

There are also those of Franklin." It would be strange, indeed, if such countries were less capable of producing wheat than several European lands, which are situated in still higher latitudes, and which do not enjoy any superior advantages in point of soil or shelter.

The same Dr. King, speaking of these countries (the more Northern regions of the Saskatchewan territory), says: "I came away certainly with the impression that it was a very magnificent country, in many parts of it. Of course there were barren portions. But, upon the whole up to the Athabaska Lake, it appeared to me to be capable of any extent of cultivation. Governor Williams had opened Cumberland House. I found implements in the field and capacious barns. It evidently had been placed under culture. And, I was told, at the time, that Governor Williams had been ordered away for his partiality in this respect." The learned Doctor, on being pressed by the Committee (question 5706), proceeded to say that, at the place just referred to, there was a little new colony of about thirty persons. He bought a calf of them for 7s. and a fat bullock for 12. As he went over their farms, they appeared to him to be highly cultivated. "There was corn (Ma s, it is presumed, commonly called "Indian Corn" or "Corn,") wheat and barley, growing. These colonists were ordered off, because it was incompatible with the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company that they should continue to cultivate. The penchant of Governor Williams for farming caused him also to be removed to some other station. The Colony in question had under cultivation from 1000 to 1500 acres. And their industry was quite successful: "the wheat was looking very luxuriant." (5728). There were also other kinds of crops, such as barley and potatoes, as well as live stock—pigs, cows, horses. This forbidden attempt to colonize the wilderness was made about 40 miles from Cumberland House, towards the Northern limit of the Saskatchewan territory, on a line of latitude a degree and a half north of Montreal.

Notwithstanding the immense resources of the countries bordering on the Saskatchewan, there are many obstacles to its colonization, which must continue to exist for a considerable time. It cannot be supposed that any very numerous body of colonists will proceed, at once, under the auspices of the Canadian Government, to occupy those countries. And yet there is no other way in which, for many a year to come, they can be made available for the civilizing labours of the husbandman. No family, or small number of families, dare show themselves there with any kind of agricultural implement in their hands. As soon might they think to display the sword, and not be met by the sword. Colonization can take place, only, when settlement and civilization have advanced to the borders of those remote lands, or when it shall please the Imperial Government, or that of the Dominion of Canada, to organize an emigration, sufficiently numerous, to render all attempt at resistance hopeless or impossible.

Another obstacle may have to be contended with in the sudden summer frosts that are said to prevail. No authority that we have met with, pretends that these frosts are habitual—that they occur every summer. They may, therefore, be such frosts as are known to descend on the fields of Canada, or on those of some of the most fertile countries of Europe, but which do not prevent the cultivation of all kinds of crops, even that of the vine itself. In the countries of the Saskatchewan they will, in all probability, be diminished or put an end to, when the extensive swamps are drained and brought under the plough. It is well known, at any rate, that many swampy lands of Northern Europe, which were at one time cold, dismal, and unproductive, have yielded to the march of improvement, and now present smiling fields teeming with plenty, and rejoicing in the genial rays of the summer sun.

The absence as yet of easy communications with other lands, as well as of roads within the territory itself, is, and must be for some time, a serious impediment to the filling up of so important a waste on the earth's surface. But this difficulty, like all besides, is destined to give way to the enterprising spirit of the time. And, it may be added, there never was a country where this kind of obstacle may be more easily overcome than in this comparatively level and well watered territory of the Saskatchewan.

GENERAL NEWS.

CANADA.

Mr. Hon. W. McDougall was at St. Cloud, on the 30th, on his way back to Canada.

The Lieut. Governor's ball at Quebec, on the 29th ult., was a brilliant and most successful affair. Over five hundred guests were present.

The gold yield has increased of late in the Chaudiere district.

Advices from New York state that "rooms have been engaged at a New York hotel for Prince Arthur, to take effect from the 1st May, 1870."

On Christmas day Sir John Young placed \$100 in the alms' box of the church of New Edinburgh, the parish in which Rideau Hall is situated. This is not the first instance of our Governor's generosity.—*Minerve*.

Two of the defeated Pro-Confederation candidates at the late Newfoundland elections, Messrs. Donnelly and Pinsent, have been appointed to the Legislative Council. The Legislature meets on the 3rd of February.

The Dominion Board of Works have given Mr. Dawson and staff rooms in the Departmental building at Ottawa, where they are busy preparing plans and reports on the works completed last season on the Lake Superior section of the road to the Red River Settlement.

On and from the 1st Jan., 1870, the postage rate on letters passing between Canada and the United Kingdom, will be as follows:—If sent prepaid by Canada Mail Packet via Quebec (Portland in winter) or Halifax, 6c per 1/2 oz. weight. If sent prepaid via New York, 8c per 1/2 oz. weight. Letters for the United Kingdom posted unpaid, or prepaid less than the pro-

per rate, will be charged on delivery with double the amount deficient of postage.

The Grand Trunk Railroad has removed all obstructions on each side of the track from Portland to Island Pond, so that the new patent snow plough has a sweep of 17 1/2 feet. It throws the snow completely away from the region of the track by means of wings that can be expanded at pleasure, which will sometimes throw the snow across the fences. It is made heavy so as not to be thrown from the track, and has a room and stove inside of it for the men. It requires several men to manage it.

A murder occurred at Woodstock on Christmas day, at 1 a.m. A young man named Budd tried to get into a saloon near the market, kept by a man named Smith Sheldon, when the latter, prompted by a colored man named Doston, fired through the windows, the charge lodging in Budd's neck. The wounded man dragged himself to the sidewalk opposite and expired. The murderer and Doston are under arrest.

At the last annual meeting of the Bank of British North America, the retirement of Mr. Paton, as General Manager, was announced. The meeting unanimously voted him a pension of £1,000 a year. It was also announced at the meeting that Mr. McNab, the late Secretary, would be his successor as General Manager. Also that the Canadian Government has concurred in the extension of the charter of the Bank until June 1, 1884, subject to such general laws on banking as the Dominion might pass. The retirement of Mr. Paton will be generally regretted in Canada, as well from his high character as his great attainments as a banker.

UNITED STATES.

The last of the New York defaulters is the Cashier of the Merchants' Exchange Bank, for the very modest sum of \$150,000.

The amount of United States bonds held abroad cannot be definitely ascertained, but are estimated at all points between \$700,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000—supposed to be \$800,000,000.

Frederick S. Cossens, the well known author of "The Sparrowgrass Papers," "Acadia, or a sojourn among the Blue-Noses," and many other works, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 23rd inst.

The New York World, on the authority of a Washington despatch, publishes the very unlikely statement that Britain is prepared to surrender the territory of British Columbia in satisfaction of the Alabama claims.

The New York Democrat says: Even Canada has the advantage of us in trade. She sent to our markets about \$30,000 worth of what we can raise ourselves; while she took pay in trade for less than \$19,000,000. How is that for a balance of trade?

The Tribune's Washington special correspondent says the President, Secretary Fish and Mr. Sumner are of the opinion that the time has not yet come when they can officially and conscientiously recommend or advise the taking of so important a step as the acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of the Cuban insurgents.

It has been stated that Secretary Boutwell intends to urge upon Congress a plan which he has matured for the funding of about 1,000,000,000 dollars of national debt at 4 per cent, or lower. Mr. Boutwell's plan contemplates taking up the five-twenties now due and in their stead issuing the new bonds.

The New England Female Medical College propose to erect a new building at the Boston City Hospital. This college was opened in 1848, and seventy-four women have been through the three years' course and taken medical degrees. More than two hundred other women have attended a partial course, most of them nurses of the sick, the education of nurses being one of the objects of the institution, as specified in its charter. The college has a valuable lot, estimated to be worth \$50,000, and has the plan of a building. An effort is making to secure the necessary funds.

A Washington special says:—There is good authority for saying that the negotiations for re-opening the Alabama claims question will not be definitely settled until the assembling of the British Parliament in February. It being uncertain whether the British Ministry would be sustained by Parliament in committing itself to any definite course or change of policy, as pursued in the past, an expression is desired from that body before the Ministry formally agree to the propositions made by Minister Motley.

The diplomatic representatives of the United States have been instructed to submit for the consideration of foreign Governments the propriety of holding a convention, the object of which will be to provide that no exclusive concessions of right to lay submarine cables shall be granted by any Government; that no Government shall have the right to *visé* messages transmitted through the cables; that they shall be treated as neutral property during war; and that their destruction at any time shall be an act of piracy. At present there is no law for the punishment of persons seeking the destruction of the wires.

The New York Sun says that an American Annexation League has recently been formed in New York with the avowed purpose of procuring, by persuasion or force, the annexation to the United States of all the countries and provinces of North America, and all the islands along its coast. Their motto is: "The national safety of the United States demands the acquisition of all North America and the West Indian Islands." This League is preparing to invade Red River Territory, with a force of 1500 men, and anticipate active cooperation of the Fenians, with a general uprising in Canada. [There are probably people in New York who believe this yarn.]

The Saginaw (Mich.) Enterprise reports that while removing the bodies from the old to the new cemetery, south of Saginaw city, the men engaged in the task of disinterring came across a petrified body. It was that of a female, and the inscription on the tombstone was, "Mary, wife of J. Malden, died April 21, 1860, aged 80 years, 1 month and 2 days." Bernard Rice, who is superintending the disinterring and removing of the bodies, estimates the weight of the body at four hundred pounds. Mary Malden, of whom this petrified body is the remains, was well known in Saginaw City ten or twelve years ago. She was a devout Catholic. Her husband was at one time keeper of

the light-house at Thunder Bay, and is now living at Alpena. It is said that she died very suddenly one day, after eating a hearty dinner. She was a large woman, weighing perhaps 200 pounds. This is decided to be a case of adipocere, which is explained by the New American Encyclopedia as follows:—"Adipocere is a product of the decomposition of fleshy matters. It bears a slight resemblance to spermaceti. It is formed from bones buried in moist earth, and especially when these are accumulated for years in great numbers."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

A heavy snow storm, at Madrid, so blocked up the road that on Dec. 31st, no French nor English Mails had been received for four days.

Stambonts on the American plan are to be introduced on Lake Geneva, Switzerland. This will add very greatly to the comfort and pleasure of tourists on that beautiful lake.

A Suez letter in the Times says work on the Canal has been stopped, but the passage is still hazardous for vessels drawing more than 24 feet.

A despatch from Madrid, Dec. 29, says:—Senor Yorilla, the Minister of Justice, made a speech at Abaceta yesterday, wherein he declared if the government cannot find a King they will throw themselves into the arms of a republic.

Some time since the Sublime Porte sent a demand to Ismael Pacha to abandon his iron-clad fleet. The demand remaining unanswered, the Sultan, on the 31st, forwarded a violent message to the same effect.

An Admiralty order authorizes the wearing of beards by the Royal Marine Light Infantry. A corps already above the average in soldier-like appearance and smartness will thus have its appearance still further improved.

The *Peuple Français*, which is considered as to some extent an organ of the Tuileries, makes the announcement that in future the Empress of the French will not attend any Ministerial Councils.

The Marquis of Bute has recently sold Loudoun Castle, in Ayrshire, with the extensive estates attached, to the Countess of Loudoun. His Lordship received the same price for it that he gave to the Marquis of Hastings.

A report of M. Magné, the Minister of Finance in France, has been published in the *Journal Officiel*. It represents the finances as in a very flourishing condition. The floating debt has been greatly reduced, there is a surplus on the budget of 1868, and also on that of 1869, and an estimated surplus for 1871. For the first time after a long interval M. Magné says the expenditure for public work will be defrayed from the ordinary revenue.

Mr. Ashbury has forwarded to the *Morning Post* the correspondence had between himself and Mr. Bennett per Atlantic Telegraph on the subject of an ocean yacht race between his yacht *Cambria* and Mr. Bennett's yacht *Dauntless*, on the fourth of July next, from Kinsale Head to Sandy Hook. He accompanies this correspondence with a letter wherein he says he accepts the terms and that he will be ready on reaching New York to race for the cup won by the yacht *America* on the 22nd of August, 1861.

The London Spectator commenting on recent diplomatic correspondence between the Government of the United States and Great Britain, says, that the notes of Mr. Fish are improvements on Mr. Seward's. His despatches contain no bombast or flourishes, yet there is too much of insignificant and sentimental complaint instead of close adherence to the legal question. The American case on the Alabama question is a strong one and one in which all maritime powers are deeply interested, but Mr. Fish does not do it justice.

The Emperor of Austria took the opportunity afforded by his journey to Egypt to visit Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. A correspondent of the Times records the following amongst other incidents of the Royal trip:—"A very fine turtle was observed sporting himself about 100 yards from the Royal vessel, whereupon, calling for his rifle, His Majesty waited patiently till the animal raised its head out of the water, when the ball with unerring aim, pierced the animal's brain, and it sank like a stone. It was expected the body would float and be secured for soup, but when the contrary was found to be the case, His Majesty was sorry for having killed the poor animal."

A despatch dated London, Dec. 31st, says:—Heavy gales have prevailed all around the coast during the past few days, and many shipwrecks, attended in some instances with loss of life, have already been reported. The American bark D. V. Minot, Capt. Healy, which left Mobile on the 10th of November, with a cargo of cotton for Havre, experienced one of those gales when two days' sail from the Cornish coast, but weathered the storm and made for port Penance. She lost two masts and suffered other damage, though to what extent is not ascertained. Advices have been also received to the effect that the bark *Edra*, bound from Montreal to Greenock, was driven ashore on the coast of Ireland by a furious gale. The captain and seven of the crew were drowned. The bark will probably be a total loss. A fearful gale from the north-west also occurred at Limerick, on the 31st. Trees were uprooted, chimneys thrown down, and in some instances houses were prostrated. Ten persons are known to have lost their lives and many others have been badly injured.

An English journal publishes an extract from a letter from Sir S. Baker, in which that traveller gives the Nile expedition a very wide range:

"The main objects of our enterprise are after crushing the slave trade: (1) to annex to Egypt the Equatorial Nile basin; (2) to establish a powerful government throughout all the tribes now warring with each other; (3) to introduce the cultivation of cotton on an extensive scale, so that the natives will have a valuable production to exchange for Manchester goods, etc.; (4) to open to navigation the two great lakes on the Nile; (5) to establish a chain of trading stations throughout the countries to be annexed, so as to communicate with the northern base from the most distant point south, on the system adopted by the Hudson's Company. . . . Every tribe will be compelled to cultivate a certain amount of corn and cotton in proportion of the population. No war will be permitted. Each chief will be held responsible for the acts of his tribe. Tribute will be exacted in labor to be performed in opening out roads; on the same principle as the road tax in Ceylon. To carry out these plans I have absolute power conferred by the Viceroy."