

Foreign News.

THE LOSS OF THE MONITOR.

In conversation with several of the officers and crew of the Monitor, I gather the following narrative of the facts attending the loss of that noble little vessel and so many of her crew.

We left Fortress Monroe on Monday, the 29th of December, in tow of the steamer Rhode Island, with the Passaic in tow of the steamer State of Georgia. We passed Cape Henry Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock, with a smooth sea and light wind. The Passaic was a little way ahead. The weather continued fine until 5 o'clock, Thursday evening, when it commenced to blow from the south-west, with a heavy sea running, and making a clean sweep over all.

At 9^h, Cape Hatteras bore N. N. E., distant 20 miles. The gale still increased. The vessel labored very heavily, the upper hull coming down upon every sea with fearful violence. Up to this time the Worthington pumps and bilge injectors were entirely competent to keep the vessel free.

At 10 o'clock several heavy seas struck the vessel in succession, when word was sent from the engine-room that the water was gaining on the pumps. Orders were then given to start Adam's centrifugal pump, capable of throwing 3,000 gallons of water per minute. For a while the water appeared to be kept under.

In a short time, however, word was passed from the engine-room that the water was again gaining on the pumps, and was at that time up to the ashpits, in a great measure stopping the draft. The water at this time was standing two feet deep on the ward-room floor.

All hands were then set to work with every bucket at hand to bail. Water, however, kept gaining upon the pumps until within a foot of the fires in the furnaces.

A 'Coston' signal was then flashed, to call the attention of the Rhode Island to our condition. After much delay, consequent upon the heavy sea running, a boat was lowered from the Rhode Island and sent to our assistance. After several trials, she succeeded in getting alongside of us.

The Rhode Island at the same time in going astern caught her launch between her own side and our vessel, crushing the boat badly, and bringing her own counter heavily down upon our side. For a time she could not move her engine, which had caught on the center. She finally started ahead, and the launch, smashed as it was, succeeded in conveying to the steamer thirty of the crew of the Monitor.

After the departure of the launch, those remaining on board worked at the buckets with a will. The gale at this time was raging furiously, the seas making a clean sweep over the top of the turret. The water at this juncture had succeeded in rising up to the gratings of the furnaces, and was gradually extinguishing the fires. The steam in the boilers consequently ran down, and the pumps could not be worked for want of sufficient steam.

At this time three boats were discovered coming toward the vessel. Word was passed that boats were at hand sufficient to take all from the vessel. The Monitor was now sinking. Every pump was stopped, and her deck was under water. Several, in coming off the turret, were swept by the waves to the leeward, and must have perished, as no assistance could be rendered them.

The boats then shoved off from the sinking vessel. Although entreated to come down and get into the boats, several remained standing upon the turret afraid of being swept away from the deck, stupefied with fear. The boats succeeded in reaching the Rhode Island safely, and all in them got on board.

A picked crew, with the gallant officer of the Rhode Island, Mr. Brown, then shoved off in the launch to return to the Monitor. The moon, which up to this time had been throwing some light upon the waves, was shut in by dense masses of black clouds.

At a quarter to one in the morning the Monitor's light disappeared beneath the waves. The Rhode Island then started for the spot where the Monitor was seen to go down. Coston signals were constantly kept burning. A strict look out was kept up on all parts of the vessel, to catch a glimpse, if possible, of the missing boat.

At daylight nothing was seen on the waves, and with heavy hearts we ran around the spot, as nearly as could be judged, where the Monitor had disappeared, until late in the afternoon. Several steamers and other vessels were spoken, to learn if possible the fate of the missing boat, but nothing could be heard.

The survivors reached Fortress Monroe last evening in the Rhode Island. Nothing whatever was saved, except the apparel the officers and crew stood in.

During his visit to Rome the Prince of Wales purchased Mr. Gibson's beautiful group of a nymph and child. He also bought Mr. Laurence Macdonald's female figure of a nymph, and requested Mr. Henry Williams to paint him a picture as a companion to one ordered of Mr. Lehmann.

The Glasgow memorial to the late Prince Consort is to be a statute.

Tobacco is being largely cultivated in Victoria, Australia, and is found to pay very well.

Mr. Marshall Wood has been commissioned to execute a statute of the Queen, to be erected at Montreal.

It is stated that there are 8,000 painters and glaziers walking the streets of London seeking employment.

The body of James Sheridan Knowles was interred in the Necropolis of Glasgow.

A memorial is being prepared in Glasgow, soliciting a pension of £100 a-year for the widow of Sheridan Knowles.

Miss Bremner in her new work on Greece, asserts that the practice of 'pickling' new born infants is prevalent in that country.

A bother of one of the large churches in Glasgow, criticising the sermon of a minister from the country, who had been preaching in the city church, characterised it as 'guid coarse country warl.'

Prince Alfred, on board the St. George, reached Algiers on the 30th November, and received a visit from the Duke of Malakoff after the usual discharge of guns.

Sir Morton Peto, reported to be one of the most religious men in England, is lessee of the railway on which Mace and King travelled to fight for the championship.

Garibaldi is reported to have said some time since, 'I will try once more, and if I do not succeed, then I will retire.' To which he added ominously, 'But I shall succeed.'

On dit that Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell have disagreed relative to the despatch written on Danish affairs; and further, it is advanced that Mr. Gladstone is anything but in good fellowship with his colleague.

The London correspondent of the *Witness* says, it is probable that, when Parliament re-assembles, the Glasgow murder case will be made the subject of Parliamentary investigation.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.—A distinguished Physician in Paris announces that a shock of electricity given a patient dying from the effects of chloroform, immediately counteracts its influence and restores the sufferer to life.

The *Globe* says that the results of some experiments made in France on iron-plates, has induced the French Government not to proceed with the building of any iron ships beyond those now on the stocks.

GARIBALDI AND AMERICA.—John M'Adam, Esq., sends the following letter of Garibaldi's to the Glasgow papers. The letter is in answer to one sent to the General by Mr. M'Adam to ascertain the truth of the report that he meant to go to America:—"My dear M'Adam—Your letter has given me the greatest pleasure, as I know you are a sincere and honest friend both to myself and to my country. You may be sure that, had I accepted to draw my sword for the United States, it would have been for the abolition of slavery—full, unconditional. I am most thankful to your gallant countrymen for the numerous proofs of sympathy they have given me. I know that no people better than the Scotch sympathise for those who struggle for civil or religious liberty.—Believe me, &c., G. GARIBALDI."

DEATH OF MRS. SKENE OF RUBISLAW.—The *Banffshire Journal*, referring to the death of Mrs. Jane Skene, wife of Mr. Skene of Rubislaw, which took place on the 24th ult., at Oxford, says:—"Deceased was, with her husband, intimate friends of Sir Walter Scott, and took much interest, and occasionally assisted, in his literary labors, the poet owing much of the materials of his 'Quentin Durward' to pen and pencil of the Skenes. They were his friends up to his latest hour. When Scott was in the midst of his difficulties he chronicles in that melancholy diary of his, visits from Mr. and Mrs. Skene as green spots in the day's sore journey. 'Of late,' he journalises, 'Mr. Skene has given himself much to the study of antiquities. His wife, a most excellent person, was tenderly fond of Sophia. They bring so much old fashioned kindness and good humor with them, besides the recollection of other times, that they must always be welcome guests.' Mrs. Skene's name will ever live while 'Marmion' is read. In the introduction to Canto IV., Scott thus refers to her marriage:

'And such a lot, my Skene, was thine
When thou of late wert doom'd to twine—
Just when thy bridal hour'd be by—
The cypress with the myrtle tie.
Just on thy bride her Sire had smiled,
And bless'd the union of his child,
When love must change its joyous cheer,
And wipe affection's filial tear.'

The melancholy event here referred to was the death of Sir William Forbes, which occurred shortly after his daughter's marriage to Mr. Skene. Sir William is best known as the biographer, and the friend of Beattie the poet. Mr. Skene survives his wife, and has turned his devotion to antiquities to good account, as he is understood to have nearly ready for issue an important work on the early History of Scotland.'

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE.—About twenty years ago, Ibrahim Pasha erected a steam-engine of one hundred horse-power, to take the place of five hundred wheels, which supplied water from the Nile, to market-gardens in the neighbourhood of Beulah. When the natives saw the machinery put together, and where told its object, they pronounced the Governor mad; but when they saw the huge machine belching out columns of water, they at once said the Franks had brought a devil to empty the Nile.

Such is the fertilizing power of the Nile water, that when the Cornish engine, just mentioned, was erected, seven hundred or eight hundred acres of land were brought under cultivation in the immediate vicinity of Cairo, by means of levelling a number of sand-hills and mounds of accumulated rubbish, probably the sites of some former towns or villages. These are now covered with market gardens and sugar-fields; the latter are chiefly for the consumption of the Cairepsa, and when in season, one rarely encounters an Arab on the road who is not engaged in chewing and sucking the sugar-cane; vendors, squatted on the ground, sell it in every part of the town, at the rate of one and two canes a penny. The division of this land into fields and gardens is effected by planting rows of prickly pears, which grow so rapidly, and in such a stalwart manner, as to soon defy entrance, except by the legitimate gateways. In addition to forming a secure fence, the fruit which they bear in abundance, is also sold in the streets and markets of Cairo. In order to form a fruit-garden in Egypt, it is necessary to choose a site above the highest water-mark of the Nile, or to raise the ground above that level, to avoid the water from overflowing, or filtration forcing its way in, and lying about the roots of the fruit-trees, an evil fatal to many.

The management of the date-palm, the citron tribe, vine, fig, melons and water-melons, form the chief occupation of the Arab fruit-gardner. The date-palm is cultivated from one end of Egypt to the other, and is a source of great revenue to the government; it also furnishes abundance of nutritious food for the people, at the moment when gathered ripe from the trees, and afterwards in a pressed and dried state. From Cairo, upwards, the dates are of superior quality, compared with those of Lower Egypt; each tree pays a tax of an Egyptian piaster, (about six cents) to the revenue, and produces its owner, in good seasons, about a dollar, in the shape of fruit and fibre for rope-making; the lower leaves are also used for making crates, seats and bedsteads. The male and female palm are both grown; it is also necessary to have several of the former in every grove and clump of female trees. They are generally planted in the form of suckers, which are produced in abundance at the foot of old trees; where they have neglected to plant male trees, or probably where the latter have died, the growers are obliged to cut spathes of the male blooms, and tie them in the trees near the female flowers, leaving the pollen, which is produced in abundance, to be scattered by the wind.

THE OPIUM EATER, THOMAS DE QUINCEY.

I remember his coming to Gloucester Palace one stormy night. He remained hour after hour, in vain expectation that the waters would assuage and the hurly-burly cease. There was nothing for it but that our visitor should remain all night. The Professor ordered a room to be prepared for him; and they found each other such good company, that this accidental detention was prolonged, without further difficulty, for the greater part of a year. During this visit, some of his eccentricities did not escape observation. For example, he rarely appeared at the family meals, preferring to dine in his own room, at his own hour, not unfrequently turning night into day. His tastes were very simple, though a little troublesome, at least to the servant who prepared his repast. Coffee, boiled rice and milk, and a piece of mutton from the loin, were the materials that invariably formed his diet. The cook, who had an audience with him daily, received her instructions in silent awe, quite overpowered by his manner; for, had he been addressing a dutchess, he could scarcely have spoken with more deference. He would couch his request in such terms as these: 'Owing to dyspepsia afflicting my system, and the possibility of any additional disarrangement of the stomach taking place, consequences incalculably distressing would arise, so much so, indeed, as to increase nervous irritation, and prevent me from attending to matters of overwhelming importance, if you do not remember to cut the mutton in a diagonal rather than in a longitudinal form.' The cook—a Scotswoman—had great reverence for Mr. De Quincey as a man of genius; but after one of these interviews, her patience was pretty well exhausted, and she would say, 'Weel, I never hard the like o' that in a' my days; the bodie has an awsu' sicht o' words. If it had been my ain master that was wanting his dinner, he would ha' ordered a hale tablefu' wi' little mair than a waff o' his haun; and here's a' this claver about a bit muntua nae bigger than a prin. Mr. De Quincey would mak' a gran' preacher, though I'm thinking a hantle o' the folk wouldna kin what he was driving at.' But these little meals were not the only indulgences that, when not properly attended to, brought trou-

ble to Mr. De Quincey. Regularity in doses of opium were even of great consequence. An ounce of laudanum per diem prostrated animal life in the early part of the day. It was no unfrequent sight to find him in his room lying upon the rug in front of the fire, his head resting upon a book, with his arms crossed over his breast, plunged in profound slumber. For several hours he would lie in this state, until the effects of the torpor had passed away. The time when he was most brilliant was generally toward the morning hours; and then, more than once, in order to show him off my father arranged his supper parties, so that sitting till three or four in the morning, he brought Mr. De Quincey to that point at which in charms and power of conversation he was so truly wonderful.

SLEEPING WITH THE MOUTH OPEN.—Bread may almost as well taken into the lungs as cold air and wind into the stomach. The air which enters the lungs is as different from that which enters the nostrils as distilled water is different from the water in an ordinary cistern or a frog-pond. The arresting and purifying process of the nose upon the atmosphere, with its poisonous ingredients passing through it, though less perceptible, is not less distinct nor less important than that of the mouth, which stops cherry-stones and fish-bones from entering the stomach.

Notice to Correspondents.

B. H., London, received and will be attended to.

E. H., Toronto, received; there is too little in it to make anything of it.

G. G., London, came to late for last week.

A. D., Montreal, will attend to your order.

S. C., Brantford, they were sent along with the others.

B. W. Chatham, it will be sent during the course of next week.

Commercial.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Traffic for week ending 2nd Jan., 1863 \$ 51,886 03
Corresponding week of last year, 55,805 19¹
Decrease... \$ 3,919 16⁴

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Traffic for week ending 27th Dec., 1862 \$90,798 49
Corresponding week last year... 86,442 50
Increase..... \$ 4,355 99

MONTREAL MARKET.

MONTREAL, Jan. 8, 1862.
Flour firm at \$4 50 @ \$4 55, owing to temporary scarcity. Wheat, peas and corn unchanged. Ashes steady; pots \$6 40; pearls \$6 30. Butter scarcely so firm; 12¹/₂¢ @ 17¹/₂¢ for fair store packed to choice dairy. Dressed hogs not much arriving, and demand chiefly for well-butchered carcasses for retail sale; good prime and prime mess average will bring \$4; mess average \$4 25 @ \$4 50. Pork must be quoted nominal—nothing doing; mess \$10; prime mess and mess \$8; to force sales less would have to be accepted.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8, 1862.
FLOUR.—Receipts 14,438 barrels; market dull and unchanged; sales 9,000 barrels, at \$5 90 @ \$6 10 of superfine State; \$6 35 @ \$6 50 for extra State; \$6 55 @ \$6 70 for choice do. Canada flour quiet; sales 400 barrels at \$6 50 @ \$6 70 for common; \$6 80 @ \$8 for good to choice extra. Rye flour steady at \$4 60 @ \$5 25.

WHEAT.—Receipts of wheat, none; market quiet and without decided change; sales 35,000 bush at \$1 23 to \$1 34 for Chicago spring; \$1 40 to \$1 43 for amber Iowa; \$1 34 to \$1 38 for Milwaukee club; \$1 45 to \$1 50 for winter red western; \$1 50 to \$1 51 for amber Michigan. Rye quiet at 84c to 85c for Western; 93c to 95c for State. Barley scarce and firm at \$1 35 to \$1 55. Receipts of Corn, none; market dull and unchanged; sales 60,000 bushels, at 80c to 81¹/₂¢ for shipping mixed Western. Oats quiet at 68c to 71c for common to prime.

PROVISIONS.—Pork a shade lower. Beef steady. Dead hogs a shade firmer at 5¹/₂¢ to 5³/₄¢.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour steady but not very active. Extra State 24s to 24s 6d. Wheat in good demand and 1d @ 2d per cental dearer for red; White is steady; Red Western 8s 6d @ 9s 8d; Southern 9s 8d @ 9s 10d; White western 10s @ 11; Southern 11s @ 12s per 100 lbs. Corn steady; Mixed 28s @ 28s 6d per 480 lbs; White slow, 31s @ 32s 6d.

PROVISIONS.—Beef and Pork dull at former prices. Bacon in limited demand, and again easier. Lard dull at 28s to 30s. Tallow irregular.