

THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, DECEMBER 13, 1862.

LANCASHIRE RELIEF FUND IN NEW YORK.

THE Lancashire relief fund in the city of New York has met with a success which few—under present circumstances—could have expected. We read that at the meeting held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, on the 5th inst., a letter was read from the eminent shipping firm of Messrs. N. L. & Geo. Griswold, which contained the following sublime sentence: 'As an earnest of our desire to further this cause, in behalf of ourselves and others, owners of a new ship now in Boston, we tender her entire capacity, 1,800 tons, for the conveyance of the supplies, and our services, if needed, to forward them free of charge for freight.' This splendid contribution is stated to be worth not less than \$20,000. Another letter was read from a gentleman who did not wish his name to be known, the closing sentence of which we quote: 'Thank God!' said the writer, 'we have bread and to spare, and they will not say, "I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat." Will you add to your list one thousand barrels of flour, from one whose loaf will taste the sweeter for sharing it with a famished brother, and brand it—Union.'

After the reading of the above letter, the same noble hearted man who had sent it, handed in, as an additional contribution, seven one-thousand United States Treasury notes, but he still desired his name should not be mentioned.

Mr. Dodge, on behalf of the firm of which he is a member, subscribed \$5,000, Mr. Stewart, \$2,500, Capt. Marshall, \$2,000. Before the meeting closed not less than \$26,200 had been collected.

Since the meeting the sum has been increased to over \$55,000; before this is in the readers' hands even this large sum will no doubt be greatly augmented. This would have been princely conduct at any time, but is especially so at the present, when it requires the most vigilant exercise of the calmer judgments of both countries, to preserve amicable relations between them. What a pity that the press of the UNITED STATES, by its incessant bluster and uncivil tongue, gives other nations an unfavorable impression of American character. What a pity, too, that we, in estimating the opinion entertained of us by Americans, do not give as much prominence to the high toned judgment of EMERSON, as seen in ENGLISH TRAITS,—to the kindly genius of Washington Irving, that generous, genial delineator of English life, and to such examples of lofty benevolence as that which the munificence of the NEW YORK merchants affords, as we do to the apparently insane—but really worse—ravings of the HERALD, and the ranting blatherings of PARSON BROWNLOW and GEN. F. TRAIN.

It may be argued that the action of the men of New York in this matter is the result of charitable considerations alone. Perhaps, it is wrong to rob it of this noble distinction, yet we cannot close our eyes to the fact, that it shows a deep rooted sympathy with the British people—a sympathy whose voice though silenced for a time by the din of infatuated babble, will, whenever occasion calls, make its voice heard and its influence felt in opposition to the schemes of bigoted and designing men.

The most likely cause to produce a quarrel between Great Britain and the United States is the mistrust with which they have lately regarded each other. This cause once removed, there would be little difficulty with any other. We do not expect this magnificent response to the 'mute appeals' of the starving thousands of Lancashire, to accomplish this; prejudices are not so easily removed, but its important influ-

ence in this direction cannot be questioned.

Let us not, however, confine the lesson to be drawn from the example of New York, to one of international amity alone; it has another meaning besides this to us in Canada, it admonishes us that we have not done all in our power to relieve the sufferings of those who are bound to us by so many endearing ties. Canada has contributed about \$100,000, or about 20 cents for each male adult in the Province. New York has contributed \$53,000, or about 40 cents for each male adult of its population, besides a large quantity of provisions. Even granting the superior wealth of New York, this comparison is too heavily against us. The distress is increasing; to the piteous cry for bread, will soon be added that for fuel and comfortable clothing—in view of these facts it becomes our imperative duty to increase largely our contributions. 'We have bread and to spare,' let us not then bear the reproach, 'I was an hungred and ye gave me no meat.'

PAPERS, to all agents for the *Illustrated News*, are forwarded, free of express charges, unless a special agreement has been made. If any such charge is made they should deduct it from the amount of their remittance, and the mistake will soon be remedied.

If through any oversight we have omitted to send the '*Illustrated News*' by mail to those subscribers who paid in advance, they would confer a favor by acquainting us with it and we will correct the mistake immediately.

All agents for the '*Illustrated News*,' west of the Bridge, will receive their papers through, and remit to, Mr. Tunis, with the exception of Toronto and Hamilton.

THE 'GRUMBLED.'—Phoenix-like our old friend is again alive, and is still, to quote Artemus, 'as amoozin a little cuss as ever was introduced to a discriminating public.' We hope to be able, from time to time, to chronicle for him a success that will secure us against even his temporary retirement in future.

THE ACORN MINES.—*Le Defrichcur*, the paper started by Mr. J. B. E. Dorion, at L'Avenir, in the Eastern Townships, says that 500 workmen are now employed in the Acorn Mines, and that the Boston Company, which purchased the property, is about to erect smelting furnaces.

THE REPORTED SHOOTING OF TWO FRENCH CANADIANS.—The statement which appeared in the Montreal papers to the effect that two French Canadians, Jean Charlebois and Adolphe Blanchet, formerly residents of the St. Joseph Suburbs, had been shot as deserters from the Federal army, is incorrect. The parties referred to have escaped from the Northern army and safely returned to their homes in Montreal.

AVALANCHE.—About three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, an avalanche of snow from Cape Diamond occurred, burying a woman and breaking the back part of two houses occupied by Mrs. Shields and Mr. Harrington. A few of the neighbors collected with shovels, &c., and in a very short time dug the woman out from the snow, and, strange to say, she was not in the least injured, with the exception of a slight scratch received from the point of one of the shovels which was used in getting her out.—*Daily News*.

The Honorable Malcolm Cameron passed through London on Tuesday evening, en route from British Columbia to his home in Sarnia. He is on his way to England along with the late editor of the *Daily Press* of Victoria, for the purpose of representing the political grievances of the British possessions in the North Pacific. Mr. Cameron was appointed by the residents of British Columbia, and Mr. McClure by a meeting held in Victoria. The object of the mission is to obtain the removal of the Governor and other officials, and to get a representative system of government introduced into the Pacific colonies.

WRECKERS ON LAKE HURON.—The Bruce 'Vindicator' says that a large quantity of flour has been washed ashore along the coast of Saugen and Bruce. The brands on the barrels, we learn, are various—some from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan. We have only heard vague reports as to the vessel, of the loss of which we fear they are the evidence. In the mean time, parties not very particular about wheat and turn, are having quite a nice harvest of breadstuffs along the shore.

Foreign News.

The steamship *Hansa*, from Bremen on the 23rd, via Southampton on the 26th Nov. Her news is mostly anticipated.

Cotton is being extensively cultivated in Barbary.

ENGLAND.—The *London Times* thinks that Prince Nicholas, the youngest son of the King of Sweden, will be elected to the Greek throne.

The Prince of Wales is to be married in April next.

A Liverpool paper says that Capt. Maury, who arrived in the *Arabia*, proceeds to St. Petersburg as Commissioner from the Confederate States to Russia.

The *London Army and Navy Gazette* says that Gen. Mansfield's change of base to Aquia Creek gives but little confidence in the plans of the Federal leaders, and it does not believe the Confederates will quietly submit to the movement.

At a meeting of the Great Ship Company it was stated that if £1,750 was not immediately provided, the steamship *Great Eastern* must pass into other hands. It would also require £5,000 to bring her home. The Directors propose to raise £100,000 on a mortgage for three years. The ship earned £15,000 in eleven days. Scott Russell censured the general management of the Company. The proposal of the Directors was adopted.

Contributions for the relief of the distressed Lancashire operatives continued on a most magnificent scale. The American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool, voted £1,000 to the relief fund.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company is called for on the 12th of December, for the purpose of considering a proposition for the issue of £600,000 new capital, in preferential shares of £5 each, bearing 8 per cent. interest, guaranteed by the British government in the event of success, and any further profits to be first applied to pay 4 per cent. on the old capital, and the surplus to an equal division between the old and new, and the formation of a new fund.

FRANCE.—*La Patrie* says that Russia has virtually intimated to England and France that she will not be prepared to recognize Prince Alfred as King of Greece.

Paris journals assert that orders have been sent to Corfu, from London, to prepare for Prince Alfred's reception.

The *Constitutional* denies that France dispatched a second note to England and Russia in respect to mediation in American affairs.

The French journals represent that 17 English war vessels have assembled in Pirrus, but the *London Globe* pronounces the statement utterly devoid of foundation.

ITALY.—The bullet in Garibaldi's foot has been extracted, and he is getting along finely.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies continues to debate the Roman question. Among other propositions adopted is one that the Parliamentary session of 1863 should assemble at Naples.

GREECE.—Advices from Greece say that the election of Prince Alfred of England, as King of Greece, is considered certain.

The Greek question continued to be the most prominent topic.

Great demonstrations continue to be made in various parts of Greece, in favor of placing Prince Alfred of England on the Throne.

It is rumored that the Russian Government intends to address a communication to the English Government, seriously objecting to Prince Alfred being considered a candidate for the Grecian throne.

BELGIUM.—The Belgium Parliament has voted that half a million of the appropriation for the public works be applied to the relief of its distressed cotton operatives.

UNITED STATES.—There is nothing of importance from the army of the Potomac. It is generally believed that there will be little fighting during the winter, but that the energies of both parties will be directed to making preparations for the spring campaign, unless during the interval, some fortunate circumstance should arise which will bring this unfortunate and bloody struggle to a close.

THE NITRE LAKES OF EGYPT.

In the midst of this sandy waste, where uniformity is rarely interrupted by grass or shrubs, there are extensive districts where nitre springs from the earth like crystallized fruits. One thinks he sees a wild overgrown with moss, weeds, and shrubs, thickly covered

with hoar frost. And to imagine this wiftry scene beneath the fervent heat of an Egyptian sun, will give some idea of the strangeness of its aspect. The existence of this nitre upon the sandy surface is caused by the evaporation of the lakes. According to the quantity of nitre left behind by the lake do these fantastic shapes assume either a dazzling white colour, or are more or less tinted with the sober hue of the sand. The nitre lakes themselves, six in number, situated in a spacious valley, between two rows of low sandhills, presented—at least the three which we visited—a pleasing contrast, in their dark blue and red colours, to the dull hues of the sand. The nitre, which forms a thick crystallized crust upon these shallow lakes, is broken off in large square plates, which are either of a dirty white, or of a flesh colour, or of a deep dark red. The fellahs employed upon this labor stand quite naked in the water, furnished with iron rods. The part which is removed being speedily renewed, the riches of his produce are inexhaustible. It is hence that nearly the whole of Europe is exclusively supplied with nitre, and this has probably been the case for ages; for Scard mentions it at the commencement of the century, and then 30,000 cwt. of nitre were broken annually for the Grand Signor, to whom it yielded thirty-six purses. By the side of one of the lakes, piled in large layers, was heaped the produce of last week's labor. My companion had occasion to find fault with the result of the work of one of the villages: the sheikh of the village stood before us—he sharply rebuked him, and to give greater effect to his words he crossed his naked shoulders two or three times with his whips of elephant's skin. The sheikh sprang as nimbly as a gazelle into the lake, and received his further instructions beyond arm's length. Such was the impressive discipline which even the Italian, who was a man of gentle manners, considered it necessary to adopt towards these fellahs. The plates of nitre, after undergoing a preliminary cleansing upon the banks of the lake, are carried to the castle, where, by various processes, they become a dazzling white powder, and in this state it is carried in large quantities to Teranelh.—*Tichendorf's Travels*.

A PRACTICAL LESSON.

A young man of eighteen or twenty, a student in a university, took a walk one day with a professor, who was commonly called the student's friend, such was his kindness to the young who waited on his instructions.—While they were now walking together, and the professor was seeking to lead the conversation to grave subjects, they saw a pair of old shoes lying in the path, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who was employed in a field close by, and who had nearly finished his day's work. The young student turned to the professor saying, 'Let us play the man a trick; we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes, and watch to see his perplexity when he cannot find them.' 'My dear friend,' answered the professor, 'we must never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich, and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of this poor man. Put a dollar into each shoe, and then we will hide ourselves.' The student did so, and then placed himself with the professor behind the bushes close by, through which they could easily watch the labourer, and see whatever wonder or joy he might express. The poor man had soon finished his work, and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While he put on his coat, he slipped one foot into one of his shoes; but feeling something hard, he stooped down and found the dollar.—Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his countenance; he gazed upon the dollar, turned it round, and looked again and again; then he looked around him on all sides, but could see no one. Now he put the money in his pocket, and proceeded to put on the other shoe; but how great was his astonishment when he found the other dollar! His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven, and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom this timely bounty from some unknown hand would save from perishing. The young man stood there deeply affected, and tears filled his eyes; 'Now,' said the Professor, 'are you not much better pleased than if you had played your intended trick?' 'Oh, dearest sir,' answered the youth, 'you have taught me a lesson now that I will never forget. I feel now the truth of the words which I never before understood, 'it is better to give than to receive.' We should never approach the poor but with the wish to do them good.—*Christian Guardian*.