



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada.

VOL. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1873.

No. 49

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The storm of Thursday last was the most severe one of the year. It blew a perfect hurricane the whole day, doing an immense amount of damage to life and property. It was particularly severe in the neighbourhood of Richmond and Carleton Place. Several houses were blown down, others unroofed, bricks from chimneys flying through the air in all directions, and making a perfect reck of telegraph poles thereby cutting off all intercourse with the outer world. Loud Boreas ruled supreme. It is said that at Carleton Place piles of sawn lumber were carried through the air like bits of paper, and one man was seriously injured by a falling board. Another man named Alex. McRea, while in the act of closing the door of Mr. Byer's barn, Richmond road, was instantly killed by the door being violently swung open by the action of the wind striking him a fearful blow on the head. The casualties in and around Ottawa are too numerous to particularise. We doubtless shall hear more of its doings when the telegraph gets again into operation.

This year has been more than unusually prolific in marine disasters, and its close is marked by the loss of the *Ville de Havre*, by which two hundred and twenty persons have perished. The *Ville de Havre*, a large and magnificently fitted steamer, plied between New York and Brest. At two o'clock on the morning of the 23rd of November she came into collision with the British ship *Lockern* from Glasgow, and sunk in ten minutes, being only time to save eighty-seven persons.

The President of the United States has presented his annual Message to Congress. He begins by referring to the financial crisis, and that the relations of the United States with other nations continue to be friendly and cordial. He then refers to the settlement of the *Alabama* and other claims by the Geneva and Washington conventions growing out of the late Southern rebellion, and recommends the appointment of a special court to consist of three Judges who shall be empowered to hear and determine all claims of aliens upon the United States arising out of acts committed against their per-

son or property during the insurrection. The next subject of importance is that of the capture of the *Virginus*, by Cuban authorities, and of the settlement of the difficulty with the Spanish government; and asserts his "conviction that the existence of African slavery in Cuba is the principal cause of the troublesome condition of the island." Suggests a better method of electing the President and Vice President of the nation—the establishments of Clearing Houses, and to secure a larger proportion of the Carrying Trade—the revision and codification of the Tariff laws, and the opening of more Mints for coining money—the necessity of the Navy being increased and put in a better condition for sea service—recommends the repeal of the Bankrupt law so far as it provides for involuntary bankruptcy on account of the suspension of payment. These constitute the principal items shadowed forth in the Message.

The Quebec Legislature was opened on the 4th, and that of British Columbia is summoned for the 15th.

Since our last, the following additional members of the Cabinet have been elected: The Hon. Isaac Burpee, Minister of Customs; Hon. R. J. Cartwright, Minister of Finance.

During the investigation into the loss of the steamer *Bacarian*, the ladies' maid swore positively that the large boat, in which was the pilot, Napoleon Dufour, and several Frenchmen, was rowed away without making the slightest attempt to save any one; also that it only took five minutes to bail out the boat, and that it would have held more. She was in the boat, and the water only came over her boots. The evidence of Mr. Parmenter, Toronto, was to the same effect. All the witnesses testify to the suddenness of the disaster. Communication between the two ends of the vessel was entirely prevented, which added to the confusion.

It is said there is a large emigration from the United States to Manitoba.

A firm in Montreal has this season shipped 30,000,000 feet of lumber to Monte Video, Buenos Ayres, and 20,000,000 feet to the United States.

A considerable portion of the surveying force in the Northwest has been discharged

for the winter, on account of the exhaustion of the appropriation, although the Government are retaining as many as possible, for which a supplementary estimate will have to be obtained.

A deputation from Manitoba is coming to Ottawa to negotiate with the Dominion Government for the enlargement of the "Prairie Province," in accordance with an act passed by its local Legislature at its last session. It is proposed to extend the Province eastward to the boundary of Ontario, which is yet undefined, and also to the north and south for a considerable distance.

A report from the Cape Coast says another engagement has taken place with the Ashantees, in which 40 Englishman and native auxiliaries were killed and wounded. The Ashantees boldly attacked the British position, but were driven off.

The British Government experiences great difficulty in obtaining recruits for the army.

The Washington correspondent of the *Boston Journal* says that army officers, returned from the Yellowstone expedition, report that the greater portion of the land near the line of the Northern Pacific is valueless.

Stanley, of African notoriety sailed recently, as a correspondent of the *London Times*, for the west coast of Africa, taking with him a large steam launch.

During the recent hurricane at Tortuga, West Indies, it is said a solid bar of iron weighing 1,500 pounds, was carried 200 yards over the parapet of the fort.

The sardine fisheries in France at present employ 20,000 sailors and some 18,000 men, women and children on land to prepare the fish for market.

Fully two-thirds of the writers on the New York press are under thirty-five years of age, and nearly one-half are scarcely thirty.

Captain Cameron, of H. M. North American Boundary Commission, and Lieut. Colonel French Commissioner of the North West Police force, reached St. Paul, Minn., on the 5th en route for the Manitoba.

By late advices from Fort Garry, Manitoba, we regret to learn of the total destruction by fire of the Parliament Buildings; nothing having been saved but the books.