

Queen Victoria Calumniated.
Even the good and virtuous Queen of England—the cynosure of all nations, the admiration of all wives and mothers—is not proof against the shafts of calumny. It will be remembered that an article recently appeared in the *Gazette de Lausanne*, assailing the reputation of Queen Victoria, which caused Mr Harris, the British Minister at Berne, to complain to the Swiss Federal Council. A very curious letter in one of the Paris papers, called *L'Etendard*, is devoted to the incidents which gave rise to the article in question, and affords a tit-bit of gossip highly acceptable to scandal-mongers. The correspondent of this journal endeavors to show that the gossip originated in the best society in England, was propagated in the clubs and meeting places, and carried abroad by Englishmen themselves. After having stated that the duration of manifestations of regret on the part of the Queen, on account of the death of her husband, appeared excessive to the Court, the correspondent proceeds to explain how the silly story arose to which the complaints of the English Minister gave more importance than it deserved. The Court, he says, did not accommodate itself easily to the grief of the Queen, which reminded people of that of Artemis. They were cut short in their drawing-rooms, balls and fetes. The aristocracy, forced to imitate the Court and abstain, made loud recriminations. The trade of London, which was dependent on luxury, complained bitterly that the Royal mourning, indefinitely prolonged, injured business and caused a loss of money to it. The great journals expressed their dissatisfaction by transparent insinuations, and the little ones by caricatures and epigrams. But soon the Queen furnished a pretext for much more serious slanders. At Balmoral, the hunting residence of the late revered Prince Albert, flourished a great, tall, stalwart quondam, a veritable Highlander of the Sir Walter Scott type. John Brown is his name *piquere* (huntsman) his profession. Brown was the assiduous and faithful companion of the Prince. On the rugged mountains of Caledonia, in the pursuit of the stag or the grouse, all social distinctions disappeared between the master and the *piquere* to give place to familiar good nature. The death of the Prince plunged Brown into despair, and the vigorous huntsman was soon no more than a mere shadow of his former self. During the last sojourn the Queen made at Balmoral, she was struck with the change which had taken place in the health of Brown. But when Her Majesty learned the cause, she attached him to her personal service, and brought him to London, then to Windsor Castle, and lastly, to her favorite residence in the Isle of Wight. So far, everything was as simple as possible. But human malignity took advantage of the eccentricities of the new body guard of Her Majesty, and the aristocracy began to invent anecdotes more or less apocryphal, more or less fantastic. It was told that Brown, taking his new role in serious part, was always on the heels of the Queen, and that he exercised an ascendancy and domination over the domestics which was unprecedented; that caring little about the laws of etiquette, he entered everywhere and at any time. It was also said that being respectfully requested by the Lord Chamberlain to change his Highland costume for a more modern one, the absence of "unmentionables" according ill with public decency, the huntsman answered: "My Lord, I came into the world without breeches, and I will die without breeches." In the clubs, those hot-beds of slander, many were the ugly remarks and shameless jokes; all kinds of drolleries were bandied about, and every day fresh anecdotes were invented more and more improbable. It was thought charming to designate the spotless Queen of England, under the insulting appellation of *Mistress Brown*. For three months these

misericordant calumnies were circulated through the three kingdoms to the great satisfaction of loungers, and to the great joy of those even who, to obtain access to levees or procure an invitation to the palace, would wallow in adulation and servility. The susceptibility of the British Consul can be readily understood, but it would have been far better for him to have been silent than to have drawn attention to these silly inventions, particularly as the paper which promulgated the calumny, retracted, and the prosecution against it was suffered to drop.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEFALCATION IN WELLS. Fargo & Co's OFFICE, STOCKTON.—The *Stockton Independent*, of the 31st ult., has the following:—"Strange and startling rumors have been afloat in this city for the past two weeks, concerning alleged heavy defalcations in Wells, Fargo & Co's office, but until a few days ago it was difficult to arrive at any reasonable conclusion in regard to the matter. It appears, however, that under the administration of T. R. Anthony, the office has gone behind some \$48,000, in different ways, as shown by a careful examination of the books. On Tuesday, the 25th ult., a new agent and assistants took possession of the office, and for some days after it was supposed that the affair had been satisfactorily arranged with the company. On Friday, however, Mr Anthony was arrested on a charge of embezzlement, and placed under bonds to appear before Judge Baldwin on the following morning for examination. The hearing closed on Saturday evening, and the opinion of the Judge will be made known to-day.

THE FIREMEN'S BENEFIT.—We omitted in our notice of the performance in the Theatre on Wednesday evening to award the credit due to the members of Maguire's band, who generously volunteered their services on the occasion and acquitted themselves with great credit. After the entertainment was concluded the Amateurs and members of the band partook of an excellent supper at the Colonial Hotel on the invitation of Chief Engineer Keenan. The department are indebted to Mr R. G. Marsh, stage manager for some cleverly illustrated rebuffs, drawing attention to the performance that were posted up in town and attracted considerable notice. All claims against the performance must be left at the Boomerang to-day, before 4 p. m.

RAT KILLING MATCH.—This novelty attracted a large number of spectators last evening, at Eden & Boland's Saloon on Langley street. McDougall's terrier dog Pepper, was the first to enter the arena and although anxious for the work, was somewhat slow in the process of destruction, not collaring the tenth and last rat, until two minutes and five seconds had elapsed, whereas Baker's terrier dog Billy dropped the ninth rat within forty-five seconds of the time he jumped into the box, thus winning the match with ease. The tenth rat intended for Billy's entertainment was found to be non compos and was consequently discarded.

SMOKING IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—A curious case has just been decided in Paris. A young Mademoiselle riding homeward in a third-class railway carriage, was annoyed by a male passenger who whiffed the smoke from a pipe in her face. She requested Monsieur to desist. He refused, whereupon the spirited little lady knocked the pipe out of his mouth and broke it. Monsieur boxed his assailant's ears, and Mademoiselle, scornful to have him arrested for assault, preferred a charge against him for smoking in a railway carriage, and the Perfect fined him 100 francs.

VICTORIA LODGE, No 783, E R.—At the regular meeting of the Lodge held on Thursday, January 17th, 1867. The following officers were installed for the ensuing Masonic year, viz: Bro Richard Lewis, W M; Bro J F McCraith, S W; Wm Clarke, G W; Bro D B Blair, Treasurer; Bro Wm Leigh, Secretary; Bro T Somerville, Chaplain; Bro J A Blackbourne, D C; Bro P Medana, Organist; Bro Geo Creighton, Tyler. After which the Brethren adjourned to the usual Masonic banquet.

COMOX OYSTERS.—To Comox belongs the honor of producing the largest oysters yet discovered on the Pacific Coast. Thirty-five sacks, consigned to Mr H E Levy, of Government street, were brought down day before yesterday. These fine oysters are three times the size of those obtained in any other locality on the shores of this Island, and were the bed situated as near San Francisco as it is to Victoria, it would be worth an independent fortune to the proprietors. Even as it is, we see no reason why Comox oysters cannot be profitably shipped to California.

An Austrian Lieutenant was recently shot near Vienna, for cowardice in battle, though he had just been promoted for bravery in another engagement.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr C B Young, last evening delivered an entertaining lecture on his personal adventures in Central America, before the Mechanic's Institute—the President, E G Alston, Esq., in the chair. The lecturer occupied less than an hour in the delivery, and related many interesting incidents that came beneath his notice while traveling in Spanish American Colonies. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered Mr Young by the Institute.

THE ENTERPRISE sailed for New Westminster at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. Among the passengers were Alfred Waddington and George Pearkes, Esqs., who have gone up on business connected with the Bate Inlet Railway Company, and Messrs Pearce, Norris and Moorhead, of the Volunteer Corps, who will lay a statement of the affairs of the corps before His Excellency, and request pecuniary assistance from the Government.

FRIEND LEVY, of Government street, has our thanks for a treat of large and delicious Comox oysters, with the *et ceteras*, which was brought to our office last night. Ample justice was done to the rare dish by our hungry staff—who unite in pronouncing Comox the greatest oyster producing district in the world, and Levy the prince of caterers. Success to Comox and its oyster beds, and a long and prosperous business career to the man who remembers the printer.

THE "SEVERN"—This ship, which was here last year, was scuttled by the first mate and a portion of her crew when off Rio Janeiro. The scuttling is said to have been done to secure the amount for which the ship was insured in London. The crew escaped in boats. The vessel was 29 years old and very rotten. Three of the conspirators are undergoing examination in London.

IT IS RUMORED that one of the editors of the *British Columbian*, impressed with the idea that Victoria must be the place, is about to dispose of his interest in that paper and establish himself at Victoria. If the rumor be correct, we want no better evidence of the good intentions of His Excellency towards this city.

THE OCCIDENTAL was opened to the public last night and mine host Keenan was surrounded by a host of friends. The fine billiard hall was brilliantly lighted showing off to advantage, the numerous fine pictures and mirrors which adorn the walls and the most elaborately furnished and costly bar in the Colony.

NOLLE PROSEQUI—A man named Edward Dutton was charged in the Police Court by one John Baudet, with rowdy conduct in striking him in the face with a slung shot and committing other acts of violence. On the case being called on yesterday; the prosecutor was *non est* and the charges were dismissed.

BRIDGMAN'S STABLES, on Broughton street, caved in on Wednesday night, beneath the heavy weight of snow on the roof. Three horses were extricated from the ruins uninjured. The stables were old and rickety, and by falling have saved the owner the expense of pulling them down.

A STORAGE SHED on Leveven's wharf fell day before yesterday beneath the accumulation of snow on the roof, and has become a perfect wreck. It was filled with hay and lime. The damage was principally to the building.

THE CONCERT.—Mr George F Wilson's concert is fixed for next Wednesday evening. Several amateur ladies and gentlemen will appear, and will be supported by most of the professional and amateur instrumental talent of the city.

THE BRIG ANN has been chartered by Dickson, Campbell & Co., to carry a cargo of coal to San Francisco, whence she will sail with grain to Cork for orders for some port in England.

APPOINTMENTS.—We understand that Mr Woolton has been appointed Harbour and Postmaster, of Victoria. The appointment will give general satisfaction.

We are pleased to learn that Judge Cox, M. L. C., has taken a house in this city for occupation during the sitting of the Council. This looks favorable.

The census of Chile taken in April and recently published, shows a population of 2,100,000.

In a town in the goodly State of Massachusetts did one time reside a little lass of six years old whose name was Martha. In the same house with this little lass lived a maiden lady of very unpleasant ways, whose delight it was to pester the small Martha with questions, by which means Martha, had come to much dislike Miss Pump. Once Martha made a visit to Boston. When she returned Miss Pump set upon her. Whereat the colloquy:

"Where ye been, Martha?"
"To Boston, Miss Pump."
"Lal And who'd ye see there, Marthy?"
"Oh! I saw an angel."
"My! And wha'd the angel say Marthy?"
"He said, how do you do pretty little girl?"
"Sakes. And who else d'ye see, Marthy?"
"Oh! I saw the old one."
"Maro! And wha'd he say, Marthy?"
"He said, How's my good friend, Miss Pump?"
The pump suddenly became dry.

Letter from Paris.

(From our Special Paris and Continental Correspondent.)

PARIS, November 27.
CUSTOM HOUSE NUISANCES.
The London *Economist* has just published a long and interesting article relating to the delay and discomfort of the French custom house examination of luggage, first on landing in France, and next on arriving in Paris. It asserts, that as present carried on, the value of the investigation to the custom house will be so emphatically fractional that a large gain abolishing the railway custom house offices on both sides of the water. The grateful course to follow would be for the English Government to announce at once that, in honor of the Paris Exhibition, they will from the first of January relinquish the present custom house examination of passengers' baggage. The French Government could not object to accept the challenge; and so both countries, and all foreigners passing through them, would be rid, at all events for 1867, of the horrors of the custom house pilory, at the end of a long journey had enough to men, but to ladies brim full of vexities to bonnets, ribbons and flounces, all liable to be tossed about like cabbages or stock fish, inexpressibly horrible. In answer to this, the *Temps*, an evening paper of a somewhat Protestant tendency, says that it does not willingly give up the duty, slight as it may be, but proposes that a decree should be issued declaring that all persons paying on departure a sum proportionate to the weight of their baggage, shall on arrival in Paris be exempt from the examination of their baggage, this sum to be paid by the railway companies to the exchequer of the State. The *Temps* goes on to say: "Suppose that the proportionate sum be one or two per cent., many travellers would willingly pay this sum in order to free themselves from a long, disagreeable and irritating formality."

Galignani says, a pamphlet entitled *Le Senat Romain* is circulating in diplomatic quarters in Paris. Every member of the foreign diplomatic body found a copy of it at his residence, where it had been placed by an unknown hand. Thousands of copies have been circulated among the people of Rome. On the title page are the arms of the Roman Senate. The date is that of All Souls' Day, and the work bears the signature of "Stefano Porcari." That name involves an allusion to the grave events which took place in the Eternal City in 1483, when the conspirators taking away of the temporal power of the Pope. The pamphlet, relying upon history, and upon ancient and modern law, tends to show that it is for the Romans alone to decide on their own destiny; and in conclusion, the writer proclaims the maxim of Cavour: "A free Church in a free State."

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT IN SMALL ARMS.
When shall we see an end to the improvements on the needle gun? A journal, generally well informed in such matters, informs us that the Chassepot rifle, which was to out-do the Von Dreyse needle-gun, is now to be manufactured—or at least, that the manufacture of it is to be suspended for a time—as an improvement on the same has just been presented to the Emperor.

THE EXHIBITION.
Among the "articles" which have arrived for the Exhibition are remarked some magnificent tubes of crystallized sulphur, found at Hidvena, in the neighborhood of Bagdad; also specimens of the essence of petroleum, pearls, and woven stuffs of various kinds. From Mansoul have come five different varieties of beautiful marble, ten or a dozen sorts of coral, among which are those of gold, silver, copper and iron. Several antiquities discovered at Nineveh; a marble found opposite Mansoul, near the place called Conouz, the Prophet, with hieroglyphic inscriptions hitherto undisciphered; on one of these marbles is engraved something like an eagle's head, with a single wing behind. From Djarluker, wines, wrought stuffs, and carpets in different styles have been sent.

GAVARNI GONE.
The very best of our comic illustrators is no more. Gavarni, a *nom de guerre* which he had taken from the beautiful place in the Pyrenees of that name, was but 61. He was of humble origin, and began his career as a workman in an engine manufactory. He may have been said to have been self-taught, and from an occasional sketcher, for a journal of fashions, became the first illustrator of France. It is generally believed that he died well off. He left behind him a large number of water-color paintings.

European Items.
Extensive inundations have taken place in Catalonia, causing much damage, and cutting off the communication between Barcelona and Madrid. The Ebro and several small rivers had overflowed their banks. A stream overflowing the Tarragona and Barcelona railway had poured into Barcelona itself, doing damage.

In England there are 161 "Provident Societies," established on the co-operative plan, and possessing an aggregate of nearly \$4,000,000 in American money—£761,213. Groceries, meat, shoes, clothing, coal, flour, and even farriery, are included in the plan upon which these societies operate.

Orders have been issued for the practice of running drill in the British army. For the first fortnight, the distance may be increased to 600; third, 900. The distance may be increased to 1,000 yards daily, with arms and accoutrements carried on alternate days.

It has been remarked that nearly every profession that of medicine was represented in the French Senate. This anomaly has struck the Emperor, it would appear, as the Evening news announces that his Majesty's physician, Mr Conneau, is to be promoted forthwith to a seat at the Luxembourg.

The young Princess Dagmar represents a good deal that is astute and statesmanlike. Besides her own beauty and charming merits, she brings the keys of the Baltic at her girdle to St. Petersburg—an important bunch for a young Russian housewife to carry.

350,000; horned cattle, 11,200,000; sheep, 33,000,000; pigs, 5,300,000.

Recently, a swordfish, measuring about 10 feet in length, and weighing about 200 lbs., was captured in the Thames, off Southend, though it had been up and down the river, even as far as Hungerford, for some time past.

Baron Hamsman has just ejected the proprietors of no less than 81 houses which are to be demolished in order to widen the Rue du Temple. The landlords of these tenements are to receive a compensation.

The rinderpest having broken out afresh in Austria, the Bavarian government has refused to allow a large number of oxen intended for the English market to cross the frontier.

The investigation of the recent Parliamentary elections in England shows that in Lancashire 717 electors had been bribed.

An almost incredible piece of news is given by *La France*—that the Ministers of Russia and Belgium, at Copenhagen, have both gone mad.

The reconstruction of the French army provides for a standing army of 250,000 of all arms—the quarter part to be artillery and cavalry.

A specimen of "black hair" is to be exhibited at the great exhibition, which is valued at \$3000.

The Paraguayan War.

On the morning of September 12, the French gunboat *Decidee* ran up the Paraguay river to Curuzu. She had on board the Count de Beaumont, attache in the French Foreign Office and Special Commissioner sent out from France, together with Mr Washburne, the American Minister to Paraguay. At that point the Brazilian gunboat *Ivay* went alongside and notified the French steamer that she should go no further up the stream, as the channel was full of torpedoes. The *Decidee* cast anchor, and the commander of the *Ivay* went aboard to notify the officers of the *Decidee* that he would, at all events, have to obtain the permission of Admiral Tamandare, who was at Cerro superintending repairs necessary after the late battle at Curuzu.

The commander of the *Decidee*, accompanied by the Count de Beaumont and Minister Washburne, went the next day to Cerro, where they were well received by the Admiral, who, however refused his permission for the gunboat to ascend the Paraguay. The *Decidee* returned to Corrientes, but the *Ivay* was placed at their disposal to convey them to Tres Bocas to Curuzu.

The Count de Beaumont having obtained passports to go to Assumption—capital of Paraguay—took the land route. It is his intention to have an interview with the Minister in that place and obtain all the information possible concerning this war, which is but imperfectly understood in Europe. He will then repair to the camp of Marshal Lopez, and afterwards to the allied headquarters, for the purpose of laying before them whatever plan of pacification may be suggested to him after the trip to Assumption, basing his opinions upon his own personal observation.

MAKING FUN OF THE AMERICAN COLONY IN PALESTINE.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* is facetious over the exploits of the Maine colonists who have gone to the Holy Land, it says:

The *Telegraph* notices the curious fact that the ship *Hebe*, from New York brought over to Jaffa, a whole assortment of Yankee emigrants, who of all places in the world had pitched upon the plains of Sharon for a settlement. There is really something odd and striking in this importation of the newest people into one of the most ancient localities and populations of history. A greater contrast than that between Jaffa and New York could not be found in all the world. Everybody knows what the American city is; that of Syria is a grey Arab town perched upon a little hill, with no harbor, no life, no bustle, nothing to care about, nothing to take up the attention save coffee and pipes, and the occasional swifding of Nazarene dogs who land there on the way to Jerusalem. Jaffa sits blinking in the sun atop of its hillcock, with the Mediterranean waves fussing into froth against its tumble down quay, just as if it were dreaming of the antique times, when it was, in the language of these visitors, "quite a place." For only to remember what Jaffa used to be makes these Yankees, as Jaffaists would say, "sons of yesterday."

Let no one, however, doubt that these cute New Englanders know what they are doing. Jaffa is of little account for business, beauty, or anything else except melons and ancient history; but outside and behind the city lies a plain unsurpassed for richness. It is the plain of Sharon, whose roses blossom and shed fragrance through the reeds to the east of half the world, and which bears the finest orange and lemon gardens in all the earth. The soil that can produce such fruit ought, with Yankee culture, to do almost anything; and, indeed, the plain of Sharon never wanted much more than water and a little scrubbing with the crooked stick called the Syrian plow to produce what is wanted. Our transatlantic friends always had a sharp eye for "water privileges" and "almighty big locations"; but what seem they must have had for them to find out this fat and likely place from the other side of the globe! Doubtless, they will "prospect" the country, now they are there; and should they go north to the plain of Ezedraon, under the hills of Nazareth, they will see a still more promising site for the enterprising Yankees, if they can only manage the Bedouins and bribe the Turks. The fattest and richest corn ground in the world, flat as a billiard table, and close to the sea, is to be found by the hundreds of thousands of acres; but it is untilled, and yields only the mauldrake, the great Syrian thistle, and the Palestine lilies, for the Turks have no power or will to keep Arabs from turning their mares into the barley of the peasants when it comes up. The Yankee and the rose of Sharon or the lilies of Jerzeel come oddly enough together; but we should not grudge the contrast if it could do something for sad and fair Syria.

S. C. Knott and A. W. Shott fought a duel. The result was that they changed conditions. Knott was shot, and Shott was not. It was better to be Shott than Knott.

American Affairs.

The grave and momentous that now agitate the neighborhood public and furnish the principal debate in the halls of Congress not only important in their existing Administration, in the influence they may exert all future Administrations, already shown the effect the peachment of the President to have upon the entire country the imminent danger in which States stand of falling into a state of disorder and anarchy as the fruits of a struggle between administration and the people. elections resulted unfavorably Johnson's policy; but it must be remembered that Mr Lincoln elected in 1861 by—what players term a lucky "scratch." There were in three candidates for the Presidency and as Mr Lincoln received the number of votes deposited for candidate he was declared duly elected. Had there been but one Democratic candidate opposed to his reelection Lincoln might never have been elected from comparative obscurity to the Presidential chair, to bring bloody war, and go down to defeat with the bullet of an assassin's brain. All the Democratic election required was to unite man, and his return would have been certain. Lincoln went into the choice of a minority, and majority in Congress opposed policy. Had he, therefore, been the first overt act against the he would have found himself in at every turn, if not hurled from position. The Southerners, however, took the initiative in the Government struck at the Government destitute of soldier ships or money. Had the South depended upon legislation to overthrow Mr Lincoln, their success would have been easy and certain. The Executive could have moved neither foot without the consent of Congress. But the rash declaration of war the whole North to the support of Government. Party lines obliterated; the North saw was not Mr Lincoln's existence the life of the nation that was tempted; and when they precipitated their legions upon the it was not in defence of Mr Lincoln but in support of a Government which Mr Lincoln was merely a hindrance. The world is well how that Government triumphs its enemies. The argument, that because the elections had resulted disastrously for the President he is bound to go to the event of an attempt to unseat does not carry weight. We have how Mr Lincoln, when really a minority, was supported and sustained by the majority—not because he believed him to be right, but because was President; and what valid is there for supposing that an attempt to unseat Mr Johnson by gross, on partisan grounds, will with support from the masses of American people? It is quite evident that the President will not resign of his own Government without a struggle; the best proof of this lies in the fact that wherever there is a Federal officer known to be friendly to the Administration official head is immediately ousted and a staunch Johnson man takes place. From every quarter of North the cry ascends that "union men" (as the Radicals themselves) are being removed from office to make room for men who joy the confidence of the Administration. On the Pacific coast the complaint is heard. In California removal and appointment of Federal officers go on daily. And even adjacent territory of Washington find a Radical removed from the office of Governor and a so-called head put in his place. Nor are