

MONTHLY RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

—The Confederation Bill and the Intercolonial Railway guaranteed Bill, for £3,000,000 sterling, have each received the Royal assent.

—The Paris exhibition was opened on the 1st April inst., by the Emperor in person. Fears are entertained that the exhibition will prove a failure.

—It is announced semi-officially that the Hon. John A. Macdonald and Hon G. E. Cartier were created baronets with the title of K. C. B., at the Queen's Court, held on the 19 ult.

—It is announced that the Emperor Napoleon favours the confederation of the Governments of France, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland against Prussia.

—All hopes for the safety of Dr. Livingstone, the celebrated African explorer, have been abandoned. Latest advices from the Cape of Good Hope confirm beyond a doubt the report of his death.

—The United States have entered into a Treaty with Russia for the purchase of Russian-America, for the sum of seven millions of dollars in gold. The Treaty has not yet been ratified by the Senate.

—It is understood that Lord Monck will leave England for Canada about the beginning of June. He will open the first Confederate Parliament probably in August at Ottawa, and remain until the expiration of his term of office in September.

—Active operations had been commenced against the Paraguayans. The allied fleet had shelled the town of Humaita. When last heard from the Spanish squadron had come in sight of and was pursuing the combined fleet of Chili and Peru.

—The story that the Fenians attacked either police or soldiers at Drogheda proves to have been untrue. All they did was to attempt to occupy a small temporary barrack, but were beaten back by the policemen who captured three prisoners per man!

—Dispatches from Constantinople state that the Turkish government is determined to continue the war in Candia, and is preparing to send ten fresh battalions of troops to the Island, under command of Hassam Pacha.

—The English Government has published the correspondence between the English and French Cabinets in regard to the illegal extradition from Canada of the French forger, Lamirande, and the subsequent demand made by England for his surrender. The demand has been abandoned.

—It is reported that a secret treaty was made between Prussia and Bavaria, in the month of August last, and that by one of the clauses of this treaty, Prussia may assume military direction of the Bavarian army. It is also announced that a similar treaty has just been concluded with Wurtemberg.

—We have again had rumors of intended Fenian invasions and during last month troops were concentrated at Brantford and other points, and the volunteers ordered to be in readiness. Fortunately the month has passed without any attempt to carry out the threat; and the troops have returned to their ordinary quarters.

—The Nova Scotia Parliament is in session, and the Government has been sustained on its Confederation policy by a vote of 32 to 16 in the Legislative Assembly. A measure has passed greatly simplifying the local government, reducing the number of officers and their salaries, and generally looking to the strictest economy.

—Our American exchanges continue to give distressing accounts of the destitution which now prevails in the Southern States. A general famine is said to exist there such as has never been known upon this continent before. A clergyman writing from South Carolina speaks of several deaths from actual want, which have occurred in the neighborhood in which he resides.

—A large public meeting was held at Victoria, British Columbia, on the night of the 19th ult., for the purpose of discussing the propriety of applying for the admission of the colony into the British North American Confederation. The meeting was unanimously in favor of the scheme, and steps will be taken at once to confer with the Imperial Government and the Confederation authorities on the subject.

—The Great Eastern arrived at New York, on Tuesday the 9th inst. The saloon of this splendid vessel is 140 feet in length and is capable of dining 500 people. The New York Charterers have appointed Mr. F. M. Willson, of Hamilton, agent for Upper Canada.

—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"We regret to say that we have reason to believe that some recent overtures of Sir Frederick Bruce, in behalf of his Government in the matter of arbitration on the Alabama claims, have not been received in a conciliatory spirit by Mr. Seward. We do not understand that the offer of the British Representative has been directly refused, but at two interviews the subject has been evaded."

—A fire broke out at Bothwell on the night of the 18th ult., about 8:30 p. m., in the rear of the Carroll House, and in ten minutes it was a mass of fire, then extending to the Martin House adjoining, the fire burning fiercely, and crossing Main street it caught Baxter's Exchange Office, the Commercial Bank, and other buildings, &c. About one hundred buildings have been consumed. The loss is estimated at \$60,000.

—The annual budget has been presented to the Imperial Parliament. The excess of receipts over expenditures for the last year, and the balance remaining in the exchequer is officially stated at two and a half million pounds. The estimated income for the present year will exceed £69,000,000, and the estimated expenditures are £68,000,000. It is proposed by the Government to retain the present tax on m^ot, and to impose a low duty on the receipts from marine assurances, and also on tenable annuities.

—Mexican news is as "mixed" as usual. General Ortega has been hung once and shot twice by order of Jaurez, but at last accounts was perfectly well and unharmed. Miramom has been taken prisoner twice and shot once, but is now said to be at the head of his army. Maximilian has 35,000 men under his command while his ene. lies are said to muster 45,000. On the 25th ult., the Imperial forces were advancing against the position held by the Jaurists. 150 French soldiers captured by the "Liberals," have all been murdered in cold blood.

—Assistant Auditor General Simpson gives the following statement of the revenue and expenditure of Canada for February and March last:

	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.
Customs	\$333,189	\$334,639
Excise	169,574	202,719
Bill Stamp Duty.....	7,252	2,406
Post Office.....	49,136	7,572
Crown Lands	51,351	198,569
Miscellaneous	130,183	92,720
Total	\$740,685	\$1,436,625
Expenditure	\$709,780	\$495,320
Excess of Revenue.....	\$30,905	\$941,305

—A cable despatch dated London, 9th inst., says it is now known that the Emperor Napoleon, deeming the possession of Luxembourg indispensable for the military security of the French frontier, not long since commenced negotiations with the King of Holland for the purchase of the Grand Duchy, and its incorporation with the French Empire, but as the fortress of Luxembourg, which is one of the strongest in Europe, is held by a Prussian garrison, and the Prussian government, backed by the whole of Germany, firmly objects to the transfer of the duchy to France, the King of Holland has withdrawn from any further negotiations on the subject. The French Emperor insists that his proposition shall be carried out and the treaty completed. The national pride of France has been lowered, and a wild, anti-Prussian feeling has seized the country. Meantime, while the dispute is pending, both Prussia and France are making military preparations. The threatening state of affairs is the cause of the financial panic which now exists in London, Paris and all the principal commercial centres of Europe.

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