

from the United States, after spending seven weeks in search of a tract of land on which to place a colony of Englishmen. He has come to the conclusion that Minnesota presents the most alluring prospects for emigrants of the class in whom he is most immediately interested. The reverend pioneer of the projected colony seems quite enraptured with the beauty and natural wealth of the land, and only fears that, despite his cloth, he would not be believed in England if he gave full expression to the impressions that he has received. He states, however, that the estimate which he has formed of the suitability of the State of Minnesota as a field of emigration for English agriculturists and mechanics is fully shared by all who accompanied him from England, and the majority have given proof of their faith in the new country by at once settling down and making it the land of their adoption. The ground, he says, is so rich that it has literally only to be tilled to make it smile a harvest. He has but a poor opinion of the industry and skill of the present farmers of Minnesota, and believes that the English farmers would make the land doubly productive. The richness of the soil prevents the necessity of using manure at present, and accordingly none is used, although the result must be eventual impoverishment of the soil, and the crops are allowed to be overgrown with weeds. Mr. Rodgers specially instanced one farm, the owner of which informed him that his net annual profit was £2000 a year, and expressed a belief that an English farmer would double that income. Not only is manure not used and weeding paid no attention to, but the system of rotation of crops has no existence in Minnesota. The land is so cheap, and produces so abundantly, that the present farmers don't care to be troubled with the refinements of high-class farming. It ought to be stated that the land taken for the colony will cost from 10s. to 32s. an acre, the price to be determined by the locality and quality. Seven years' credit will be given; but should ready cash be paid, a liberal discount will be made.

A French Tragedy.

The Paris correspondent of the *Swiss Times* writes:—A mysterious and dramatic event has happened at the bridge of Bry, which is being re-built. The other day four individuals, vendors of wine barrels at Bercy, dined at the Restaurant Dubac. One of them was accompanied by his wife, a young and pretty woman. During the repast a quarrel broke out, and the wife struck her husband. Soon after she got with her brother-in-law into a boat that the party had hired in the afternoon; it was then about ten o'clock at night. The husband and a young man a cousin, were seen creeping along behind the enormous stones brought for building the bridge, when suddenly, in the middle of the river, the young woman was seen struggling and crying out for help, while her brother-in-law, instead of trying to save her, rowed away as fast as he could. A sailor who had been left in care of a boat freighted with sand was awakened by the cries, but on looking to see whence they proceeded could distinguish nothing, and they soon ceased. However, he gave the alarm, and two persons walking on the banks of the river came to join him. One of them, M. Dupulle, got into a boat and rowed in pursuit of the fugitive, and came up with the assassin, who replied to his menaces by brandishing an arm with which he had provided himself. Upon this the brother-in-law allowed himself to be taken into custody. His two companions were also arrested after a short pursuit. They at first tried to deny that they knew the woman. At last one of them, a brutal-looking fellow, acknowledged that she was his wife. The woman's body was found on the following morning, and the prisoners were confronted with it on the banks of the Marne, but remained unmoved. The young woman had been married for her money. The doctor by whom she was examined declared that she was in the habit of drinking. The youngest of the three men who had remained with the husband, and who seemed to await the end of the tragedy, does not belong to the family. His examination has brought to light overwhelming evidence against the husband and the brother-in-law. The fourth individual has escaped.

The Scotch Herring Fishery.

PETERHEAD.—We cannot report any great progress in the fishing. Unpropitious weather and other causes have kept the boats from going to sea, and thus only a few crans have been added to the season's average, which now stands at about 160 crans. Large arrivals of stock have taken place. Prices may be quoted at 30s. for f.c.b., and 24s. for matties and spears. Extensive shipments going on.

FRASERBURGH.—Friday and Saturday were fairly successful days. Monday night was stormy, and more than half the boats put back. Tuesday was densely foggy throughout, and the signal gun was fired at intervals all day. The same process had to be repeated on Thursday morning. None ventured out on Tuesday, the fog having continued, and some of the boats having been late in arriving. There was considerable loss of nets, but no other casualty attendant upon these adverse circumstances of weather. Our fleet is much reduced by the departure of many boats whose owners were made up. Shipped during the week, 14,993 barrels; during the season, 60,555. Average for season to this date, 192 crans.

WICK.—At Wick, and along the Moray Firth ports, no progress has been made. It would thus appear that Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Aberdeen, and Gardenston, have been the specially successful ports for the season.

A War of Extermination.

A war of extermination is now being carried on by the Chinese Government against the aborigines in the mountains of Kweichow. In a letter from a correspondent of the *Shanghai Courier* at Kweichow, we read:—I have just received news from a reliable source that a party of Miaoutze took the city of Ma ho chow the other night. The civil Mandarin, however, managed to make good his retreat to some neighboring stockades of Tso's troops, who early next morning took the city, and the Miaoutze retired (with the loss of course!) Nearly at the same time about thirty battalions—the centre of Tso's lines—gave way before a vigorous attack, led by Lee-tai-foo; but the troops retook their positions next day. The losses are not stated. This may account for the taking of Ma-ho-chow, just in the rare of the left centre. There is a rumour current in this city that the tribe of Hung Miaoutze have revolted and killed the Mandarin at Yung-shun foo, near the frontier of Hunan. In my last I told you that Tso's troops had been defeated at, or near, Sin-chen. It now appears that the Ma homedans of Sin-chen sallied out one night, and took seven stockades, and killed about three hundred of their besiegers. The force on the left, too, while making a raid on the Miaoutze, near Chung ngan-kiang, were beaten back with two officers and a few soldiers killed, and some wounded. The barbarities of the struggle are so horrible as almost to defy belief. Writing on the 16th May, this correspondent says:—The Chinese Imperialist generals managed to persuade five Miaoutze chiefs to intrust themselves to their honor. Taking a live rooster, they tore it to pieces, and mixing the blood with wine, each one quaffed a cup of it, which was equivalent to telling the Miaoutze that, as they shared the same blood, they were prepared to share the same fate; in other words, they, the generals, guaranteed with their lives the lives of the five Miaoutze chiefs. Having thus got the chiefs into their hands, the generals then presented them to the Tee-tai, who in his turn, sent them here with compliments to the Foo tai, and his high dignity speedily told the poor Miaoutze that the Emperor had sent orders to behead them! Accordingly they, or at least four of them, were taken out yesterday to be killed—a little at a time—as usual. The eyelids were first cut off, then the hands, then the two breasts, then the heart and the liver, and finally the head was cut off. One only of the five escaped this dreadful fate, being fortunate enough to find the means of stabbing himself before the horrible torture commenced. One of the victims was the Kia-kwoh-wong, 'founder of the Nation prince.' Another was Pau-wong or Pau-yah-tu, as he was commonly called on account of his stoutness. He was formerly the most powerful chief of the Heh-liao tribe. The Chiefs were marched out to the 'slaughter ground' under an escort, headed by the Imperial 'badge of authority.' The only crime imputed to these men was an attempt to throw off the utterly selfish and corrupt government of the alien Manchus. Two days later the same correspondent sends the following further news concerning the Miaoutze of Kweichow:—A few days ago the Tee tai's troops took some villages near Shiang-loo-shan and killed every one they came across. The Kin-wong and Lee-tai-too, however, managed to make good their escape with a few thousand followers, killing, it is said, their own women and children before leaving. They fought their way through the lines to Yuching hsien and other cities in that direction, where some of the troops have now gone to hunt them to death. There are still a few thousand Miaoutze left on Shiang-loo-shan, who seem determined to hold out to the bitter end, rather than surrender to certain death by the knife or starvation. At this moment quite a large number of young Miaoutze females are being dragged about from place to place for sale by soldiers and camp followers.

A Strange Watery Grave.

Some curious facts are related in connection with Lake Tahoe, California, by a correspondent writing from there to the *San Francisco Bulletin*. It appears that several persons have been drowned in the lake during the past ten years, but none of their bodies had ever been discovered. This fact gave rise to the superstitious belief that some monster dwelt in the waters, and that all the bodies were consumed by it. The true explanation of the mysterious non-appearance of the bodies is said to be due to three causes. The first is the great purity of the water and its consequent lack of buoyancy. The second and main cause is due to the great coldness of the water. Even at this, the warmest season, the surface water is as cold as the drinker, desires it to be, but it is warm there compared with its temperature at the depth of 100 or 200 feet. When a body sinks in the lake to the depth required, it is frozen stiff. The process, of course, preserves it, so that the gas which originates in the body from the decay in other water is prevented, and distention checked. The body is thus kept in a state of greater specific gravity than the water in which it is suspended, and thereby prevented from rising to the surface. The third cause lies in the great pressure of pure water on anything which is sunk to a great depth in it. Corks placed on deep sea nets are pressed down in a week to half their size, and one of the oldest residents of the lake expresses the belief that by the time a man's body has been suspended for a week at a depth of about 200 feet (it is, not likely that it ever reaches the cavernous and almost fathomless bottom of the great lake) the compression of water has reduced its size to that of a child's. Doubtless the idea of unconfined suspension in such a "world of water" is not a pleasant one to contemplate, but to be pressed into a solid mass and suspended in a liquid coffin of ice temperature, may be quite as

pleasant as interment and mouldering in the ground.

Alleged Cure for the Potato Disease.

The following letter appeared in the *London Times*:—"Sir,—By your kind permission I would crave space to make known to your numberless readers that a root applied to the haulm of potatoes immediately on the appearance of the disease (or, mayhap, it would be better applied in smaller quantities during their growth) appears to me to be an antidote to this fatal malady; it certainly is a most perfect disinfectant of the foul odours consequent on the attack of the disease. It occurred to me that as sulphur judiciously applied is a safe and well known remedy for mildew or plants, the oidium on vines, &c., why not for the potato fungus? I supposed soot contained sulphurous matter, and knew it was a cheap substance, and could be applied in quantity during the growth of plants without injury, otherwise the remedy would be as bad as the disease. I therefore immediately purchased a quantity, and had it dusted over a great quantity of my crop about the 17th to the 20th of July last, at the rate of about 20 bushels per acre. The results, so far as can be at present judged, or until the crop is lifted, are favourable beyond my most sanguine hopes or expectations, so much that on the 27th ultimo I had an additional lot of soot applied to the same crop at the rate of about twelve bushels per acre, the atmosphere betokened a recurrence of the disease. The action of the soot on the blighted haulm appears to be threefold,—drying up the infected leaves and stems, so when badly smitten, purifying the noxious vapours arising from the attack of disease, and apparently increasing the vigour of the plants, the young leaves and growth becoming of more rich green colour. I am very pleased to have carried out the experiment bearing as it does on a similar idea conceived by Dr. Roberts of London, and made public by your favor on the 30th ult. I fully believe it is now only for the learned to say what are the chemical properties of soot and their probable action on the potato disease. I can only say further that I shall be only too pleased to communicate the practical result of my experiment for what it is worth as I take up the crop. I have plots of the same kind where no soot was applied, and others where the haulm was pulled, and others which were dug at the time of applying the soot—all of which now become and may be noted as comparative tests, and which during the next 8 or 10 days will be open for inspection by and to whom it may be convenient to come, see, and judge for themselves. My time also is at his service; hoping, under God's providence, it may be a goodly knowledge gained as the basis of more perfect experiments in future years. Believing the importance of the subject renders any apologies for trespassing on your space needless, I am, &c., ROBERT H. PORTER, The County Seed Establishment, Taunton, September 1.

Beecher for Greeley.

W. H. Beecher, writing in a Greeleyite journal, stands up for the "honest farmer of Chappagua" in the following curious style:—"I find many of our orthodox Republicans have the notion that Greeley is an infidel. Now, I believe him to be a Christian. He is a communicant of Dr. Chaplin's Church, and believes in the ultimate restoration of all God's children, here or hereafter. I suppose he has used some profane language. But so has Grant, and so has Wilson, for he is not habitually profane; even Washington and Jackson were guilty of the same. I do not consider this an evidence of piety, but neither is it evidence that one is not right at heart, and many a Christian witnessing great injustice feels swar if he don't utter it."

Horrible Crime in America.

A serious crime is reported from Memphis. A small steambot, called the *Ellen Brooks*, apparently abandoned, on the 17th of August, floated down the Mississippi, and grounded on the shore about ten miles above that city. A negro was on board, and he, jumping ashore, disappeared in the woods. He was afterwards captured, and his statement and that of the captain of the *Ellen Brooks* who had been ashore at a village 18 miles above, revealed the crime. At this village the *Ellen Brooks* and a trading boat alongside her had been fastened to the wharf, when a man who was disorderly was put ashore by the captain of the *Ellen Brooks*. This man went to a Justice of the Peace, got a warrant, and had the captain arrested. While the captain was absent several persons boarded the boat, murdered the captain's child, a man, and two women, who were aboard, plundered it, and, throwing the bodies overboard, set the vessel adrift. The negro who jumped ashore claims to have been pressed into the service of the murderers, but he is held in custody.

NEW ATLANTIC CABLE.—The Great Eastern steamship, lying in the Medway, a short distance above Sheerness, is now faking on board some of the new electric cable which a French Company intend to lay from the Land's End to Halifax. About 30 miles of cable per day is received on board and carefully coiled in one of the vast tanks. The Great Eastern will not leave her present moorings to deposit the cable till next summer.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made in Dublin for a Peat Fuel Commission, the object of which is to investigate the best modern systems for making improved peat fuel that may be found successfully in operation anywhere.

The steamer "St. Gothard" has foundered in the Lake of Zurich, incurring a great loss of life.



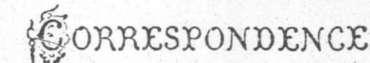
HARBOR GRACE, OCTOBER 8, 1872.

The "Star" is issued to-day in an enlarged form; and the supply of paper being plentiful, "news" will be as plentifully reported. The appearance of the "Star" is enhanced, and contains as much reading matter as any semi-weekly printed in the colony. The price of subscription is moderate, and additional subscribers can at any time be enlisted. We are well aware that owing to the absence of many on the various fishing grounds, our already long list is incomplete, and trust to receive a large addition to the patronage so liberally given us, on their return.

THE Labrador mail steamer "Osprey" called at this port on Sunday afternoon to land letters, this being her last trip for the season. She left Red Bay on the 30th ultimo, bringing dates from the coast to 26th. The accounts are uniform in representing the weather as unfavourable for fish operations, there not having been one fine day for a month ending 25th September. Herrings continued plentiful in nets and will help the voyage materially. A later arrival gives dates to 4th inst., up to which time there was no change: herrings continuing abundant.

POTATO PRODUCTIVENESS.

ON Saturday last a person in town turned up seventy-eight potatoes, the product of ONE, the lot weighing sixteen pounds. Considering the poor quality of the soil, this indeed illustrates that much can be done by the use of good seed.



[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

A m i t y .

The disruption of the bonds of amity, whether national or personal, generally proceeds from selfishness. Nations go to war for the sake of conquest to extend their borders or to resent insult, and personal misunderstandings proceed from the same causes. In the one case the sword is unsheathed and reddened in blood for—it may be—an idea; and in the other, a trivial cause expels one of the healthiest influences of our nature and shuts the door to impulses that brings man within reach of angels' whispers. Since the fall there has been the inclination to shift blame to other shoulders. "The woman whom Thou gavest tempted me." I was not to blame! Had she not been here I should never have tasted! And so it is in all quarrels—both parties are right. It is only when results are estimated that people realize how senselessly they have acted. There are quarrels that could not have been avoided. National and personal grievances must be vindicated at whatever cost. Such a war was that forced on Britain by the cruel Theodorus, in which it will be remembered that the only trophy of the victors was the son of the tyrant, the captive not being held in chains, but taken to be educated and sent back at the fitting time to extend to his countrymen the freedom and civilization of the foremost nation of the earth. But most wars owe their origin to a spirit of aggrandizement that thinks nothing of oceans of blood spilt or the inexpressible misery resulting from the carnage. Personal misunderstandings are generally prompted by selfish motives: we look at things from a selfish standpoint. It often happens that we do things ourselves which if done by others would be pronounced heinous. We are sure to have a mantle to throw over our acts whatever their character, but exposure becomes a duty when others are concerned. Is it not the case that "backbiting" in the world is too common? We are willing to admit a man's good qualities "after he is dead," but for the most part we studiously conceal if we don't deny them while he is living. Now, no two men are constituted alike. A thing may be said to and of one man without occasioning but a laugh that would be deemed an insult by another. The crusty bachelor who said that Adam's wife was called Eve, because when she appeared man's day of happiness was drawing to a close, might be allowed to pass with a smile, whereas if a man told his wife she was the pest of his life, he would commit a mistake he could never forget or forgive, because it would rancour in his family. Smart things are very well in their way, but they should not be indulged in merely to give pain. We have heard of a person who went crazy from being called a "pro-noun." We all respond to the appellation every day in the year, but in the instance referred to, the term was ignorantly associated with the idea of something disgraceful which does not extenuate the offence. There is no greater necessity to wound another than to cheat a neighbour; we don't envy

the man who delights in giving pain; such an one can know nothing of the pleasures of true friendship. Indeed as the world goes the tendency is to ignore the sacredness of friendship than which no earthly influence can move the heart. After the war in America between the North and South, a northern and southern gentleman—formerly fast friends—happened to meet, when, after some conversation the former tauntingly said, "the difference between you southern and we northern is that the northern man blacks his own boots and the southern man boots his own blacks—What will you drink?" Surely the courtesy would be enhanced were the taunt omitted. In extended communities things may be said that would act injuriously in smaller settlements; and as we are all brothers the duty is incumbent to avoid giving pain unnecessarily, because there is no profit on the one side, whereas many evils flow from the other.

A A E.

Oct. 7th.

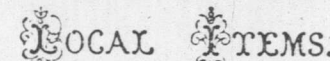
[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

Bachelors.

What are they? Why, the very essence of knowledge—so they think; but being often indulged in odd fashions it is matter for congratulation. It is not an uncommon story in a bachelor's life for him to express his fear of marriage in such a way as to evoke female sympathy with that disdainer of an holy ordinance. Not long ago a bachelor gave as a reason for never marrying, that if his wife turned out a tartar she would kill him, and if like a house plant, (that is, perfectly tame) he would likely kill her. However there is something gracious about the bachelor family: invariably knowing astrology to perfection; ability to foretell the weather after it is told; profound inspiration inspired with law. Dedication to morbidity and familiarity with the dust. Such painful reflections as the bachelor is subject to is apparent in his every movement. Downcast eyes, slovenly gait (sometimes unsteady). Feeble knowledge outside of what he reads of, and a particular fancy for potatoes. The love of potatoes is good, and unblamable, but the manner in which he would grow them and have them dug and preserved shows clearly the crania of their class to run on wheels. Good-bye, bachelors; you have been long in our society—only too long. Cold weather is coming! Blankets are cheap!!

PASHA.

Oct. 7.



[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

SOCIAL ITEMS.

We think we may now set it down as an unquestionable fact that the potato disease has been more damaging in its effect this season than for some years past. Our farmers were congratulating themselves, and with some show of reason that as the disease appeared to be annually growing less in extent and virulence, it would in a few years almost altogether die out; but this hope can no longer be cherished. About St. John's the past season's crop is hardly worth gathering, and this is the case too in many of the near outports. There are some localities, of course, where the crop is much less injured, but it is certain that many thousand barrels of potatoes will this year be lost. In Newfoundland the partial loss of the potato crop is a very serious misfortune, for that edible enters very largely into the consumption of our people.—*Chronicle*, Oct. 4.

PRESENTATION CONVENT AT HARBOR BRITON.—On board the last Western steamer a Community of five nuns of the Presentation order left this town, by direction of His Lordship, Dr. Power, to found a branch institution at Harbor Briton. This order has for very many years diffused the blessing of good Education upon the female youth of the Island, and results the most beneficent attest the value of their labors in every direction. We cannot doubt that the Catholics of Harbor Briton will soon reap their portion of the same excellent fruit of the seed about to be sown there by those devoted ladies who have just entered on their sacred mission.—*Newfoundlander*

Coals is going to be coals in St. John's this winter, and those who are so unfortunate as to be without their winter's supply may expect to have a longer price to pay for it than usual. Of the 12000 tons required for the consumption in this city during the winter, only 4000 tons have yet been received; and although some cargoes are on the way, and will probably shortly arrive, yet it is very improbable that the receipts from now to the end of the year will reach the requirements. To make matters worse, there were some rumors in town yesterday of a strike having taken place amongst the coalminers in Cape Breton, the immediate effect of which will be to delay shipments, and the ultimate effect to further increase the price. So that to housekeepers amongst us the outlook in the matter of coal supply is not pleasant.

Under the circumstances, and having regard to the many who will be unable to purchase coal for fuel, the people of the Northern Bays would do well to bring on as much wood fuel as this fall as possible. More than they can bring will be required, and they are pretty certain to dispose of their cargoes without difficulty at remunerative prices.—*Ibid.*