

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

EUROPEAN NEWS.

INSULT TO AN ENGLISH CONSUL.—A letter from Rhodes, of the 23rd ult., gives the following account of the incidents which caused the English Consul to strike his flag: The English consular agent residing at Cateorizo was insulted by some Ottomans; he made a report to the Consul at Rhodes, who demanded from the Governor that the offenders should be removed to Rhodes and punished severely. The Turkish cutter stationed in the port was accordingly sent to bring those persons to Rhodes, but, on their arrival, the Governor, instead of placing them in confinement, allowed them to walk about the town, alleging that, until they should be tried and condemned, he could not punish them by imprisonment. The Consul then went in full uniform to the Governor, and declared to him that his allegation was only a pretext to avoid justice, and that if the men were not put in prison at once, he should consider Great Britain insulted. But the Governor refused to change his determination. The Consul in consequence, struck his flag, sent a note to the Governor announcing that he had put an end to official relations, and confided to the French Consul the protection of the interests of British subjects. He has sent a report of the whole affair to the English embassy at Constantinople, and is now awaiting instructions.

YEARS OF PLENTY AND FAMINE IN FRANCE.—There is no doubt, for the "Constitutionnel" announces the fact, that the French Government is devising the means of realising the plan adopted by the Pharaohs, and eulogised by Napoleon I., of storing up corn in years of abundance, so as to secure a plentiful supply in years of scarcity. The statistics of France show that in the first 55 years of the present century there have been in that country 32 good, 14 ordinary, and only 9 decidedly deficient harvests; and it is believed that the proportion of deficient harvests will henceforth diminish as agriculture (which is in many parts of France in a wretched condition) is slowly improving. The "Constitutionnel," which dwells strongly on the "drain of specie" caused by importations in years of scarcity, thinks that the only objection to the old Egyptian plan, its "simplicity," is one of its chief recommendations. Another objection, and, perhaps, a more formidable one, might be its costliness. There has hitherto been a deficient harvest every sixth year; so that, irrespective of the enormous cost of magazines or national granaries throughout France, the Government would, on the average, have to purchase and store up immense quantities of corn for five consecutive years, the loss on which, in the shape of interest, waste, and deterioration would amount to a very considerable sum. Besides, the mere fact of Government being a known purchaser every year of large quantities of grain, would operate as a perpetual enhancement of price to the consumer, and, if France cannot regularly produce enough for her own consumption, either foreign grain must be imported for storing or the home produce must be so reduced as to cause something like a chronic scarcity. In either case we do not see how the people are to be gainers. If foreign corn is imported for storing up, there must still be a "drain of specie;" if home produce is taken for the purpose, the specie will be locked up at home in a form in which there will not only be inevitable loss and cost, but in a form which will render every peck of unstored grain dearer to the consumers. For five years all the people of France will have to eat dearer corn, pay interest on stored corn, sustain the cost of granaries, pay the expenses of warehousing, &c., in order that in the sixth year they may buy still dearer home grain, and all this to obviate the necessity of going out into the cheapest markets of the world to purchase, every sixth year, sufficient to make up the home deficiency in that year. The plan may be "simple," but it will be found in the working to be complex and costly—a foolish combination of protectionism and centralisation.

THE NEW ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The Vanderbilt brought over the following item of news, which we publish in our foreign summary:—"The formation of a new English Ocean Telegraph Company is talked of with a

capital of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, to connect Galway and Quebec via the English possessions. The wire to be used is to be of a totally different description from any now in use."

There is little doubt that the objection made in New York to carrying out the submarine telegraph project laid before the merchants of Boston by Mr. Gisborne, rests chiefly upon some such fear as the above paragraph supplies. For as surely as this first link is laid between Cape Ann and Yarmouth, N. S., connections will speedily follow to Blanc Sablon in Newfoundland, and from that point the distance to Ireland is less by a hundred miles than by Trinity Bay. This, Mr. Cyrus W. Field ought certainly to have known, if he really was the original projector of the Atlantic Telegraph, as he boasted claims. He certainly would not have been such a goose as to allow the very person he sought to destroy, even a single remaining chance to trip him.

And yet that is just what Mr. Gisborne possesses the ability to do. In trying to show that he knew all about it before any one else thought of the thing Mr. Field has shown that he knows just nothing about it other than what was originally confided to him as one of a party of capitalists about to embark in a new and magnificent scheme.

Mr. Gisborne left in the British steamer for Halifax this noon, on important business connected with his plan, and will return by the next steamer, prepared to satisfy our merchants and leading men that all the encouragement he pledged from that quarter is ready to be furnished at the proper moment. It is a pretty certain matter that Boston will no longer be obliged to beg a signal from New York, saying that she may have her Halifax news!—"Boston Ledger," Nov. 17.

The London Herald says:—"The Marquis Clanricarde, formerly Post Master General, had complained in a public letter, that the mail contract with Messrs Cunard has been prematurely renewed, notwithstanding the existence of the Lever line, and his Lordship has suggested a public meeting of the people of Galway to consider the matter.

An instalment of the new coinage for Canada, 400,000 dols. stamped in England, lately arrived by steamer Indian, and will be circulated immediately. They consist of ten and twenty cent pieces in silver, and one cent pieces in bronze, and are said to be very beautifully executed.

Governor Hincks of Barbadoes, who is said to have quarrelled with several of the leading men of the Colony, is likely to have his hands full when the Legislature meets. A correspondent of one of the Canadian papers writes—

"The House of Assembly is to meet on the 18th. and a stormy session is to be looked for, as the Governor and the planters are utterly at variance with each other."

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1858.

THE near approach of Christmas, with all its hopeful anticipations and cheerful characteristics, reminds us of the pleasing duty of congratulating our readers upon the happy return of that time-honored season.—The lapse of the passing year into Eternity should be deeply suggestive of many things too lightly thought of whilst engaged in the busy scenes of ordinary life. Leaving it to those pious men whose higher office it is to improve the occasion in a spiritual and eternal point of view, we may simply remark that the present year has been productive of some of the most thrilling events that history has ever recorded. Circumstances of an all-important and world-affecting character have taken place since last we welcomed the return of Christmas. Turning to the East we bring to mind scenes too dreadful for minute consideration;—scenes that the Christian can only hope were but the necessary and dreadful prelude to an almost boundless extension of Christian truth wherever false Gods are worshipped. A vast extent of territory has again been subjugated, and the Queen of England is now also Queen of India.

Amongst the millions of Chinese war with all its concomitant horrors has just been put an end to, we may henceforth hope for more honorable commercial enterprises, and greater christian

progress in that long benighted land. The ratification of treaties between Japan and the various Christian powers should also tend to strengthen the earnest and abiding hopes of the Christian and the Philanthropist. Looking nearer home, we may observe that the close family alliance between the Sovereigns of England and Prussia by the marriage of our Princess Royal with a Prince of the latter Kingdom, should tend to consolidate the peace of European nations, and thus prove a blessing to mankind.—The laying of our ocean Telegraph successfully, susceptible as it is of much improvement, must still form an epoch in history which will render the year 1858 memorable throughout all time.

Neither has the passing year been unproductive of grave and important results to our own Country; among the most beneficial of those should be classed, the reduction of duty upon Fish in the Brazil market, and the advantage of Direct steam communication with the Old Countries, which has at length been secured.

Then with regard to our Government, we have had a change of Ministers, though not of the Ministry; our late Premier has become a Judge and his successor has also been tendering his resignation—partial Elections have taken place with results that may not be now spoken of; and last not least, a fair Fishery has enabled thousands to secure many of the comforts of life, still leaving many destitute objects for the exercise of private charity. Commending the latter to the sympathy of the humane and affluent, we tender to all and each of our Subscribers The Compliments of the Season—wishing them "A Cheerful Christmas and a Happy New Year."

St. John's, 9th Dec., 1858.

To the Editor of the Times.

"The fisheries of Newfoundland are a richer source of wealth than all the mines of Mexico and Peru."—LORD BACON.

SIR.—The population of Newfoundland has often been, not inaptly, represented as composed of two classes,—the Fisherman and the Merchant. To be sure we have most respectable classes of mechanics, of shopkeepers, and of farmers; but, after all, as the Merchants, by their wealth, and the Fishermen, by their numbers and importance, vastly preponderate, we may still safely say, and without in the slightest degree offending any, that those who describe our population as divided into Fisherman and Merchants speak correctly. The Merchant and the Fisherman then are, really, the parties who maintain ALL the interests of the country;—and, yet, neither do they contribute to its support equally, nor gather for themselves an equal remuneration; for while the merchant only hazards his riches the fisherman spreads abroad his toil, his blood, his LIFE upon the venture. Well may the Scriptural blessing be said to apply to the merchant,—"**SPREAD YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS AND IT WILL RETURN AFTER MANY DAYS.**" They do diffuse their riches but to be returned to them a thousand fold, while, alas! for the life he dares, for the toil he supplies, for the anguish he suffers in working out the prosperity of his country, the poor fisherman's consolation is "as old as the hills,"—"**Sic vos, non, eobis mella refertis apes.**" So spoke the Poet twenty centuries ago, and even in this our own day it is the same; not only is the honey made by the bees NOT for themselves, but the riches amassed by the fishermen of Newfoundland are for the merchants; while for themselves remain poverty abroad and misery at home, and after the fearful hazard of the ice voyage and all the perils of the summer's fishery the fisherman returns to a starving family.

The whole wealth of Newfoundland is in its waters; and the extent of that wealth is beyond conception, and can only be described in the earnest but true language of Lord Bacon, quoted above. It is greater "THAN ALL THE MINES OF MEXICO OR PERU." Why is it, then, that at all times our Rulers have set so little store by them? Why is it that by far the richest portion of them has been repeatedly granted away from the inhabitants of the country to strangers,—to foreigners?

This immense wealth—wealth, as we have said, to the merchant—wealth to the country, whether Ireland, England or Scotland, where that merchant chooses to

spend the wealth he has derived from the sweat and the blood of the pauperized fisherman,—that wealth which the fisherman, at the peril of his life, has gathered from the bottom of the deep,—this immense wealth has been frequently trafficked and traitorously sold by British statesmen to the foreigner; and the rights thus given to THEM remain, while there is nothing upon record to show that either Newfoundland or Britain had ever received, as an equivalent for the plunder, the slightest advantage whether pecuniary or otherwise.

We again, then, repeat the question,—what was the motive, what the object of this fatal transfer?—And I confess, altho I have looked narrowly into the History and the treaties of the times, I am almost totally at a loss for a satisfactory reply, and therefore does it become the imperative duty of every Newfoundland to canvass those grants with the strictest scrutiny; to ventilate, thoroughly, the entire question; to examine, carefully, what amount of advantage they have lost upon those shores particularly affected by this plunder, and to ascertain accurately what amount of right, if any, still remains for their use and the use of their children's children forever. And here, Sir, I have arrived at that period of my communication which develops the motive of my present address; for I could no longer sit passive and silent and permit the rights of the people to be thus falsely usurped through the wickedness of interested parties.

Mark me well, however, Sir! My object is not to awaken amongst the people an improper opposition to the rights actually ceded, and, now, justly belonging to the subjects of the French Empire; but to call upon the People of Newfoundland, to a man, to stand forward to resist the aggression of the French upon the TRUE rights of Britons.

Recollect, Sir,—and let this be the great bulwark of our people.—It is not the rights of Newfoundlanders that are, ALONE, effected by these aggressions on the French Shore;—it is the rights of every subject of Great Britain, in England, in Ireland, in Scotland, and in every colony, of every part of the world, that are at stake; and it is, particularly, for this reason that we should all clearly understand what rights the French hold by Treaties; and what rights remain to the British under the same authority.

I regret, Sir, that some one of greater ability, some one more competent to cope with such a question has not undertaken to elucidate it clearly; but, nevertheless, such humble lights as I may be able to exhibit to guide towards a proper undertaking of the subject; I am most happy to afford. But since the elucidation of the question must necessarily oblige me to remark upon all Treaties that are handed down to us upon the subject—viz. those of 1713, 1763, 1783, 1814, and 1815, as well as the Declaration of his Majesty George III., made upon the Treaty of 1783, you will perceive that as I have already trespassed too far upon your columns I am obliged to defer my evidences and proofs for a second letter.

I remain, Sir, Yours, &c.

LEX.

The Annual Examination of the Harbor Grace Grammar School took place according to announcement, of which it is only necessary to observe, that it was characterised by the same satisfactory results, which invariably attend the Inspections of that excellent Institution.

The following Prizes were awarded:— For general Excellence Throughout the past year

- First Prize to Douglas Brown
- Second " T. G. Roddick
- Third " Michael Dwyer
- For Writing
- First " to Douglas Brown
- Second " James Foley
- Third " Philip Brown
- Fourth " Selby Dow
- For Regular Attendance
- First " to Robt. Lawrence
- Second " Michael Dwyer
- Third " William Badcock,

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