

The completion of the Great Pacific Railway concludes the list of mighty undertakings for the completion of which 1869 was remarkable. This great work, connecting the western shores of the Atlantic with the eastern shores of the Pacific, placing those oceans within seven days journey of each other; carried through a vast wilderness, over mountains covered with snow attests what barriers ingenuity and enterprise can effect in overcoming natural obstacles.

In the full blaze of the glory of these great achievements man is reminded that he is mortal by the noble and wise who have fallen before the hand of death during the year 1869. In Canada the Chancellor, Hon Philip Vancoughnet and Justice John Wilson of the Common Pleas have been removed by death. In England the great Earl of Derby, the finished orator and accomplished statesman, with other great and learned men; in France, Lamartine, the poet, Marshal Niel, the able Minister of war, the Marquis de Moustier, the brilliant Foreign Secretary, and other celebrities. In other communities men of less note and mark have passed away.

The events of the year will justify the people of Canada in thanking that Supreme Providence who has directed their affairs, and justifies the assurances of those who ventured to predict this prosperity. Events have proved that this may be looked for as long as it remains a component part of the British Empire.

—The Officers of the Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery have sent to London for the instruments for their band.

—The Court House on Baldwin street in this city was accidentally destroyed by fire on Sunday morning the 9th instant. It contained the Sheriff's office, the offices of the Clerk of the Peace, of the Surrogate Court, the Division Court, and County Treasurer. There has been a considerable loss of papers but all the books and principal documents were saved.

—The attention of the readers of the Review is requested to the letter of "Naval Engineer" on another page; it is a practical solution of a difficulty of no ordinary magnitude. The power of traction would be amply sufficient in the size of vessel described, to meet all the requirements of the case. Two or even three of these boats could be got ready by May next and might be left to ply on the sections of the navigable waters on which they would be launched; the barges could easily be built of wood when required.

REMITTANCES

Received on subscription to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 15th inst.:

BAYFIELD.—Capt. Thos. R. Jackson, \$5.
BROCKVILLE.—Lt.-Col. Atcherley, \$1.50; Lt.-Col. Jackson, \$1.60; Major McKechnie,

\$1.50; Major Cole, \$1.50; Capt. Young, \$1.50; Lt.-Col. J. Crawford, \$6.00.

CAMPBELLFORD.—G. F. A. Tico, \$2.

INGERSOLL.—Lieut. R. Y. Ellis, \$2.

WINDSOR.—Major Docherty, \$2.

HAMILTON.—James H. Ryal, \$2; Edward P. Rico, \$2.

BOBCAYGEON.—Wm. Mitchell, \$4.

TORONTO.—Col. G. T. Denison, \$2; Capt. A. Peebles, \$2.

THILSONBURG.—John B. Waller, \$4.33.

BRITISH OCEAN TELEGRAPHY.

There are four lines of ocean telegraphic cable now connecting England with India and the islands south of Farther India; and it is now proposed to add a fifth, to be laid from the Straits of Malacca to Hong-Kong. The lines already laid are the Falmouth, Gibraltar, and Malta—the Anglo-Mediterranean, the British Indian Submarine, and the British Indian Extension. From a station of the latter a cable 1,640 miles long will reach China, and thus, when Japan is reached, the world will be virtually belted with telegraphic cable. There will be another section of 1,000 miles in length from Hong-Kong to Shanghai, touching at the ports open by treaty to Europeans. The capital stock is to be 508,000 sterling, and the contract provides that the laying of the cable shall be completed by the first of June, 1871. It is anticipated that the immense trade between China and Europe will furnish ample business for the new line, and make it a profitable investment. The total value of the imports and exports from Hong-Kong and the treaty ports in 1868, amounted, according to the customs returns, to \$340,000,000.

A new cable is also about to be laid on the Persian Gulf, to connect Bushire, on the north shore, with Jashk, at the mouth of the Gulf. From the latter point there is already a line to the mouth of the Indus, and from Bushire to England there are two lines—one through Turkey and the other through Persia and Russia.

WANTED AN OWNER

'Twas Disraeli the elder, we believe, who wrote the "Curiosities of Literature." We doubt though if he ever saw anything as curious as annexed. There was a report some time since that a new comic journal was to be started here, and the following was picked up without name or address. Times are dull, and we only do what any other respectable journalist would do—transfer it to our columns. This will give it a circulation it would not otherwise obtain, and will doubtless gratify the writers. Similar contributions will be thankfully received:

SKETCH OF OUR OFFICE.

The Editor does not insist upon his readers believing all that follows—indeed it to a great extent depends upon the credulity of those interested.

The editor is over at his post with a quill and a bland smile.

At his right is a bottle of black ink, ready for use.

At his left a bottle of gall, hissing all the time.

Advertisers are invited to a chair.

Contributors are shown a waste paper basket.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any opinion, statement, or nonsense herein contained.

Everything witty the Editor acknowledges to be his.

The Editor does not permit his head to be punched under any circumstances, but those of fighting proclivities can be accommodated by his trusty esquires (imported from Boxiana, at an enormous expense, of course), whose lineaments tell of many hard fought battles, and known by name as ye Thomas Allen and ye James Maco. *Mace* is considered *spicy*.

The Editor's ears are always open, and he was never known to sleep with more than one or two eyes shut.

Ask anyone for our office, and should that person be too inebriated to clearly define, enquire of any of those useful members of the Government, ye left the marines.

Accompanying the parcel of "copy" was the following letter:—

HAMILTON, Jan. 7, 1869.

Dear Frank,—I am rapidly getting up my first number. Send us on something spicy. I mean to go on a burster. I don't think the people here are quite ripe enough for my style; shall educate 'em up to it; shall pitch in stiff; mean to roast the Common Council, tickle Magill, tar and feather Train if he comes; (he knows I'm here so it may keep him away), and play the deuce generally. No favour. Sharp thrusts for all, and a solution of sugar and vinegar to rub them down, to allay any smartness! Won't it be glorious; and the best of 'em will hesitate before trying to punch 6 feet 1 inch and one hundred and seventy pounds I hard as nails too—head softest part of my body; and you know I can throw a somersault, and light on my skull—and like it! so prospects are cheering. Got lots of rods in pickle, and increasing the elasticity of my right bicep—shall lay on as if with the knout. Don't forget copy. Love to Bessie. Great haste. Thine.

"THE SCOURGER IN CHIEF."

P. S.—Do you remember Joe Huggard who used to be in London? He is keeping the Tecumseh House, and rattles his half-dollars, just as he used his faro chips. Joe's getting on. I intend living at his hotel. I mean tickling him too. Joe likes a joke, and spouts his little bits of prose and poetry same as ever. I sold him dead the other day about a goose standing on one leg; and he sold the entire crowd. He just asked me to a "smile." I grin and comply!

ANNEXATION.—A good many residents seem to have a great desire to live under the American flag. Well, as the majority so desiring were born under it, we ought not to be surprised; let them then, only it can not be on Canadian soil. There is plenty of timber and prairie land for them in their native country, plenty of taxes, post-offices and politicians, plenty of good and plenty of bad, but until Canadians find a freer flag and a nobler people they will be content to live under the flag that has

"Braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze."

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS FIRED AT BY A SENTRY.—A few nights ago, at a late hour, one of the sentries on duty at Fort Wellington heard footsteps approaching the fort and gave the usual challenge. No answer being returned he fired and called out the guard. Two men were then heard running away and swearing fearfully as they went. Another shot was fired after them but, so far as is known, without any other effect than the fright of the prowlers.—*Prescott Telegraph*.