NEVERFAIL:

—OR,—

THE CHILDREN OF THE BORDER.

A TALE OF KENTUCKY.

CHAPTER XII.

THE COUNCIL AT THE FORT.

(Continued.)

The few hurried words of Judith, although they perplexed Lockwood somewhat, threw a gleam of comfort upon his mind. He perceived that something was going wrong, and judged that the denouement was near. He followed Waldron, Neverfail and Piper into the square or court made by the cabins and block-houses; and in fact every door opened into it. All the men were assembled there. There had evidently been considerable discussion. Martin Higsby was among them.

'Gentlemen,' said Waldron, 'we have come at your request. What momentuous affair is to be discussed?'

Nolan arose and replied:

'So far as I'm concerned, I've not a word to say, pro or con. I know nothing about the matter, and will condemn no one without proof. To be brief, it has been rumored that there is a—a—a—spy among us. I don't pretend to say that there is, or that there is not.'

'Who first originated this report?' asked Waldron.

'*That* I cannot say positively. I think, however, that it came from Martin Higsby.'

'From Miss Foote! From Obed Slingsby!' said several voices.

'From a great many persons,' added another.

'Can it be fixed upon any any particular individual?' Waldron continued.

'Well, I don't know. Higsby knows the most about it. He discovered some papers, I believe, that were in the possession of the suspected man, that went pretty strong agin him.'

'Produce 'em!' said Neverfail.

'Unluckily he lost 'em. But to day it seems the matter was put beyond a doubt.'

'Name the suspected person,' added Neverfail, fingering Suredeath nervously.

'You know him as well as we do, and this is no news to you or to the gov'ner,' answered Nolan.

Lockwood looked at Waldron; but the latter did not raise his eyes from the ground upon which they were fixed.

'Rifles and Redskins! Name him,' rejoined the forester, with increasing impatience.

'I hate to name him, because I'm not his accuser, and he has been of service to us, so far as I can judge of benefits, during our long journey hither. But as our fellows wished me to be their spokesman, why I will out with it, trusting that Lockwood won't blame me for it.'

At the mention of his name the borderer sprang from the rude bench upon which he was seated and made a hasty step toward Nolan, while his face glowed like fire. He checked this strong impulse and resumed his seat.

'It's a serious thing to say that a man having the fair outside of Mr. Lockwood, is a paid agent of the Britishers, but it has been said, and Martin Higsby is ready—he affirms—to make good the charge.'

'Let Martin Higsby testify,' said Lockwood, sternly.

Martin arose, calmer and more assured than one knowing the circumstances might have expected.

'It pains me,' he said, 'that this duty should devolve upon me.' Here he paused, seeing Judith among his auditors, and an expression on her face that did not please or encourage him. 'This grave charge is true or it isn't. Logic is logic, and proof is proof, and papers is papers; but the papers I have unfortunately lost. For several days I have watched this Theodore Lockwood, and have on each occasion seen him in correspondence with British officers from Fort Duquesne. I saw the same this afternoon. The conference between them was long and seemingly confidential. I got near enough to the parties to hear them speak of getting Fort Waldron by stratagem. The man now accused proposed to admit a strong body of English and Indians at midnight to night, and he had contrived to be in charge of the gate at that hour.'

There was a sensation among the settlers. Threats and exclamations were heard in various quarters. Fierce looks were darted at Lockwood.

'All this I heard in my concealment, with feelings of indignation that I cannot describe. But this was not all. After he had parted with his British friends and employers, he set his cap on a stick and fired a ball through it. This was a ruse to blind our eyes. He wished to make it appear that he was exposed to the same dangers that menace us. If Mr. Waldron will take the trouble to examine the fellow's cap he will see at once that a trick has been practised; for had it been on his head at the time, he surely would not now be here. This is so evident that I will not weary your patience, gentlemen, by dwelling on it.'

The cap was passed round and examined, and served greatly to confirm the testimony of Higsby. The tide of feeling set powerfully against the borderer, who was now the calmest of the parties. Martin had told his story with consummate tact. Indeed, his manner was more effective than his words, which seemed to be taken without forethought from the host that came into his mind. There was an air of well simulated reluctance in his deportment that told in his favor; for it carried the impression that what he was doing was without malice.

Higsby ceased speaking and sat down with a modest air.

'Who is there here to say a word for Lockwood?' the forester demanded, looking from one to another with some severity of expression.

'His conduct since he has been with us, said Waldron, hesitatingly, 'has been—'

'Father!' whispered Judith, reproachfully.

'Brave and praiseworthy,' he said, ashamed of his irresolution. 'I am pained to hear such charges brought against him. I am not yet satisfied—I demand more proof. Altho' the evidence seems positive, I cannot resist the conviction that nature has written the signature of an honest man upon his face. Nor can I forget the services he has rendered us. Gentlemen, I am perplexed. Let us be careful lest we do an honorable man injustice. Mr. Lockwood, speak and clear up this painful affair—if you can.'

'I have nothing to say. I hold the originator of this tissue of falsehood in such utter contempt, that I consider it beneath the dignity of manhood to notice him enough to offer a single contradiction to his calumny,' responded the borderer, firmly.

'Yerily, there are those whose consciences condemn them. Ah-ah!'

'The limits of my sex forbids me to be anything but silent. It's a dreadful thing to hang a feller-bein' for bein' a spy. I know I should die if I knew there was a feller-bein' a strugglin' in a rope and his feet couldn't teech the ground. Mournful spettakel!' said Philena, turning her horrid visuals impressively to the skies.

'Be silent!' admonished Waldron.

'I should like to ask Higsby who saw them papers beside himself?' remarked Neverfail.

'If you want facks I've got 'em,' responded Long Bill, with that seriousness of manner that characterized his communications. 'Facks in this case is rayther important, and we must have 'em. Who saw them ar' papers? I saw 'em. Where did I see 'em? I saw 'em in a holler tree and read 'em by moonlight.—They was of a bloody natur. They brung on a fit of ager which shook me awful, which caused me to lash myself to a tree to steady my system. Them papers was evidence.'

'Was there many of 'em?' Nolan wished to know.

'About half a bushel—by the multiplication-table.'

'Jesting is, I think, Mr. Piper, ill-timed on the present occasion,' said Mr. Waldron.

'Jes' so; but facks is facks, and mine, I take it, are as good as Martin Higsby's.'

'One statement I will make,' said Lockwood, rising to his feet and looking at Higsby, 'a statement which I would not at present have made had not this singular charge been made: It is that Martin Higsby this day attempted my life.'

Every eye was now directed to Higsby to see how he would receive this announcement. He had been prepared to hear it from the first, and was but little moved. He felt that the advantage was, thus far, with him, and trusted that the tide would not turn and set against him. Success had inspired him with confidence. He smiled contemptuously.

Mr Waldron requested Lockwood to state the particulars, which he did in such a simple, straightforward way that it failed not to make an impression.

'All this story wants to give it credibility is—evidence,' quoth Martin, affecting the calmness of innocence.

A triumphant smile lingered upon his lips after making this declaration.

Neverfail arose, and with his right hand upon the muzzle of Suredeath, glanced quietly around upon the assembled pioneers.

'He can have it?' he said, slowly and sternly. 'An honest man always has evidence. I aint parfict—I don't expect to be; but, men, I'm ashamed to see you make fools of your selves. I'm sorry to see you led away by a low spirited, scheming coward, whose tongue is full of lying and hypocrisy. Mr. Lockwood has been your friend, and you've repaid him by ingratitude. There wasn't no need of being deceived; you've only to look at Martin Higsby to know that he is a rogue and a poltroon. He wants evidence, does he? Well, he shall have it. I was there myself. I followed him, for I knew there was somethin' wicked in him, as there is in all cowards. The hole in Lockwood's cap was made by a bullet, shot from Martin Higsby's rifle, in the hands of said Martin Higsby. I saw it, and can swear to it. Woe to the man who disputes me.'

The hawk-like eyes of the former were bent keenly upon Martin Higsby, and he quailed before the threatening glances.—Words of denial came to his tongue, but he dared not utter them. He saw Suredeath and the steady hand that held it. How did he know what that iron-nerved man was capable of doing? Seen by the light of his deeds, death looked terrible to Higsby. A sickly paleness overspread his face.

'I presume not a man here will doubt your word,' said Waldron.

'Then why doubt *his?*' pointing to the borderer. 'If *my* word is worthy of credence, his is *more* worthy of it. Gov'ner, I'm ashamed that you haven't rebuked the falsehood of this Martin Higsby before.

'I confess that I have been greatly mystified by the reports that have been poured into my ears from day to-day. Mr. Lockwood, if my manner has been cool of late, I hope you will cherish no unkindness.'

'The best minds may be deceived by a villain. I do not complain,' replied Lockwood.

'Martin Higsby, you deserve hanging!' cried Nolan.

'We wont hang him, but he must leave us,' vociferated several voices.

'Yes; turn him out—turn him out. Give him his rifle and let him go,' added others, equally earnest and excited.

'I ask no punishment for this person,' said Lockwood, when he could make his voice heard. 'Leave him with his character, and that will be enough. Let him remain if he will, for surely his happiness will not be enviable among you after this expose of his disposition. As regards myself, I fear nothing. He is at liberty to do his worst.'

'This is no place for him after what has happened,' asserted Nolan. 'We've lost confidence in him, and if we haven't confidence in a man, what's he good for?'

'I've no more to say about it, only let him keep out of my way. Come, Lockwood, let us leave this matters, and not trouble ourselves further about it.'

Theodore walked away with the forester, and it being near night the settlers soon after retired to their cabins, or went in whatever direction duty called them. Philena and Obed had vanished the moment affairs began to assume a new aspect; and both confidently declared shortly after that they expected things would turn out just as they had, which avowal was received with some doubt and a few incredulous smiles and shakes of the head.

Mr. Waldron, regretful of the suspicions he had harbored, immediately followed Lockwood and the forester, with such apologies for his doubts as he deemed fitting, invited him in a very friendly manner to accompany him to his cabin, and to consider himself at home there as long as he might remain among them.

The borderer was nothing loth to accept this invitation, hoping he should have an opportunity to speak with Judith in a way having less the appearance of a clandestine meeting than the appointment she had made.

It was at this time that a discovery was made that created considerable inquiry and sympathy at the fort. Judith remembered that she had not seen Billy White since the middle of the afternoon, and causing search to be made for him he could not be found within the precints of the stockades. This disturbed her much; for the helplessness of the weak minded lad had always commended him to her kindness and protection. The pioneers were instantly astir. A close examination within a certain distance of the fort No one was more interested in this search than Theodore. Assisted by Neverfail, he commenced a rigid investigation of the surrounding grounds, and finally succeeded in discovering an Indian trail on the south bank of the river. The boy had undoubtedly been carried into captivity by the savages, and with this report they returned to the fort.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PRUSSIA.

A curious and quite unexpected incident has just intervened in the contest between the Crown and the people of Prussia, and may be of decisive influence upon its ultimate issue. The Crown Prince has openly and firmly ranged himself on the side of the opposition. In a public speech at Dantzic he declined all responsibility for the foolish decrees by which his obstinate father has estranged both the affection and the respect of the immense majority of his people. The sincerity of this declaration was, at first, doubted by many Liberals, but, according to this latest accounts from Prussia, both the King and the Princetook upon it as something very serious. The King has demanded of the Prince a public retraction of the views expressed in his address, and threatened to deprive him, in case of refusal, of all his dignities and appointments. In this trying and embarrassing position, the Crown Prince acted with a firmness which has taken the country by surprise. He refused to retract anything, offered to resign his command and his honors, and requested leave to retire with his wife and family to some place where he might be free from the suspicion of interfering in any way in the affairs of State.

The English papers, with a just and natural gratification, mention the fact that the Crown Princess in this question not only fully sympathizes with her husband, but that she gives to her opinion an even more emphatic expression. She is said to have assured the magistrates of Elbing that her husband was anything but pleased with the present *regime*, but did not willingly express himself on the subject; "but," she added, "tell the people I have said so to you."

If it be true that this firm position has been taken by the Crown Prince of Prussia, the danger of a revolution in that country is probably passed. The Prussian people were aware that they were almost a unit in opposing the unconstitutional measures of the Ministry. They were sure that their unanimity would be able to overcome at length any despotic pressure to which the King and the aristocracy might have recourse. Still, an excess of violence might have plunged the country, almost against the will of the people, into a civil war, and a war at the present juncture of European politics might have seriously endangered the prospects of the Progressive party, which now polls in no country of Europe a larger vote than in Prussia. If the nation knows that the heir-apparent is in favor of keeping the Constitution inviolate, they will be sure to endure patiently the vagaries of the blundering old King, hoping that time will soon give them an opportunity of marching peaceably onward on the road of constitutional and democratic reform.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

THE AMERICAN WAR.

Washington, July 10.

The Richmond *Despatch* of July 7th, says:—

"In the Libby prison, yesterday, by order of Gen. Winder, the captains among the Yankee prisoners drew lots for two of their number to be shot, in retaliation for the shooting of Captains Wm. F. Corbyn and T. J. McGraw, by Gen. Burnside, at Sandusky, Ohio, on the 15th of May last. The prisoners were assembled in a room at 12 o'clock by Captain Turner, commander of the prison, and after being formed into a hollow square around a table were informed of the order of General Winder. Slips of paper, each containing the name of one of the officers present, was carefully folded up and deposited on the table. Captain Turner then informed the men that they might select whom they pleased to draw the names, and the first two names drawn would indicate those to be shot. The lots were drawn by Rev. Mr. Brown amid silence almost death-like. The first ballot drawn contained the name of Capt. Henry Washington Sawyer, of the 1st New Jersey cavalry, and the second that of Captain John Flynn, of the 51st Indiana volunteers. The day of their execution has not yet been fixed."

The *Despatch* also has the following:—

"Martinsburg, July 5.

General Lee defeated the enemy in the battle of Friday last, but we lost 4,000 prisoners. General Barksdale, of Mississippi, and General Garnett, of Virginia, was killed, and General Hood, of Texas, was wounded. On Saturday General Lee had changed his front and occupied the ground; he drove the enemy from the first and second. His whole army is in excellent spirits and are masters of the situation. Gens. Pender and Pickett are wounded. Col. Avery, of North Carolina, is killed, and Cols. Bennett and Parker are wounded. Ewall's wagons are recaptured.

Martinsburg, July 6.

Reports, to-day, all concur that there was a heavy fight yesterday in which we defeated the enemy and drove him three miles. A vast number of prisoners are reported to have been taken by Gen. Lee. The prisoners are on their way to Richmond *via* this place. This has been the bloodiest battle of the war. Our loss is very great. The Yankees injured the Pontoon bridges at Falling Waters, several miles from this place to-day and captured 3 wagons.

The Movements in Maryland.

The Baltimore correspondent of the New York *Herald* writes on the 7th:

"A gentleman who resides at Emmettsburg, but who is well known and much respected in this city, arrived here to-day. I learn from him the following facts:—

"During Saturday the columns of Gen. Lee's army were passing through Emmettsburg, and also on the country roads north of that place, from near Gettysburg, across the South Mountains towards Hagerstown. The movement was made in perfect order, and without haste or the least confusion. My informant related many little circumstances that occurred on the march, all showing the deliberation with which it was made. He was placed under close surveillance, by General J. E. B. Stuart on the previous Sunday, and informed that he could not quit the town.—Otherwise no restrictions were placed on his actions. On that day he had a long conversation with General Stuart. That officer informed him that he had no doubt the Northern papers would claim the result of the battles of the three preceding days as a victory, because General Lee had retired from before Gettysburg. 'But,' said he, 'before three days more they will play another tune. In these engagements General Lee has accomplished exactly what he intended, and if the Union army follow us now it will be they who will never return to their capital, and not we. I can tell you this much, General Lee is not retreating, and will not leave the north side of the Potomac until he has accomplished that for which he crossed that stream.' General Stuart had at Emmettsburg 15,000 cavalry, in splendid condition. They left that place in the course of the day, on receipt of a despatch from Gen. Lee. They were the last rebel troops seen near Emmettsburg, or at any point east of the base of the South Mountain. I am unable to say now whether Gen. Lee's army has moved as far as Hagerstown or not. But this I know: that if he desired to do so on Saturday or Sunday he could and has done so, for the report that the passes in South Mountain were held by Union troops is entirely inaccurate. On the other hand, all of those passes have been held all the time by strong detachments of General Lee's army. It was through all these passes that the mails from Richmond to the rebel army were transported every day.

"It is asserted here to-day that General French was mistaken in regard to the destruction of General Lee's pontoon bridge at Williamsport; for it is said that long trains of loaded wagons have been passing over it constantly every day of last week, and on Sunday and yesterday of this week. The latter statement I have every reason to believe to be correct. It is possible that there were two bridges—one at Williamsport and one a short distance below—and that the latter was destroyed, and that General French mistook it for the main bridge at Williamsport. The bridge at Williamsport has been held ever since the 28th of June by Colonel Imboden with a strong force of rebel cavalry. Col. Imboden has been in constant communication with General Lee by means of a courier, ever since that date."

RIOT IN RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.—The *Nor Wester* of the 27th of April, chronicles a serious disturbance as having arisen in the Red River Settlement. It says: "Last Monday, the 20th inst., a band of men broke open the Red River jail about 2 o clock p. m., and liberated the Rev. G. O. Corbett; on the next day, Tuesday, the 21st, Mr. Dallas—the Company's representative in this country—called a certain portion of the inhabitants to vindicate the law. While this was being done, Mr. M. Kinney, the sheriff, with two constables, went armed, and apprehended Mr. James Stewart, Schoolmaster of St. James' Parish,—said to be one of those who liberated Rev. G. O. Corbett. Mr. Stewart was locked up on the afternoon of Tuesday. On Wednesday, an armed force appeared before Fort Garry, broke the prison wall, shattered the doors, and liberated Mr. Stewart.

SHOCKING AFFAIR.—We are informed that Elk Prairie was the scene of a distressing occurrence some time last week, which resulted in the death of a young lady whose name we did not learn. The lady went to the residence of Mrs. Aberney for a bucket of water, when some violence was offered her by a son of Mrs. Aberny, aged about fourteen years, when, she being about to resist, the boy seized a board lying near and struck her a blow on the neck which caused instant death by dislocation. An inquest was held, and the boy arrested and confined to jail.—*Mount Vernon (Illinois) Star, June 20.*

Arrival of the "Great Eastern."

NEW YORK, July 12.

The steamship Great Eastern, from Liverpool on the 30th ult., *via* Queenstown on the 1st instant, arrived in Flushing Bay, to-day.

The *Morning Post* believes that it may state that the rumors that Napoleon has proposed to England to make fresh suggestions to the American belligerents are entirely without foundation. The *Post* thinks the present is certainly not the moment when intervention of any kind could be urged with the least prospect of success.

The *Times* says no proposal has yet been made by Baron Gros to Earl Russell.

Other authorities also pronounce the rumors unfounded, but the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* says that the negociations are merely brought to a stand on the slavery question and proposals acceptable to Richmond and objectionable to Washington will be made shortly.

Mr. Maguire gave notice in the House of Commons that on Mr. Roebuck's recognition motion he will move an amendment that England invite France to join in recommendations for an armistice with a view to peace.

The customs authorities of Liverpool refused clearance to the steamer Gibraltar, late the Sumpter, for Nassau, unless some heavy Blakely's guns were landed from here.

Mr. Peacock in the House of Commons denounced the interruption of trade with Matamoras by the Federals.

The Solicitor General said that there was no fault to find with the findings of the prize court.

Lord R. Cecil denounced the Federal prejudices of the Government and complained of the prize court.

Mr. Cobden reiterated the general objections to blockades, and that the ruling of the judge in the case of the Alexandra would prove disastrous.

Continental politics unimportant. Russia's reply to the Polish question was anxiously awaited. It was reported that it had been received but had not transpired.

The *Times* anticipates hostilities with Japan.

The commercial news by the Great Eastern has been anticipated by the Jura.

LATEST.

Earl Russell announced in Parliament that Baron Gros assured him that France had no intention of proposing mediation measures to England.

Mr. Layard stated the circumstances under which a clearance was refused to the steamer Gibraltar, but the guns were not suitable for arming her and she was allowed to go.

Mr. Roebuck moved his resolution in favor of the recognition of the South. Lord R. Montague moved an amendment for continued neutrality.

Mr. Gladstone opposed the motion, and favored continued non-intervention. He believed the restoration of the Union impossible.

Mr. Bright bitterly attacked Mr. Roebuck, and reiterated his arguments in favor of the North.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C.W., JULY 14, 1863.

ENGLISH NAVAL POWER AND ENGLISH COLONIES.

ANYTHING that relates to the greatness of Britain, and especially anything that is calculated to impress upon the mind an adequate idea of her immense Naval Power, must be deeply interesting to Canadians. There are very few of us, of course, who are entirely uninformed upon this subject. Our people read from time to time of the great number of war vessels possessed by "the mistress of the seas"—at every festive board throughout the empire may be heard the thrilling strains of "Rule Britannia" and "Hearts of Oak," and seldom indeed do we hear a political harangue into which is not introduced the hackneyed but grand old lines,

"The Flag that's braved a thousand years
The Battle and the Breeze."

But when we meet in American literature a tribute to the tremendous Naval resources of the British Empire, the phenomenon is too striking to be passed over with a mere nod of hearty assent. In the Atlantic Monthly for the current month we find one of the best articles upon this subject we have ever read, and from which we will take the liberty of culling a few facts which we have no doubt will prove deeply interesting to a great majority of our readers:

Inhabiting a mere Isle of the Sea the people of Britain are essentially maritime in their habits—as Prof. Wilson would say, all their instincts turn toward the water, the clear open sea—as a pathway to commercial greatness, as an element upon which, unstable as it might appear, an empire can be established which reaches every sea and fastens with tenacious grasp upon every shore. The ships that beat back and overthrew the Navies of France in so many fights were from the "sea-girt Isle," the sailors by which they were manned had sported with the briny waves from infancy, and through successive stages had risen to a height of aquatorial skill superior to that of any other nation. Then, again, England, (Britain, we mean) possesses unrivalled facilities for naval production. From end to end and from side to side it is one vast workshop, which receives every new invention, and seizes upon every appliance elicited by progressive Science; and the ruling idea throughout is, Britain must remain supreme upon the Seas! Whether she turn her attention to the clothing of the world or the building of navies, there is no outmeasuring her mechanical skill and activity. We are told that in 1857 England had 300 steam ships of war, carrying 7,000 guns, besides which she had as many more sailing ships, carrying 9,000 guns, an *equal number of gunboats*, besides a powerful navy connected with her East India Colonies—a total of 900 vessels and 20,000 guns! "What tremendous elements of naval power," says the writer, "are these! One does not wonder that the remark often made is so nearly true,—that if there is any trouble in the farthest port on the globe, in a few hours you will see a *British bulldog* quietly steaming up the harbor, *to ask what it is all about*, and whether England can make anything out of the transaction." Were these vast naval resources only employed in defending the spot of ground which now forms but the heart of the British Empire, they would be found far too great for the object desired, but Commerce is the great motive power which makes England what she is, materially—without it she would sink into helpless mediocrity. To protect a commerce which reaches to the ends of the earth, war ships are necessary. North, East, South, West, the noble watch-dogs must put boldly out to sea—they must cross the stormy Atlantic, plough the far Pacific, double the "Cape of Hope," and strike into almost unknown waters far beyond. This is what is required from the navy of Great Britain, and this is what is done.

And then comes a point of absorbing interest to British Colonists. Spread far and wide, as the ships of England are, and exposed to every vicissitude of battle and storm it is necessary that they should be able to find friendly ports open to them, where repairs could be made, provisions secured, and most important of all, perhaps, *coal* laid in. Is this necessity met? Hear the writer in the *Atlantic* on the subject:

"The sagacity of England was never more clearly shown than in the foresight with which she has provided against such an emergency. Let war come when it may, it will not find England in this respect unprepared. So thickly are her colonies scattered over the face of the earth, that her war-ships can go to every commercial centre on the globe without spreading so much as a foot of canvas to the breeze.

'There is the Mediterranean Sea. A great centre of commerce. It was a great centre as long ago as when the Phœnician traversed it, and, passing through the Straits of Hercules, sped on his way to the distant and then savage Britain. It was a great centre when Rome and Carthage wrestled in a death-grapple for its possession. But England is as much at home in the Mediterranean as if it were one of her own lakes. At Gibraltar, at its entrance, she has a magnificent bay, more than five miles in diameter, deep, safe from storms, protected from man's assault by its more than adamantine rock. In the centre, at Malta, she has a harbor, land locked, curiously indented, sleeping safely beneath the frowning guns of Valetta. But from Southampton to Gibraltar is for a steamship an easy six days' sail; from Gibraltar to Malta not more than five days; and from Malta to the extreme eastern coast of the sea and back again hardly ten days' sail.

'Take the grand highway of nations to India. England has her places of refreshment scattered all along it with almost as much regularity as depots on a railroad. From England to Gibraltar is six days' sail; thence to Sierra Leone twelve days; to Ascension six days; to St. Helena three days; to Cape Colony eight days; to Mauritius not more; to Ceylon about the same; and thence to Calcutta three or four days. Going farther east, a few days' sail will bring you to Singapore, and a few more to Hong Kong, and then you are at the gates of Canton. Mark now that in this immense girdle of some twelve or fifteen thousand miles there is no distance which a well appointed steamer may not easily accomplish with such store of coal as she can carry. She may not, indeed, stop at all these ports. It may be more convenient, and economical to use sails a part of the distance, rather than steam. But, if an exigency required it, she could stop and find everywhere a safe harbor.

'What is true of the East Indies is true of the West Indies. England has as much power as we have to control the waters of the Western Atlantic and of the Gulf of Mexico. If we have Boston and New York and Pensacola and New Orleans and Key West, she has Halifax and the Bermudas and Balize and Jamaica and Nassau and a score more of island-harbors stretching in an unbroken line from the Florida Reefs to the mouth of the Orinoco. And if our civil war were ended to-day, and we were in peaceable possession of all our ports, she could keep a strong fleet in the Gulf and along our coast quite as easily as we could.

But it is not simply the number of the British Colonies, or the evenness with which they are distributed, that challenges our highest admiration. The positions which these colonies occupy, and their natural military strength, are quite as important facts.—There is not a sea or a gulf in the world, which has any real commercial importance, that England has not a stronghold in the throat of it. And wherever the continents trending southward come to points around which the commerce of nations must sweep, there, upon every one of them, is a British settlement, and the cross of St. George salutes you as you are wafted by. There is hardly a little desolate, rocky island or peninsula, formed apparently by Nature for a fortress, and formed for nothing else, but the British lion has it secure beneath his paw.

This is literal fact. Take, for example, the great overland route from Europe to Asia.—Despite its name, its real highway is on the waters of the Mediterranean and Red Seas.—It has three gates—three alone. They are the narrow strait of Gibraltar, fifteen miles wide, that place where the Mediterranean narrows between Sicily and Africa to less than a hundred miles wide, and the strait of Babel-mandeb, seventeen miles wide. England holds the keys to every one of these gates. Count them,—Gibraltar, Malta, and at the mouth of the Red Sea, not one, but many keys. There, midway in the narrow strait, is the black, bare rock of Perim, sterile, precipitous, a perfect counterpart of Gibraltar; and on either side, between it and the main land, are the ship-channels which connect the Red Sea with the great Indian Ocean. This England seized in 1857. A little farther out is the Peninsula of Aden, another Gibraltar, as rocky, as sterile, as precipitous, connected with the main land by a narrow strait, and having at its base a populous little town, a harbor safe in all winds, and a central coal depot. This England bought, after her fashion of buying, in 1839. And to complete her security, we are now told that she has purchased of some petty Sultan the neighboring islands of Socotra and Kouria, giving, as it were, a retaining-fee, that, though she does not need them herself, no rival power shall ever possess them.

As we sail a little farther on, we come to the Chinese Sea. What a beaten track of commerce is this! What wealth of comfort and luxury is wafted over it by every breeze! The teas of China! The silks of farther India! The spices of the East! What ships of every clime and nation swarm on its waters! The stately barks of England, France, and Holland! Our own swift ships! And mingled with them, in picturesque confusion, the clumsy junk of the Chinaman, the Malay prahu and the slender, darting bangkong of the Sea Dyak! Has England neglected to secure on a permanent basis her mercantile interests in the Chinese Sea? At the lower end of that sea, where it narrows and bends into Malacca Strait, she holds Singapore, a little island, mostly covered with jungles and infested by tigers, which to this day destroy annually from two to three hundred lives,—a spot of no use to her whatever, except as a commercial depot, but of inestimable value for that, and which, under her fostering care, is growing up to take its place among the great empo iums of the world. Halfway up this sea is the island of Labuan, whose chief use is this, that beneath its surface and that of the neighboring mainland are hidden inexhaustible treasures of coal, which are likely soon to be developed, and to yield wealth and power to the hand that controls them. At the upper end of the sea is Hong Kong, a hot, unhealthy, and disagreeable island, but which gives her what she wants, a depot and a base from which to threaten and control the neighboring waters. Clearly the Chinese Sea, the artery of Oriental commerce, belongs far more to England than to the races which border it.

Even in the broad and as yet comparatively untracked Pacific she is making silent advances toward dominion. The continent of Australia, which she has monopolized, forms its southwestern boundary. And pushed out from this, six hundred miles eastward, like a strong outpost, is New Zealand; its shores so scooped and torn by the waves that it must be a very paradise of commodious bays and safe havens for the mariner; and lifted up, as if to relieve it from island tameness, are great mountains and dumb volcanoes, worthy of a continent, and which hide in their bosoms deep, broad lakes. Yet the soil of the low lands is of extraordinary fertility, and the climate, though humid, deals kindly with the Anglo-Saxon constitution. Nor is this all; for, advanced from it north and south, like picket-stations, are Norfolk isle and the Auckland group, which, if they have no other attractions, certainly have this great one, good harbors. And it require's no prophet's eye to see, that, when England needs posts farther eastward, she will find them among the innumerable green coral islets which stud the Pacific.

Turn now your steps homeward, and pause a moment at the Bermudas, "the still vexed Bermoothes." Beautiful isles, with their fresh verdure, green gems in the ocean, with airs soft and balmy as Eden's were! They have their homely uses too. They furnish arrowroot for the sick, and ample supplies of vegetables earlier than sterner climates will grant. Is this all that can be said? Reflect a little more deeply. Here is a military and naval depot, and here a splendid harbor, land-locked, amply fortified, difficult of access to strangers,—and all this as near to the whole Southern coast as Boston and New York are, all this within three or four days' sail of any one of the Atlantic ports North or South.—England keeps this, no doubt, as a sort of half way house on the road to her West Indian possessions; but should we go to war with her, she would use it none the less as a base of offensive operations, where she might gather and hurl upon any unprotected port all her gigantic naval power."

Such language as that we have just quoted, coming from a highly popular and respectable American magazine, is in striking contrast with the ignorant or malicious escapades of such journals as the N. Y. *Herald*, which, on the strength of an alleged victory for the federal arms, recommend a "pitching into" England and France, and a general intervention in European affairs. We only hope our brethren of the Northern press will read, ponder, and duly digest the able and truly just article in the *Atlantic* on "The Navy and Colonies of Britain.

POSTSCRIPT.

TERRIBLE RIOT IN NEW YORK.

New York has been thrown into a state of almost unprecedented excitement, by a riot got up by a mob to resist the draft commenced in that city on Monday morning. The books and other machinery for carrying out the hated measure were destroyed, the buildings burned, and several of the officials torn in pieces. The number of rioters swelled during the day to thousands, and with all the available police and military force of the city, it was found impossible to stay the tide of violence and destruction to life and property. The most horrible feature of all, was the fact that every *negro* that could be caught was either killed or cruelly wounded. It is reported that 10 or 15 of the helpless creatures were torn to pieces by the mob.—What the result will be it is hard to say.

☞ By the arrival of the Jura we have a brief announcement that the Palmerston Ministry was defeated on a motion to purchase the Crystal Palace.

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR we have no news of importance since our last issue. Gen. Lee is reported to have received large reinforcements, and has certainly strengthened his position at Williamsport with a view of giving battle, which Gen. Meade does not appear at all anxious to precipitate. There will, perhaps, be some serious fighting this week.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—We have just learned by special telegram that on Sunday last nearly the whole of Bay City, Saginaw Valley, was consumed by fire.

☞ There is no news from the War worth the troubling of telegraphing today.

☞ The National Division of the Sons of Temperance has decided to hold its next convention at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 3d of June, 1864.

☞ Mr. Elisha Landon, of Smith's Falls, for many years a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, suddenly dropped dead on the 10th inst.

☞ The notorious convict, Dr. Dill, of Dundas, sentenced to imprisonment for life, died in the Penitentiary, on Sunday, after a short illness.

☞ A number of persons have been taken ill suddenly in Brantford, Canada West, by taking cream of tartar in which arsenic had been mixed by a grocer.

☞ The Minutes of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada for the present year, show the number of members to be 52,533; on trial, 3,805; total, 66,338; increase over last year, 1,933.

☞ A special train, consisting of nineteen cars, passed over the Great Western Railway on Wednesday afternoon last, for the West, containing six hundred Mormons for Salt Lake.

☞ On Saturday last the steam boiler attached to Mr. Frizzell's mill, Woodstock, exploded. The building was nearly destroyed, and one man killed and several severely injured.

☞ A flax manufacturing company has been organized in Oswego. It occupies a building 149 feet long and five stories high. Fifty looms for flour sack sheeting are ready for operating, also a number of knitting machines.

☞ The steamer Canadian has been sold to the B. & L. H. R. Co. for $16,000, and is to be used as a passenger boat between Goderich and Saginaw, in connection with the above road.

☞ The St. Catherines *Journal* says:—The County Treasurer of Welland has agreed to repay $10,000 to the County, being the amount found deficient in his accounts; $3,000 of this amount is due by Mr. Johnson, a Township Treasurer.

☞ Lord Brougham wishes the Government to restrict the speed on the English railroads to 25 miles an hour—some of the trains are run at the rate of 40 or 50 miles an hour. The Government thought it impossible to legislate with advantage.

☞ A court martial is to be held in Toronto, on Lieut. Montague, of the 30th Regiment, charged with being drunk on duty, and with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

☞ A couple of fine little boys, aged about six years, one a son of Mr. William Clark, and the other a son of Mr. David Morrison, of York, were drowned in the Grand River, on Friday last, while bathing with several other boys.

☞ Last week a daughter of Mr. Thos. Carter, of North Shefford, was accidently killed by the falling of a tree. It seems that her father was chopping in the woods, and, unknown to him, she approached just as the tree was falling.

The five deserters from the 30th regiment, who left Toronto a short time ago, and were captured on the lake in a small boat by the captain of the schooner Canadian, who landed them at Frenchman's Bay, were tried on Wednesday by court martial at the Parliament Buildings. A deserter from the Royal Artillery was also tried. The finding of the court martial will not be made known until it has been approved of by the Commander of the Forces.

RATHER SICKISH.—A poodle dog died on Beacon Street, Boston, on the 17th ult. It was laid out, enshrouded in a rosewood coffin, satin-lined, and silver faced, in the parlor of its "late residence," while its young mistress sat over it, wringing her hands in inconsolable grief. 'Don't cry, my child,' said the fond parent of such exquisite and refined humanity, 'don't cry, you have the consolation of knowing that you have done your duty to the little darling.'

☞ The Toronto *Leader* says that on Wednesday afternoon, a respectably dressed man proceeded along the esplanade till he came near Messrs. Gooderham & Wort's mills, when he deliberately took off his coat and hat, advanced to the water and jumped in with the supposed intention of putting an end to his existence. The sudden bath must have had a wonderful effect in cooling his suicidal ardor, for he no sooner got in than he shouted to get out again. It was not a little amusing to those witnessing his actions to hear him thus crying lustily for help, and to see him so soon making desperate efforts to retain a footing on *terra firma*. It was evident the aqueous element no longer possessed any charms for him. Assistance was promptly rendered and the man was safely conveyed to shore, a wiser, if not a happier man, after his "ducking."

Town & Counties.

☞ Several letters are unavoidably left over. Will our correspondents oblige us by cultivating brevity. A great deal may be said on a sheet of note or post paper.

☞ LAUNCH.—The fine new vessel now on the stocks in VanEvery & Rumball's yard, and built for that firm, will be launched on Saturday next at 2 o'clock p. m.

EXCURSION.—The fine propeller Sciota will give an excursion from this place on Monday next, for Chicago, Milwaukee, &c. The fare is $10 for the round trip, and we are sure the affair will be rendered very pleasant for those who can afford the time.

☞ A considerable number of the Orangemen of this locality went on an Excursion yesterday (Monday) to Seaforth, where, together with the brethren of that vicinity the day was spent in a very pleasant manner.

THE BEST WHEAT.—We have received a *small* sheaf of wheat grown on the farm of Mr. Lake, Goderich township, which is decidedly the best yet shown us. The straw is a little more than six feet long, and the heads are large, firm, and beautifully developed.

☞ We regret to have to announce that Richard Doyle, brakesman on the B. & L. H. R. had his left arm badly shattered yesterday at Seaforth, while coupling some cars. He is now under medical treatment, and we hope no serious results will occur, beyond the pain and loss of time attendant upon such an accident.

LOOK OUT FOR THIEVES.—Our town and County seem just now to be flooded with "25ct" rascals who are desirous of increasing their gains by a general system of pillage. Several of our townsmen have had articles stolen from them during the past week. On Saturday last a valuable gold watch was stolen from Mr. John Henry's store. Parties are on the look out for the thieves, who, we trust, will be brought to justice.

☞ THE STOLEN WATCH.—We have learned some further particulars of the stealing of the gold watch. It was the property of Mr. Robertson, gaoler, and had been left for repairs at Mr. Henry's shop. On Saturday it was stolen, and on the same day it was traded off by a young man named Webb to a person from Toronto for two lockets worth about $1.50. The latter showed it Mr. Frederick, watchmaker, who took the number, and told its new owner there must be something wrong with the manner in which it had changed hands. Webb, who is a young lad and a stranger here, was arrested last night, and parties have gone in search of the man to whom the watch was given. We hope it will be recovered.

TOWN COUNCIL.

The Regular Meeting of Council was held in the Town Hall on Friday evening the 10th inst.

Present—The Mayor, in the chair, the Reeve, Deputy Reeve, and Messrs. Horton, Crabb