire broke out in the house of one J. A. King. Three dwellings were destroyed. King lost his life in an attempt to escape from a window. He was overpowered by the excessive heat and fell back in the flames. Mrs. King, with her baby in her arms, jumped to a mattress below. Both were badly shaken, the child dying almost immediately. Her two other children were also badly shaken, one of whom has since died. Philadelphia had another fire the same morning in Market street. Loss, \$125,000.—At Texarkana, Ark., on Feb. 21st, the magnificent Marx brick block was discovered to be on fire. The flames increased and spread with remarkable rapidity, although the Fire Department responded promptly and exerted every effort to subdue the flames. The loss by the fire is the greatest ever sustained in Texarkana, being estimated at \$175,000.—At Chappaqua, N.Y., on Feb. 21st, the Chappaqua Mountain Institute, a Quaker school, was entirely destroyed by fire at three in the morning. Seventy-five scholars were all safely removed from the burning building, although there were several narrow escapes. The building cost \$45,000. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

—At New Britain, Conn., on Feb. 21st, a fire was discovered in the livery stables of Bailey & Bunting, in the rear of Main street. Ed. Rowley was burned to death. The fire spread to a large wooden block on Church street. The block was quickly enveloped in flames, and the fire got beyond the control of the firemen. Some merchants saved their goods, but most of them lost everything. The total loss is at least \$200,000. Ten horses were consumed.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Prince and Princess of Wales intend shortly to pay a visit to Ireland.

The steamer *Alleghany*, from Cardiff for Galle, has been lost. The crew, numbering thirty persons, were drowned.

The sentence of Lee, who was to have been hanged on Monday at Exeter, but who escaped the dread penalty after three attempts by the hangman, has been commuted to imprisonment for life.

A large tract of bog, contiguous to Lake Dererevagh, in Westmeath, Ireland, is moving in a north-east direction. The peasantry in the vicinity are terrified.

The poor-house at Wohlen, a village of Switzerland, four miles north-west of Berne, was recently burned. Six inmates perished.

Admiral Courbet telegraphes from China the following:—"Torpedo boats sunk Chinese frigate, *Yuzuen*, carrying 26 guns and 600 men, and Chinese corvette, *Tchengking*, carrying 7 guns and 150 men."

Advices from Peru state that an engagement has occurred in the Jaufa valley between four companies of Government troops and a horde of Indian Montoneros numbering two thousand. The latter were defeated, leaving three hundred dead on the field.

Brigadier-General Sir Herbert Stewart, K.C.B., has succumbed to his wound received at the battle of Abu Klea wells. General Stewart was one of the most youthful of England's generals. He distinguished himself as a brilliant cavalry officer, strategist and councillor in the campaign against the Zulus and Boers, and more recently in that against Arabi Pasha. His funeral at Gakdul Wells was most impressive.—Gen. Sir Redvers Buller, who succeeded Gen. Stewart, is now retiring across the desert before the Mahdi's hordes. Great fears were at first entertained for the safety of his little band, but have now subsided, news having been received at Korti that he has an ample supply of food and water. The Mahdi's troops are, however, harrassing him with skirmishing parties. Relief transports have gone to his support. There is every probability of hostilities being suspended till the autumn. No doubt, Suakim will now be the future base of operations. The Sikh regiment from India has started for Suakim. The Italian force at Massowah now numbers 5,000 troops and 18 guns.