

of mills, and a door and ash factory, got into operation with the view of being able to forward the manufactured goods to the St. Lawrence, by the Brockville and Ottawa Railway. In morality, the population of Westmeath stands well; crime is of rare occurrence, but magistrates are to be found in Westmeath who assume all the powers of the superior Courts, and with a Burleigh shake of the head, and a dash of the pen, decide important legal questions.

McNab, March 1, 1861.

For the Carleton Place Herald.

On Sunday last, three French Canadians, who were working in Messrs. Hilliard and Dickson's shanties on the Madawaska, went out to hunt deer; two of them went in company, and shot two deer, and while in the act of gauling them, their other comrade mistaking them for a deer, fired and sent the ball through the buttocks and thigh, between the bone and main artery of one man, and then through the arm of the other, and lodged against the skin.

The men were brought to Pakenham, when Dr. Sweetland extracted the ball and dressed both wounds. The men were all near relations, and very good friends, yet that had no effect when carelessness or stupidity rushed to commit the rash act which may end in the loss of life to one or two individuals. Moreover, all of these men were violating G. O. law by not resting on that day, and each of them are liable to a fine of \$50 for killing deer at this season. As I am not much of a preacher, I will leave you, Mr. Editor, to make your own remarks on the case.

BACKWOODSMAN.
ANNUAL SOIREE.
The members of the U. P. Church in this place gave their annual Soiree on the 19th instant in the spacious church which has been erected mainly at their expense. One hundred and fifty persons assembled; representing nearly all sects of Christians, and an evening was passed of the most harmonious and agreeable character.

The chair was occupied by the pastor of the Church, the Rev. Mr. Scott, whose fund of lively anecdote, and graphic manner contributed greatly to the (may I say) success of the meeting. The other speakers were limited in number, but did their utmost to compensate for that deficiency by extra exertion. The success of a meeting does not always depend on the multitude of speakers.

The esteemed minister of White Lake, the Rev. S. C. Fraser, (a host in himself) was present, and after a few remarks, and a prayer, in one person, without whom no tea meeting in our district can be considered complete.

The Rev. Mr. McGill (Wesleyan) of Pakenham, was also present, and spoke at considerable length.

Your space will not allow a sketch of the various speeches, which would have to be given at some length in order to be understood, they were chiefly remarkable for their high creating qualities, but were not devoid of point and moral, and matter for serious reflection.

In the absence of several expected speakers, the very chairs turned eloquent, and through the lips of their interpreters, the chairman gave utterance to some beautiful and original thoughts—and many funny ones. Arm-chairs, easy chairs, rocking chairs, clean chairs and dirty chairs, and broken chairs; all had their say, and spoke well and to the point; methought however, with rather a Scottish accent.

The refreshment of a more substantial nature were ample and excellent.

I must not forget the services of the Pakenham choir, whose resources must have been considerably taxed on this occasion; they acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of all, and proved valuable auxiliaries of the speakers.

I understand there is to be in a few days a Soiree at White Lake; the people of Arnprior are under considerable obligations to the Rev. Mr. Fraser, and should endeavor to give him a bumper house on the occasion.

FRANK.

THE RAILWAY QUESTION.
The Perth Standard has very kindly taken the Renfrew people under his wing and gives them his advice as to the best mode of extending the railway.

The Renfrew people will be delighted to learn that they have so able an adviser, and will, no doubt, accept his recommendations, stacked up as they are by the renowned W. O. Bull, in preference to those of their representatives in Council. The fact is, however, that the Renfrew people hear the Perth Standard, discard all jealous fears of Lanark; they not that Perth can have any interested motive in giving you advice; she tells you and believe her unhesitatingly. Oh people of Renfrew! for she is anxious solely to promote your interests.

Hear then the voice of this disinterested, unprejudiced and impartial oracle, the utterances of the united wisdom of Perth and its surroundings, (not excepting the immortal W. O. B.) and thus it speaks. You want the road to Pembroke; you think by extending it to Roddy's Bay, you are so far on the road, and that you will afterwards get to Pembroke? You are mistaken; you know the road to Pembroke went wrong, and therefore will not be built. Your best way therefore of getting it to Pembroke, is to let the Company get to Roddy's Bay the best way they can, and then we will help you to push to Pembroke.

Previous counsel this, and the Perth editor must think the Renfrew people very glibly indeed, if they follow it.

Let me tell him, that this scheme of his and many others, as well as all the objections raised by his distinguished confere, W. O. B., were laid before the railway committee, and discussed, and deliberated upon, and that after the most anxious consideration, they concluded, as the best and only certain method of extension, to recommend the course proposed in the report.

Shall that well considered report, framed by the most acute and intelligent men in the Council, supported by a large majority of the councillors, after full debate, be contemptuously thrown aside, and the last advice of a single Journalist (and that a Perth one) be foisted on the people instead?

I cannot suppose it, and feel satisfied that a majority of the municipalities will be found to defend that report by their vote; that many of the Lanark municipalities will sink all little jealousies between the two Counties and vote for the best interests of the counties at large; and that at all events, Renfrew will be true to its own interests, and in united, firm, and carried ranks carry the railway onward by their vote.

There are two policies connected with this railway question.

still for the present: that in the long run it will triumph over every obstacle, no one acquainted with its history and prospects will doubt; but that this year, and perhaps years hereafter, of precious time, will be lost in the unsupported struggle for extension, is the inevitable result of this *do nothing* policy, the policy of the Perth Standard and W. O. B.

The onward policy, on the other hand, looks to the immediate extension of the railway; that extension drawing in its train many advantages, viz: relief to Renfrew—ultimate extension to Pembroke—development of the resources of the counties—security from taxation—restoration of clergy monies. This policy, advocated by almost every paper in the counties, except the Perth Standard, is embodied in the Railway report, and I trust in the first week in March, will be supported by the vote of the municipalities, notwithstanding the disinterested advice of the Standard and W. O. B.

ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE QUESTION.
23rd Feb. 1861.

BROCKVILLE & OTTAWA RAILWAY.

Approximate Estimate of materials and work required to complete and equip the road to Roddy's Bay.

Grading, masonry, fencing, &c.	\$ 42,000
Bridge Superstructure	18,000
Station accommodations	20,000
Ties	10,000
Iron Rails	50,000
Tools and spikes	10,000
Track-laying	1,000
Ballasting	14,000
Switches and points	600
Notice boards, plank crossings, &c.	700
Right of way and engineering	15,000
9 Locomotive engines	60,000
1st class passenger car	2,500
2nd class passenger car	2,500
20 box and cattle do.	14,000
50 platform do.	30,000
	\$300,000

The work done north of Almonte, and not provided, is as follows:

Grading	\$155,000
Iron at Brockville and Quebec	62,000
Ties	10,000
Right of Way	29,000
Engineering	15,000
	\$271,000

A. BROOKS,
Engineer and Superintendent.
Brockville, 27th February, 1861.

COAL OIL.—We have before us a letter from a resident of Plympton to Mr. Chisholm of this city, in which the following account of what is doing in that township in the oil business is given:—The process of digging for oil in this neighbourhood is going on in two different places; in the one they dig down 46 feet, and cribbed it up with boards; in the other, they commenced boring. When they had bored about 30 feet, the gas burst forth with such violence that nothing more could be done before the storm of Thursday, the 7th, and that again stopped the work. Afterwards they resumed, however, and on the 19th, they had reached a depth of 100 feet. They have bored through beds of shale or slate rock of about two feet thick, and through from two to three feet of what resembles lamp-black, and which burns the same as coal. On the 19th the discharge of gas recommenced, and the report occasioned by it is like the discharge of a cannon in the distance. Sometimes adjacent houses are shaken as if by an earthquake. Men of experience say there is every prospect of their soon reaching oil.—*Hamilton Times.*

BRUTAL MURDER.—About midnight on the night of last Tuesday a man of the name of Patterson, a farmer and an old man, was brutally murdered by some person or persons, as yet unknown, on his own premises near Addison, distant about fifteen miles from Brockville.—About midnight, for some unknown reason, as his wife states he got up and went out of doors. In consequence of the length of his absence his wife became alarmed, and blew a horn which collected several of the neighbors at the house. They immediately proceeded to search for the missing man, and found him weltering in his gore near a pool of water, with several ghastly wounds on his person made with an axe. The coroner proceeded to hold an inquest on yesterday (Friday) with what results we have not yet learned. It would be highly desirable that the County Attorney should have been present at the inquest, but the Government has not made any provision for his attendance. The law should be altered.—*Monitor.*

On Saturday, 16th instant, Mr. Mead and three children, of Geneva, N.Y., were poisoned, and on the following day the three children died. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Mead, their three children, and a servant girl. Mr. Mead and the girl were not affected as the mother and children. Strong suspicions rest upon the servant girl, named Mary Ann, as having committed the crime. She has not sustained the best reputation, having been once in Canadaigua goal for some misdemeanor. It is supposed that she intended to poison the whole family with the exception of Mr. Mead, and then by some stratagem secure him and his property. Several of the doctors who have examined the bodies, it is said, found arsenic in the stomachs of the children.

A train from Rouses Point for Ogdensburg, last Thursday, got stuck in a snow bank, and was compelled to remain there all night and till the next afternoon, notwithstanding two locomotives were attached to it. There were twenty-five passengers on board, who suffered from hunger as well as cold. The fences along the track were stripped to keep the passengers from freezing, and had it not been for some oysters and a large cheese among the freight the unfortunate passengers would have had nothing to eat. On the afternoon of Thursday three engines arrived at the bank and succeeded in drawing the train back to Malone.

The Buffalo Courier states that the barn of Mr. Joly, proprietor of the Clifton House opposite Niagara Falls, was burglariously entered on Saturday night and a team of fine horses, together with wagon, horses, buffalo robes, &c., taken. The thieves, two in number, crossed Niagara Suspension Bridge in the morning at three o'clock, passing the watchman on duty without suspicion. The "establishment" stolen is quite a valuable one, and the thieves must be unusually expert to escape the measures taken for their apprehension.

DEADLY WEAPONS.—An arrest under Col. Prince's Act was made at Chatham, on Tuesday, occasioned, we are informed by the Police, by a large bow-knife falling from the pocket of one R. S. McConnell, in the Royal Exchange Hotel, when putting his overcoat on. Constable Green being present, and noticing the knife fall, at once made the arrest.

A piece of land was recently sold in London at the rate of \$1,900,000 per acre—sufficient to cover it with silver equal to half a dollar in thickness.

The Lake Superior Miner states that a single mass of copper, weighing 13,000 lbs. (about six and a half tons), was lately taken from the National mine, being 1200 lbs. heavier than any previous mass obtained from shipment.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

London, Tuesday, February 5.

MR. LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.—It is with great satisfaction that I again meet you in Parliament and have recourse to your assistance and advice. My relations with foreign powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory, and I trust that the moderation of the powers of Europe will prevent any interruption of the general peace.

Events of great importance are taking place in Italy. Believing that the Italians ought to be left to settle their own affairs, I have not thought it right to exercise any active interference in those matters. Papers on the subject will be laid before me. I announced to you at the close of the session of Parliament that the atrocities which had recently been committed in Syria had induced me to concur with the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Prince Regent of Prussia, and the Emperor of Russia, in entering into an engagement with the Sultan, by which temporary assistance was to be afforded to the Sultan for the purpose of establishing peace in that part of his dominions.

The assistance has been afforded by a body of French troops, who have been sent to Syria as representing the allied powers. The Junta has also placed a considerable military force in Syria under the direction of an able officer, and I trust that tranquillity will be re-established in that province, and that the object of our intervention will have been fully attained. I announced to you also at the close of the last session of Parliament that the pacific overtures which my envoy to China had made to the Imperial Government at Peking having led to a satisfactory result my naval and military forces were to be advanced towards the Northern provinces of China for the purpose of supporting the just demands of the allied powers, and that the Earl of Elgin had been sent to China as special ambassador to treat with the Chinese Government.

I am glad to inform you that the operations of the allied forces have been attended with complete success.

After the capture of the forts at the mouth of the Peiho, and several engagements with the Chinese army the allied forces became masters of the Imperial city of Peking, and the Earl of Elgin and Baron Gros, the Ambassador of the French, were enabled to obtain an honorable and satisfactory settlement of all the matters in dispute. Throughout the operations and the negotiations which followed them, the commanders and ambassadors of the allied powers acted with most friendly concert. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

The state of my Indian territories is progressively improving, and I trust that their financial condition will gradually partake of the general amendment.

An insurrection of a portion of the natives of New Zealand has interrupted the peace of that colony, but I hope that the measures which have been taken will speedily suppress the disturbances, and enable my government to concert such arrangements as may prevent their recurrence.

Serious differences have arisen among the States of the North American Union. It is impossible for me to look without great concern upon any events which can effect the happiness and welfare of a people nearly allied to my subjects by descent, and closely connected with them by the most intimate and friendly relations. My heart is with the States of the Union, and I am sure that the differences may be susceptible of satisfactory adjustment. The interest which I take in the well being of the people of the United States cannot but be increased by the kind, cordial reception given by them to the Prince of Wales during his recent visit to the continent of America.

I am glad to see the expression of the loyalty and attachment to my person and (throned) manifested by my Canadian and other North American subjects on the occasion of the residence of the Prince of Wales among them.

I have concluded with the Emperor of the French convention of the 23rd of January, 1860, and in furtherance of the object of that treaty I have also concluded with the King of Sardinia a convention for the reciprocal protection of copy right. These conventions will be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons: I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you, and they have been framed with a due regard to economy the several branches of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen: Measures will be placed before you for the consolidation of important parts of the criminal law—for the improvement of the law of bankruptcy and insolvency; for rendering more easy the transfer of land; for establishing a uniform system of rating in England and Wales, and for the general purpose of public usefulness.

I confidently commit the great interests of my empire to your wisdom and care, and fervently pray that the blessings of the Almighty may descend upon the deliberations of the object of my constant solicitude—the welfare and happiness of my people.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADIAN.

Portland, Feb. 28.

The steamship *Canadian* arrived at 8 o'clock this morning.

The *North Briton* arrived at Londonderry on the afternoon of the 14th, and the *Tes-touit* at Southampton on the 15th inst.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In the House of Commons, Lord John Lubbock, in moving for a resolution to adopt measures for the protection of British interests in Mexico, owing to the civil war. He hoped the struggle would soon cease. He also said the San Juan question with America was still open, but England had made a proposition in a fair spirit, and he hoped it would be accepted. The only correspondence had been a demand from America for his extradition, and the simple acknowledgment of that demand.

Mr. J. H. Cameron, Grand Master of the Local Orange Association of British North America, presented an address to the Queen from their Grand Lodge, expressive of devoted loyalty, and representing that the association laboured under no legal disability in British North America, and therefore their claim to be publicly recognized during the progress of the Prince of Wales through Canada ought to have been admitted by the adviser of His Royal Highness.

The London letter in the *Paris Monitor* asserts that a number of English merchants are about to present an address to the Queen praying that negotiations be opened with France for a mutual reduction of existing armaments.

The rumour is revived that Lord John Russell will shortly accept a peerage and a seat in the House of Lords. He had been a lock-out of the weavers in Blackburn and vicinity was considered imminent. The cotton spinners and manufacturers in the district held a large meeting, and resolved to resist the dictatorial demands of the operatives, who in their turn maintained their position with firmness.

The *Great Eastern* will again ready for sea in March; reported destination, New York.

The *Edinburgh* news brings an account of furious gales on the English coasts on the 9th.

Immense number of rocks, with great loss of life, passing off the Eastern coast.

FRANCE.—The Bonaparte-Paterson case was again before the French Court on the 8th. The Imperial Attorney explained the legal bearings, and for want of publication say whether a *laissez passer* writ would be obeyed in Canada, but it could not be executed immediately, as the St. Lawrence River was blocked up with ice, and it was impossible to take Anderson through American territory. He believed the case, according to the treaty, was quite clear, and that the claim of the United States must be established by showing that Anderson was guilty of murder according to the laws of England.—No English jury would convict Anderson of murder, and the claim was not likely to be substantiated.

The semi-official pamphlet on the same subject, already published, says that in the event of the French troops leaving Rome, no other foreign power will be allowed to supply their place.

The Bourse on the 13th opened firm, and closed flat at 68 1/2.

ITALY.—A Tarin telegraphed, "To-morrow morning the Italian fleet will occupy Mont Orfio, and the Italian army will occupy the city; the garrison to remain prisoners of war until Messina and Civitella del Tronto shall be surrounded. The King and Queen with the suite will depart on board the French ship *Mette*."

Despatches from Gaeta prior to the capitulation say the Capuchin monk who left there with the mission of offering an insurance in Calabria, was arrested near Consenza and that important paper had been found on him.

The city of Fiume and surrounding districts are declared in a state of siege by Austria.

The subscriptions to the new loan exceeded thirty million florins.

SWITZERLAND.—A Berne telegraph of the 13th says it was through the medium of the Swiss Consul at Algiers that McCobden proposed that Switzerland should mediate between the contending States of America.

The Federal Council declined the proposition on the ground that it was not qualified for such an office, but at the same time expressed their thanks to Mr. Cobden.

FROM THE EAST.—A Calcutta telegram of January the 16th, via Point de Galle, reports the import market very dull. Shirtings \$33.00. The entire liabilities are \$1,300,000, of which \$600,000 is owed here.

The balance in the East. The assets are unascertained, but California creditors seem to think themselves secure.

Solomon H. Bohm & Co have failed. Attachments are levied to the amount of \$500,000. Attachments are also made to the retail house of Thomas Brady. Some prospects of compromise with creditors by the latter. The failures had produced a panic in the dry goods trade.

Flour is about to be shipped from Oregon to Liverpool.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, 23.

More than two hours were occupied by the Secretary of the Treasury, in opening the bids for the eight million loan, this noon.—There were about 160 bidders and the average amount offered on the dollar was a fraction over 90 cents.

In the debate in the House on the loan bill, Mr. Garrett while discussing the Senate amendment, noticed the arrival of Mr. Lincoln here at an early hour, saying the latter had hurried through Baltimore for fear of Bill Yancy and Jeff. Davis, who were there with a six pounder. He did not think it necessary to increase the Lieutenant General's pay, that he might have an additional peacock feather in his career against his own native State.

The new Canadian license law admits of one tavern for every 250 inhabitants. As a tavern in Canada, means a place to drink, the law evidently presumes the people are very "dry." The Oswego Times says that "even in New York, where we are so well provided with places for retailing 'deadstock' we can't come up to the limit of the law. If they live up to the limits of the law, we will have to drink up to our own necks."

Mr. Edward Norris went to the office of Mr. Henry Peacock, Notre Dame-street, Montreal, on Saturday, to pay an account. There was some difference between them, and a quarrel ensued. Mr. Peacock got very angry, and in a threatening manner showed Mr. Norris a pistol, for which exhibition he was on Monday fined \$10 and costs.

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF WESTERN CANADA.

On Tuesday the 9th inst., the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Canada held their annual meeting at the Town Hall, Barrie, for the election of officers for the year, and other business. Delegates from about 250 lodges were present. The Lodge in session till late on Wednesday evening. The following officers were duly elected for the present year.

Bros. F. H. Medcalf, Grand Master; F. E. Cornish, Deputy Grand Master; N. C. Gowan, Grand Secretary; J. H. Bessy, Grand Treasurer; Rev. H. B. Ostler, Grand Chaplain; J. McMillan, Grand Lecturer; S. B. Batten, Grand Director of Ceremonies; W. Strachan, Junior Deputy Grand Master; E. R. Dewhurst, Junior Deputy Grand Secretary; C. Smith, Grand Tyler.

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF CENTRAL CANADA.

The Provincial Grand Orange Lodge for Central Canada, held its annual session in the town of Belleville, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th instants. There were a large number of delegates in attendance, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings. The following are the officers elected for the present year by the Grand Master—Mackenzie Bowell, Esq., Belleville.

Deputy Grand Master—George C. Ward, Associate Deputy Grand Master—Bennet Rossmore, Almonte.

Grand Treasurer—Joseph Bullen, Belleville. Grand Secretary—Wm. Shannon, Kingston. Deputy Grand Secretary—James R. Burke, Kingston.

Grand Chaplain—Rev. Wm. Burns, Wilton. Grand Lecturer—David Marshall, Port Hope. Grand Director of Ceremonies—William P. Phillips, Kingston.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

Montreal, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 1861.

Flour—Superfine No. 2, \$5 to \$5.15; Do. No. 1, \$5.25 to \$5.50; Fancy, \$5.60 to \$5.75; Extra, \$5.80 to \$6.25; Superior Extra, \$6.50 to \$7. No. 1 was sold at Depot yesterday at \$5.45.

For June delivery, 1000 barrels No. 1 Super, were sold yesterday at \$5.80; the same price was offered for May. Flour freight, from ports on Lake Ontario to Montreal, has been engaged for May at 40c per barrel.

WHEAT.—W.C. Spring, ex-cars, \$1.16; shipping lots inquired for.

FRAS.—For present delivery 73 to 75c is bid; the latest sale we know of for May is 20,000 bushels at \$1c.

OATS.—This morning *habitués* are getting 33 to 34c on the street.

GRAIN.—For parcels from the country, \$2.10 per quintal is paid; 200 barrels in store brought \$4.25; and a sale for May delivery has been made at \$4.40.

ASHES.—We quote as before: First Pots, \$5.72 to \$5.77; Inferiors, \$5.90 to \$6; Pearls, \$6.05 to \$6.10.

BUTTER.—The several lots of good and extra, from the country, were sold to-day at a shade over 14c. The market is dull; we quote nominally, 12 to 14c for store packed, according to quality; 15 to 16c. for good dairy.

PROVISIONS.—No transactions.

GROCERIES.—Wholesale business at a standstill.

DRESSED HOGS.—Market dull and lower; there have not been many sales since Friday; the range to-day is \$6.75 to \$6.87. With a single exception the best lots have gone off at \$6.25; there have been transactions at extreme prices, and at \$6, and \$6.12.

SHEDS.—Timothy is saleable in quantity at \$2.50 per bushel of 48 lbs. Clover Seed is in demand at \$5 per bushel of 60 lbs, for Western. Flax Seed is \$1.40 for U. C. per 56 lbs; L.C. is \$1.30 to \$1.38.

JOHN DOUGLAS, Commission Merchant.

ARRIVAL OF MR. LINCOLN AT WASHINGTON.

Baltimore, 23.

Mr. Lincoln arrived here this a.m., and went direct to Washington. Much excitement was occasioned.

A little sensation prevailed throughout the city this morning. As soon as it became known that Mr. Lincoln had arrived in the early train, it was unsuccessfully sought to conceal the effects especially from the newspaper press, his presence here being at first communicated to a few political friends in confidence. He was met at the station by several gentlemen of distinction without any formalities, and was immediately driven to Willard's Hotel. He was yesterday advised to come hither without delay. Preparations had been made to meet him at the station this p.m. and the Mayor of Washington was to make a welcome address, but Mr. Lincoln has thus spoiled the programme. About 40 o'clock Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. Seward, paid a visit to President Buchanan, spending a few minutes in conversation.

Senator Bigler and Representative John Cochrane happened to be at the White House when he entered, and were accordingly introduced to the President.

Mr. Lincoln afterwards returned to his hotel.

The people of this city were dumfounded this morning, by the announcement that Mr. Lincoln had started in a special train for Washington, dispatches having been received requiring his presence there.

Reports are being circulated that there was a plot to assassinate him while passing through Baltimore, but such stories are not believed.

The Baltimore Committee is here but did not have an interview with Mr. Lincoln.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, 23.

More than two hours were occupied by the Secretary of the Treasury, in opening the bids for the eight million loan, this noon.—There were about 160 bidders and the average amount offered on the dollar was a fraction over 90 cents.

In the debate in the House on the loan bill, Mr. Garrett while discussing the Senate amendment, noticed the arrival of Mr. Lincoln here at an early hour, saying the latter had hurried through Baltimore for fear of Bill Yancy and Jeff. Davis, who were there with a six pounder. He did not think it necessary to increase the Lieutenant General's pay, that he might have an additional peacock feather in his career against his own native State.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Washington, Feb. 21.—In the Peace Conference to-day, Messrs. Dudley Field and Smith of New York made strong speeches against compromise.

An attempt will be made to-morrow to force a vote. The result is doubtful.

The Virginia delegation, to-day, gave notice that the next movement will be a convention of the South States—the adoption of the Constitution of the United States with guarantees, and an invitation to all States to join the confederacy.

There is trouble in the French legation, owing to contradictory advice to Paris. The Minister, M. de la Roche, is imbued with secession sentiments, having sent home reports conflicting with official advice from Consuls and other sources, explanations have been required.

Baron Stoeckel, the Russian Minister, also sympathizes with secession.

Dispatches from Europe announce the determination of the European powers to abide by the fixed policy of recognizing no new government from which it has separated.

General Scott stated to-day he had intelligence from Charleston that Fort Sumter would be attacked to-day. It is said the intelligence came from Mayor Anderson himself.

Per contra—Government has information that an attack will not be made before the 4th of March.

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—At noon, the streets were densely thronged with people. The working men's procession is now passing, a large number are in line, and all the various trades are represented. The Machinists drag along in carts their implements of labour, rendering useless by the political troubles of the country, giving to the parade a most melancholy significance. Salutes are being fired as they march.

The National Working-men's Convention will be held this evening.

The celebration of Washington's birthday began at day-light by a salute. Shortly after seven o'clock a flag containing 34 stars, was hoisted by Mr. Lincoln from a platform in front of Independence Hall, after an appropriate prayer and other ceremonies. Independence Square was filled with a mass of people, whose enthusiastic cheers were worthy of the occasion. A National salute was fired as the flag floated out. Mr. Lincoln leaves here at nine o'clock.

Boston, Feb. 22.—The Common Council of this city, last evening, passed resolutions, by a large majority, censuring Hon. Charles Sumner for his remarks in the Senate of the United States relative to the signers of the petition for the passage of the Crittenden compromise.

The New American Tariff has passed the Senate, and gone to the House of Representatives for concurrence. Among the additional duties is one of four cents a pound upon tea, and half a cent on coffee. These articles, when imported from the place of growth in American vessels, have hitherto been free. It is doubtful whether the bill, as amended in the Senate, and will pass the lower House.

The Prince of Wales has sent a pair of fine buck sheep to John Wentworth, Mayor of Chicago, and two pointer dogs to a Mr. Spencer, as tokens of kind remembrance for attentions received from those gentlemen during his recent trans-atlantic tour.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING.—On Saturday while a party of seven persons belonging to Oremville, Maine, were hunting in the woods, the gun owned by the highest party was accidentally discharged. The men were walking in single file and the bullet out of the tip of a finger of the first person ahead, passed through the leg of the second just below the knee, and through the leg of the third above the knee, fracturing the bones in both instances. They were carried out to the settlement.

There has been an exhibition during the week in the Arcade, at Watertown, perfectly white Deer, which was taken in the great woods in the northern part of N. Y. State.

A great goose, owned by Mr. Todd of North Haven, tried to immortalize