Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W.T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE] GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 1864. [VOL. XVII.—NO 44.

Truth Stranger than Fiction.

In the autumn of 1817, when the woods were bright with the variagated hues which follow the light touches of early frost, a mounted traveller was quietly pursuing his way through a dark, broad, lonely forest in the western part of the State of New York. He had ridden three miles since seeing a human habitation, and he had yet two to go before he could get sight of another. He was descending a hill into a gloomy-looking valley, through which flowed a shallow but swiftly running stream, and, on reaching the water, he permitted his horse to stop and drink.

At that moment a man came out from a cluster of bushes into the road, or horse-path, on the other side of the stream. This man was dressed like a hunter, and carried a rifle on his shoulder. In his general appearance there was nothing that predicted hostility or a wicked design. He was of medium size, compactly built, with intellectual features, and a certain air of gentility—seeming rather as one abroad from some settlement for a day's sport than a professional hunter. All this the mounted traveller carefully noted before he crossed the stream to continue his journey, and when they came near together a pleasant salutation was exchanged.

'Fine weather for travelling,' remarked the man with the gun.

'And for hunting also, I should suppose,' smiled the other, on his horse.

'Yes, there is game enough,' replied the other, 'but I'm not a good hunter, and can only show one bear for my day's work thus far, and that is almost useless to me, because I have no means to take it away. I would willingly give a dollar for the use of a horse like yours for a couple of hours. If you would spare five minutes or so, I would like you to see the bear. It is back behind these bushes, about two hundred yards from here.'

'I will not only look at it,' replied the traveller, dismounting and fastening his horse, 'but, if not too heavy, I will take it along for you, seeing I am going your way.'

The hunter thanked him in a most cordial manner, and then, as it to make himself agreeable and keep up the conversation, inquired where the other was from, whither he was journeying, and so forth, and learning in return that the latter resided in Albany, was a merchant in good business, and was travelling partly for the good of his health, and partly with the view of making an extensive purchase of land for future speculation.

'Well, here we are,' exclaimed the hunter, as the two emerged from the dense thicket through which they had slowly forced their way into more open wood. 'Here we are; and now I will show you as fine and fat a beast as you ever saw. Observe where I point my rifle.'

He stepped back some eight or ten feet, and deliberately raised his piece, and pointed the muzzle directly at the head of the traveller. There was a flash, a loud report, and the victim fell like a log, his face covered with blood.

This might, or it might not, have been the first crime committed by the man with the rifle. But as the traveller fell, the rifle slipped from his hands, and he shook violently from head to foot.

Yet he ran to his victim, and hurriedly robbed him of a purse, a pocket book, a gold watch and chain, some curious seals, a diamond breastpin, and a diamond ring, which he fairly tore from his finger. Then he dragged the body into the thicket, picked up his rifle, plunged madly through the bushes to the road, mounted the traveller's horse, and dashed away from the awful scene.

We must now suppose a lapse of twenty years.

In the spring of 1837 there lived in the city of New York a banker and millionaire, whom we shall call Stephen Edward. He owned a palatial mansion, splendidly furnished, in the very heart of the town, and he and his wife were among the leaders of the fashionable world.

They had a beautiful daughter, just turning sweet sixteen, who was about to be married to a foreign nobleman, and great preparations were making for the happy event.

One day, about this period, as the great banker stood conversing with a gentleman from another city, who had called to see him on business, he observed the latter turn very pale, and began to tremble.

'My dear sir,' he said, in the usual tone of off-hand sympathy, 'what is the matter? are you ill?'

'A little faint, sir, but nothing to cause alarm,' replied the other hurriedly.

'I am subject to similar spells. If you will be kind enough to excuse me for ten minutes or so, I will take a short walk and return in better condition.'

In ten minutes he did return, and was quite well. He calmly proceeded to finish his business with the banker, and then respectively took leave.

It was perhaps a week after this that one night the great banker was sitting before the fire in his library, when a servant came in and presented him a letter.

He took it with a yawn, opened it in the most indolent and indifferent manner possible, but had not read more than a dozen words before he came up with a start, turned pale, and trembled so that the paper rattled. He finished the note—for it was rather a note than a letter—worked one hand nervously at his throat, and with the other clasped his forehead and temples. For a moment or two he seemed choking into calmness, by an iron will, some terrible emotion, and he succeeded in addressing the waiting servant in an ordinary tone.

'James,' he said, 'who gave you this letter?'

'A man, sir, as said he'd wait for an answer.'

'Then I suppose he is waiting?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Very well; show him in.'

Soon there was a light tap on the door, and the banker said 'come in,' in an ordinary tone.

The servant opened the door, ushered in the stranger and then withdrew.

The latter was a man verging on sixty, of rough appearance and coarse attire. He wore an old gray overcoat, buttoned to the throat, and a pair of green goggles, and his whole dress was saturated with rain.

'Take a seat,' said the banker, pointing to a hair stuffing near the fire.

'No, thank you, I'll stand,' was the gruff reply. 'You got my letter, and, of course, know my business,' he added.

'You allude to this, I suppose?' returned the banker, producing the letter which caused him so much perturbation.

'Yes.'

'I do not understand it. You must have made a mistake.'

'No; no mistake at all. I was present twenty years ago come the tenth day of October, and saw you, Stephen Edwards, shoot the man, and if you go to deny it, I'll have you in prison before morning. I've laid my plans, and got everything sure, and if you go to playing innocent and refusing my terms, I'll take good care to see you die stretching hemp.'

The banker, in spite of himself, turned pale, shuddered, and staggered to a seat.

'What do you want?' he groaned.

'A hundred thousand dollars—not a cent less.'

'I cannot give it—it would ruin me.'

'Just as you say,' rejoined the other, moving towards the door. 'You know what will follow if I go this way.'

'Oh, stay! you must not go yet!' cried the man of crime, in terrible alarm.

He argued, urged, pleaded, implored for mercy at a less fearful cost, in vain. At last the banker, seeing ruin, disgrace and death before him if he refused to agree to the terms, came to the stranger's terms. He also agreed to meet the stranger, with the required sum, on the following night, in front of St. Paul's Church.'

Both were punctual to the fixed time, and bills and cheques, to the amount of a hundred thousand dollars, changed hands.

A month later there was a terrible run on the bank of which Stephen Edwards was the principal owner. It was soon broken and closed. Then the sheriff was set to work by eager creditors, and all the real estate and personal property of the late millionaire was seized and sold, leaving him a beggar, and the just claims unsatisfied. Fashionable friends deserted the family, and the proud nobleman refused the hand of the ruined banker's daughter.

In the very midst of his disgrace and tribulation, Stephen Edwards encountered the man who had turned so pale and became so agitated in his presence a short time before.

'I rather think you do not know me, sir,' said the gentleman with a formal bow.

'Your face seems somewhat familiar but I cannot place you,' said Edwards.

'Permit me to bring myself to your recollection, then, as I wish you to know me. A little more than six weeks ago, I was talking with you on business, and you observed that I turned deadly pale, and became agitated.'

'Oh, yes, I remember you now.'

'Let me tell you why I was thus affected. My eyes had just chanced upon a curious watch seal, which once belonged to a merchant named Philip Sydney, who was shot in the western part of this State, some twenty years ago; and on looking at your features closely, I know you to be the villain that perpetrated the foul deed.'

'Merciful God!' exclaimed the banker, with a blanched face and quivering form.

'Yes, I know you,' pursued the other; 'and a week after, I disguised myself and had an interview with you in your own mansion. You remember that, of course?'

'But,' gasped the trembling wretch, 'did I not pay you your own price to keep my fatal secret?'

'Yes; and with that very money, and what other I could command, I was enabled to buy up enough of your own bills to make that run upon your bank that broke it, and forced ruin upon you.'

'And what would you do now that I am ruined?' inquired the other with the deadly calmness of desperation.

'Now that I have had my revenge, I want you to know that I myself am the man you attempted to murder, and did rob! *I am Philip Sydney!* Behold the scar where the ball struck and glanced,' and he lifted his hat and showed it.

'God be praised!' ejaculated the other.—'God be praised that you are still living!' and, unable to restrain his emotion, he burst into tears. 'O, sir,' he continued, 'you have taken a load from my conscience—a weight from my soul! Though poverty, beggary, disgrace and death are staring me in the face, I am happy in the knowledge that I am not guilty of murder—more happy than I have been for twenty years, with all the luxurious surrounding of wealth! It was my first and last crime, and I never have been able to tell how I was tempted to so outrage my nature as on the fearful occasion. Now, sir, do with me what you will—only, I pray you, be merciful to my innocent family!'

'I forgive you,' returned the other, extending his hand. 'I forgive you! You have been fearfully punished already; and as God has seen proper to preserve us both and bring us together, let us hope it is for our future salvation, and endeavor so to live as to deserve the blessings we received! I will restore you enough to place you and your family above want; and for the rest, we shall both remember that we shall soon have to render an account of our stewardship in another world.'

Philip Sydney kept his word; and with a fresh start in the world, and an easy conscience, the still enterprising Stephen Edwards accumulated another respectable fortune, most of which he spent in charity.

Fat and Lean.

Mr. Banting has made another contribution to the literature of the corpolency, and this time he is sustained by the high and unquestionable authority of an Alderman of the city of London. Heretofore he has benefited the world with the knowledge of how they may reduce their corporeal rotundity to reasonable dimensions. Now his object is to show how lean men may grow exceedingly plump—a reform no less needed in the domestic economy of some anatomised Englishmen than the cure for obesity. He assures us from his own experience, that the eating of five ounces of loaf sugar in the course of a single week—that is under an ounce a day—will increase the weight exactly one pound, so that if the prescribed regimen be steadily pursued for a few weeks or months, every angularity will be removed, and Don Quixote himself transformed into a fleshy and substantial son of Adam. If the gallant hero of Cervante's story could have tried the experiment, Sancho Panza would have been more astonished by the result than he was by any of the marvellous deeds performed by the knight of rueful countenance. Alderman Mechi, who was begining to suffer from that obesity which seems to be the common fate of all who endeavor to serve their country by feasting at civic banquets, and performing oleaginous duties, has tested the truth of Mr Banting's theory by simply abstaining from the use of sugar, the result being that in six weeks he lost fourteen pounds of superabundant flesh. Nothing could more conclusively prove the fattening properties of saccharine matter, and Mr. Mechi gives a hint to all feeders of live stock which is worthy of the practical mind of the model farmer of Tiptree Hall. If he can be made thinner by the disuse of sugar, it follows that cattle may be made fatter by the inverse process. Canadian, as well as English farmers should act upon this suggestion, especially when bovine food is scarce.—*London Cor. of Globe.*

THE LATE MR. DESBARATS.—The Canada *Gazette* of Saturday last was issued in full mourning dress out of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Desbarats. It bears the following imprint:—"Printed by Malcolm Cameron, Printer to the Queen's most excellent Majesty."

THE CZAR AT A GAMING TABLE.—The *Nouvelliste*, of Rouen, says that when the Emperor was Hombourg this year he went into the gambling rooms, and being tempted to try his luck at roulette, told his aid decamp to throw down a note of one hundred roubles upon the red. But the ball had scarcely began to roll when the croupier, with his rake, roughly pushed away the Russian paper, observing that the bank did not take that sort of money. The aid-de-camp took it up without remonstrance, and the Czar, who most assuredly was not recognised by the croupier, went away without trying another experiment on the board of green cloth.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., NOV. 25, 1864.

THE AGRICULTURE OF HURON AND BRUCE.

AT THIS particular season of the year, when farmers, as a general thing, are taking a breathing spell, and thinking over their prospects, it might be well to devote a short space to the consideration of the present condition of the Agriculture of our fine counties. We are thoroughly convinced that too much attention cannot be paid to this important subject. Our whole prosperity may be said to hinge upon the success of the Agriculturist.—The merchant, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the publisher, every little tradesman, must, and, in fact, does depend upon the products of the enterprising farmer for the wherewithal to keep the wheels of material progress in motion. Hence, the whole community should be deeply interested in the *producer* of bread. There is, however, a reciprocity of benefits between the producer and he who converts his raw material into real, marketable wealth that is sometimes lost sight of. The farmer is not, by any means, an independent being. He wants a highway over which his fruits may be transported, his artificial wants must be supplied, he must, if he wishes to keep pace with the age, be provided with the very best and newest implements of husbandry, and hence, also, *he* must be dependent, to a very great extent, upon the enterprise of the shipper, the merchant, and the manufacturer. The farmer may feel that he supports the non-producer, but he should never forget that the latter is of considerable importance in the social compact—always supposing him to be, however, something better than a mere drone.

A great many of our farmers are, just now, undergoing the throes of despondency. They have to work very hard, and while crops have not been so abundant for two or three years past as they were formerly, the prices realized have been relatively lower. They feel disgusted and declare that farming *does not pay*—that they must engage in some other pursuit, or leave the country. Ah, if they only knew how many there are in "other pursuits" who know not how to make both ends meet, they would give up that part of the idea, and as for leaving the country they may go farther and fare worse. If they go to the Western States they can buy land cheaper, no doubt, but they must there put up with extremely low prices, as well as pay their share of an enormous war tax—to say nothing about the chance of being drafted into Mr. Lincoln's armies, should they renounce their allegiance to good Queen Victoria. To all such despondent souls we say, stick to Canada while you can make a living at all—work away industriously and patiently—keep out of debt as much as you possibly can; and above all things avoid mortgaging your farms unless driven to it by the direst necessity. This is the rock upon which thousands of our farmers have wrecked their hopes, this is the incubus that now weighs us down and paralyzes our best energies. A few years ago Canada enjoyed a degree of prosperity which lured farmers on to their own ruin as it did others who had nothing to do with farming, and we are now realizing the bitter fruits. We need not enlarge upon this branch of our subject. In many cases it is too late to atone for what is past, and we only allude to the painful truth in order that we may strive to profit by the bitter experiences we have passed through.

There is, thank geodness, a brighter side to the picture. No man of observant intelligence can have witnessed the agricultural demonstrations of the past year without being convinced that these counties are making good solid progress in the theory and *practice* of successful farming. What a vast stride has been made in the agriculture of Huron since we became first acquainted with it. Then we made our little clearings in the bush, used the old-fashioned three cornered drag between the stumps, harrowed in our turnips with a tree top, used the old No. 4 plough, which if it did not make such sharp, high-set work as the Mahaffy or the Grey, at least complied with friend Hunter's idea of laying it *flat*, although that good farmer would have serious objections to the four inches, which was about the depth poor brouse-fed Buck and Briney were capable of turning up. To be sure, we raised fine crops of wheat, oats and potatoes in those days, but then the soil was a virgin one, and, as Sydney Smith said, had only to be tickled with a plough to yield a harvest. The rude system was good enough for the primitive times of twenty-five years ago, but, alas, the conservative souls who still adhere to the scratching system of those days are, to-day, barely able to keep themselves in the tobacco they smoke. What a wonderful change has been wrought! The threshing machine supersedes that embodiment of slavish toil, the *flail*, splendid ploughs of County manufacture are now in use instead of the shallow-going No. 4, the cradle superseded the sickle and is now being pushed out of sight by the reaping machine; cultivators and gang ploughs are in general use, underdraining is confidently spoken of, *rotation of crops* is practiced, fine breeds of cattle, sheep, and hogs have been introduced, and our Hunters, Snells, Torrances, Lomases, Gibbons', Sproats, Salkelds, Jennings, Elliotts, Broadfoots, Brocelbanks, Halls, and hundreds of others, whom we would be proud to mention did space permit, are asserting the true dignity of labor while they are proving most conclusively that Agriculture *does* pay.

(CONCLUDED ON SECOND PAGE.)

☞ Owing to reliable information that Southerners and their sympathisers in certain western towns are manufacturing and clandestinely collecting at convenient points, shot, shell, and cannon, the Government yesterday issued, under cap. 4, Act of 1863, a proclamation prohibiting the exportation, or carrying coastwise, or by inland navigation, of arms or ammunition. This action was taken the moment information that could be relied upon reached Quebec.

TORONTO POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—The Quebec Chronicle of Monday contains the following paragraph:—We learn from a private source that a robbery to a considerable amount has taken place in the Toronto Post Office. The circumstance under which the delinquency was perpetrated has been withheld for prudential reasons.

☞ The Finance Minister, Mr. Galt, on Wednesday last, fully explained to his constituents at Sherbrooke the nature of the Confederation resolved upon by the Quebec Conference, and entered particularly into its financial aspects and prospects. In the evening, he was the guest of the electors of the town at a dinner which was attended by a large number of gentlemen, among others the Hon John Young, who has hitherto acted with the Rouge party of Lower Canada, but who has always been in favor of an union of the British American Provinces.

THE PIKES TO BE GIVEN UP.—At noon, on Wednesday, Judge Harrison gave judgment in the case of the pikes.—He said that, after having searched up the law as fully as possible, he had come to the conclusion that there was no course left open for him to pursue but to order the issue of the writ of replevin for the recovery of the pikes from the authorities.—His Honor gave his reasons for thus judgment, and referred to the authorities under which he acted. The writ was, says the *Globe*, we believe, at once taken out, but from all we can hear there will be some difficulty experienced in finding the pikes, as they have mysteriously disappeared from the room in which they were placed. Provided they cannot be found, McGuire's only course will be to sue the authorities for the value of the articles. It is expected that he will have a very interesting time of it before he again gets hold of his "tooth-picks," as some of his fellow-countrymen facetiously call them.

Painful Accident.

A MAN'S LEG TORN OFF BY A THRESHING MACHINE.

The Berlin 'Telegraph' regrets to have to record the particulars of a distressing accident which occurred last Tuesday on the farm of Mr. James Potter, and by which a man named William Haddock was deprived of his leg in the most painful manner. It appears that Haddock, at the time of the accident, was attending to the horses which were drawing the machine, and had gone down to walk between the horses and the horse-power.—While so engaged, the bolts in the joint of the connecting rod between the horse-power and the band wheel caught his foot and dragged it in between the rod and the underlying frozen ground, tearing the limb off just below the knee. The unfortunate man had no means of helping himself, and before assistance could be given him was obliged to endure the excruciating torture of having his leg literally ground off from his body. At last accounts, Haddock was slowly recovering.

DEFENCE OF MONTREAL.—A correspondent writing to the Montreal *Gazette* says that Col. Jervois, who was commissioned by the Imperial authoritios to report on the defence of Canada, and recently returned to England, thoroughly satisfied himself, by personal observation, of the vital importance of the defence of Montreal, to the safety of Canada, in the event of attack. In conversation with a gentleman of that city, he gave expression to views so full and explicit on this point, that the listener told him they were almost identical with those expressed eighteen years ago, (6th of April, 1846,) in the United States Senate by the late Hon. Dan. Webster, when defending his share in the Ashburton Treaty. The argument he used was that Montreal was the most vulnerable part of Canada; that in case of war if the Americans pushed their forces by way of Lake Champlain and took it, all the western part of this Province would be at their mercy; and that the treaty he negotiated secured for New York the possession of Rouse's Point, the most important defensive position in the State, except the Narrows below the city of New York.

WATCHING THE JANAL.—We (St. Catherines *Journal*) are pleased to be assured that the Collectors along the Canal have taken such measures, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Government, to prevent vessels passing the canal having raiding parties or warlike materials on board, that there is scarcely the possibility of one getting through. The Collector of this port, Mr. James Lamb, has given instructions to his subordinates to search every vessel, not only those which may be liable to suspicion, but even those that are not, such as the boats of the Northern Transportation Company, so that it is almost certain that any attempt to violate our neutrality will be detected. Our citizens will be pleased to learn this fact, for whatever may be their sympathies in the present unfortunate struggle on "the other side," there is not amongst us who does not earnestly desire to extend equal justice to all, and to preserve the strictest neutrality.

CONFEDERATION.

This question of military aid to Canada our press has discussed, and the aim of British journalists has been to impress upon the Canadians the necessity of self exertion, and of being prepared for military defence. Carried away by the usual over impulse of the ready writer, who must be quick and desires also to be emphatic, many a man has gone beyond the mark, and instead of persuading the Canadians to get ready to receive invaders, has helped to make them suspect a cowardly intention on our part to shrink out of the quarrel, and, in case of their being invaded by the Americans, to leave them to their fate. The policy of England in the Danish quarrel, and the opinion with which we have covered and comforted our abstinance from war, have come to corroborate the suspicion of the Canadas. They, as well as the continent, begin to think with the *Charivari*, that the British lion is a stuffed one.

The Canadian leaders have therefore met, and the correspondence from Quebec no doubt truly represents them as about to form a Federation, chiefly for the purpose of bringing England to book. When once that Federation is formed, we shall be asked by the British Americans, as a body, What we intend? Do we mean, in case of their being attacked by the Americans, to support them in the war, *coute qu' il coute?* Or is it our aim merely to excite them to resistance, and leave them to carry it out with partial or small aid from England? If we are resolved to give aid, limited aid, and conditional aid, the Canadians want to know, where are the limits, and what the conditions? We don't seek to censure the Canadians for putting these straightforward questions. The tone of our public men and of our press has put them upon it. We shall have to answer, and more than our contemporaries seem to expect must depend upon that answer.

Is England to defend Canada, or is she not? If not, or if only to such a degree as to give small additional confidence to the colonists, then, no doubt, a Federation may be made eminently useful. It will not be so for defence; for, as we before observed, the Central and the Maritime Provinces of British America cannot help one another much more than they do. But the Federation will prove highly useful for the purpose of making terms with the enemy. The Canadians would little like to join the Federal Union, unless exonerated from an undue share of its indebtedness. As little might they like to be dragged into the effects, the sacrifices, and responsibility of the present war. And during the present war the menacing question of annexation is not likely to be put to them. But the war may end in a sudden American burrah against Canada. To this we have greatly contributed by our beggarly chaffer with the Canadians, and by the inevitable publicity of the cross questions and answers passing between England and British America.

Thus, a Federation will prove of the highest convenience to the colonists and enable them to make terms, for they can not only cast off the English sovereignty and commerce, but carry with them in so doing the maritime ports and possessions which there was really no need of our sacrificing. All that we have here said is in a great measure suppositions. But is it impracticable? If not contemplated by all, or even by the majority of those who propose the Federation, it is certainly regarded as no improbable contingency by some, and those not the least sagacious or influential. All we ask is, that we should enter upon the important question with our eyes open, and not become the dupes of a blind belief in our popular theories, and of that new popular philosophy which prefers economy to either power, dignity, or honor.—*London Examiner, 5th inst.*

European News.

PORTLAND, Nov. 22.—The steamship Moravian, from Liverpool on the 10th inst., arrived at 10:15 this morning. The steamship Europa, from Boston, arrived out on the 7th. The steamship Damascus, from Quebec, arrived out on the 8th. The steamship City of Washington, from New York, arrived on the 9th. The steamship Saxonia, from New York, arrived at Southampton on the 10th. The steamship Scotia, from New York, arrived on the 11th. The Bank of England has reduced its rate of discount to 8 per cent. The Lower House of the Danish Rigsraad has adopted the treaty of peace by a large majority.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 17.—Cotton—sales of the week, 72,000 bales; market buoyant with an advance of 1d on American, and 1 to 3d on other descriptions. Sales on Friday 15,000 bales; market closing upwards. Breadstuffs—market closes steady and firmer. Corn dull. Provisions quiet and steady. Lard advancing.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—Consols closed at 90⅞ to 91⅛ for money. The bullion in the Bank of England increased £334,000 stg. American Stocks—Illinois Central Railroad 51½ to 52½ discount; Erie 39 to 41. The Brazilian correspondence relative to the seizure of the Florida is published. The London *Star* denounces the seizure and hopes America will repudiate it. At the banquet of the new Lord Mayor of London, Lord Palmerston made a speech, in which, on referring to the bloody war in America, he said he trusted the contending parties would soon find it better to be reconciled than to fight, and that these disputes which have bedewed that continent with blood, would be settled by amicable arrangements between themselves. Great floods have occurred in Tuscany. Enormous damage has also been suffered at Florence by a tremendous flood. The expedition to Japan was entirely successful in opening the inland sea to the free passage of all ships.

LATER.

PORTLAND, Nov. 22, 1864.—The steamship Moravian, which arrived here yesterday, brought the following news in addition to that already telegraphed:—The fore part of the steamship Jura has keeled over, and the after part remains fast and upright on the sand where she grounded. The London *Times* in its city article says that advices from New York with regard to the mode in which the Washington government have received the news of the capture of the Confederate str. Florida are awaited with the greatest interest by the mercantile as well as the political world. One reason for the importance attributed to those advices consists in the inference that if the affair be palliated or endorsed by Lincoln's government it will henceforth entirely extinguish any power on the part of the United States to assail by privateers the commerce of any nation with which they may be at war, since the precedent will establish a claim to the right to pursue and destroy any such vessel whatever may be the port in which she may seek shelter or supplies.

The new Lord Mayor of London was inaugurated on the 9th inst. with the usual ceremonies, terminating with a grand banquet at Guildhall. The leading members of the British Cabinet and other high dignitaries were present. Lord Palmerston in an eloquent speech spoke cheerfully of European politics. As regards America he said: "There is one dark spot in the picture which the affairs of the world present. That dark spot lies on the other side of the Atlantic. We grieve, and every man of right mind must grieve, that that bloody and disastrous war which broke out more than three years ago among the kindred nations of North America still rages, still lays waste the fertile plains of that continent, still bedews with the blood of its people those forests and tracts of territory which ought to be cultivated and become sources of wealth, pleasure and happiness to mankind. We may earnestly trust that human nature will not long permit that deadly and disastrous strife to continue, that the contending parties within some period not remote will find it much better to be reconciled than fight, and that the disputes which have bedewed that continent with fraternal blood will be settled by an amicable arrangement between themselves." (Loud cheers.) The beginning of strife was expected to be attended a this country with most disastrous results to manufactures. These alarms have been found groundless. At all events, out of evil may come some good, and I trust in future our sources of supply will be spread over a great portion of the globe, and that we shall no longer be dependent on any country for materials so essential to the industry and prosperity of our own country.

THE DANO-GERMAN QUESTION.—The final vote of the Danish Lower House on the treaty of peace, was taken on the 9th inst. The treaty was approved of by 75 to 21 votes.—One member abstained from voting. Four were absent. All the deputies present, from Schleswig and the Enclaves, ceded by the treaty to Germany, voted against the treaty. The bill was afterwards sent to the Upper House.

ITALY.—The debate on the convention and removal of the capital to Florence is still progressing in the Chamber of deputies—Some of the speakers denounce the convention as a virtual renunciation of Rome; while others regard it as leading to Rome at no distant period.

There had been great floods in Tuscany, and considerable damage done to property; particularly to the railways. At Florence there was also a great inundation. The streets were flooded; the fields laid waste, and the roads broken up. The damage done is enormous. But few lives were lost. The Czarowitch, of Russia, was on a visit to Turin.

JAPAN.—The detail's of the naval operations against Japan by the combined powers, are published. The expedition was entirely successful. Henceforward there is to be a free passage to the inland sea, and all ships passing through the Straits of Simonaski are to be treated in the most friendly manner. The forts, which were to a great extent destroyed or rendered useless, are not to be repaired, nor are any guns to be mounted upon them; and no new forts are to be built. The Prince of Nagata is to defray the expenses of the expedition and to pay a ransom on account of the town of Simonzaki having been spared. The total loss of the expedition was about ninety killed and wounded, of which 65 fell to the English.

The Moravian also brought the following summary of the news by the *Kina*, which sailed from Liverpool on the 9th and Queenstown on the 10th, but has not yet arrived:—The steamship Saxonia passed Falmouth on the 8th instant, under canvass, going at the rate of six knots an hour; her machinery was disabled. Prior to her being reported, the premium on her advanced to to twenty per cent. The ship Ocean Pearl, from New York to Tarragona, was totally wrecked on the 28th October off the latter port. The crew and a large portion of the cargo were saved. The *Shipping Gazette* believes the steamer to which Captain Semmes and his men were transferred by the Laurel, off Madiera, was the Sea King, which recently cleared from London for Bombay. It is stated that the fast vessel destroyed by the Florida, before her capture at Bahia, was the Mandarin from Rio de Janiero for Baltimore.

Under the influence of the details of the capture of the Confederate steamer Florida—the official Brazilian correspondence about which has been published—the English journals indignantly denounce the affair.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.

Gen. Early's main force has been withdrawn far up the Shenandoah Valley. He has left some small outhanging detachments of cavalry lower down, apparently for the purpose of concealing his design and reconnoitering in front of Sheridan's forces.

Some of General Sewell's cavalry encountered one of three parties of the enemy in the Luray valley last Thursday and drove them through Front Royal. On the same day a Union reconnoissance in the vicinity of Berryville resulted in meeting a small body of Confederates and making prisoners of some of them.

The *Herald* prints a lengthy report of the experience of a Northern merchant in Georgia for the past three years, and who has lately escaped from the South. He gives an interesting statement regarding the difficulties of trade in the South, consequent on the stringency of the blockade and worthlessness of the Confederate currency; the dissatisfaction of the people with the administration of Jeff. Davis; the importance of Augusta, Columbus, Wilmington and Macon, and the condition of the country through which Sherman is now marching.

Richmond papers of Saturday are received. Two armed United States steamers are reported to have been captured on Big Sandy river.

Gen. Breckenridge, in East Tennessee, is endeavoring to win the people of that district to allegiance to *Jeff. Davis*, and has declared an amnesty to all who will lay down their arms and cease bushwhacking his troops.

In the Confederate House of Representatives, on the 18th inst., and in the Senate on the 19th, resolutions were offered by Messrs. Henry and Foote, of Tennessee, that the war was to be carried on until the independence of the South was acknowledged.

The *Herald's* Washington special despatch says:—

The news from Sherman, through Confederate sources, has created an excellent feeling here, and increased, if possible, confidence in the wisdom and success of the great movement.

The *Times'* Washington correspondent pronounces the story of an interview between the French minister and Secretary seward, a canard.

Mr. Lincoln, in forming his new cabinet, will regard Young America.

Gen. Rawlings, Grant's chief of staff, telegraphs that there is a great panic in Richmond, concerning Sherman.

The 14th corps has been abolished, and Gen. Emery ordered to report to the military district of Mississippi.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—The *Post's* Washington special says W. E. Dodge, of New York, has notified James Brooks of his intention to contest the seat of the 8th Congressional district, in the House of Representatives.

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CAIRO, Nov. 22.—Mobile Cotonian papers of the 15th say that Gen. Canby is recovering.

HALIFAX, Nov. 22.—A fearful south-west gale commenced last evening and continued with heavy rain. One piece of [illegible] The crew disappeared. It is stated that the Confederate schooner Badger, from St. Marks, bound to Havana, was taken possession of by the steamer Adelia on the 6th instant off the middle entrance of St. George's Sound, Florida. Twenty-five packages of cotton were captured with the vessel, the captain of which threw his papers overboard.

BOSTON, Nov. 22.—A gang of Confederate raiders on horseback are reported to have made their appearance at Rouse's Point on Sunday night. On being challenged they fired on the picket guard. Their fire was promptly returned and one of them fell from his saddle. The raiders immediately fled, taking the wounded man with them. The sixth Massachusetts regiment arrived here this evening from Washington, having served out their term of one hundred days.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—The *Tribune's* Washington correspondent says information received at the War Department states that Gen. Canby was improving.

"The latest intelligence represents Gen. Hood with two corps, numbering together about 35,000 men, to be still in the vicinity of Florence, Ala., on the Tennessee river. There are reports that Dick Taylor has joined him with an additional force of 10,000 men. His latest movements do not indicate an intention of early offensive operations.

"Beauregard, with the Confederate Gen. Stewart's corps, was still at Corinth, Miss., when last heard from.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—The *Commercial's* Washington special says:—

"The latest news from Richmond states that Sherman was but a few miles out of Macon, and that there was a great panic throughout in consequence of his advance.

WASHINGTON, Nov 23.—The *Republican* of this afternoon has the following:—

"We are permitted to announce that the Richmond papers of yesterday morning (Tuesday, Nov. 22) contain despatches from Macon that on Sunday last General Sherman was within 18 miles of that place, marching upon the city. It is believed in high military quarters that before this time Macon has fallen. Information considered reliable has been received that the city was only garrisoned by Georgia militia, composed chiefly of old men and boys, and that no attempt would be made to defend it, fearing that its destruction would follow.

"No reports from Richmond papers to day having been received, the inference is confirmatory of the above probability."

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 23.—The latest Mexican news stated that the Emperor was daily coming toward the Liberal party.

GEN SHERMAN'S NEW CAMPAIGN

IMMENSE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Rome, Ga., on the 10th, says that that place was evacuated on the 10th.—It was an important depot of supplies for Sherman's army while it was at Atlanta, but it became less necessary after he resolved upon his new campaign. Owing to the lack of transportation about a million dollars' worth of government stores were destroyed by the Federals before they left. One thousand bales of fine cotton, two flour mills, two rolling-mills, two tanneries, one saw-mill, an extensive foundry, several machine shops, together with the railroad depots and storehouses, four pontoon bridges, built by Gen. Corse's Pioneer Corps for use on the Coosa and Etowah Rivers, and a substantial trestle bridge nearly completed for use were destroyed. This trestle was constructed by the Engineer Corps, and I am told would have cost fifty thousand dollars North.

BARBAROUS ACTS.

But this was not all. The Federals had a malignant and barbarous feeling to gratify, and before they abandoned the town—once one of the most beautiful in the South—they consigned it to the flames. The writer says:—"Recollecting the gross outrages which I alluded to as being perpetrated upon Col. Streight by the 'Romans,' our troops as soon as they learned that the town was to be abandoned and a portion of it burned, resolved to lay Rome in ashes in revenge for insults offered to our prisoners. Gen Corse, however, had taken the precaution to station guards through all parts of the city, with orders to shoot down the first man caught firing a building without the proper authority.—Stringent orders were also issued to arrest all citizens or suspicious persons found on the streets after the conflagration commenced.—The roaring of the flames as they leaped from window to window, their savage tongues of fire darting high up in the heavens, and then licking the sides of the buildings, presented an awful but grand spectacle, while the mounted patrols and the infantrymen glided along through the brilliant light like giant spectres of horrid war."

SOUTHERN VIEWS.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 18th inst., says:—

"The larger portion of his (Sherman's) force, it is reported, is already moving toward Selma, Alabama, and if this be true Mobile must be his destination. Apropos to this conjecture, we learn that an immense fleet of transports, laden with stores, has arrived in Mobile Bay, which looks as though a movement were contemplated at an early day in that quarter. We have, upon the above hypothesis, the most singular feature of the war, that is, of two large armies passing each other by a sort of flank movement and moving in an opposite direction. Sherman may be a shrewd banker, a stubborn fighter and a prospective candidate for Presidential honors, but we venture the prediction that he has been woefully out-generaled this time.—We shall soon see. The situation is certainly increasing in interest in North Georgia."

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the same day also "notes the arrival of a supply fleet at Pensacola, of which the government received advices several days ago." The *Enquirer* adds:—

"Sherman might reach the Gulf, overpower all opposing force, and fix his new base upon the waters of the Gulf. But what then? The march would be all; the damage repaired, would have accomplished nothing to impair our means of defence, and would find himself opposed in the spring by another army."

The Richmond *Despatch* of Friday, discussing the subject, says:

'Sherman will, we think, meet with opposition he does not calculate upon, before he reaches the fortifications of Macon. These works, should he ever reach them, he will find of most formidable character, and with troops that betore that time will be collected in them, they must give him a vast deal more of trouble than he evidently counts upon. If Georgians will battle for their trenches as the Petersburg militia did last June for theirs, or the Richmond militia did at Staunton River Bridge, later in the summer, Macon will be saved."

The *Despatch* thinks Sherman is marching for Pensacola, which it thinks he is to make his future base of supplies. The *Sentinel* of the same date thinks it not impossible that he will march towards Augusta and Savannah, Ga., and says:—

"Go which way he will he has a long road before him, and it will be our fault if it prove not a rough one. Will Beauregard turn and pursue Sherman, or will he prosecute his own campaign? One is moving North, the other South; his purposes are necessarily secret. Nor are we in possession of information for an opinion as to the best policy. It is to be hoped that the people of the States through which Sherman proposes to march will fling themselves upon him with a courage that shall do them honor. There is a capital difference between his situation and that of Hood. He is in an enemy's country, while Hood is among friends.

"No sacrifice of property, no activity of opposition, must be counted now or considered excessive. Tear down bridges, block roads, remove or destroy supplies, cut off foragers, fight at every pass. If Sherman should be able to accomplish such a journey as that he proposes, foraging as he goes, it will be a proof that he was not becomingly resisted. On the whole, the situation of affairs East and South, is extremely interesting, and important events hasten to their accomplishment."

DEFENCE OF CANADA.—The Montreal *Telegraph* of Wednesday has the following:—"In answer to the statements made here and in great Britain as to the indefensible position of Canada, we are enabled to state that the Imperial officers deputed to examine our own and the American frontier, and to report on a system of defence, have not only reported that Canada can be effectively defended by a moderate force against aggression, but have also devised a scheme of defence which has been approved by the military authorities at home, and is about to be carried out as far as permanent works are required. This scheme, we understand, is based upon the theory that no campaign in Canada can be continued during the winter, and includes the construction of entrenched camps and other works at vital points sufficient to arrest the progress of an invader and compel him to resort to tedious siege operations, by regular approaches."

THE INTERNATIONAL BANK.—The International Bank of London, (England,) which has a branch in Montreal, was formed by an amalgamation of the British and American Exchange Bank and the London and Colonial Bank. The assets of the former agree to have turned out all right, but the assets of the latter consisted in part of the indebtedness of Gladstone & Co., recently failed. The joint concern, in consequence, makes a bad debt of £124,000, on account of