MILITARY DEFENCES OF WESTERN CANADA.

From the Chatham Planet Aug. 15

For some weeks past Colonel Whittingham, of the Royal Engineers, Captain Collinson, of the Royal Navy, and the Hon. H. H. Killaly, connected with the Public Works of Canada, have been minutely inspecting the western boundaries of this section of the Province, and taking sketches of several prominent points most likely to be valuable in a military point of view. The harbours from Sault Ste. Marie to Amherstburg have already been visited, and plans of them have been made. Positions most suitable for the erection or coast defences have also been selected. Yesterday, the gentlemen above mentioned were to have left Amherstburg in a steamer, for the purpose of inspecting Lake Erie shore, from Fort Malden to the Rond Eau. This latter point has already been minutely examined by Messrs Wyse and Turner, Government engineers, and it is reported that extensive improvements are likely to be recommended, and shortly to be commenced, with the view of making that splendid basin of water a harbour of refuge for lake shipping as, also, to make it suitable for a naval rendezvous for British gunboats upon the upper lakes. Colonel Whittingham, Captain Collinson and the Hon. Mr. Killaly, arrive at the Eau to-day. After thoroughly inspecting the harbour and work at present erected there, they will proceed to Charham where they will probably view the barracks and this vicinity, which is admitted by the best military men of the country to be the point where troops should be stationed, and military stores placed for the defence of the whole western part of the Province.

THE POTATO ROT.—It seems now to be beyond a doubt that the potato rot has made its appearance, and is likely to prove very destructive, in this section of Canada. We are informed that in some localities, entire fields are turning black, and there are very few patches but show indications of being affected. It is consequently impossible to tell at this stage of the disease what the extent of its ravages may be, but it is confidently stated that at least one-third of the present year's crop will be destroyed. The session has been very wet, scarcely a day passing without rain, more or less, and the wet, cold weather may have had something to do with producing the re-appearance of the potato blight. We are also informed that in several localities, the "army worm" has made its appearance and commenced its ravages. Barley is the principal grain attacked as yet, but it will doubtless extend to other descriptions, as no kind of grain escapes this universal destroyer. In the West, in many localities, the "army worm" has already destroyed whole fields of grain.—*Perth Courier, 16th.*

Two Christians have just been placed at the head of important services at Constantinople. One of them, Franco-Poasso Effendi has been appointed director of the telegraphs as already announced, in place of Daoud Pacha, the new governor of Lebanon. The other, Palaris Massurus, brother to the Ottoman Ambassador at London, has been named to one of the highest posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These two appointments are looked on as undeniable symptoms of the new Sultan's favorable feelings towards his Christian subjects.

A CAUTIOUS JUDGE.—An Irish jugde tried two most notorious fellows for highway robbery.—To the astonishment of the court, as well as the prisoners themselves they were found not guilty. As they were being removed from the bar the Judge addressing the gealor, said "Mr. Murphy, you would greatly ease my mind, if you would keep these two respectable gentleman until seven or half-past seven o'clock, for I meau to set out for Dublin at five, and I should like to have at least two hours' start of them."

KILLED.—Charles Devlin, a mason, employed on the Departmental Buildings west, came to his death on Friday last, in the following manner. It appears deceased, with others of his fellow workmen, was busily engaged in hoisting some joists from a scaffolding. The planks were not steadfast, and Devlin, accidentally stepping on the end of one, which, overbalancing, threw him to the ground, a distance of some twenty feet. He lingered until Monday last, when death ended his sufferings.—*Ottawa Gazette.*

JUDICIAL CHANGES.—It is reported that the proposed changes in the Upper Canada judiciary will take place this week. Chief Justice Robinson retires on a pension of two thirds his salary, and it is reported that he will be appointed to the post of President of the Court of Appeal with £500 a year additional. The other changes are not yet announced, but it is nearly certain that Mr Draper becomes Chief of the Queen's Bench, and Mr. McLean Chief of the Common Pleas. It is said that Mr. Vankoughnet does not go on the Bench at present.—*Globe.*

The private letters expresses complete disbelief in the statement that the loss of the Federal army in killed and wounded had been only 1000 men. It is generally thought observes a writer usually well informed, that the Government wish as favorable accounts as possible to go out by the steamer to Europe, with the view of keeping up the credit of the country on the eve of a new loan, and, as all the telegraph stations are in their hands they let only such reports come out as they deem expedient.

A letter from the tobacco region of Virginia warns the tobacco chewers of the North against using the "weed" prepared in the South, as they are poisoning it to kill off the Northern men faster than they can hope to do with powder and ball. If it be true, it is certainly very important to those who indulge in its use, and we commend this notice to their careful consideration, leaving them to judge of the value of the information.

The 76th Highland Regiment at Washington appear to have got over their troubles. It is said their colors will be immediately restored and ringleaders be dealt with leniently. It is said they have confidence in their new commander, Col. Stevens. The very sharp discipline proposed of shooting the ringleaders, &c., was not found to answer.

During last week a lady in St. Catherines received notice that her husband, father and two brothers were killed in one of the recent skirmishes between Northerners and Southerners. All her immediate relatives have now been cut off, and she remains a sad and very lone woman indeed.

Mrs. Wilkinson's Canada House, Caledonia Springs, was entirely destroyed by fire, with all its out buildings, on Tuesday morning. Most of the property of the lodgers and some of the furniture were saved.

A correspondent of the Daily News states that the Lord Chancellor receives £500 for proroguing Parliament, and the same sum for opening the Houses "by commission."

Some men's mouths seem to be like the dykes of Holland—made to keep out water.

At last accounts Prince Napoleon was steaming it fiercely on Lake Superior.

MR. RUSSELL'S SECOND LETTER AFTER THE BULL'S RUN ROUTE.

Washington, July 24.

"WHAT WILL THE PEOPLE SAY?"

As no one can say what a day or a night may bring forth, particularly in time of war, I avail myself of a chance of probable quiet, such as it is, amid the rolling of drums, the braying of trumpets and bands, the noise of marching men, rolling of wagons, and the general life and activity in the streets, to write some remarks on the action at Manassas or Bull's Run. Of its general effects abroad, and on the North and South, a larger and perhaps a better view can be taken from Europe than on this side of the Atlantic. There is a natural and intense anxiety to learn what impression will be made abroad by the battle,—for, notwithstanding the vulgar and insolent arrogance of the least reputable portion of the press in the United States, generally conducted by aliens or persons who have left Great Britain *from cause*,—it is felt that the result of the action must have very strong influences over the fortunes of the contending parties, particularly in the money market, to which recourse must be had in fear and trembling. It would be well not to arrive at hasty conclusions in reference to the bearing of the defeat on the actual struggle. Those who are persuaded that the North must and will subjugate the South see in the disaster merely, a prolongation of the war, a certain loss of material, or even an increment of hope in the spirit it will arouse, as they think, among the Unionists. Others regard it as an evil omen for the compromise they desire to effect, as it will give the North another insult to avenge, and inspira the South with additional confidence. The Confederates will accept it as a proof demonstrative of their faith that the North cannot conquer them, and may take it into their heads to corroborate it by an attempt to inflict on the North that with which they have been menaced by the Cabinet of Washington and its supporters. "What will England and France think of it?" is the question which is asked over and over again. The news must go forth in its most unfavorable form, and it will be weeks, if ever, before the North can set a great victory to the credit side of its books against the Confederates. In 30 days or so the question will be answered—not hastily or angrily, in spite of provocation and offence, but in the spirit of honorable neutrality. In the States one thing is certain,—the Cabinet will resist the pressure of the mob, or be hurled out of office. If they yield to the fanatics and fight battles against the advice of their officers they must be beaten; and the tone of New York indicates that a second defeat would cost them their political existence.—They can resist such pressure in future as has been brought on them hitherto by pointing to Bull's Run, and by saying, "See the result of forcing General Scott against his wishes." Of the Cabinet, Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, is perhaps the only man who bore up against the disheartening intelligence of Monday morning, but Mr. Seward and others are recovering their spirits as they find that their army was more frightened than hurt, and that the Confederates did not advance on the capital immediately after their success. It was a sad rude sweep of the broom to the cobweb-spinners—to the spider politicians, who have been laying out warps in all directions, and are lying in frowsy heaps among the ruins of their curious artifices. Nothing can restore them to their places in the popular estimation; nothing could have kept them there but the rapid and complete success of their policy and the speedy fulfilment of their prophecies. The sword they have drawn is held over their heads by the hands of some coming man whose face no one can see yet, but his footsteps are laudible, and the ground shakes beneath his tread.

A FIELD FOR LINCOLN.

If Mr. Lincoln were indeed a despot, with the genius to lead or direct an army, now would be his time. All the odium which could be heaped upon him by his enemies, all the accusations that could have been preferred North and South, have been fully urged, and he could not add to them by leading his army to victory, while the victory would certainly come the most unexampled popularity, and perhaps an extraordinary and prosperous tenure of power. The campaign would be one worthy of Napoleon, nor could it be determined by even $50,000,000 and 500,000 men, unless they were skilfully handled and well economised. If popular passion be excited by demagogues, and if it be permitted to affect the councils of the State, it is easy to foresee the end, though it is not so easy to predict by what steps ruin will be reached at last. The Ministers are already ordered to resign by the masters of the mob, and suffer a just punishment for their temporary submission to the clamor of the crownless monarchs of the North-east. The Secretary-at-war, Mr. Cameron, whose brother fell at the head of his regiment in the field, is accused of making the very submission—which was indeed a crime if ever it occurred—by the very people who urged it upon him, and there are few Ministers who escape invective and insinuation.

POSITION OF THE ARMY.

The great question to be decided just now is the value of the Union settlement in the North. Will the men and the money be forthcoming, and that soon enough to continue the war of aggression or recuperation against the seceded States? The troops here complain of want of money, and say they are not paid. If that be so, there is proof of want of funds, which, if it lasts, will prevent the reorganization of another army, and I think it would not be safe to rely on the present army, or to depend on many of the regiments till they have been thoroughly reorganized. It must be remembered that the United States is about to lose the services of some 80,000 men, many of whom have already gone home. These are the "three months' men," called out under the President's proclamation. Whether they will enlist for the term of three years, now proposed, cannot be determined; but, judging from their words, they will not do so if their present officers are continued or recommissioned. At all events, they will nearly all go home to be "mustered out of the service," as it is called, in regiments, at the expense of the Government. It is reported in Washington that steps were taken long ago to supply the places of the retiring battalions, and that there were also offers of 83 battalions, which have been accepted by the Government, sent in as soon as the news of the disaster at Bull's Run was communicated to the North. How the regiments about to leave in a day of two were sent into the field at all is one of the mysteries of the war department.

While Congress has been passing Bills of pains and penalties, confiscating rebel property, and amending sundry laches in the penal code, as well as filling up rat-holes, through which conquered and run-away Secessionists might escape, in the laws and body of the Constitution, the conquest is suddenly deferred, and Cotton stands King on the battle-field. "We are glad of it," cry the extreme abolitionists, "actually delighted because now slavery is doomed." The extreme depression which followed after the joy and delight caused by the erroneous statements of victory, complete and brilliant, has been gradually disappearing, in proportion to the inactivity of the enemy or to their inability to take advantage of their success by immediate action. The funds have recovered, and men are saying, "Well, it's not so bad as it might have been." The eye of faith is turned on the future, the eye of speculation is directed on the hoards of capital, and there is a firm belief that some clever person or another will succeed in inducing John Bull to part with a little of his surplus cash, for which he will receive egregious per centage.

WILL THE CONFEDERATE STATES BE REORGANIZED? OPINION OF GEN. SCOTT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

If the bulk of the capital and population of the North is thrown into this struggle, there can be but one hope for the Confederates—brilliant victories on the battle-field, which must lead to recognition from foreign Powers. The fight cannot go on for ever, and if the Confederate States meet with reverses—if their capital is occupied, their Congress dispersed, their territory (that which they claim as theirs) occupied, they must submit to the consequences of defeat. Is that not equally true of their opponents? On what ground can the United States, which were founded on successful rebellion, claim exemption from the universal law which they did so much to establish?—Whatever the feelings of the North may be now, there can be no doubt that the reverse of Manassas caused deep mortification and despondency in Washington. General Scott, whether he disproved, as it is said, the movement onwards or not, was certain that the Confederates would be defeated. Every hour messengers were hurried off from the field to the end of the wire some miles away, with reports of the progress made by the troops, and every hour the telegrams brought good tidings up to 4 o'clock or so, when the victory seemed decided in favor of the Federalists; at least, the impression was that they had gained the day by driving the enemy before them. Then came the news of the necessary retirement of the troops; nevertheless, it is affirmed that up to 8 o'clock in the evening General Scott believed in the ultimate success of the United States troops, who under his own immediate orders had never met with a reverse. The President the Secretary of War, and other members of the Government, were assembled in the room where the telegraph operator was at work far into the night, and as the oracles of fate uncoiled from the wires, gloom gathered on their faces, and at last, grave and silent, they retired, leaving hope behind them. It must have been to them a time of anxiety beyond words; but of old the highest honors were given to him who in calamity and disaster did not despair of the Republic. And it is to the credit of the President and his advisers that they have recovered their faith in the ultimate success of their cause, and think they can subjugate the South after all. If the Confederates have suffered heavy in the battle, as is believed to be the case, they may be disheartened in spite of their victory, and the news of a second unrising and *levee en masse* in the North may not be without an unfavorable effect on their ardor. Such men as wade Hampton, who is reported killed, leave gaps in their ranks not readily filled, and the number of colonels reported to be *hors de combat* would indicate a considerable loss. But the raw levies are not likely to be fit for much for months to come, and it is difficult to see how they will be fit for anything until they get proper officers.—Some of the so-called regiments which have recently come in are mere mobs, without proper equipments, uniform, or arms; others are in these respects much better, marching well and looking like soldiers, but still no better than the troops who were beaten. It is not courage (need it be said?) which is wanting—it is officers; and without them men are worth little or nothing. The men of some regiments fought well; others did not. There was little or no difference between the privates of the one and these of the other; there was probably a marked distinction between the officers. The West Point cadets will all be used up by the increase of the regular army of the United States to 40,000 men, just agreed upon by Congress, after some disputes between the Senate and the House of Representatives; and the bulk of the officers with military experience and education are provided for already.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BATTLE—THE REGULARS *vs.* THE VOLUNTEERS.

The President is not exempt from the fate of the unfortunate in all republics, but he has yet a good deal of the future to draw upon, and the people are amused by changes among the military commanders and by threats and promises, for which they will all have to pay before the quarrel is adjusted. It is so generally asserted that General Scott did not approve the advance, for which his plans were not matured (and it is probable, too,) that it may be believed by those who have not the greatest faith in the firmness of his character, and who think he might be induced to give orders for the execution of ill-conceived and hasty projects, or at all events, to precipitate operations without the necessary conditions of success. It is certain the country was becoming fretful and impatient, and that men like Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate, were loud in their complaints of the delays and inactivity of the army and of its chief, and of the pretensions of the regular officers. The schism which must always exist between professionals and quacks, between regular soldiers and volunteers, has been greatly widened by the action on Sunday. The Volunteers indulge in severe reflections on the generalship of the commander; the regulars speak with contemptuous bitterness of the inefficiency and cowardice of the Volunteer officers. The former talk learnedly of the art of war, and of the cruelty of being led like sheep to the slaughter. The latter, without detracting from the courage of the men, inveigh against those who directed their regiments on the field; and the Volunteer privates are glad to add their testimony against many of the officers, whose pride in uniforms and gold lace did not permit them to soil them in the smoke of gun-powder. It is remarkable that so much hankering after military reputation should be accompanied, in some instances at least, by an absence of any military spirit. The tone in which some officers speak of being "whipped" is almost boastful and exultant. Last night I heard one declaring he thought it was a good thing they were beaten, as it would put an end to the fighting; "he was quite sure none of his men would ever face the Confederates again."—Another was of opinion that it was lucky they had not advanced much further, as in that case they could not have escaped so well. And so on. It would be, I am certain, as unjust to the bulk of the officers to suppose they entertain such sentiments as these as it would be in the last degree untrue to say that their men were destitute of courage and were not ready to fight any enemy, if fairly disciplined and properly led; but the expression of these things is indicative of the want of proper "esprit militaire," and it should be reprehended by those who wish to establish the loyalty of the Volunteer army.

WHAT THE CONFEDERATES MIGHT HAVE DONE.

Had the Confederates been aware of their success, and followed up their advantage early on Monday morning, there was no reason on earth why they should not have either got into Washington or compelled the whole of the Federalist army that kept together and could not escape, as it was all on one road, to surrender themselves prisoners, with all they possessed. If the state men in the Federalist papers as to their str engt be correct, the rebels could have easily spared 30,000 men for that purpose, with a reserve of 10,000 or 15,000 in their rear. The chain bridge, that fords above the Falls, were open to them—at least there could be but little or no opposition from the disorganized forces. The columns moving round from Fairfax to their left by Vienna would have been able certainly to cross to Matildaville; others could have got over at the Falls and still there would have been enough to permit Beauregard to occupy Manassas, and to send on a heavy column to cover Alexandria and to shut up the Federalists in the earthworks and *tete de pont*, if not to wrest them from troops deeply affected by the rout they were witnessing. If the Confederates had the cavalry of which so much has been said they were scandalously handled. A detour by a crossroad from Centreville to the Germantown road would have placed the horse in the rear of the retreating mass in half-an-hour, and it is not to much to say that mass would have thrown itself on the mercy of the pursuers. If Beauregards or Lee's force was small, as they say, and suffered as much as the Federalists aver, the fight is more incomprehensible. But still it is very strange that the victors should not have been aware of their victory—that is, of the utter rout which followed their repulse The attempt to form line on the top of Centreville, only partially successful as it was might have imposed on the enemy, and saved M'Dowell from the pursuit which he did his best to avert. The journals which at first boasted of the Grand Union army of 45,000 men, are now anxious to show that only 20,000 were engaged. Why did the other 25,000 run away? The German regiment under Colonel Blucker, and perhaps some other corps, may have retired in good order but eventually few withstood the incessant alarms. The rain, which commenced on Monday morning early, may have had much to do with the undisturbed retreat of the Federalists, as the enterprise and activity of the enemy would be much diminished in consequence, and as for the beaten army, it has been always observed that troops hold together and march well in rain. But with all allowances and excuses, it is still mysterious inactivity. Johnston, whose junction with 40,000 men is said to have taken place (if he had half the number it is more than I give him credit for) on the morning of the battle, must have swelled the force under Lee and Beauregard to 70,000 men at least. He is the best officer in the Confederate army, and it is believed here that he is already away operating in Western Virginia. There is a suspicious silence in the dispatches and telegrams from the West and Sout-western camps of the Federalists which justifies the Secessionists rumors of disaster in those quarters. The Confederates by moving out to meet McDowell anticipated the engagement, and brought on the action sooner than he expected, so much so that he was obligded to break up his column and turn out his regiments right and left as well as he could to bring them into line. It would seem as if they were aware of his plans, for they disregarded the movements on their right, and did not exhibit any activity there till the force opposite their left began to give way whereupon they made an attempt on the left flank of the Federalists, which added to the alarm of the retiring army.

ORDERS AFTER THE BATTLE.

In my last letter, sent at 4o'clock on Tuesday morning by special courier to Boston, where it arrived in time for the Wednesday packet of July 24, I brought down my narrative to the Monday preceding, such as it was, and have nothing to add to it of much consequence. One of the first acts of the Secretary of War on being made aware of the reverse was to telegraph to General McClellrn to come to Washington, and to demand reinforcements from the Governors of the Northern States, as well as to put the authorities at Fort McHenry on their guard against a rising in Baltimore. On Tuesday the rain having ceased in the morning early the streets were crowded with baggage carts and with soldiers who wandered up and down astonishing the natives with anecdotes of battle, and doing anything but duty with their regiments. These men have now been coerced by the mounted patrols to repair to the rendezvous assigned for them by General Mansfield or to go to durance vile; but for the whole day and night the capital presented an extraordinary aspect, to which a deeper interest was lent by the arrival of wagons and ambulances of wounded.

Wednesday, July 24.

HOW THE HEROES ARE MADE.

Before breakfast I rode over the Long-bridge to Arlington. There were groups of soldiers, mostly without arms or belts, some few shoeless, a good many footsore, going along the ground or standing in the streets of the city engaged in the occupation called "loafing" in these parts. Several of the men stopped me to inquire after the different regiments to which they belonged. They were dejected and broken looking fellows, but, at all events, their mein was more becoming than that of their officers, who are crowding about the hotels and talking of their "whipping" with complacency and without shame. A Washington paper, alluding to the demoralization of the regiments yesterday evening, calls on these officers "to forego one day's duty at the bars and hotels" and return to their corps. Thousands of men follow the example of their superiors.—The necessities of others compel them to seek out the quarters of their regiments that they may be fed. One man dressed in uniform had the impudence to come into my room to-day, and, after a series of anecdotes which would furnish a stupendous sequel to Munchausen, as to his valor, "masked batteries," charge of cavalry, &c., to ask me for the loan of $5, on the ground that he was a waiter at the hotel at which I had stopped in New York. I could perceive by his talk and by that of some other soldiers the mode in which these stories about "charges" and "masked batteries" are made up.—*To be Continued.*

A sample of excellent fully ripened wheat from Sault Ste Marie is on exhibition at the Express office in Toronto. The belief has heretofore been almost general that wheat could not ripen at the Sault, but the idea is now exploded by the success of Mr. George Ley.

The immigration at New York, this year, falls short only about five thousand, compared with last year. There is a decrease in Irish immigration, but the Germans are coming in pretty freily. They find they can now buy farms in the West, and many of them enlist for the war.

The New York World admits Mr. Russell's account of the Bull run route to be kraphic and truthful, and is much comforted by the causes which he alleges for the disaster. Verily it is thankful for small mercies.

Two children having lately died in London, the police in trying to find out the cause of their death, discovered that their parents belonged to a sect called the "New Lights," who think it a crime to use any medicine, God alone being the arbiter of human life and death.

The Spanish government has been established in San Domingo, and the inhabitants have become reconciled their rule.

Indications of coal oil have been discovered near Quebec.

ROBBERY OF MONEY LETTERS.—During the past month five money letters, one addressed to Mr. Hewitt, Paymaster of Public Works, two to C. Atkinson & Co., and two for Stewart & McIntyre, were obtained from the Money Lette: Department of the Post Office here by a young lad named George McLean, who by a very clever contrivance, conveyed to the clerk in charge the idea of his being in the employ of the parties whose letters he asked for. About the first week in July, having by some means ascertained that there was a registered letter for Mr. Hewitt, he prepared a letter addressed to some New York or Boston firm, which he registered as containing money, on Mr. Hewitt's account. He then throwing down one of the registered letter cards, asked for and received a letter for Mr. Hewitt, he signed his name as Burns, Soon after he obtained two letters for Atkinson & Co., in the same manner. It so happened that the first letter contained an official cheque, payable to order, and of course not negotible. Being no use to him he sealed it up again, writing across the face of it that it was opened by mistake by Box ——, which proved to be the box of Mr. Abbott, Clerk of the St. Anne's Market. From Atkinson & Co.'s letters he obtained about $42. On the 24th July he got in exactly the same way two letters for Stewart & McIntyre, one containing $100 in bills, and an ordinary business note enclosed which he tore up. For these letters he signed his name "Burns." On account of the inquirics for missing letters, suspicion had been aroused and cards were placed and kept in the boxes of the parties mentioned, in the hope that the thief would again try the same dodge. On Saturday afternoon he did come, and asked for a letter for Mr. Hewitt, when he was recognized as the same boy who had received the letters for Stewart & McIntyre, and one of the clerks was sent round to catch him. His suspicions had been roused, however, he started up Great St. James street, and was not caught until he had run a considerable distance. He was taken back to the Post Office, where he confessed to the whole affair, stating that he had no accomplices whatever. He is a smart intelligent looking lad, of about sixteen years of age, and has been in the employment of the Mercantile Agency in this city. He was taken in charge by Detective O'Leary.—*Montreal Gazette.*

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA.

In spite of all the influences operating against the country the immigration of the present year has thus far largely exceeded that of 1830. The Quebec *Chronicle* gives the following statement, as furnished by Mr. A. C. Buchanan, the Chief Emigrant Agent, showing the numbers arriving in each year, from the opening of navigation to the 17th August:

	1860.		1861.	
	Cabin.	Str'age.	Cabin.	Str'age.
England...	670	2,434	728	4,428
Ireland....	0	236	1	352
Scotland...	58	567	67	722
Germany..	0	233	0	1,383
Norway,&c	40	1,752	38	8,508
Total.....	768	6,523	832	15,363

Of these emigrants there arrived by steamers in 1861, 5,779; by sailing vessels, 11,449; increase, 8,835.

A PREACHER KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—The Lafayette (Ind.) *Courier*, of Aug 6th, has the following:—

"Mr. Harris, a Methodist minister, was struck by lightning and instantly killed, near the State line, yesterday. He had preached in the neighborhood on Sunday, and during the storm yesterday, in company with his wife, had taken shelter in the house of one of the brethren at the edge of the wood.—There were five or six persons in the room The deceased was walking backward and forward in front of the open door, when the bolt decended, and he fell dead at the feet of his wife. Not a groan, nor even a sigh escaped him. His features were as placid as though he were in a quiet slumber, and there was not a mark upon his person to indicate where the bolt took effect. His boot was ripped open, and a watch key attached to his fob melted to dross. All the persons in the room were more or less shocked, but none seriously.

Two men, Pike Gish and George W. Kitter, driving along the road near South Bend, Indiana, were also struck by lightning, and almost instantly killed. One of the horses was also killed, and the waggon turned upside down."

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

PRODUCE.

We write to-day with a firm market, showing an advance on last week's rates, which we think will be sustained. The English mails of this week bring lower quotations from Liverpool on account of good harvesting weather, whilst the London market, under heavy exports to France is firm. The business that is done here at present is purely local, with a supply quite equal to the demand.

Flour—In high grades very little doing, Fresh ground No. 1 sells at $4.60 to $4.65. Old ditto 30 to 40c., less. No. 2 $4.15 to $4.20. Fine is in demand at $3,20 to $3.40.

Bag Flour, saleable at $2.55 to $2,60 for strong sample from Scotch wheat.

Wheat—U. C. Spring not much coming forward. Small lots saleable at 95c to $1. according to sample.

Pease—Are in request at 67½c to 70c afloat, and 2½c less at Railway.

Corn—Transactions very light. Sales at 56c.

Butter—Is well inquired for, and our sales are heavy at quotations. There is a good demand for Dairy Butter in small packages. We wish consignors would believe and accept our advice respecting the *size* of the tinnets, that are most saleable, for if they do not before they get returns, we are certain they will after; to-day there is difference of 1½c per lb between a good article in a tinnet of the *wash tub* genus, and a neat tinnet holding about 40 lbs.; our sales are at 11c. and 11½c. in large packages, and 12c to 12½b in small tinnets.

ASHES—Are firm, with a good prospect for the season. We have an advance of 10c this week on Pearls, and 5c on Pots.—Sale to-day are at $5.75 for Pots, and $6.10 for Pearls.

GROCERIES.

Transactions are light, except in Sugars, which have been well looked after. Stocks of Staple Goods are light, and prices firm.—We give the the quotations of the Auction Sale of this morning.

W. & T. LEEMING,
Commission Merchants

Montreal, Aug. 22nd, 1861.

The following is one of the recent orders of the Federal Government promulgated from Washington:

"Post Office Department
August 22.

The Post Master General directs that from and after your receipt of this letter, none of the newspapers published in New York city, which were lately presented by the Grand Jury as dangerous for their disloyalty, shall be forwarded in the mails.

I am respectfully, yours,
T. B. TROTT,
Chief Clerk.

To the Postmaster of New York city.

In this weeks issue, we have commenced the publication of the celebrated 'Russell Letters,' and will continue them as far as our limits will admit. They may be estimated as the most impartial history of the revolution now taking place among our republican neighbors, and being written by an author whose descriptive powers are unrivaled, their appearance in our columns will be an attraction to those interested in the dramatic scenes now enacting in the South.

The Mayor of the City of Washington has been arrested and conveyed to Fort Lafayette, having refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Federal government. The city of Washington is deeply tinged with Secessionist opinions, and little doubt exists that the entry of the Southern army into the capitol would be hailed with satisfaction by a large number of the inhabitants.

By a notice from the Department of State at Washington, we observe that passports are not to be required in all cases from persons arriving in or leaving the United States by way of the British Provinces, but a discretionary power is given to agents of the U. S. Government to detain travellers to or from the British Provinces until the will of the Department at Washington is known.

Contrary to the reports published by the Northern papers of the cruelty of the Confederates towards their prisoners, it appears from the published by liberated prisoners, that the treatment which they received from their conquerors was both considerate and kind.

Late intelligence from the seat of war, states that the Confederate forces had evacuated Fairfax Court House in a panic, under the idea that Gen. McClellan and his whole army had advanced.

The immigration from Ireland, has, comparatively ceased. The English, Scotch and Germans now outnumber the arrivals from Ireland.

B. & O. RAILWAY.

RESOLVED—That the Superintendent be, and he is hereby requested to report in writing at the next meeting of this Board, if any and what reduction can be made in the working expenses of the Road, having due regard to its safety and efficiency.

TO THE PRESIDENT & DIRECTORS OF THE BROCKVILLE & OTTAWA RAILWAY CO'Y.

GENTLEMEN—

In compliance with a Resolution passed at the meeting of your Board on the 3rd of July last, I beg to report that I do not know how any saving can be made in the working expenses of the Road at present.

The men employed on the Track repairs are partially employed at Ballasting, Ditching, and completing the construction of the Permanent Way, necessary for the proper maintainance of the Rails, Rolling Stock, &c.

REPAIRS OF ROLLING STOCK.

This Department under the immediate direction of Mr. Cockfield, is, I believe, conducted with a strict regard to economy, but from the want of sufficient machinery, the cost of repairs is necessarily greater in proportion to the work done, than in shops where the amount of work and the facilities for doing it are more extensive.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your ob. Servt,
(Signed) A. BROOKS,
Superintendent.

Brockville & Ottawa R'y.
Superintendent's Office.

MAJOR-GEN. GEO. B. M'CLELLAN.

Next in rank to Lieut.-Gen. Scott, stands Maj.-Gen. Geo. B. McClellan. He is hardly thirty-five years of age, haying been born in Philadelphia on December 3d, 1826. At the age of sixteen he entered the Military Academy at West Point, graduating with the class of 1846, with the rank of brevet Second Lieutenant of Engineers. Until the Mexican war, however, he had no opportunity of distinguishing himself, and then, "for gallant and meritorions conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco," as the orders expressed it, he was breveted First Lieutenant. "For gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey," on September 8th, 1847, he was offered to brevet Captaincy, which he declined. He was advanced to this rank, however, subsequently, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chepultepec," and received the command of a company of Sappers, Miners and Pontoneers. in May, 1848.

THE WEEVIL.—This insect has been committing considerable ravages with wheat the present season in this country. About twenty-five years ago they first made their appearance here. Their ravages became more extensive year after year, till wheat raising, and especially fall wheat, was almost entirely abandoned. By the introduction of new varieties of spring wheat it seemed as though we had got rid of the vermin, but they have reappeared in force. Their work has been worse with late sown grain, but still the crop is fair.—*Ogdensburgh Journal.*

The Tribune correspondent says that the President carries the great burden of this war without bending. His health is perfect. His courage is perfect. To the discharge of his onerous duties as Chief Magistrate. he adds the labors of supervising the national military movement. From Kansas to the Potomac, the armies are under his eye. His care and vigilance comprehend the whole situation.

It will be observed by a notice from the Department of State at Washington, under the telegraphic head, that passports are not to be required in all cases from persons arriving in or leaving the United States by way of the British Provinces, but a discretionary power is given to agents of the U. S. Government to detain travellers to or from the British Provinces until the will of the Department at Washington relative to them is obtained. What with passports, the summary suppression of newspapers, the arrest and imprisonment of citizens upon vague charges, without an opportunity of trial and defence, the confiscation of property without legal process, and similar acts, the vaunted liberty of the United States has drifted into as irresponsible a despotism as ever disgraced Russia, Rome, or Naples.

Mere physical insensibility to danger does not constitute courage. Nearly all brave men have been of finely organized, and, therefore, of nervous temperament. Julius Cæsar was nervous, so was Bonaparte, so was Nelson. The Duke of Wellington saw a man turn pale as he marched up to a battery. "That," said he, "is a brave man; he knows his danger, but faces it."

Some very discreditable facts have been recently brought to the notice of the Government at Washington. Men, it seems, have received appointments as military chaplains who have never been recognised by any branch of the Church as ministers of the Gospel. They have sought these offices merely for selfish purposes; and those to whom the authority belongs have listened to their applications, and appointed them.—"Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priest's offices, that I may eat a piece of bread," has been in fact, if not in form, the application; and to the disgrace alike of Government and individnals, we are assured that in a few instances men of questionable morality have been thus appointed. In one regiment, it is said, that a play-actor bears the name and receives the emoluments of a chaplain.

The Richmond Despatch thinks that by the 15th of September she rebel army should push on for Philadelphia, and make preparations to spend the winter in New York.

Prentice says when he sees a young lady waving the war flag of the South, he concludes that she is anxious for an engagement with some good-looking Union man.

Upon General McClellan's order all the women in the camps across the Potomac, married and unmarried, have been sent away, save two hospital nurses for each regiment.

FORSYTH, BELL &c's PRICES CURRENT OF TIMBER, DEALS, &c.

Quebec, August 8, 1861

	s	d		s	d
White Pine, in the raft, for inferior and ordinary according to average, &c., measured off	0	4½	a	0	6
for Superior do do	0	7½	a	0	9
in shipping order according to average and quality	0	6½	a	0	9½
board 18 a 21 inch, in shipping order	0	9	a	11	0
RED PINE, in the Raft, measured off, do do	0	8½	a	0	10
in shipping order, 40 feet	0	10½	a	0	0
Oak, ordinary by the Dram	1	3	a	1	5
Lake St. Clair, measured off, by the Dram	1	5	a	1	6
Elm, by the Raft according to average and quality none	0	7	a	1	0
in shipping order, 35 to 40 feet,	0	11	a	1	0
Tamarac, Square, according to size in the raft	0	7	a	0	9
Flatted do	0	5	a	0	6
Staves, for Specification, Merchantable, std	£42	10s.			
Do. W. O. Puncheon Merchantable	£13				

Deals, Bright according to Specification £15 for 1sts, ⅔rds for 2nds.

DIED,

At Carleton Place, on the 24th inst., Mr. John B. Buskey, after a short snd painful illness. Aged 25 years. Mr. Buskey was a member of St. John's Lodge of F. & A. Masons, and was interred by the Brotherhood, with the usual Masonic ceremonies.

Suddenly, at his residence, in Pakenham, on the 15th inst., John Wallace, aged 64 years, a native of Kincardine, Scotland.

Ottawa Market Prices.

August 24, 1861.

Wheat—Fall, white	$1 05	@	1 10
" red	1 00	@	1 05
Spring, No. 1	1 00	@	1 05
" No. 2	0 85	@	0 00
Flour—Fall Wheat X	5 75	@	6 00
Spring, No. 1	5 50	@	5 75
" No. 2	3 75	@	4 00
Farmers'	4 25	@	0 00
Oatmeal ℔ bbl. 196 lbs	4 75	@	5 00
Rye ℔ bush. 56 lbs	0 50	@	0 50
Barley ℔ bush, 48lbs	0 50	@	0 65
Oats ℔ bushel, 34lbs	0 25	@	0 30
Peas ℔ bushel, 60lbs	0 40	@	0 45
Beans ℔ bushel	1 00	@	1 25
Corn ℔ bushel	0 40	@	0 45
Potatoes ℔ bushel	0 25	@	0 30
Hay ℔ ton	7 00	@	8 00
Straw ℔ ton	5 00	@	6 00
Pork ℔ 100 lbs	6 50	@	7 00
Beef ℔ 100 lbs	6 50	@	7 50
" " lb	0 06	@	0 10
Mutton ℔ lb by the quarter.	0 06	@	0 07
Ha	0 00	@	0 10

Brockville Market Prices.

August 25, 1861.

Fall Flour, ℔ 100 lbs	$2 80	@	2 25
Spring Flour	2 25	@	2 50
Fall Wheat	1 00	@	1 10
Spring Wheat	0 95	@	1 00
Buckwheat	0 25	@	0 30
Indian Corn ℔ 56 lbs	0 45	@	0 50
Barley ℔ 48 lbs	0 50	@	0 00
Oatmeal ℔ 100 lbs	2 50	@	0 00
Rye	0 00	@	0 50
Peas	0 50	@	0 00
Beef ℔ 100 lbs	4 00	@	5 05
Butter	0 12	@	0 10

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.