HISTORY OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH ENTERPRISE.

The Atlantic Telegraph.—John Stiles, Esq., a merchant of this city, who is well known for the interest which he has taken in the international relations of this country and the British provinces, communicates in another column some facts connected with the conception and early history of the Atlantic Telegraph, which are not generally known to the public. The narrative has all the interest of a romance, and we commend it to the perusal of our readers.—*Boston Journal Aug.* 7.

To the Editor of the Boston Journal:

The "Short History of the Atlantic Telegraph Enterprise" in this morning's *Journal* is correct, but the origin of the enterprise must be dated several years anterior to "the year 1856, when Cyrus W. Field visited England;" and though to the generous liberality and unconquerable perseverance of Mr. Field, a native of our own State, the now united nations are more indebted for the completion of the work than to any other, yet the grand conception originated with F. N. Gisborne in 1850, or 51, through whose exertions the company was formed and the enterprise commenced which has been so successfully completed.

As a brief sketch of the conception and early history of the enterprise will be read with interest at this time, I will give the facts in as few words as possible.

In 1851-2, we find young Gisborne, then only recently from England, his native place, engaged in a telegraph office in Montreal. After availing himself of all the scientific results evolved in regard to telegraphic communication, he conceived the feasibility of a transatlantic line. He proceeded to Halifax full of enthusiasm. Preliminary to the work, he must have a line from Halifax through New Brunswick to the United States. He met with ridicule, but succeeded in getting Howe and Young, leading Government officials, together at a dinner at the house of the latter. He sat opposite to Howe, who was then Provincial Secretary. There he urged the importance and feasibility of the enterprise with so much clearness as to induce them to make a line across the Province a government measure. It was built, and proved a profitable investment.

Gisborne's next move—still with the same great object in view—was to throw a submarine line across the gulf, from the main land to Prince Edward Island, by way of experiment. In this, too, he succeeded, and the line is still in good working order, notwithstanding the immense quantities of floating ice with which that coast is visited during the winter season.

The next step was to reach Newfoundland from Cape Breton. To accomplish this, he came to New York, where he succeeded in forming a Company to carry out the enterprise. He returned to Nova Scotia, and in his little steamer, the F. N. Gisborne, he proceeded to Newfoundland, where, with six picked Indians, he started on a survey across the Island, some 300 miles, through dense forests. His Indians failed under the labor and fatigue of the journey, and one after another gave out, and had to be provided for, until he finally got through alone, with his hatchet in his hand and pack of stale provisions on his back. The route was considered favorable, and a gang of laborers were engaged to clear a way for the wires across the Island.

For a while the work prospered, promising the early completion of a submarine line from the Island to Cape Breton, where it would connect with the wires to the United States, and form uninterrupted communication from the eastern extremity of Newfoundland, where the steamers from Europe would be visited by newsboats, as at present, (alas their occupation is gone!) and the news forwarded from the Island to our cities, until the line across the Atlantic might be completed.

But a cloud of adversity burst over Gisborne's head, which paralyzed his efforts for a time. The New York Company, upon whom he relied for his pecuniary aid, failed, and his drafts were returned dishonored. The work was suspended, and a posse of unpaid Irish laborers surrounded the projector and superintendent of the enterprise, threatening even his life if their bills were not settled. He gave up all his own property, but this did not satisfy the clamour of his hungry creditors, who had him arrested and imprisoned. To add to his grief, his young and lovely wife died, and left him with blighted prospects, both in his pecuniary and his social prosperity.

But those whose minds are capable of grasping such an enterprise as that in which he had been engaged, are not to be crushed. He sent to the head member of the Judiciary, and asked the favor of an interview at his cell. To him he stated, that he surrendered all his property, he could do no more *there*; but if released, and protected from molestation, he would reorganize a new company, and pay all claims.

He was taken at his word. Measures were adopted to release him at once, and Colonial Parliament, then in session (Spring 1854), passed an act granting an appropriation as a loan, from the Provincial Treasury, to pay in part the claims of those laborers whose families were suffering. Gisborne came on to New York. The company was found to be insolvent. His next effort was to get up a new one. Among strangers, the reader may well imagine the difficulties he must necessarily encounter in this step of his progress. Where will he find the man who will stop to listen to his story, much less risk a fortune in such an unparalleled project? He did find the man, and that man was Cyrus W. Field, with whom he succeeded in enlisting the co-operation of Peter Cooper, the millionaire, and four or five others whose wealth and energies were thrown into the enterprise. The result was the formation of a new company. Gisborne returned in May, 1854, to Newfoundland, as the superintendent of the enterprise, backed by a responsible company who assumed all the obligations of the insolvent concern, and paid off all claims.

Operations were pushed forward from this date with energy. The line between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland was successfully laid, and has proved entirely satisfactory, notwithstanding that *both ends of the cable rest on shores visited by icebergs*, but from which no injury has been sustained.

At the completion of this part of the line, a general superintendent of the Telegraph was required. Gisborne had the first offer of the office; but he overshot the mark in naming as a salary $10,000, or something in that vicinity, and the office was given to young McKay, that very efficient superintendent of the Nova Scotia line. Here, unfortunately I think both for himself and for the stockholders, Gisborne's connection with the company ceased.

Sensible of his scientific attainments and unconquerable perseverance, the merchants of Newfoundland invited Mr. Gisborne to a public dinner, and he was soon after elected President of the Mining Association of that Island.

Short History of the Atlantic Telegraph Enterprise.—We compile from different sources at hand the following sketch of this grand undertaking, over whose success the civilized world is now rejoicing:

In the year 1856 Cyrus W. Field visited England. The result of his visit was the formation of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, with a capital of £350,000, for the purpose of connecting Europe with America by a submarine telegraph cable. In August, 1857, an attempt was made to lay down the Atlantic Submarine Cable, resulting in a disastrous failure. The cable was 2500 miles in length, weighing nearly one ton per mile, capable of bearing a direct strain of over five tons without fracture. The centre of the cable was formed by seven fine copper wires, twisted into a cord 1-16 of an inch thick. This strand was coated with gutta percha forming a small rope ⅜ of an inch thick; then coated with hempen twine twice soaked in pitch and tar; lastly an external sheathing of 18 iron wires, each wire being a strand of seven finer wires, making in all 126 wires.

The submersion was commenced on the 5th August, 1857. There were present the six steamers, Niagara, Agamemnon, Leopard, Susquehanna, Willing, and Mind, intended to assist in various parts of the operation. The cable came up from the hold of the ship, around a central block, so to the open space above decks; it was there wound round grooved sheaths, geared together by cogs, and firmly planted on girders. Thence it passed over a fifth sheath, out over the stern into the sea, sinking by its own weight. A trifling accident happened on the 6th; this was repaired, and on the 11th, 380 miles (statute) had been submerged. The engineer here concluded that there was too much "slack" in the cable's course, and some modification in the machinery was consequently made. This appears to have been badly attended to by a subordinate. The cable snapped, and thus ended the attempt of 1857.

It having been concluded from Lieut. Maury's calculations that the average state of the weather was much better on the Atlantic in the early part of the summer, it was decided this year to make the attempt of laying the cable in June. It was also thought best to begin the submersion in mid-ocean and pay out towards either shore. Accordingly the telegraph fleet, consisting of the United States steam frigate Niagara and Her Majesty's steamers Agamemnon, Valorous, Gorgon, left Plymouth on Thursday, June 10, 1858. The Niagara had 850 tuns and the Agamemnon 450 tuns coal, and each about 1200 nautical, or a little less than 1500 statute miles of cable on board. The weather at first favorable, became unusually boisterous, so that the fleet were not ready to commence operations until late on the 25th of June.

The first splice was made between the Niagara and Agamemnon on the morning of Saturday, the 26th of June, and after each ship had payed out about three miles the cable broke on board the Niagara, owing to its overriding and getting off the pulley leading on to the machine. Both vessels put about and returned, a fresh splice was made, and again lowered over at half past seven. The paying out proceeded beautifully until early on Sunday morning, when the signals suddenly ceased. The cable was cut, and the Niagara repaired to the rendezvous. The cause of the rupture was equally mysterious to those on board the Agamemnon, and no satisfactory conjecture has since been made.

The cable was again spliced on the 28th, and the steamers parted. Everything worked beautifully during that night and the next day. But at 9 o'clock, p. m., on the 29th, the announcement of "no signals" was made on board the Niagara. At the time 142 miles of cable had been payed out. It was subsequently ascertained that the cable parted, for some reason unknown, about six fathoms from the stern of the Agamemnon. About 400 miles of cable were lost during these trials, the effect of which upon the public confidence in the final success of the undertaking was most depressing.

But the managers continued indefatigable. The fleet sailed a second time from Queenstown on the 17th July, joined the cable on the 29th, and on the 5th of August the world had news of success.

The cost of the telegraph cable has been put down as follows:

Price deep sea wire per mile	$200
Price spun yarn and iron wire per mile	265
Price outside tar per mile	20
Total per mile,	$485
For 2500 miles,	$1,212,500
For 25 miles shore ends, at $1250 per mile,	31,250
Total cost,	$1,258,250

— *Boston Journal, Aug.* 6th

The following despatch was received in this city on Thursday last:

St. John's N. F. Aug. 11.

To Associated Press:

Before I left London the Directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company decided, unanimously, that after cable was laid, and the Queen's and President's Messages transmitted, the line should be kept for several weeks solely for the use of Mr. Whitehouse, Professor Thomson, and other Electricians, to enable them to thoroughly test the various modes of telegraphing, so that the Directors might decide which was the best and most rapid method for future use. It was considered that after the line should be once thrown open for business it would be very difficult to obtain it for experimental purposes, even for a short time. Due notice will be given when the line will be ready for business, and tariff of prices.

Cyrus W. Field.

FRASER RIVER AND NEW COLUMBIA.

Whether the anticipations which have been formed of the gold placers of New caledonia—or New-Columbia, as the British House of Lords insists it shall be called—and of a rich and populous State to be planted on the banks of Fraser River, will ever be realized, remains to be seen. But one thing is very certain: whether the era of gold ever comes or not, an era of suffering if not of absolute starvation is inevitable. Twenty thousand people, or thereabouts, are already collected on the banks of Fraser River, without employment, and the larger part of them with very limited means of maintenance, waiting under pelting rains for the waters to subside, and buying horse flesh to eat at twenty-five cents the pound. Even should they be able to commence gold-digging to any effect this Autumn, the Winter must soon be upon them, with several months more of forced idleness. By that time, the number of these unfortunate and helpless men is likely to be largely increased, not only by additional emigrants from California, but by expeditions fitted out from this and other Atlantic ports. Those who think of starting off for this new El Dorado will do well to consider seriously of the matter before setting out. California, with its very mild and dry climate, holds out facilities to mining operations undertaken by scattered adventurers which it is in vain to expect to see paralleled on Fraser River, where rain and snow divide between them so great a portion of the year. Even California, in nine cases out of ten, turned out, so far as individuals were concerned, a miserable disappointment. Fraser River, however rich in gold, will, so far as individual expeditions are concerned, turn out, we fear, still worse.

New York, August 11.—Steamship St. Louis from Aspinwall afternoon of the 3d inst., arrived at this port this afternoon. She brings California dates of the 20th ultimo.

The St. Louis reports that the steamer Star of the West left Aspinwall at the same time for New York, via Key West, with the California mails and $1,500,000 in treasure.

The advices from the Fraser River gold mines continue to be favourable, and emigration was as brisk as ever, although the excitement had somewhat abated.

Nearly forty vessels left San Francisco between the 3d and 19th of July for the new gold regions. Other gold discoveries are reported further north, on the other side of the Natchez Pass —The *Olympia Pioneer* states that in the attack before reported, of Indians upon a party of miners going up the Columbia, there were eighteen whites and upwards of one hundred Indians killed.

Nothing important from the Sandwich Islands.

California markets were not quite so firm, owing to the many arrivals from the States, and the heavy importations of the fortnight.

Money market active and abundantly supplied. Receipts fast increasing.

Dates from Valparaiso are to June 20th, and Callao July 12th.

The case at Callao of Lomer Fitzgerald, and several other Americans who were seized some time ago as fillibusters by the Peruvian government, has been disposed of by sentencing all the parties to imprisonment and labor for fifteen years each.

The bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister has been rejected by the House of Lords, not *carried* as was erroneously stated in a telegram received in this city last week. The following is an outline of the debate.

Lord Gage moved the second reading of the Marriage Law Amendment bill. He contended that the marriage of a deceased wife's sister was nowhere prohibited by the law of God and pointed out the social advantageous that would accrue from permitting the wife's sister to become the stepmother of the wife's children.

Lord Redesdale moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day three months. He objected to a marriage with a deceased wife's sister on the ground that such marriage was incestuous, contrary to the law of God, and calculated to produce great social evils.

Lord Lyndhurst supported the bill. He urged that in the present state of the law the only persons punished were the children of the prohibited marriage, and stated that in the state of Massachusetts, in America, where these marriages were legal and of constant occurrence, no evil results had followed.

Earl Nelson and Lord Dungannon strongly opposed the measure.

The Archbishop of Canterbury observed that there was no prohibition in the Word of God of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. There was an express prohibition against a man marrying his brother's wife, and the impropriety in the one case was quite as great as in the other.

Lord Cranworth opposed the bill, because he believed it would produce the most disastrous consequences, and would materially affect the happiness of society.

Lord Wodhouse supported the bill.

The Bishop of Oxford, at considerable length, entered into the scriptural question, contending that these mariages were entirely opposed to the whole tenor of the law of God.

Earl Granville and the Bishop of Ripon supported the bill.

The Bishop of Exeter deeply regretted that a Right Rev. Prelate could have been induced to support a measure of so destructive and pernicious a character.

Lord Overstone supported the bill.

After a few words from the Bishop of Lincoln against the bill.

The House divided—For second reading, 29; against it, 46; majority against the bill, 24.

The bill was consequently lost.

It seems probable from this debate and the part taken by several of the Bishops on the subject, that the bill will be carried in a future session.

From Salt Lake City.—Advices are received from Great Salt Lake City to the 3d of July. The various letters give further particulars of the entrance of the army into the city, the fact of which has already been announced. They all agree in representing the conduct of the troops as exceedingly orderly. They passed through the city and encamped on the Jordan, the camp extending about a mile upon its banks. They subsequently marched to West Creek Canon, about eighteen miles south of Salt Lake City; and were in a few days to remove to Cedar Valley, about forty-five miles from the city, and twenty from Provo. In this valley they will probably be permanently located, as barracks and storehouses were to be immediately erected. The location is said to be one from which the chief settlements can be reached with promptness in case of need. One correspondent represents that the few Mormons remaining in the capital, kept close quarters while the army was marching through the city, and that the windows of the houses were all covered with boards. When the army encamped on the Jordan, a guard was stationed on the bridge, and no one was permitted to go into the city without a written permission obtained at head quarters. The people, however, were rapidly returning to their homes, the road from Provo to Salt Lake City being lined with the returning emigrants. Brigham Young, with a considerable portion of his family, had also permanently returned. Mr. Commissioner Powell had made a very conciliatory address to the people at Provo, which was well received.

Smothered in a Trunk.—A boy, ten years old, named George Prickner, the son of a German widow, residing in Brooklyn, New York, suddenly disappeared on Friday week, and was missing until Monday morning, when his dead body was found in a large trunk or chest, in the house of his mother. On Friday, while the mother was absent, the deceased was at play with a companion, and evidently got into the trunk to conceal himself, when a self-adjusting lock closed the lid upon him, and he was smothered. During Saturday and Sunday the friends and neighbours looked in every direction to find the boy, but without success. On Monday morning the mother was induced to open the chest by a strong smell, which seemed to emanate from it, expecting to find the body of a rat; but, to her astonishment, she found the body of her missing son.

Death from a Fly-bite.—The Paris *Siecle* says that, "A woman residing in the rue Rochechouart was bitten, a few weeks since, in the back of the neck by one of those large flies which feed on decayed meat at this season of the year, and died a few days afterwards, suffering severely, and in spite of the best medical attendance. It is supposed that the fly must have eaten carrion immediately before wounding the woman, and that the virus which it introduced into the wound quickly spread through the system."

Hostility.—A letter from Alexandria states that a feeling of intense hatred to Christians, aroused by late events in Turkey and India, is prevalent on both coasts of the Red Sea, and that similar outrages to that of Jiddah are likely to be heard of.

A Whirlwind.—A whirlwind recently passed over some hayfields near Kirkstall Abbey, and carried a large portion of the hay a considerable height above the ground. When first observed by our informant, the hay was floating gracefully in the air, above the Abbey, changing its form with the varying currents which swept it onward, and it was not until it descended again that the nature of the "material" was discovered. At first it had the appearance of being a flight of birds hovering about the Abbey in immense numbers. The air below was quite calm.

Jiddah, the Scene of the late Massacre.—Djidda, or Jiddah, is the port of Mecca, and one of the chief *entrepots* for foreign commerce in Arabia. Resident population, according to Ali Bey, five thousand, but this number is often very much increased by the influx of strangers. The inhabitants are nearly all foreigners, or settlers from other parts of Arabia, the only natives being a few shereiff families attached exclusively to the officers of religion and law. It is one of the holy places of Mohammedanism, and its sanctity is increased by the neighbourhood of the reputed tomb of Eve, a rude stone structure, about two miles to the north. The caravans to Mecca start daily, and those to Medina every forty or fifty days. Twice, at least, in every year Djidda is inundated with inhabitants, viz. on the arrival of the Indian fleet (about May,) when merchants from all quarters pour in to purchase at the first hand; and during the hadj, when pilgrims come from all the African ports in vast numbers.

Canton.—According to a correspondent of the London *Times*, the whole circuit of the walled city of Canton, China, is just six miles. The mass of the habitations are about fifteeen feet high, and contain three rooms; they have one entrance, closed by a bamboo screen Some of the shops have a low upper story, and the house, roof and terrace, altogether, may rise twenty-five feet from the street. Better houses there are, but they are not more lofty. All of these edifices are of the most fragile description, built of soft brick, wood, or mud.

Steam Sleighing.—Letters from St. Petersburgh, Russia, state that a Polish exile in Siberia has invented a means of applying steam-power to traction of the sledges, by which journeys may be rapidly made on the frozen rivers, and in the steppes covered with frozen snow, which abound in the Russian dominions.

Deaths of Distinguished Ladies.—The English papers note the decease of two well known female writers—Mrs. Marcet and Mrs. Loudon. The former was formerly very popular as a scientific writer, and had reached the age of 90 years. The best known works of Mrs. Loudon are: "The Lady's Flower Garden," "The Lady's Country Companion," "Gardening for Ladies," and "The Lady's Companion to the Flower Garden." Mrs. Loudon enjoyed a pension of $500 per annum from the civil list.

Decline of Ultramontane Literature.—The Dublin *Tablet* has an article, which extends over three of its columns, to the effect that the paper has not been paying its expences for a long time past; but the value of such an organ in the cause of the Church of Rome is eloquently urged, and a suggestion is made that the friends of the establishment—that is the Church—ought to purchase the *Tablet* for the good of the great cause. A significant fact is set forth as one of the reasons for the falling off in the emoluments of the paper, and that is, the great number of Irish patriots who have of late years been purchased by judgeships, and offices of a very much humbler character. According to rumour, other noisy journals that sail under the Roman ensign are in the market, and offered on easy terms.

Second Planting in the Submerged Districts.—The Memphis *Appeal* says that between that place and Helena ploughing and corn-planting are going on, and preparations for planting are making lower down. Corn seed is scarce and dear. The people generally are hopeful.

An Old Egg.—An egg, imbedded in the sand thirty-three feet below the surface, is said to have been found, fresh, in sinking a well, in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania.

WORKING OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Much misconception exists as to the working of this mysterious medium. Many persons suppose that messages were transmitted between the *Niagara* and *Agamemnon* during the entire time they were submerging the Cable. And in proof of this they point to the fact that each ship knew how the other was progressing, from the time they started east and west in mid ocean until their arrival at the respective havens where they would be. Mr. Field, in his journal, states that he is receiving "strong electric signals," but adds "until the telegraph instruments are all ready and perfectly adjusted, communications cannot pass between the two continents." There is a very great difference between the electric force necessary to send forth messages and that necessary to send signals.—The batteries used on board the two ships were combinations of Mr. Whitehouse's by which powerful electro-magnetic currents were generated. The instruments were not in telegraphing order on board the vessels, and the daily communications transmitted from ship to ship were mere signs which indicated specific things The difference between signalizing and telegraphing is this: Before separating in mid-ocean, the electricians had agreed upon a code of signals which should meet certain exigencies,—that is, by which limited communications could be made. For instance, three taps or waves of electricity might indicate "every thing going on well," two might indicate "fair weather," and so on by a combination of taps or waves all necessary information on the business in hand could be communicated; and these waves would be indicated by a galvanometer or the instrument prepared for the purpose, but which would not *record*. It is obvious, and will at once be seen, that miscellaneous communications—involving many details of business and variety of expressions—could not be obtained under a limited code of signals. Hence the delay doubtless in transmitting the first messages by the Atlantic Telegraph. And another fact should be borne in mind. The phenomena experienced on submarine wires are entirely different from those on areial lines. This difference mainly consists in a retardation of the current which increases in the ratio of length of cable, and which impedes the working of common telegraph instruments, necessitating the adaptation of instruments to the peculiarities of the current. In adapting the instruments preparatory to transmitting the Queen's and President's messages, it was early discovered that the line worked much better *from* Valentia than *from* Trinity Bay, and it was of course only after repeated experiments on the means and appliances at the western end of the cable that the whole has been rendered available, as placed beyond all further controversy by the receipt on both Continents of the long expected despatches on the 14th of August, 1858.

Rarey's Method of Horse-taming. — The *Scientific American* says:

"This new system of taming is founded on the well-known process employed in subduing buffalo calves and wild horses taken by the lasso, and consists in simply gradually advancing towards the horse to be subdued, until you are able to place your hand on the animal's nose and over his eyes, and then to breathe strongly and gently, as judgment may dictate, into the nostrils. We have the authority of Catlin, in his 'Letters and Notes on the American Indians' that this process is the one practiced by the Indians in taming the wild horses of the prairies, and that it is invariably attended with success."

Catlin says:

"I have often, in concurrence with a known custom of the country, held my hands over the eyes of a buffalo calf, and breathed into his nostrils, after which I have, with my travelling companions, rode several miles into our encampment, with the little prisoner busily following the heels of my horse the whole way, as closely and affectionately as its instincts would attach it to its dam. This is one of the most extraordinary things I have witnessed since I came into this wild country; and although I had often heard of it, and felt unable exactly to believe it, I am now willing to bear testimony to the fact, from the numerous instances which I have seen since I came into the country."

The New York *Herald* says, that if the Atlantic Telegraph line should be successfully established, and the new El Dorada on Frazer River turn out to be authentic, there will be a rapid revival of business throughout the world.

"The new Spanish Governor of Fernando Po has prohibited the performance of any public worship but that of the Roman Catholic persuasion—notwithstanding *that the majority of the inhabitants are Baptists.*"—*Dumfries and Galloway Bulletin.*

It turns out that the Fredericton Gold discovery is a hoax, perpetrated by a few fast young men in that locality, at the expense of several hundred persons, who fancied they had found a genuine El Dorado, which was to suddenly make them as rich as Croesus. It seems that a small quantity of gold was melted down and scattered upon the sands by the youngsters, which being discovered and found to be genuine, set half the people in the neighbourhood to work at the "Diggings!" This is the second gold hoax that has been played off within two or three years upon our New Brunswick friends.

A French Flying Machine.—The Emperor has just made a present of 5000f. to a private in the line, who asserts he has discovered a solution for the great problem in æronautics—the art of flying. He has invented a kind of air ship, consisting of a platform of silk stretched over whalebone, to be propelled by two gigantic wings of the same material, placed on each side. The ærial navigator is to be suspended at a distance of about four feet from the platform, while his feet rests on pedals, by means of which the wings are set in motion, while his arm rests on a lever which imparts to the platform the direction he chooses to give it. Only a model of this machine has been constructed, and it appears to work well. Thanks to the Emperor's munificence, it is now about to be constructed on a large scale.—*Paris correspondent of the Morning Herald.*

Bayard Taylor is writing letters from Greece to the New York *Tribune*. In a recent letter from Athens, he concludes with the following beautiful passage:—

"Enough of dry statement. Let me not lose the pensive sweetness and sadness of this last evening in Athens. The sun is sinking in clear saffron light beyond the pass of the Daphne, and a purple flush plays all along the high, barren sides of Hymettus. Before me rises the Acropolis, with its crown of beauty, the Parthenon, on whose snowy front the sunsets of two thousand years have left their golden stain. In the distance is the musical Ægean, dancing with light whispering waves to fill the rock-hewn sarcophagus of Themistocles. Plato's olives send a silver shimmer through the dusk that is creeping over the Attic plain. Many an evening have I contemplated this illustrious landscape, but it was never so lovely as now, when I look upon it for the last time. Every melodious wave in the long outline of the immortal mountains—every scarred marble in the august piles of ruin—every blood-red anemone on the banks of the Ilissus, and every asphodel that blosoms on the hill of Colonos—I know them and they know me.—Not as a curious stranger shall I leave Athens; not as a traveller, eager for new scenes; but with the regret of one who knows and loves the sacred soil, to whom it has been at once a sanctuary and a home."

Blinkers on Horses.—Mr. Rarey writes:—"Having been requested to give my opinion in regard to the use of 'blinkers' on horses, I take great pleasure in stating that all my experience with and observation of horses proves that blinkers should not be used, and that the sight of the horse, for many reasons, should not be interfered with in any way. Horses are only fearful of objects which they do not understand or are not familiar with, and the eye is one of the principal mediums by which this understanding and this familiarity are brought about.

It is stated that a native variety of the silk worm may be found in the bush of Victoria, Australian colony, clinging in countless swarms to the shrub which forms its food. The silk, both as regards its fineness and length, has been pronounced superior to the product of the best European worms.

A difficulty occurred at Callao on the 5th of July, between the French and Peruvian vessels, which threatened at one time to be serious. The French Admiral had demanded an apology and reparation from the Peruvians.

A violent shock of an earthquake was felt on the afternoon of the 12th.

The egg crop of the United States is estimated at 18,550,000,000, which at 8 cents per dozen, amounts to $51,666,666!

According to the latest news from the Cape, twelve hundred Kaffirs had been enlisted for India. In addition to bounty money at thirty shillings each, privates are to receive a shilling each per diem, corporals 1s. 4d., and sergeants 1s 10d.; they are to be engaged for a term of years, at the expiration of which they are to be sent back free of expense.—*Madras Times.*

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nova Scotia, Dr. Walsh, died last Wednesday week.

It is said that the Rajah of Pateealah and the Nubba Chief have severally advanced the Indian Government about fifty-five lakhs of rupees (the former twenty-five and the latter thirty lakhs of rupees, or thereabouts) during the present crisis, at an interest of six per cent. per annum.—*Ibid.*

[*From the Islander.*]

Manse, Belfast.

Please give place, meantime, to the inclosed communication and reply, in your widely circulated paper.

Yours truly,
ALEXANDER McKAY.

Manse, Belfast, July 21, 1858.

To His Excellency Sir Dominick Daly, Knight, Lieut. Governor, &c., &c.

Sir;

I beg very respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to the notorious and flagitious manner in which the leader, and other members, of your Government have been declaiming against Ministers of the Gospel, especially within the last month, before public audiences, within the City of Charlottetown. It must be too well known to your Excellency, to require a detailed account from me, how they have sought to excite the worst passions of the people of a certain faith against us; and how the former, after inflaming their minds with a most virulent speech, said that they were not, however, to take summary "vengeance" on us. Did not this, at least, show that he himself felt that his speech was fitted to excite them to acts of violence? But can it be supposed, with the utmost stretch of charity, that a man capable of delivering such a flagitious speech, really designed to dissuade them from carrying out the real spirit of his rancorous declamation? And these words, moreover, which suggest the idea of 'vengeance,' are carefully reported by the organ of the Government, so that it may easily be judged from the leading articles which have of late appeared in that journal, whether the design of giving still wider circulation to such sentiments, is not to add fuel to the flame, and accomplish the basest purposes. And this journal, too, in the management of an officer of the Government, who receives more than double pay for any services rendered to the Government, unless he is paid for disseminating the most rabid articles throughout the Colony.

I would humbly submit to your Excellency, whether it is consistent with the dignity of your Government, or calculated to promote the peace and good order of this Colony, to permit such flagitious conduct to be pursued with impunity, by those who ought to be sustainers of the law, and ought at least to show an example of common decency? What but such rancorous and exciting means caused the Papists on the Georgetown Road, at last Election, to rush on their peaceable and unoffending neighbours, to their own profuse loss of blood—if not of lives—notwithstanding their vast majority over the latter? What but such base means to excite their worst rage, occasioned the like dreadful affray and loss of lives at Belfast, some years ago? And for what purpose are these flagitious speeches and articles against Ministers of the Gospel, unless they are designed to cut them off, in hopes that their flocks may be the more easily scattered? Against Ministers, too, who, on all occasions, inculcate peace, and recommend their people to return good for evil.

Had I, or other Protestant Ministers, been guilty in any one point of violating the law of the land, were we not entitled to the privilege of a trial in a Court of justice—a privilege to which the lowest criminal within the British dominions is entitled—before being denounced as if already found guilty. The only charge which it is possible for members of your Government to bring against me—and I feel sure that I may say so in behalf of the other Protestant Clergymen—is, that we availed ourselves of the right of British subjects, and sought to maintain the independence and conservative principles of the British constitution. The Clergymen of the Church to which I have the honor to belong, have ever proved themselves, both by precept and example, the firm supporters and most noble bulwarks of that constitution. If this is regarded as a crime by the existing Government of your Excellency, and sufficient to call forth their worst rancour, I take leave to say that no amount of threats shall prevent me from doing so, while Britain maintains the integrity of her conservative Protestant constitution—which I am solemnly bound to uphold. If their rancour has arisen because we have not supported the Government Candidates at the late election—as would appear from the alleged cause of dismissal from office of men of integrity and worth, that of not voting for the Government Candidates—would it not have afforded some appearance of justice from those who assumed this dictatorship, to have put some significant mark on the Candidates who were the peculiar favorites of the Government, so that they could not disown their masters, however much they might be ashamed of their deeds. Of the three Candidates who offered for this Electoral District, one avowed himself adverse to the proceedings of your Government, and the other two declared that they were directly opposed. If we are to be threatened and denounced in the most public manner for asserting the privilege of choosing between one who avows his *aversion*, and others who declared their *opposition*, it surely cannot be considered improper to inquire very respectfully, in case another election occurs, whether we are to apply for counsel to your Excellency, or George Coles, or the Government in Council, as to whom we must support, lest we should innocently incur the worst rage of the powers who still presume to hold the reigns of Government. But would it not be an act of justice, or at least of tender mercy, for your Excellency to prove whether the past Government, as tested by the voice of the people, is to be the future Government of the Colony, lest we should be made to feel the lash in two ways. Why appeal to the country, if we are to be denounced by the former Government, *which is not the government of the Country*, without proving who are to comprise the future Government of the Colony?

There are other things, such as allowing the tried and condemned for shedding the blood of his fellow, to escape contrary to the express decision of Judge and Jury, occurring under your Excellency's administration, and which is a source of alarm to those who desire the peace and prosperity of Her Majesty's subjects in this Colony, but to which I may yet have occasion to direct attention.

Meanwhile, I would most respectfully call upon your Excellency, as you value your own stability and the peace and harmony of this Colony; as you regard the lives of your fellow countrymen and of the inhabitants generally, to use the means which you may and can use, to show your disapproval of the conduct of those who should show respect for the laws, and be an example of becoming demeanour, but rather excite the worst passions of the populace.

May I be allowed to remind your Excellency that the British Sovereign, by her coronation oath, is bound not only to defend the Church of Scotland, but likewise to protect the persons of her Clergymen "within the British dominions, and all the Colonies thereto belonging." As her Majesty's representative, I claim your protection, and the protection of all other Protestant Ministers who show their allegiance to her throne in this Colony. It matters not to your Excellency whether I feel my life in peril or not. I may and do repose my highest trust, not in an arm of flesh, but in the living God. Still it must be clear to all sober thinking men, that if these speeches and articles to which I have taken leave to direct your Excellency's attention, produced their designed effect—and were it not believed that force could be arrayed in full strength against force, the darkest deeds would no doubt be committed. But should I, or others, become a victim to the rancour of such demagogues, the consequences may be such as may be deplored even by those who were the most active agents in exciting their blood-thirsty designs; and not less so to such as might have suppressed them, but did not make the attempt.

Should your Excellency decline to take immediate steps to show in the most significant manner your disapproval of such conduct, it may soon be discovered that the sense of wrong felt by the enlightened and peace-seeking portion of this Colony, has been more than sufficiently tried, and must soon give vent to their sentiments in the most certain way of obtaining redress.

Should your Excellency be pleased to favour me with a reply, I beg leave to say, that I design to make public use of the same.

I have the honour, Sir,
To subscribe myself,
Very respectfully,
ALEXANDER M'KAY,
Graduate of a Scottish University and ordained Minister from the Church of Scotland, over the Presbyterian Congregation of Belfast, P. E. I.

COPY OF REPLY:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
P. E. Island, July 28, 1858.

Reverend Sir;

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of your letter bearing date the 21st inst.

I have the honor to be, Rev. Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. MITCHELL, Asst. Col. Sec'y.

The Rev. Alexander McKay, &c., &c.,
Belfast.